

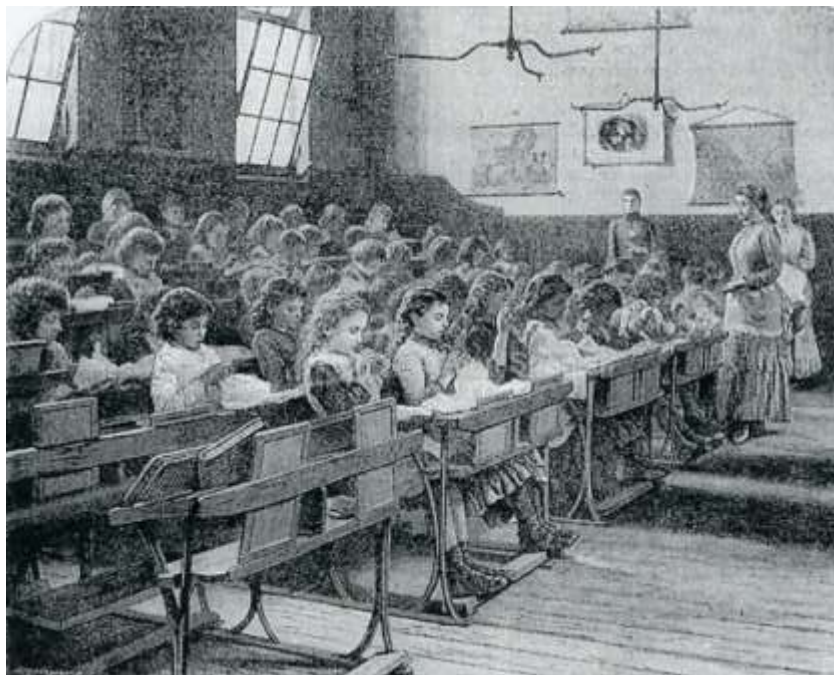
Chapter 4– School Days

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Table of Contents

CLICKING ON EACH TITLE IN THE TABLE OF CONTENTS WILL TAKE YOU DIRECTLY TO THE SUBCHAPTER.

INTRODUCTION	2
DR. BRISCOE AND HIS EPISCOPALIAN FAITH	3
DR. BRISCOE’S SCHOOL AT SOTTERLEY PLANTATION	5
CHARLOTTE HALL SCHOOL	8
ROADS CONNECTING SOTTERLEY PLANTATION TO CHARLOTTE HALL SCHOOL.....	19
ST. MARY’S HALL, BURLINGTON, NJ	23
STEAMBOAT TRAVEL UP NORTH.....	56
SICKNESS AT SOTTERLEY PLANTATION	69
SHOPPING FOR CLOTHES UP NORTH	88
POST SCRIPT	91
FAMILY TREES AND RELATIONS	95
FINAL WORDS & REFERENCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	102
ORIGINAL LETTERS AND TRANSCRIPTIONS	104



INTRODUCTION

In the previous chapter, I was able to share with you what was known about the Sotterley school run by Dr. Briscoe for his children and the children of other Southern Maryland families. There was in that chapter a single sentence making reference to the fact that Dr. Briscoe's oldest daughter, Margaret, "attended the prestigious Doane Academy".

A direct descendent of Dr. Briscoe, Ms. Dolly Buswell knew that she had a stack of letters that were connected with Sotterley and Dr. Briscoe. The substance of those letters is essentially this- guidance provided by Dr. Briscoe to his daughter, Margaret, who was in the 1840s attending an Episcopalian girls boarding school, St. Mary's Hall, located in Burlington, New Jersey. (St. Mary's Hall continues today as a coeducational day school known as the Doane Academy.)

To give contrast, and thereby give greater meaning, to the letters written by Dr Briscoe to his daughter, I have included letters written home to St. Mary's County by Kate Dent, a boarder in 1850's at the Episcopalian Hannah More Academy located north of Baltimore.

Having read these letters, some questions came to mind which I will explore in this chapter. How did the educational opportunities for boys differ from the educational opportunities for girls? How did children travel from their homes in Southern Maryland to the boarding schools they would be attending? What was on the minds of the parents of these students who were away from home? What was on the minds of the students themselves who were away from home for perhaps the first significant length of time in their lives?

These questions, and others, will be explored in this chapter "School Days." I probably don't have the best answers to these questions; but perhaps by showing what I do know or suspect, someone will come forward with additional clarifying material.

Samuel C.P. Baldwin, Jr.

Summer, 2016



DR. BRISCOE AND HIS EPISCOPALIAN FAITH

Maria Briscoe Crocker, the granddaughter of Philip Briscoe (who was, in 1840, headmaster at Charlotte Hall Academy) said this about her relative: "Dr. Briscoe was a very religious man, hospitable and scholarly. A strict keeper of the sabbath and all biblical precepts. He lived in a manner befitting the traditions of Sotterley but with greater simplicity".

The letters that Dr. Briscoe wrote to his 15 year old daughter Margaret, who was at the time attending St. Mary's Hall in Burlington, New Jersey, demonstrate the constant attention that Dr. Briscoe paid to matters of religious guidance. These letters are but a few examples:



**1. Dr. Walter Hanson
Stone Briscoe**

Courtesy of Historic
Sotterley

Sotterley, May 19, 1845

My anxious care and earnest prayers for you and all with whom I have to do, are that you and they may ever be able, (?) sound judgement; sober reflection, and above all a constant looking unto God as the only sure foundation of wisdom and strength, so to subdue, arrange, and order all your affections, desires, and actions as, not only to escape the unhappy consequences of a similar act of parental ingratitude, but also the more pungent corroding of the here and hereafter of the hapless soul that lives but to die.

And now allow me prayerfully to commit you to the safe keeping of the Lord; particularly during your absence from home. May His blessing rest upon you. May the Holy Spirit draw near around you and draw you near unto him... and by His sanctifying influence upon your heart make you thoroughly His through time and Eternity.

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

Sotterley, February 17, 1846

I will now take up the last item of your last letter, as the subject of the greatest importance and therefore demanding our first attention toward (?) your Confirmation and although I do not know that I can add anything new to the instructions given you and the opinions expressed to you before you left home,

yet as you have opened your mind to me and asked me for the advice upon this subject I will endeavor to renew to you some of the reasons why spiritual matters should not be neglected or deferred longer than the period at which our age brings us individually and personally responsible; and more particularly after we become sensible of our responsibility. First then, our everlasting salvation is at stake; and as our spiritual interests are as much above our temporal as the heavens are above the earth so ought our care for that interest to be above all other considerations; and as in the midst of life we are in death (and this we see verified around us every day) we know not when, where, or how soon we may be cut off, so ought we to look only to the present time of each day allowed us as the only time of prosperation (?) for the great change that is to take us from time to eternity. And how can this preparation (?) be affected in us but by following the commands of our Lord. Through what may be then has He commanded us to do that we may be saved. Has He not commanded us to observe His Sacraments under (?) of his displeasure. How then can any neglect or discard them with safety. Look to it my Dear Daughter and be easily persuaded and satisfied in your own mind. You know our anxiety for your safety in this respect, yet do not I pray you suffer yourself to be influenced in so important a matter by the fears, wishes, or anxiety of us your best earthly friends, or all the world combined. You are now at an age to know right from wrong in spiritual things, and are consequently alone responsible to your heavenly father for the disposition and improvement of the time and opportunity He may grant you here to prepare for the hereafter. To Him and Him alone you must stand or fall. To render you a fit subject for the Holy Communion you should in the first place be fully persuaded in your own mind of the necessity of obeying the injunction of the Lord in relation thereto, and in the second that you really and today desire to become a faithful disciple of the Lord Jesus. You should also feel and believe in (?) until unworthiness; but in the sufficiency and willingness of the Almighty to assist and sustain you in your Christian walk. You should look at your Lord in His (?) and sufferings for you with the rest of mankind and love him for these sufferings. These and such like feelings and affections toward yourself and your Lord are the fundamental (?) my Dear child of a Christian life, and if you can realize this to be your stall (?) of heart and mind I think you need not fear but go boldly to your God, throw yourself upon Him and continually beg in prayer to Him that assistance for your support that all who have a conscience feel themselves in need of and you will not be disappointed. Nothing that I have said do I wish you to constrain into the belief that I wish you to be Confirmed except upon the thorough conviction of your own mind of its propriety in your case, and from a conscious belief that it is your duty; and after all should you feel timid about it in consequence of not having such friends to counsel you as you confide in, you had better perhaps defer it until you return home, should it please the Lord to spare you so long. I sincerely hope however should you do this that you will return with your mind fully made up to examine (?) subject (?) carefully and embrace the first opportunity (?) yourself to your God.

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

To give some perspective of what was going through the mind of a student who had left St. Mary's County to attend an Episcopalian boarding school in Reistertown, Maryland, and focusing exclusively on religious education, I offer this letter written by Catherine Rebecca Dent, also known as "Kate":

Hannah More Academy
June 2nd, 1857

Dear Parents,
Doctor R is preparing a class for confirmation,
nearly all the girls have joined.

Kate



2 Catherine Rebecca Dent, usually called "Kate"

Courtesy of St. Mary's
County Historical Society

D R. BRISCOE'S SCHOOL AT SOTTERLEY PLANTATION

Dr. Briscoe ran a school for his children and his friends' children at Sotterley Plantation. Here he employed the services of Ms. Mary Blades, a well traveled teacher who also taught in Leonardtown, Baltimore, and twice at St. Mary's Female Seminary (today, St. Mary's College of Maryland). For more on this topic refer to the previous chapter, "Sotterley- The Briscoe Era" or click on the link below:

<http://www.baldwinbriscoe.com/sd/documentlib/the%20briscoe%20era.pdf>



3 Sotterley Schoolhouse
Courtesy of Sotterley's Archives

Per the 1840 Census:

The people living in Dr. Briscoe's household were as follows: Dr. Briscoe and his wife; 5 male children, 7 female children, his sister – Jeanette Briscoe, and a teacher, as well as two “free colored persons”.

Living next to Dr. Briscoe was his brother in law, Chapman Billingsley. At this household there lived Chapman Billingsley and his wife, one adult female, and 6 “free colored persons”.

Walter Hanson Briscoe and Chapman Billingsley each owned approximately one half of the Sotterley plantation – Dr. Briscoe having 400 acres and Sotterley Manor House and Chapman Billingsley having the adjoining 500 acres (these two gentlemen had married step-sisters).

The following is the 1850 Census information on Dr. Briscoe's household.

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in *Stations District No. 3* **in the County of** *St. Mary's* **State**
of *Maryland* **enumerated by me, on the** *20th* **day of** *July* **1850.** *Wm B Thompson* **Ass't Marshal.**

1	2	3	Description			7	8	9	10 11 12			13
			Age	Sex	Color				Married within the year	Attended school within the year	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
17	165-172	Walter H Briscoe	49	m		Farmer	12000	Shenandoah?				17
18		Emeline M "	40	f				Pennsylvania				18
19		Margaret A "	20	f				St. Mary's Co				19
20		Henry Briscoe	18	m		Teacher		do				20
21		Chapman "	16	m		Student		do	1			21
22		Samuel "	14	m				do	1			22
23		Sirrett E "	13	f				do	1			23
24		James "	11	m				do	1			24
25		David "	9	m				do	1			25
26		Lorah E "	7	f				do	1			26
27		Pusan A "	5	f				do	1			27
28		John E "	3	m				do				28
29		Mary E "	1	f				do				29
30		Nashant Thomas	65	f			2000	do				30
31		Sirrett E Briscoe	45	f				Shenandoah?				31
32		Mary Blades	60	f				Caroline Co Md				32
33		Elizabeth B Briscoe	16	f				Charles Co	1			33
34		Charles A Adams	14	f				Annapolis	1			34
35		Frances A Johns	13	f				Charles Co	1			35
36		Anna B Webster	11	f				Annapolis	1			36

A noticeable change in this 1850 census is the addition of Mary Blades, along with many non-Briscoe students.

The 1850 census for St. Mary's County listed the following persons in the household of Dr. Briscoe; Mary Blades, then aged sixty years, was there as his teacher; Elizabeth B. Briscoe, his niece who was then aged fourteen, Chloe Adams, aged fourteen, Francis A. Johns, aged twelve, and Ann B. Webster, age eleven, were students along with his children, Jeanette, aged thirteen, James, aged eleven, David, aged nine, Susan, aged five.

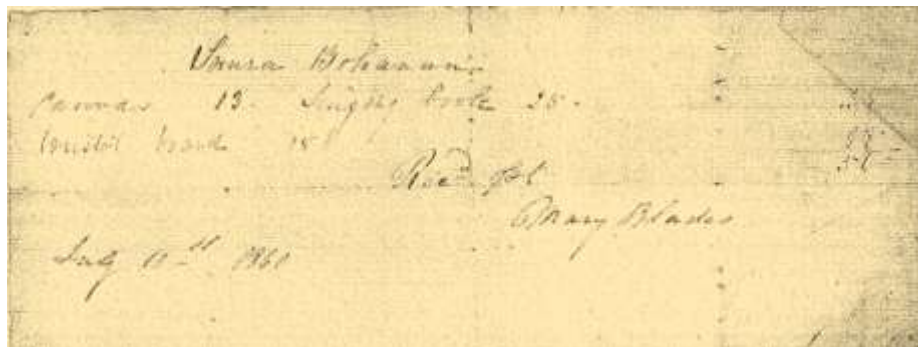


4 Sotterley Portico

Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

In 1860, Mary Blades had left Sotterley and was then teaching at the Hannah Moore Academy in Reisterstown. She was replaced as a teacher by Matilda McNeir, aged 29.

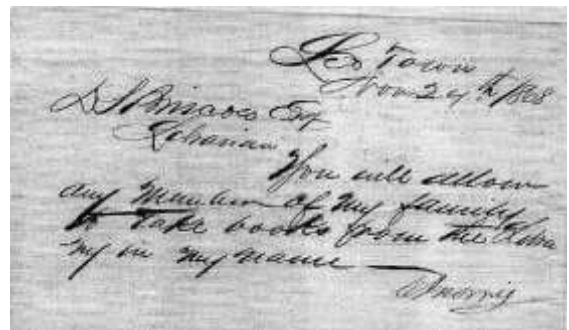
This is a receipt for school books for the student Laura Bohanon, at that time a student at Hannah Moore Academy, signed by the teacher Mary Blades:



5 Courtesy of St. Mary's County Historical Society

Note - addressed to David Stone Briscoe Esq. librarian in Leonardtown concerning the borrowing of books from the library:

L. Town
Nov. 24th, 1868
D. S. Briscoe, Esq Librarian
 You will allow any
 member of my family to take
 books from the library in my
 name.



6 Courtesy of St. Mary's County Historical Society

C HARLOTTE HALL SCHOOL

For the education of his sons, Dr. Briscoe had an option located 22 miles north of Sotterley, the Charlotte Hall School. For its first 198 years, Charlotte Hall was a school exclusively for young men. The history of Charlotte Hall is recounted by Maria Briscoe Crocker, a granddaughter of a former headmaster, Philip Briscoe. She says:

"A notable landmark of old Saint Mary's County is Charlotte Hall School, founded in 1774; on account of the Revolution the school did not commence active work until 1796. This school was founded by the early fathers of the colony 'for the liberal and pious education of the youth of the province to better fit them for their duties either in regard to church or state'. The history of the school may be traced directly back to the Free Public Schools established in Saint Mary's County under the General Act of 1723: 'For the encouragement of learning and erecting schools in the several counties within the Province.'" In 1774 the free schools of Saint Mary's, Charles and Prince George's Counties were united, their funds merged and a school for the three counties was ordered to be erected at 'Ye Coole Springs' to be known as Charlotte Hall School, in honor of Queen Charlotte of England.

"Charlotte Hall has sent her sons to fight gallantly in all the wars in which our country has been engaged and many statesmen of distinguished service claim this old school as their Alma Mater. When Admiral Cockburn's fleet reached Benedict on the way to burn the national capital a company of students under the leadership of a young man named Thompson gave valiant battle to the invaders and when overpowered still continued to attack the Red Coats from the protecting boughs of overhanging trees.

"The school did not gain a military status until 1850. The old school has ever been faithful to her ancient motto, "In pace decus, in bello praesidium" (in peace an ornament, in war a defense).

"A principal of the early days who is said to have been responsible for much of the school's success was Philip Briscoe. He graduated from Charlotte Hall in 1805 under the Rev. George Ralph who had been selected by the government to preach General Washington's funeral sermons in the churches of Southern Maryland.

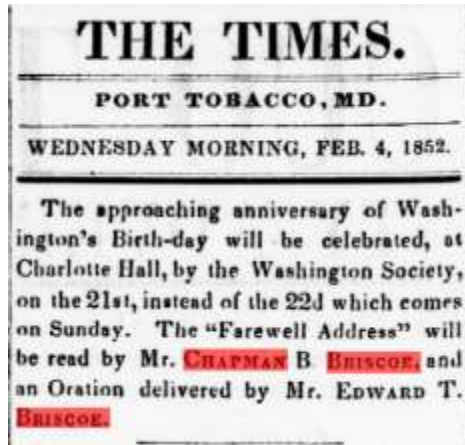
"The story of Philip Briscoe's life is best told by two who knew him: his pupil, J. Edwin Coad of Cherryfields Manor, Saint Mary's County, and Mr. Briscoe's son, Edward, also a professor of Charlotte Hall School.



7 Phillip Briscoe

**From the collection of
John Hanson Briscoe**

“Mr. Coad’s memoir of Philip Briscoe follows: ‘In September 1837 my father took me to Forest Hall (near Chaptico, Saint Mary’s County), where the most eminent preceptor in Southern Maryland, Philip Briscoe, was conducting a private academy. From 1817-1826 he had been principal of Charlotte Hall School, but on account of a disagreement with the trustees he had retired to his farm and conducted a school of his own. I was with him there only a few months; after the Christmas holidays Mr. Briscoe returned to Charlotte Hall School at the urgent request of the trustees.



Chapman B. Briscoe was a son of Dr. Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe.

“He was one of the ‘Aut Caesar, but nullus’¹ kind, he not only felt that way but acted it all through his life. A favorite axiom of his was that ‘The disuse of the rod would ungoverned the world!’ and he lived up to that maxim as I knew full well. Unfortunately for me and many others Mr. Briscoe was stricken with paralysis and compelled to return to his home, Forest Hall, where in a few years of inactivity his life was ended.

“He was easily angered and a holy terror to the boys, small and large, but he was always just, brave as a lion and full of magnitude. He always kept a supply of switches behind his desk and he did not hesitate about using them. Such was the charm that surrounded this wonderful man, that if he gave a boy a whipping for missing his morning lesson, ere the sun set the boy would have fought to defend him against all odds. He despised a coward, it was a well known fact that a boy from Charles County went to Mr. Briscoe to tell him that there was a conspiracy on hand to give him a beating and asking his protection; the reply was laconic: ‘This is no place for cowards, go home if you are afraid.’ The boy did return to his home, never to come back as a student.

“I was a boarder in Mr. Briscoe’s house now called the ‘White House’ and there were thirteen others, all of us in the large west room upstairs. Two of us slept in each of the seven beds. Every morning seven of us filed down to the big Spring (Ye Coole Springs) with a stone pitcher to bring up water for the morning wash; next evening a similar party of seven went on a similar mission. The Steward’s House, consumed by fire five years after I left, was a good large, square brick building. It had a hall that ran



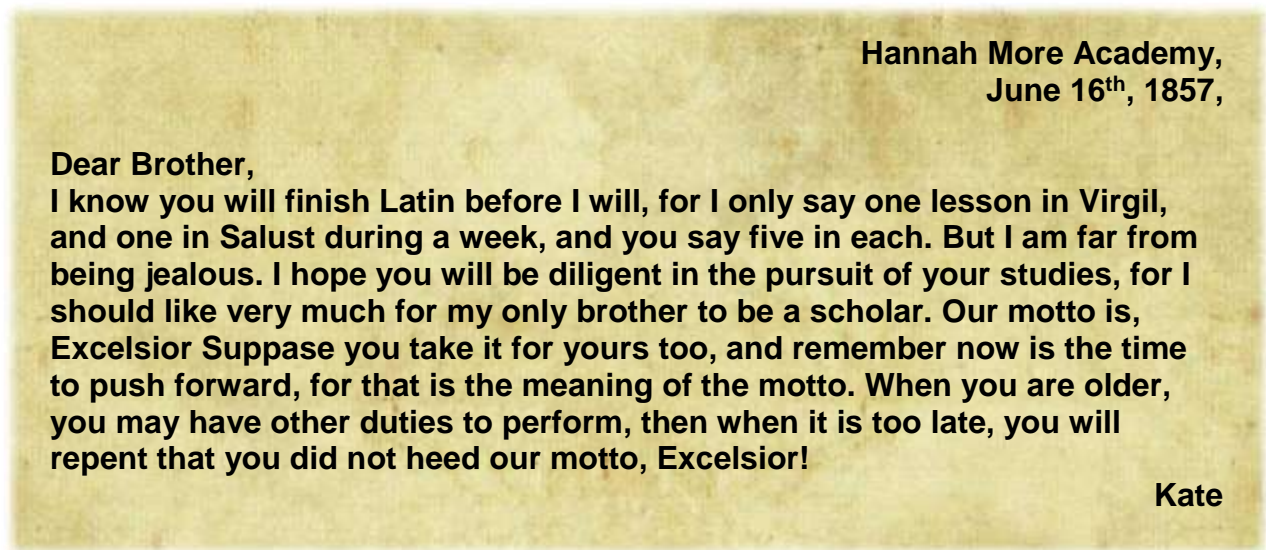
8 The 1803 White House

From the Maryland State Archives

¹ “Either Caesar or nothing”. Latin phrase with a meaning similar to the English idiom “all or nothing”.

through it north and south, on the second floor was a very large lodging room for boys. The School House at that time was of the same model and structure as the present 'White House'. The whole ground floor was in one room with a fireplace on the West and on the East. This apartment was for the Latin pupils. In the northeast corner was a high, boxed-up desk where the autocrat of the institution sat and held his scepter, a brush of hickorys, held in a pretty plump hand, with which he could make boys see stars unknown before him when the militant spirit of the fascinating tyrant inspired him to deliver one of his artistic slaps. In the southeast corner of the large room the assistant classical teacher, Mr. William Barnes held sway. Mr. Barnes was a tall, well formed man of polished manners.

Here is an example of correspondence between Kate Dent, the student at Hannah Moore Academy, and her brother who was then attending Charlotte Hall School:



Receipt signed by professor William T. Briscoe in 1856 for tuition:

**Received October 14th 1856
of Col F. Dent Two Dollars
Fifty cents in (?) for the
tuition of his ward RD
Posey, the present session,
commencing Oct 6th 1856 &
ending the 2nd Friday in
March, 1857.**

Wm T. Briscoe

1278

*Received October 14 1856 of Col F. Dent
Two Dollars Fifty cents in (?)
for the tuition of his ward RD Posey the present
session commencing Oct 6 1856 ending the 2nd
Friday in March 1857
\$2.50 Wm T Briscoe*

9 From St. Mary's County Historical Society

"I think it was on my Easter holiday in 1841; when, on my way to Leonardtown and home, I could not resist the desire to call on my old teacher, who was the embodiment, to my mind, of many of the qualities that make for the ennobling of the 'genus homo.' He had recovered very much from the shock he had received and seemed pleased that I had called. Asked what authors I had read, how the school was progressing, etc. He was a

man that commanded respect and such as feared him could not help loving him. Excepting my father, he was the last man that I would have expected to have committed a mean or cowardly act”.

The following account of Philip Briscoe was written by his son, Edward T. Briscoe in June of 1918:

“Some Recollections of a Highly Honored and Gifted Teacher of the Past Century in Southern Maryland”.

So when a great man dies

For years beyond our ken,

The light he leaves behind him lies

Upon the paths of men.

“We believe that the lives of good men, specifically of good teachers, should be preserved and continued in narrative and it is in this spirit, and by the request of many friends that I am sending you a brief biographical sketch in chronological order of one of the most famous teachers of the past in Southern Maryland, who for more than a quarter of a century labored conscientiously, conspicuously and successfully in the cause of public education. The sketch includes brief references to some of his most distinguished students, also a short obituary of the subject and an epitaph inscribed on a monument erected by devoted pupils.



10 "Prof. William T. Briscoe whom I remember as one who was a father to the fatherless, a friend of the widow, a kind and affectionate uncle." Phillip Briscoe Billingsley

Courtesy of John Hanson Briscoe Archives

“Briscoe, Philip, lawyer and eminent educator, b. at Lauretum, near Chaptico, St. Mary’s Co., Maryland, November 9, 1786, d. at Forest Hall, near Chaptico, St. Mary’s Co., Maryland, September 26, 1842.

“He was the son of Dr. John Hanson Briscoe, surgeon major in the Revolution, 1776, nephew of John Hanson, President of Continental Congress 1781-1783. Lauretum was a pretty residence and farm overlooking Chaptico, being one of a series of farms entitled, “Briscoe’s Range,” of 1440 acres, a colonial grant by Lord Baltimore to Colonel Philip Briscoe, great-grandfather of the subject of this notice.

“Philip Briscoe graduated at Charlotte Hall School, St. Mary’s County, Md., after five years study in 1805. This school was in charge of Rev. George Ralph, graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland and able associates. While a student at Charlotte Hall, the progress of young Briscoe was marked, and his standing as a classical scholar, brilliant and distinguished. Among his classmates

are recorded Augustus B. Taney, brother of the Chief Justice, James Thomas, afterwards governor of Maryland, and Henry Greenfield Sothoron Key, appointed by President Pierce as a Commissioner from Maryland, to settle the boundary line between Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware.

“Mr. Briscoe after leaving Charlotte Hall entered as a student of law in the office of Francis Scott Key, author of the Star Spangled Banner, Georgetown, D.C., and upon completing his studies with Mr. Key, was admitted as an attorney at the Upper Marlboro bar, where he remained several years. Although a promising member of the legal bar, an ardent temperament which grew impatient of the delays in business, and a taste for classical literature, led him into another pursuit. After a few years practice of law in Upper Marlboro, he decided to adopt the teacher’ profession, as at this time a prosperous school was offered him in Leonardtown, St. Mary’s County, Md. He was persuaded to remove there and established a school, which continued several years.

“During his residence in Leonardtown the fine talents of Mr. Briscoe as a classical scholar were in demand as well out as in the class room. An historical incident illustrating his excellent classical genius which tradition has handed down is worthy of recital.

“In the year 1814 when the British Fleet was ascending the Patuxent to land their forces at Benedict to march from that point to burn the city of Washington, there was an uneasy feeling along the river especially among those who were large owners of slaves, and many of the farmers sent their slaves to the forest some miles from the river. At this time, George Plater, the proprietor of one of the large estates on the Patuxent, Sotterley, resolved to try diplomacy to protect his estate. Noticing that the barges were stopping opposite his property he sent a deputation to invite Admiral Cockburn and his suite to attend a lawn party, which was going on in his garden. He had previously invited the Rev. Joseph Brady, at that time Rector of Old St. Andrew’s Church, a graduate of Oxford, and Bishop Thornton of Cambridge, and his special friend Philip Briscoe of Leonardtown as guests, reflecting on his good fortune in having guests as scholars, who could talk Oxford and Cambridge to the Admiral, and one fully acquainted with the classics, the gods and the battles of Homer. He introduced these gentlemen to the Admiral on this occasion. It is related that Mr. Briscoe was one of the Admiral’s principal entertainers. The excellent conversational talents and deep learning of the teacher were so attractive that on leaving the Admiral returned thanks to his host, saying: ‘I thank you most cordially for the fine entertainment you have given me in the company of Mr. Briscoe, the most interesting and learned scholar in America.’

“Mr. Briscoe completed a residence of nearly ten years in Leonardtown in 1817, having established the reputation of being an instructor of high excellence and an executive officer of distinguished ability.

“He left most pleasant associates with many warm friends in this ancient town. Mr. Briscoe was married on July 19, 1817, and having been in that month elected and called to the principalship of Charlotte Hall School, entered upon its duties the following September.

“In ten years from 1817-1827 Mr. Briscoe had the good fortune to educate some of the most brilliant sons of Maryland, and the tidewater counties of Virginia, among them were many who were afterwards Representatives in the Congress of the United States.

Hannah More Academy,
June 16th, 1857,

Dear Brother,

What encouragement have our Parents to afford us an opportunity to acquire Knowledge; when they see it is not appreciated by us. Be diligent O my brother and do not let the golden moments of youth pass unimproved!

But fulfill what you know to be the desire of your Parents, and all true friends. Perhaps you think as you are nearly as old as I you know as well what is to your interest as I. But do you remember you so often used to tell me? "Nous voyous les fautes I, autours, el mores sormmese areugles sur les notres."

And as I suppose I am not unlike most people, but am blind to my own faults, I should be very thankful if you would sometimes remind me of them, for I know they are very numerous.

Kate

"Owing to declining health, Mr. Briscoe was compelled to resign his position in 1826. Soon after, placing himself under the care of his father's former friend, the celebrated Dr. Sing Physic of Philadelphia, who had served with Dr. Briscoe during the Revolution in the hospitals in Philadelphia. In a few months he was sufficiently restored to retire to his farm and residence.

"Forest Hall, a pretty forest home located at the headwaters of the Wicomico River, on the public road leading from Charlotte Hall to Chaptico. This farm was bought by Mr. Briscoe of one his relatives, Dr. Charles Briscoe, son of a colonial merchant, who had built on it a large summer residence. It was particularly adapted for the locality of a private school, by reason of the convenience and beauty of the situation, attracting the patronage of many of the leading families of lower Maryland.

"His life in the class room at Forest Hall was given mostly to the ancient languages and their instruction- Latin and Greek, Ancient and Modern History and Literature. His room was well supplied with several book cases of English and Classic Literature for he continually kept abreast of the times in purchasing the volumes of recent writers as they appeared most useful and interesting. Consequently, in a long life, he accumulated a large and valuable library, many of these books were of foreign ministers and the best scholars of the day, who commented in complimentary terms upon the literary merit of the books and owner.

"On one occasion, a scholar was invited to visit Mr. Briscoe's class room at Forest Hall. 'I was present when he was reading a part of a poem to his class, which he had just received, Byron's 'Siege of Corinth', his manner was so enthusiastic and impressive, it imparted a new and keen meaning to the spirit and interest of the poem as he gracefully and eloquently explained it. His fine bearing, for he was a man of striking personal appearance, with his voice and manner, added special interest to it all, so that I can never

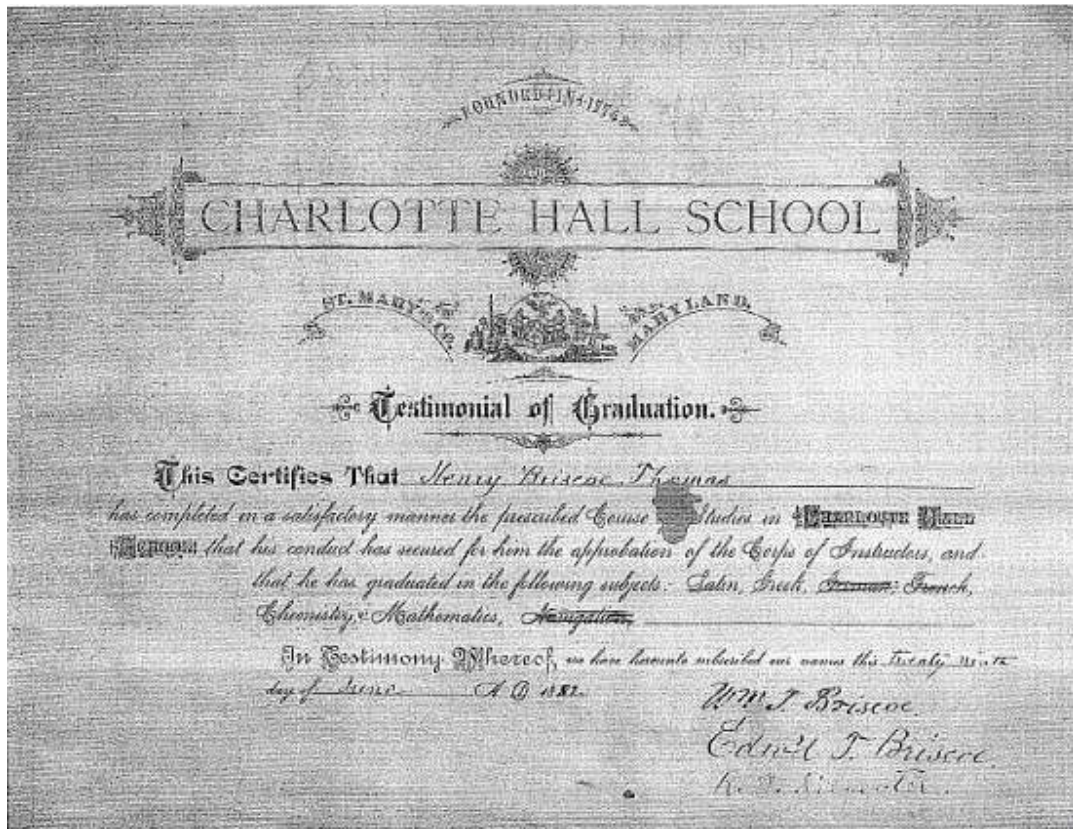
forget the occasion and I must say that to see and hear him once was only a desire to have it repeated.

“Mr. Briscoe’s success as a teacher at Forest Hall was so encouraging and approved for ten years from 1827-1837 that the trustees of Charlotte Hall School appreciating his success and ability, called him again by appointment to take charge of this institution. He accepted the appointment and entered on duties in 1837, continuing in this position until 1840, when overtaken by a stroke of paralysis, his eventful career as a teacher was ended, deeply regretted by many warm and admiring friends who had received the benefits of his labor for so many years.

“In the fall of 1842, Mr. Briscoe who had retired to his private home, Forest Hall, passed away”.

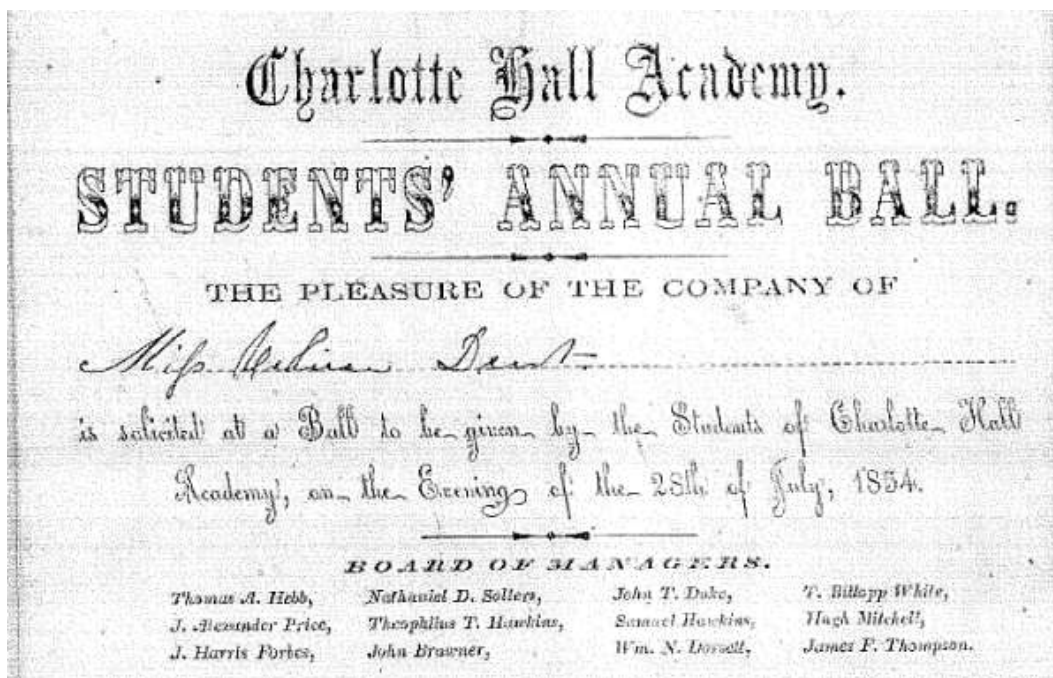
Regina Combs Hammett reflects on discipline at Charlotte Hall school in her book, *History of Old St. Mary’s County, Maryland*: “Discipline was strict. Good habits and gentlemanly behavior were insisted upon from the first”.

She also elaborates on some of Charlotte Hall’s notable alumni: “The list of Charlotte Hall graduates who have earned distinction in a variety of vocations is a lengthy one. Some of the most famous alumni include the following: Roger Taney, Chief Justice of United States Supreme Court; George Watterson, first Librarian of Library of Congress; Edward Bates, President Lincoln’s Attorney General; J. M. S. Causin, talented U. S. Congressman; and Admiral Raphael Semmes, Confederate hero. At the Charlotte Hall reunion held during the 1890’s, over forty of the alumni present had served in Congress”.



11 Henry Briscoe Thomas was a grandson of Dr. Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe. His family owned Deep Falls, located in Chaptico.

Courtesy of the St. Mary's County Historical Society

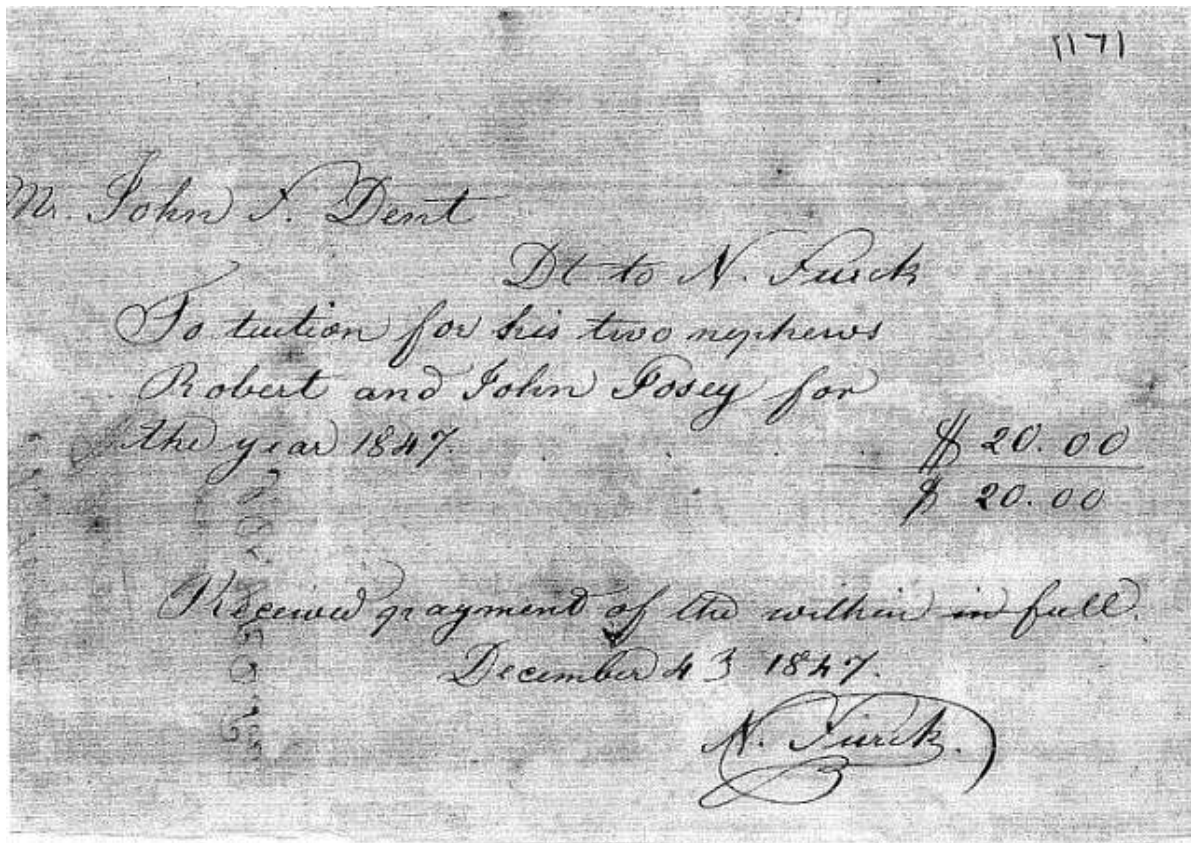


12 Announcement for a Students' Annual Ball

Courtesy of the St. Mary's County Historical Society

John V. Posey Ward of S. H. Dent		Dr.
1848	To S. H. Dent	
Lany, 2 1/2 yds yarn 37 1/2 c making drawers 1 1/2		50
" cash 30 c. making vest 30 c		30
" stage fare to & from New Port		75
" small dictionary 37 1/2 c making out 25 c do. coat 75		1 00
" making 3 1/2 pants. w 3 1/2 1/2 1/2 shoes 1.62 1/2		2 62 1/2
" " 3 shirts w 35 c 2 shams w 18 1/4		1 12 1/2
" " making pants & roundabout 75 c		75
" 1 1/2 yds cotton socks w 31 1/4 making vest 31 1/4		62 1/2
" board from Lany 1 st 1848 to Lany 1 st 1849		40 00
" including washing & mending		
" tuition for Lagarde Greenwell for 1/2 of 1848		2 50
with from 1st Lany 1849		50 42 1/2
1849 To 2 1/2 yds yarn 37 1/2 c making 2 1/2 drawers w 18 1/4		1 12 1/2
" 1 1/2 shoes w 150 c		
1848 " 1 overcoat from Balt.		4 75
" 1 1/2 boots 175 Mitchell's Geo. Atlas 135		3 00
" Murray's Grammar & Exercises		3 1/2
" but. from the 1 st Lany 1849 to 1 st July 51		58 35
1849 " 2 1/2 yds yarn w 37 1/2 c making 2 1/2 drawers w 18 1/4		1 12 1/2
" 1 1/2 shoes 150 c making 2 1/2 pants w 50 c		1 00
" making vest 37 1/2 coat 1.00 2 shams w 18 1/4 1 shirt w 25		2 8 1/2
" 1 1/2 shoes from Balt. 2.00 making 1 1/2 pants w 50		2 50
" making 2 shirts w 25 c 2 1/2 winter socks w 37 1/2		1 25
Oct. 31 st " 178 p. For. blk. cloth w 48		7 50
" 2 1/2 yds fancy corm. w 87 1/2		2 52
" canvas padding & buttons 69 1/2		69 1/2
but. from 1 st day of Nov. 1849 to 1 st July 1851		18 39 1/2
		1 83
Total		87 55
		1 31 43
		2 18 98

13 The account of John Posey, a student at Charlotte Hall
Courtesy of the St. Mary's County Historical Society



14 John Dent Receipt of Tuition
Courtesy of the St. Mary's County Historical Society

Mr. John F Dent

Dt to N. F...

To tuition for his two nephews Robert and John Posey for the year 1847.

\$20.00

\$20.00

Recieved payment of the within in full

December 13, 1847

1252
Charlotte Hall June 1. 1855
Read of Col. Ino F. Dent through the
hands of R. D. Posey twenty five dollars
for one quarter board for his ward
R. D. Posey ending 20 day of July 1855
Tho. C. Reeves

15 Receipt of Tuition

Courtesy of the St. Mary's County Historical Society

Charlotte Hall June 1855

Read of Col. Ino F. Dent through the hands of R. D. Posey twenty-five dollars for one
quarter bond for his ward R. D. Posey 20 day of July 1855

Tho. C. Reeves

ROADS CONNECTING SOTTERLEY PLANTATION TO CHARLOTTE HALL SCHOOL

Travel between Dr. Briscoe's Sotterley Plantation and Charlotte Hall School was relatively easy. Roads connected the twenty-two mile distance.

On the manner in which a system of roads was developed over time in St. Mary's County:

"The first roads were not highways but mere private roads leading from tobacco barns in the fields down the hill or across the bottoms to the landings. They were called 'rolling-roads' as their reason for existence was to provide a clear way over which the huge tobacco containers were rolled direct from the curing and prizing barns to the ships which would carry them down the river and across the seas.

"The next type of road was the 'wood road' from the plantation buildings into the forest as a way over which to haul out the firewood and building timbers which played so important a part in domestic life. Though called roads they were in fact only rough clearings. It is difficult to imagine what must have been the alleged highways which the crowding settlers, when forced later to take up lands back from rivers, used to reach the landings and which the waterside planter used when compelled to journey overland to church or the grist mill. But they did eventually evolve from trails to bridle paths, from bridle paths to a winding ribbon of clearing, flanked by forests or fields.



16 Courtesy of St. Mary's County Historical Society

"They had a system of highway markings in Maryland, which survives in the name of the road which reaches north from Point Lookout between the Potomac and the Patuxent. It is still called the Three-Notched Road. (This is the road the Briscoe boys would have traveled between Sotterley and Charlotte Hall). In 1704 an act was passed which required that any road leading to a ferry, court house, or church should be 'marked on both sides of the road with two notches'; and the road leading to a court house had to have, 'two notches on the trees on both sides of the road aforesaid and another Notch at a distance above the other two'; and any road that led to a church had to be marked 'at the entrance into the same and at the leaving any other road with a slice cut down the face of the tree near the ground'; and the road to a ferry had to be marked 'with three notches of equal distance at the entrance into the same'.

"In wet weather and in winter the roads were fairly impassable. The creek heads were marshy and where the tide had forced a channel and a crossing required a bridge. The requirement did not insure that there was a bridge at such a point. What it really meant was the traveller made his way across farther up where the creek was shallower or

that he swam and led his horse across the watery barrier, for bridges were few, and such as they were, poorly kept up".²

"As time went on roads were built, or rather were broadened from Indian trails. The Three Notch Road was one of these. It follows the height-of-land from south to north up the backbone of the County, and streams and creeks drain to either side of the road, to the Patuxent on one side and to the St. Mary's River, Bretton Bay, St. Clement's Bay, and the Wicomico River on the other. The Indians probably traveled the height-of-land to avoid crossing streams and traveling up and down the steep hills and valleys.

"For the most part the roads meandered through the woods and around the fields and creeks following the lazy path of least resistance. They usually went around farms and fields rather than crossing them, as roads are built today. Consequently there were many sharp right angular curves where the road passed a rectangular shaped field. These curves still remain in many of the secondary roads about the County. Bridges were not built unless they were absolutely necessary. Where a stream crossed a road they forded it in their high-wheeled carriages and carts. This was not objectionable at all, for the horses or oxen could have a cool drink of water when they arrived at a stream. No driver objected if they stopped of their own accord when they were thirsty. The water was cool, clear, and unpolluted".³



17 Abstracts from the Port Tobacco Times and Charles County Advertiser



18 Google images

Via Old Bay County in 1840: "In Colonial Days, life was necessarily stately and slow. Travel even for the wealthy had little to recommend it, for when the jolting stagecoach was mired down knee-deep in mud, passengers rich and poor alike had to put their shoulders to the wheel to get it out.

² Radio Script #11, Travel on the Waterways and Roads

³ Pogue, Robert E.T., *Yesterday in Old St. Mary's County*, (New York: Carlton Press, Inc.).

Sotterley, March 5, 1845

The weather has been such as to stop all going out or coming in; it having snowed, hailed, rained, and blowed alternately from the beginning of Friday night until Monday night. I rather suppose it has stopped all traveling even to the mail. At all events we have not been able to move out as yet except for the most urgent purposes. I should have written to you by the Tuesday's mail had the traveling had been such as to enable me to send to the post-office, which I was very anxious to do.

Dr. Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

Baltimore, March 28, 1859

Spring is with us again, and I suppose you in the County rejoice in the anticipation of calm skies and beautiful flowers, not to say anything of good roads, the latter I hear have been in a most awful condition this winter. Cousin Henry called to see us last Saturday and he was giving me a description of the roads, from what was said I do not envy you the country in winter.

Sarah R. Webster to "Cousin" Maggie Briscoe



19 Washington Street in Leonardtown

Courtesy of St. Mary's County Historical Society

Germantown, May 1, 1859

The roads must have been almost as bad as with you, still we continued to ride a short distance nearly every day, the horses would often sink above their knees in the mud; I think if I lived there I would get stone at any price and turnpike it, it would soon pay for the wear and tear of Carriages and Horses.

Eliza to "Cousin" Maggie Briscoe

Undated letter

We were in, Philippa and I, on our way to Marbury's to take the boat last Thursday – the axle line broke about $\frac{1}{4}$ miles from the wharf and after walking the distance in the boiling sun, we found the boat had left there ten minutes before. "Fancy our fulinks!" Twenty miles from home and the stage had left too. However, after more mishaps than I can tell you now all ended well! A few hours later Philippa took then St. Nicholas and I hired Swann's carriage, hitched Charley to it. Tolson mounted the other carriage horse and I drove myself and little Henry all the way home that evening and such driving you never did see. I made many astonishing escapes from gate-posts, stumps, and gullies, but only came in actually collision once – with a gate-post, you know I am accustomed to have adventures, though.

"Lizzie" to Maggie Briscoe



20 Washington Street, Leonardtown, in front of the King building, 1911

S AINT MARY'S HALL IN BURLINGTON, NJ AND THE HANNAH MORE ACADEMY IN REISTERSTOWN, MD.

Inefficiency of the present System of Female education

If women are in general feeble in both body and mind, it arises less from nature than from education. We encourage a vicious indolence and inactivity, which we falsely call delicacy, instead of hardening their minds by the severer principals of reason and philosophy. We breed them to useless arts, which terminates in vanity and sensuality. In most countries they are taught nothing more, to which they can pretend to give the name of intellectual, than the modifications of the voice or useless postures of the body. Their time is consumed in sloth and trifles become the only pursuit capable of interesting them. We seem to forget that it is upon the qualities of the female sex that our own domestic comfort and education of our children depend, and what are the comforts or education which a race of beings corrupted from their infancy, and unacquainted with all the duties of life, are fitted to bestow? To touch a musical instrument with useless skill, to exhibit their affected or natural graces to the eyes of indolent and debauched young men, to dissipate their husband's patrimony in riotous and unnecessary expenses and these are the only arts cultivated by women of the most polished countries.

**Friends Zimmerman*

While the educational needs of young men were met just up the road at the Charlotte Hall School, the educational needs of the Briscoe girls were met in Burlington, New Jersey, 198 miles away from St. Mary's County. Dr. Briscoe was a



21 Two Young Unidentified Women

staunch

Episcopalian and it was important to

him to send his daughter to a solid Episcopalian school, Saint Mary's Hall. Dr. Briscoe's oldest daughter, Margaret ("Maggy"), was accompanied to this school by the daughters of his recently deceased brother William Dent Briscoe. These two girls, Sarah Catherine Briscoe ("Cate") and Sarah Anne Briscoe ("Nanny") most likely travelled with Dr. Briscoe and Maggy on the steamboat from St. Mary's County up to New Jersey.

As mentioned previously, Charlotte Hall School was established in 1774. This is the Saint Mary's Hall "historic timeline":

1836: "The 37-year-old Right Reverend George Washington Doane, second Bishop of New Jersey, purchases a small Quaker academy in Burlington on the Delaware River. Bishop Doane changes it into an Episcopal boarding school for girls, which he calls Saint Mary's Hall. It will educate young women from grades seven through twelve. Bishop Doane realized that most women were likely to marry and have a family, so it was important for them to live whole, intelligent, complete, Christian lives. As mothers of children, they would wisely change the characters of

**Courtesy of St. Mary's County
Historical Society**

young people. As companions to their husbands and as educated women, they would be able to discuss history, philosophy, and literature rather than just colicky babies and local gossip.

1837: "Bishop Doane raises capital for the new school by issuing shares of stock. Alas, a severe financial depression hits the young United States and money dries up. Saint Mary's Hall carries on and opens, funded through the bishop's personal funds and through the donations of a few believing friends.

1837: "The doors open on May 1, 1837 to 57 young women. The tuition was \$100 a term and included fuel, light and all instruction in, among other subjects, 'English, ancient languages, psalmody, plain sewing, and domestic learning'.

1840: "The reputation of Saint Mary's Hall grew quickly, and many prominent Episcopalians sent their daughters to the school. Even with difficult travel in the mid-19th century, the names of girls from New Orleans and Chicago, Boston and Richmond appear on the rolls. Students live together in a plain dormitory, rise every morning at 5:30, and prepare for a rigorous day studying everything from geometry, astronomy and history to Greek, Latin, Italian, and French. Chapel services morning and evening are required.

1844: "The first class graduates from Saint Mary's Hall.

1861: "About 40 percent of the young women at Saint Mary's Hall are from Southern states involved in the secession from the Union. After the firing on Fort Sumter, pupils from the south return home. But vacant desks are soon filled. Many newly-wealthy northerners want a better education for their children and the enrollment of 1864 is the largest to that time. General Ulysses S. Grant's family live on Wood Street in Burlington and his two sons attend Burlington College. Grant's visit to Burlington College and Saint Mary's Hall on Good Friday 1865 saves him from John Wilkes Booth's second bullet at Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC".⁴



22 Dorm Built at Saint Mary's Hall
Courtesy of the Doane Academy Archives

⁴ Source – The Doane Academy website

Sotterley, September 4, 1845

In relation to your intercourse with the girls generally, I can only say that you must not expect too much cordially from them. They are I suppose mostly from the states north of you, and the further you go north you know the more cold and calculating the people; but be fair, easy, and independent yourselves; and thus make them see, and make them understand the influences of a more congenial climate upon your tempers and dispositions. Above all keep close to your Heavenly Father as your only sure help and guide in all your trials and troubles.

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

Hannah More Academy

The letters that were written by Dr. Briscoe to his daughter in the 1840's give us one side of the picture, if you will, that being the concerns of a parent who has a child at a boarding school. The Saint Mary's County Historical Society has records that give us another side of the story, that being the concerns of a daughter who is at an Episcopal school in Reisterstown, Maryland writing home to her parents in Saint Mary's County. The boarding school was the Hannah More Academy. The Hannah More Academy was founded in 1834 and it was the first Episcopal boarding school for girls in the United States. It was established by means of a bequest from Mrs. Ann Van Bibber Neilson, the daughter of a prominent merchant and ship owner, and was inspired by the work of Hannah More (1745-1833), an English author and teacher of poor women.



23 Hannah More Academy

Google Images

Hannah Moore Academy
May 26th 1857

Dear brother,

I have been here three weeks and have only received one letter from home that was not from home but from Washington. I think it is very strange! You all are either very industrious or you are not willing to deprive yourselves of a few minutes pleasure for the sake of writing. To one you know would be very glad to hear from you at any time; but if you are not inclined to write I do not wish it: but to me the sweetest task I have is to write to someone at home, sometimes I am jealous of the other girls when I see them reading their letters and I have none to read. I often feel tempted to write oftener than once a week but again I think if it is so very disagreeable to write letters, (for I know it is disagreeable for you to write to me, or you would have written before now,) it must be disagreeable to read them. Give my love to Georgy ask her will she please, to write to me.

Give my love to the school girls, and my respects to the servants, my love to my aunts and uncles. I wish Cousin Mary would come out here, I am sure she would like.

Kate

To give you an idea of the course of study these young ladies had at St. Mary's Hall, I now give the Course of Instruction and Catalogue from St. Mary's Hall's Register in its fifteenth year of existence, 1851:

COURSE OF INSTRUCTION AND CATALOGUE

The course of instruction includes a Primary Department, and a Junior, a Middle, and a Senior Class:

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Spelling; Reading; Writing; the four elementary rules, and the Tables in Arithmetic; the Map of the United States; leading events in History, in their chronological order; first lessons in the Composition; Linear Drawing; Sacred Music. *Elementary Instruction on the Piano, and French Pronunciation*, at the discretion of the Rector.

Hannah More Academy
June 27th 1857

Dear Pa,

I received your letter in due time and was very glad to hear that you were all well. I hope none of you will catch the whooping cough. I object it would go very hard with Fannie while she is teething.

I will now give you a list of my studies.

Monday, French translation, French spelling, French dialogue, French grammar, and I have some English sentences to translate in French. Geography, Reading, United States history. Bible questions, Writing, Arithmetic, Philosophy, Grammar, History of Greece. Writing Arithmetic, Music.

I practiced an hour every day, but only take music lessons on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Wednesday, the same French studies that I have on Mondays. Analysis, Virgil syntax, Latin grammar. United States history, Writing, Arithmetic, Music. Thursday Analysis, Philosophy, Grammar, History of Greece, Writing, Arithmetic.

Friday French, Lallust Syntax, Latin grammar, General review, music, Bible questions, Dictation, Mythology. I forgot to mention that we have a composition on Monday in which we have to relate something of each of our studies during the week but it must be expressed in our own words. We have prayers every Wednesday morning at six and Catechism at nine at church. We have morning service Wednesday morning at nine, and evening service Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday evening at eight. A sermon half past ten on Sunday morning and evening service at four in the afternoon and Sunday school from eight to ten Sunday morning.

Kate

JUNIOR CLASS

Spelling; Reading; Writing; Arithmetic, including fractions; Elements of Grammar; Geography of America and Europe; History of the United States; Botany; Exercises in Composition; Sacred Music. *Instruction in Latin, French, Drawing, and on the Piano*, at the discretion of the Rector.

MIDDLE CLASS

Spelling; Reading; Writing; Arithmetic; Grammar, including Parsing; Geography; History of England; Geometry; Botany; Chemistry; Mineralogy;

Conchology⁵; Book Keeping; Exercises in Composition; Sacred Music. *Instruction in Latin, Greek, French, Spanish, Drawing, Painting, on the Piano, and in Singing*, at the discretion of the Rector.

Sotterley, May 19, 1845

“I was highly gratified in all I saw at the school and could not but believe you would all spend a happy residence there. Let me know what classes you have entered and what branches you are pursuing and what you wish and intend to pursue as far as you can at present know. How you like the discipline and mode of instruction; what are the hours of each particular avocation of the day. How your time is divided for devotions, instructions, recreation, and rest- and in time anything in relation to you as a resident of the Burlington school”.

**Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to
Maggy Briscoe**



**24 Saint Mary's Hall Girls
Doane Academy Website**

⁵ The study of mollusks.

Hannah More, Academy
June 9th, 1857

My dear Ma,

I expect you will receive my report today. I had no report for Latin on account of Doctor R's absences and none for musick. They do not give report for musick the first month. I have a lesson in Virgil, and an exercise to write ten o'clock Wednesday morning at Doctor R's house; and a lesson in Salust, and an exercise at the same hour Friday morning. Pa mentioned in his letter that he wished me to study Greek, Spanish, and Italian, after a while, but, he says, I must not be frightened; I was not atal, (I can't find atal in my dictionary) frightened. Indeed I am very glad that I will have an opportunity to study these languages.

Kate

117

Hannah More Academy.

REPORT OF Miss *Kate Dent's* standing
in her Studies, from *August 1st* to
Sept. 1st 1857

STUDIES.	No.	REMARKS.
Spelling,	8	
Reading,	8 1/2	
Writing,	8 1/2	
Arithmetic,	8 1/2	
Grammar,	9	
Geography,	8 1/2	
History,	9	
Natural Philosophy,	9	<i>Kate would be entitled to '9' for Latin were her translations as correct as her recitations. Her faults are owing to her having been asked on to translate before she principles of the grammar were mastered.</i>
Chemistry,		
Astronomy,		
Moral Philosophy,		
Mental Philosophy,		
Dictation,	8	
Sacred History,	9	
Botany,	9	
Algebra,		
Rhetoric,		
Composition,		
Latin,	9	<i>Recitation</i>
French,	8	
Music,	7 1/2	
Drawing,		
Decorum,	9	<i>C. L. Denton</i>

In making out the Report, the numbers from 1 to 9 inclusive, are used. These degrees are absolute, and no other notation is marked. Thus, a perfect recitation is marked 9, a fair one 8, &c.

25 Hannah More Academy Report Card for Kate Dent

Courtesy of St. Mary's County Historical Society

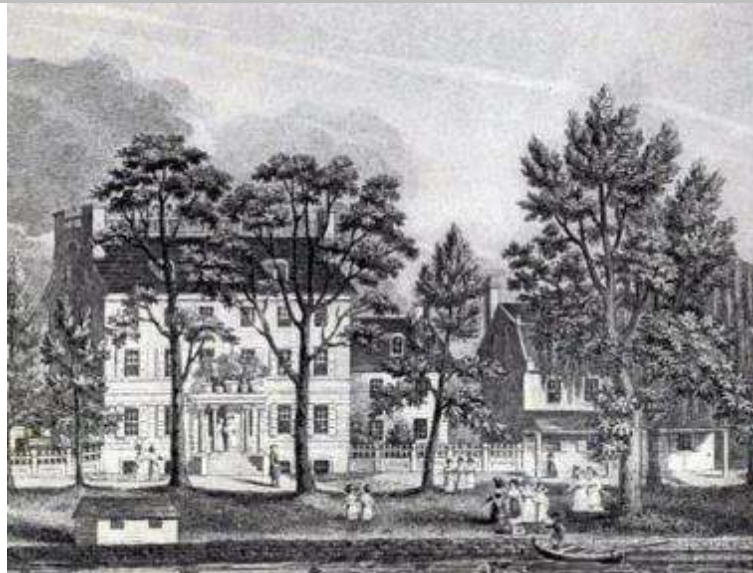
SENIOR CLASS

Elocution, Grammar, including analysis of English Poetry; Rhetoric; Logic; Algebra; Trigonometry; Astronomy, and Astronomical Geography, with the use of Globes; Chemistry; Natural Philosophy; General History; History of English Literature; Exercises in Composition; Sacred Music. *Instruction in Latin, Greek, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Drawing, Painting, playing on the Harp, Piano, or Guitar, and in Singing, at the discretion of the Rector.*

Applicants are admitted into the Primary Department, without any examination, at any age. Admission into any of the Classes, or promotion from one of them to another, is granted to such, only, as sustain an examination on the studies which precede it. Those who complete the whole course, satisfactorily, receive, at its close, a testimonial to that effect. *Graduation, hereafter, will be annual; at the close of the Winter Term.*

There are frequent lectures on the various branches of Natural Science, with extensive collections in Mineralogy, Botany and Conchology as well as on Natural Philosophy and Chemistry, illustrated by experiments with a complete apparatus.

Bishop Doane, whose residence the Hall adjoins, exercises, as Rector, a constant supervision of its studies and affairs. He also takes charges of the highest English branches, in more especial reference to Criticism and Composition. He continues his Chapel services, on Sunday evenings, as heretofore.



26 Dorms at Saint Mary's Hall
Doane Academy Archives

Hannah More Academy
June 2nd, 1857

Dear Parents,

It is customary to have two holy days after Whit Sunday. But after studying five days in school, we have to study our Sunday school lessons on Saturday and go to church twice on Sunday. We generally have service at the church 9 oclock Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, and 8 oclock Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday nights.

Kate

Such of the pupils as have completed the course above stated, and may desire to reside in St. Mary's Hall, and be subject to its discipline, whether to qualify themselves as teachers, or for other cause, may do so on the same terms as the members of the Classes. The studies of such as remain as Past Seniors are at the discretion of the Rector. The best facilities will be enjoyed for the study of the Ancient and Modern Languages, the higher Mathematics, Chemistry, the Natural Sciences, Physical and Intellectual Philosophy, Secular and Sacred History and General Literature; and for prosecuting the arts of Music, Drawing and Painting, both in water colours, and in oil.

Sotterley, August 15, 1845

"I will now answer that part of your letter in relation to painting. Oil painting, so far as I can learn from those who have learned it is the most easy of all painting after one has acquired a knowledge of drawing. This you have already learned in painting with water colors, and therefore your greatest difficulty in oil painting is already overcome. Now if you can devote two hours every week, or say even one, to that kind of painting I should suppose that you might acquire such a knowledge of it (if you did not become perfect) as would enable you to perfect yourself after you returned home. I should therefore (if I were you) insist upon going with it; unless it in some particular way interfered with the prospect of your graduating. If it is to defeat your graduating I would let it go".

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

"The charge, for each Term, of five months - beginning on the Feast of St. Philip and St. James, (1 May,) and on the Feast of All Saints, (1 November,) in each year - will be one hundred and fifty dollars, payable always in advance. Pupils are received at any time of the year; but not for a period less than one term. There will be no charge, additional to what is here stated, except for Sheet Music, and for Drawing and Painting Materials. Girls who remain during the

Vacations which are the months of April and October, will be charged ten dollars for each. No bill of any kind, contracted by, or for, the Pupils. All money for their use must be left strictly at the discretion of the Rector. No child can be permitted to go home during the term.

“Address the Bishop of New Jersey or the Rev. R. J, Germain, Principal, Chaplain, and Head of the Family, St. Mary’s Hall, Burlington, New Jersey.

“The regulation that children are not to go away during the Term is not appreciated by parents. An expectation seems to prevail that at least once in a term, it will be allowed. *It is not so.* No pupil is to be absent during the term, but on grounds of strict necessity; and with the consent of the government. The right to refuse permission to return, in any other case, is here distinctly asserted”.

Sotterley, May 19, 1845:

Dear Maggy,

“I suppose perhaps you girls would like by this time to see something from old Sotterley though it be but a bit of a scrawl. It’s today just a fortnight since (as you will perceive from the date above) I dropped you at Burlington and though the time in reality has been so short I can well conceive that you feel it to have been a year. Such a delusion is but natural, particularly with those who have been so little from home. But have no doubt a change of imagination in this particular will soon come over you, and then the longer the time seems, the shorter it will appear; and perhaps when the period rolls round for you and Cate to return to your friends here you will scarce be able to realize the fact that you spent a year from home”.

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

APPENDIX: A WORD OR TWO WITH PARENTS

“The care and nurture of more than a thousand children, through the course of more than half a life, would, of course, have much to do with parents; and throw much light upon their ways. The conclusion is that in most cases, they themselves need to be educated in order to the education of their children. The fact is that the difficulties in the education of children lie, commonly, with their parents. Not from want of intention. Not from want of generosity. Not from any willfulness or waywardness of purpose. But, for the most part, from the mere want of consideration. It is but kind to tell them of their faults. And, for their sake, whom they love better than themselves, they will be sure to take it kindly. A word or two, in plainness and in candor, but in perfect kindness, for their children’s good, will be devoted to their case.

Sotterley, August 15, 1845

Dear Maggy,

“Other items of your letter has not left us without regrets and sorrow; to wit the details of this unkind treatment at school and your consequent discontent with your situation. We had believed from your first letters that you were certainly very unhappy, but, knowing your disposition we thought it very natural result of your sudden and unaccustomed separation from your family, which would, as you became familiarized with names and faces and habits and things generally, give place to contentment and satisfaction; and your subsequent letters, up to the last, your mother, strengthened our hopes in this respect. But alas, from this your last letter upon the subject we find you still unhappy and I fear in a state of mind but little benefited for calm, quiet and thoughtful research. And now my dear child let me ask you why it is so with you? Is there in reality any just cause for it, or is it merely the effect of your tender and childish yearnings after home and your immediate family? Is it possible that among so many young ladies and old ladies there can none be found of a kind spirit in whom you can confide and make your friends? Is it so with your cousins Catharine and Nanny? Are they unhappy also? Are any of you ill treated by any old or young, that are in stations high to low, that are worthy of your thoughts, or with whom your duties require you to act? Or is it that you only occasionally meet a cold answer- an indifferent look, or that you do not in the general meet the same cordial responses of affection that you have been accustomed to at home? If the latter, permit me to assure you, from personal experience and knowledge of the world that your grievance is only imaginary- that you allow your feelings to operate too strongly upon your mind and affections. It is not within the workings of human nature, and therefore you need not expect the same sympathies anywhere from home that you have met at home. If it be any of the former causes that operate to keep up your unhappiness let me know or whatever it may be let me know. As I have before said to you, speak out- speak without the least reserve, all you feel and what you wish. I wish you to be happy as you well know and therefore wish to be fully informed of all causes of the contrary where any exist, that I may if I can apply the remedy. There is one thing however that should influence you I think as far as you can bring your mind to dispassionate reflections and that is the importance of your present opportunities both for time and Eternity. The opportunity and means where you are, (I should think) for useful acquirement must be great if you can fully mind yourself to subjects of investigation, but if your thoughts are diverted and if you can fully bind yourself to subjects of investigation, but if your thoughts are diverted and harassed by the desire for home you had perhaps better return at the expiration of the first term”.

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

“And first, by way of preliminary. Let it be conceded that for parents to put their children from them, for their education, is a very painful trial. It never should be done but upon the clearest conviction of duty for their good. When it is done, it should be done with utmost carefulness, not without prayer, in the selection of the place. But, when the selection has been made, and the determination fixed, it should be acted on, with an entire and perfect confidence. Where this cannot be done, the child should not be placed. Unless the school you send your child to is to be another home, the teachers in the place of parents, there can be no real service done. The teachers must feel, the child must know, that the delegation, while it lasts, is unreserving. Many things will occur, which seem not quite as you would wish. When lessons press, or discipline restrains, or playmates vex, or the dinner does not well digest, complaints of this, or that, will go. Distance itself will raise its doubts. The mother’s heart will yearn. Weak people will suggest objections. A rival interest will draw comparisons. A thousand things will tend to doubtfulness. You must fall back upon the confidence, with which you started. If that will not sustain you, you have started prematurely. The attempt to repair the error, so, and now, would but increase and multiply it. You must wait. And, ten to one, the event will prove that you were right at first; and time, the wonder-worker, bring round all things well. Of one thing be assured. Whatever else be, or be not, an evil, change is in education, scarcely any greater evil.



27 Sister Mary Joseph

Courtesy of St. Mary's County Historical Society

Sotterley, December 8, 1845

Dear Maggy,

“I hope you continue to enjoy through the balance of your school term and absence from home perfect health and happiness and your Heavenly Father will, through the influence of the Holy Spirit, and the aid of your teachers enable you so to advance in spiritual experience and temporal knowledge as to fit you rational enjoyments of life and usefulness in the world; and that He, the good provenance will be pleased to return you in due time and in safety to the fond embraces and endearments of family, friends, and home”.

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

“With such parents as these, there is no difficulty. They wisely judge that those, whose mind and heart are given to this one thing, know best; and they have confidence in them, as Christian people, that what they know is best, they will not fail to do. Parents do not know how great a difference in children the change of atmosphere produces. They do not consider that such an influence must operate gradually and slowly. For a year, for two years, a child makes but little apparent progress. An occasional or careless eye would say, not any. But all the while, the work was going on within. *Crevite in occulto arbor*⁶. The coral insects were working to the water level. And in the next year, the mind leaps forwards with a vigor and an energy which makes it do in one the work of three. A year in most cases can do but very little for a child. Half of it is taken up in self-adjustment to the locality, and self-adaptation to the circumstances. The other half in getting well at work. Meanwhile, the moral process has been going on. The home feeling is well established. Places and faces are familiar. The daily intercourse of mutual kindnesses has bred and nurtured love. And the next year, what was shrunk from, as a duty, is embraced with delight. This is spoken of in places where the heart is not left out. This is said of Christian training. This is meant of Church Schools. We know no other. Our way to the head is through the heart, by grace; the answer to our prayers. Our *Primum Mobile* is PRAYER”.

⁶ Latin phrase “Tree, believe in the eye”

Sotterley, June 20, 1845

“Write me fully upon the subject – especially in relation to your studies. I want to know not only what particular branches each of you are now pursuing, but also what each of you would like to pursue and if there would be any difference in those of yourself and Catharine. I wish to confer with Cate in the matter and let me hear from you as early as possible so as to enable me should it be necessary to write to Mr. Germain or the bishop and get you regularly and fully to work at the earliest period; that you may divine the greatest possible benefit of your limited time at this school”.

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

“The *credulous ear of parents* is a fruitful source of evil on all sides. When children are away their faults of temper and the like are forgotten. Absence gives weight to every word from them; and helps its entrance to the heart. A thousand difficulties will arise. At home, there would have been ten thousand *the lessons are too many or too long or the restraints of discipline are over strict or a teacher is severe or partial or there are not pies enough or the bed is over-hard*. If such things get attention they are likely to make trouble. Before the hasty answer of the parent has been received, the trouble is forgotten by the child. But the way is open for the next uneasiness; and the quieting influence of discipline in the mean time, disturbed and weakened. Not that complaints may not be just, or should not be attended to. But that the presumption should be against their justice; that time should be allowed for them to die away; and that when pursued, it should be directly, with the Teacher, and without the knowledge of the child. Let every parent call to mind the daily trials of his children; and he will see, at once, that there is room for great allowance and that the only safe way is to fix a confidence upon sufficient evidence, and then abide by it”.

“The *credulous ear of parents* is frequently invoked in the matter of the studies which a child should take. One would take too many. Another would take too few. A third would take those first, which should come second. A fourth would omit those which are most essential, to take some which are unimportant, or should be deferred. Who is to judge, in all these cases? Every child? Or, what is a little worse, every parent? The absurdity is obvious. It must be left to the sole discretion of the Teacher. Put him in possession of the case. Let him know the child’s age, health, temper, talents, previous opportunities, habits of body and of mind, the time that can be given. Then, leave the rest to him. If he cannot be trusted so much, he ought not to have the child. He must know what is best. He can have no other motive than the child’s good, if he be fit to be a Teacher. At St. Mary’s Hall and Burlington College, the fixing of one price for everything taught, be it less or more, and leaving the less or more to the sole discretion of the Head put the matter just where it should be.

Sotterley, September 4, 1845

Perhaps you have over taxed yourselves in the number of the branches you are studying. If so can't you drop some of them for the present and take them up again in the next term without throwing yourselves back? But all just as you like best. I am satisfied now, that your situation at Burlington, under the most favorable circumstances, must be trying to your feelings, and am therefore perfectly willing, indeed desirous, that you should pursue just that course of study most agreeable to you, and under which you may be most happy; being perfectly sure within myself that you will spend your time to the best advantage. I think you ought to talk to some one of your teachers, and open your sensibilities to them. Let them know your diffidence, and consequent embarrassments. The one could communicate to the others for you, and so be enabled to make such allowances for you as might be necessary. I can see no impropriety in such a course. Indeed I think a respectful freedom between pupil and teacher not only admissible, but necessary, as the sure and proper correction in many cases of such evils and difficulties.

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

"The credulous ear of parents is abused, unconsciously, in many ways. To that we owe it that children come loitering in through the first month of every term; when all should be there on the opening day. Excuses for delay are listened to, and the suggestion is credited, that scarcely any one will be there yet; and Teachers incommoded, and the class kept back, and the laggards discourages, by the lee-way, which must be made up.



28 Leslie Dent St. Clair

Courtesy of St. Mary's County
Historical Society

Sotterley, September 4, 1845

My Dear Maggy,

Yours of the 21st of last month came to hand on Sunday last and I hastened to answer it to endeavor, as far as I can, to relieve yours and Cate's difficulties; and appease your fears and apprehensions in relation to your studies and approaching examination as it seems that this is the principle cause of your unhappiness; and I know not better how to attempt this than to say to you, fear not – your fears are greater than you will find the reality; and in this I am borne out by others who know something about such matters – your old friend, Mr. Claxton, for instance. He says you must not be in so much dread of your examination – that your solicitude about it is the surest guarantee that you will make a good one, if you do not allow yourselves to be frightened out of it – that there is not the least occasion for so much anxiety about it; for teachers are always as anxious that their pupils should succeed well in their public exhibitions as the pupils themselves, in consequence are always careful not to ream them too hard, or expose them; and so others say also. There cannot therefore be in reality any cause for so much alarm; particularly as you entered the class so late in the term you cannot be expected to be so well versed and prompt as those that entered earlier. There is one affliction known that should console you, under every difficulty in which you may find yourself, namely, the conscientious discharge of your engagements and duties to the best of your abilities. This done, nothing more can or will your teachers, or anyone else expect or require of you. They must and will see your anxiety and determination to accomplish all in your power, and will rightly appreciate your exertions, and feel and act towards you accordingly. There is no doubt your late entrance in the class causes you more difficulty in keeping up with it; but thus, if you can keep up, though it be but rather badly for the present – it shows your entire ability, under equal circumstances, to do so well; and should teach you that after the first term, when you will start even, your difficulties in this respect will be over; and though you work under disadvantages now, your extra exertions will be repaid by this advance in your class; without which perhaps you might not be able to graduate.

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

June 2nd, 1857

Dear Parents,
I am in the highest classes in everything except in geography. When I first came Mrs. Dunbar put me in a lower class than I am in now, I could be in the highest class in geography but I told Mrs. D that I could get the lessons with the highest class but I did not understand the first part. There is no graduating class now so my class is the middle class.

Kate



29 Frances Lillia Dent

Courtesy of St. Mary's County Historical Society



30 Jennie Ford and Frances Lillia Dent

Courtesy of St. Mary's County Historical Society

"To that we owe the frequent applications for permission for a child to go home, for a day or two; or to visit a friend; or to repair, on Saturday, to the city. All positive evils. All destructive of good order. All weakeners of discipline. All dangers of study. Why should it be so? The child goes to school to study and be trained. The training is by atmospheric pressure, moral and religious. To let it up is to lose its influence. It should never be, but on the sternest necessity. What would a parent say if every now and then, schools were disbanded for a day or two? Yet, on each individual child, the effect is just the same. It is common to suppose that absence on Sunday is unimportant. Quite the reverse. The soothing calmness of that sacred day does much to harmonize and subdue the heart. And the order of religious training is a great part of the whole plan of education. Would that all this might be avoided!"

Hannah More Academy
June 16th 1857

Dear Pa,

I have neither changed the number of nor days for my recitations since I gave you a list of them. You said I must tell you something about my progress in each, but as you have received my report before this, I suppose it is not necessary. The Academy teacher and girls spent Saturday at Mrs. Nores's! She sent her carriage for us, Miss Draper did not go. Mrs. D said if we did not know our lessons perfectly we should not go but nearly all the girls went two of us rode at a time and they would get out, and walk, and let another two ride. We spent a very pleasant day, and had very nice strawberries.

Kate

“To that, we owe the unnecessary indulgence in spending money; for the most part, to do nothing but evil. To that, we owe the boxes and baskets of indigestion and the like that come in the shape of sweetmeats and nuts; to nourish selfishness, or to distribute headache. To that, we owe fine clothes; which are entirely out of place in every school for children. To that we owe a train of inconveniences and disadvantages, which it were long to enumerate; but, which these honest words may serve sufficiently to exemplify. To the wise, a word is sufficient.”

Hannah More Academy
August 15th, 1857

My dear Pa,

I received the basket of fruit, the watermelon were very nice. I did not get them until Sunday morning as the omnibus came up later than usual. I cut one of the melons Sunday evening all of us enjoyed them very much. Miss Fannie sliced the pineapples for me. I think the farm very pretty.

Kate

Hannah More Academy
June 20th, 1857

Dear Ma,

As soon as Miss Hendig finishes practicing, Miss Draper and Amanda Waring are going to Reisterstown with me to get some confectionary, as Lizzie Baldwin is to spend the afternoon with me. I have invited all the girls in my room this evening and we all anticipate a very pleasant afternoon. Mrs. Baldwin comes out every Saturday.

Kate

Hannah More Academy
August 28, 1857

My dear Pa,

You asked in your letter if the fruit which you sent me was worth the trouble and expense. It was delicious, and I enjoyed it very much and do not think I am the only one who did.

Kate

DRESS

“The question is often asked, whether an uniform dress is adopted at St. Mary’s Hall, and Burlington College. In the latter, to a certain extent. The members of the Junior, Middle, and Senior Classes wear the Academic gown and cap. Those of the Sixth Form, the cap. Beyond this, there is no regulation. At St. Mary’s Hall, there is no specific requirement on the subject. In both, as Christian institutions, simplicity and moderation are expected to prevail. The law of female dress is beautifully set forth by the Apostle Peter. “Whose adorning, let it not be that of outward adorning, of plaiting the hair, and wearing of gold, or of putting

on of apparel: but, let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit; which is, in the sight of God, of great price.” We must admit, with much regret, that the Apostle’s precept is not sufficiently regarded among us. Parents indulge their daughters too much in the love of dress. And daughters are but too well disposed, to use the indulgence. We desire attention, to this subject. We wish to see, among our daughters no expensive dresses, no fantastic finery, no tricks of the ball room, or of the theatre. Let them be clothes simply and neatly. Let jewelry be left at home. There is, here, neither time no opportunity, for the display of trinkets. All come to study and to pray. In the School-room, and in the Chapel, these things are out of place. For the rest, freedom, comfort, and a simple taste, should rule. All beyond is a temptation to vanity in them that have; and to envy, to them that have not. “I will, therefore,” says the Apostle Paul, “that the women adorn themselves, in mode apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with brodered hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array: but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.” How eminently becoming, in young women, and in children! Especially in a household of the Church! That there be nothing to distinguish between the temporal condition of them who kneel at the same altar as sisters of the Cross! That what might else be wasted in mere vanity and pomp, be laid upon that altar for the service of the Cross! Like that fair penitent who broke the box of alabaster, and poured out the costly spikenard, on the feet of Jesus; till the house was filled with the odor of the ointment”.



**31 Unidentified Student
Portrait Registered for the
Winter 1845-46 Term**

Doane Academy Archives

Sotterley, March 9, 1846

You wish my advice about your clothes and as far as I can guess at what you have got I will do so. It is too early in the spring to think of getting anything nice for the summer so I would advise you to get a good serviceable silk that will suit at any time but do not get anything gaudy as you know it will not please your father no more than myself. You can get your Aunt Ann to choose one for you in Philadelphia and have it made in Baltimore as you come on. If you do not stay in B. long enough to have it made leave it with your Aunt Harriet who will attend to it. And send it down by Mr. Wheatly. You must get all the trimmings when you get your dress as it will save trouble for the Manteca Maker has to get them they will charge you double the price.



32 Emeline Briscoe

Courtesy of Dolly
Buswell

I think you had better get two calicoes for common wear, as you will require something at home that will wash. I expect you will want for under clothes so you had better get a piece of fine Blanched Cotton and bring with you something to make your corsets out of and rings for them. You must get a good supply of shoes as you know you cannot get them here, but I hope you have learned to be a little moderate in that line. I hope I have guessed at all you want. If I have not you had better get all that is necessary but let moderation my dear child be your guide. Do not think you must have everything you see others have, get only what you know is necessary. I give you this advice my dear child as you are now entering in the gay fashionable world and see persons having many things they could do without. Which you may not think necessary not having your mother with you to advise you but if you will reflect and look around you and see how many dear little brothers and sisters your Father has to toil and labor for yet to bring up and educate; as you have been an affectionate and dutiful child, you will be moderate...

I like to have forgot to mention... do not travel in your Pink Satin, it will ruin it. Put it up carefully in your bandbox and travel in your straw. You can fasten your veil over it, which will hide all defects.

P.S Ask Sister Ann to get me four pounds of palm soap like she got for me when I was on.

Emeline Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

COUNSELS FOR TEACHERS

- I. The Catechism, in explaining the Commandments, classes “teachers,” with “spiritual pastors and masters,” and puts all under the protection of the “first commandment with promise.” “Honour thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land, which the Lord thy God giveth thee.” This is very significant. It shows that the teacher is in the place of a parent; that the office of a teacher is pastoral; that it has “exceeding great and precious promises,” for its encouragement: as, in Daniel, (xii. 3,) which the margin reads, “They that be *teachers* shall shine, as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars, for ever and ever.” Let every teacher think of these things; and ever strive to realize the weight and tenderness of a relation, which combines the parent with the pastor. Parental interest, parental tenderness, parental patience; pastoral watchfulness, pastoral diligence, pastoral faithfulness.
- II. Children are tender in their nature. It is the petulance and impatience of parents, that hardens them: and the teachers too often complete, by petulance, what parents have begun. A child is a tender thing.

Hannah More Academy
June 1st, 1857

Dear brother,

I hope you will be as well pleased with C Hall when you go as I am with H More Academy. I am sure there is not a school in the state that would suit me better than this. I know you judge from my liking it so much that I do not have to study much; but you are mistaken there; for I have to study a great deal more than I ever did before but it is a pleasure to study when you can understand what you are studying and it must be a great goose that can't understand anything when it is explained to them as fully as all our lessons are to us.

Kate

- III. It should always be presumed, with children, that they tell the truth. To suggest that they do not is to help them to a lie. They think that if it were so bad a thing, you never would presume it.
- IV. From want of sympathy with children, much power with them is lost. You traverse a different plane from theirs, and never meet.
- V. That is well which is said of Agricola by Tacitus, “Scire omnia, non noscere”:⁷ he saw everything; but *did not let on*. This is great, in managing children.

⁷ Latin phrase meaning “To know everything, not to let on.”

- VI. Teachers under-estimate their influence with children. In this way, they commonly lose much of it. A child is instinctively disposed to look up to a teacher with great reverence. Inconsistencies weaken it. By unfaithfulness, it is lost.

Hannah More Academy

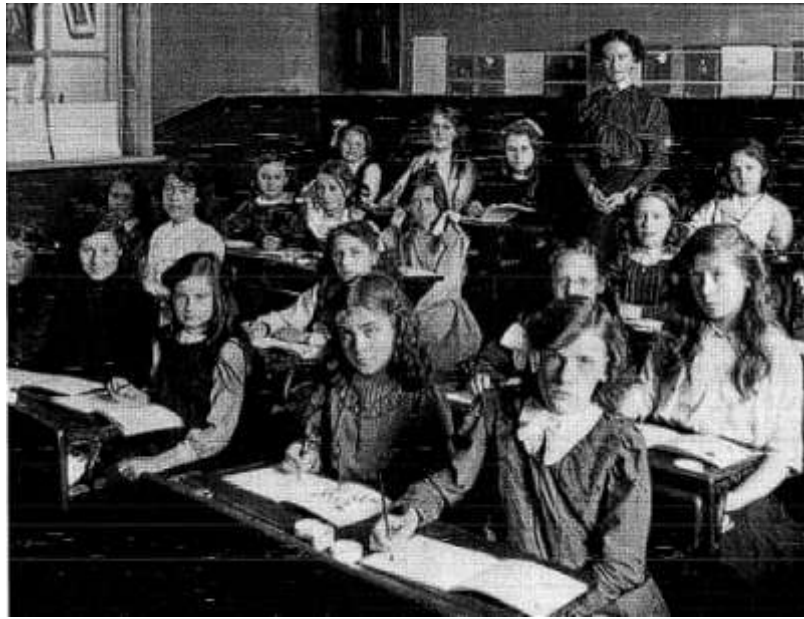
June 2nd, 1857

Dear Parents,

I love my teachers more and more each day. Mrs. Dunbar is so gentle that none of us who know her can but love her and the other teachers are so kind that it would be cruel in any of us to cause them unnecessary trouble by our indolence.

Kate

- VII. Everything is great, where there are children; a word, a gesture, a look. All tell. As in the homeopathic practice, to wash the hands with scented soap, they say, will counteract the medicine.
- VIII. Nothing is more incumbent on teachers than perfect punctuality. To be late, one minute, is to lose five. To lose a lesson is to unsettle a week. Children are ready enough to “run, for luck.” They count upon a teacher’s failures; and turn them into claims. At the same time, none are so severe in their construction of uncertainty in teachers, as those who take advantage of it. It is with children, as with servant; none are such tasking masters.
- IX. Manner is much with all; but most with teachers. Children *live* with them several years. They catch their ways. Postures, changes of countenance, tones of voice, minutest matters, are taken and transmitted; and go down, through generations. Teachers should think of these things. Carelessness in dress, carelessness in language, carelessness in position, carelessness in carriage, are all noticed; often imitated; always ridiculed. Teachers should have no tricks.
- X. There is great need of prayer for teachers. Parents should pray for them. Their scholars should pray for them. They should pray for themselves, and for their scholars. That is well for them to do, which the son of Sirach says of Physicians: “they shall also pray unto the Lord, that He would prosper that which they give for ease, and remedy, to prolong life.” When *teachers* lament small progress with their children, may it not be as St. James saith, “Ye have not, because ye ask not!” Pastors and teachers, beyond all others, should be “instant in prayer.”
- XI. Few things are so important in life as a just estimate of the value of time. Every thing, in a course of education, should promote its attainment. It will be learned or unlearned, *practically*, every day. If a teacher is in his place at the minute; if he has every scholar in his place; if he has all instruments and apparatus ready, down to the chalk, the pointer and the black-board-wiper: if he begins at once; if he goes steadily on, without interval or hesitation; if he excludes all other topics, but the one before him; if he uses his time up, to the last drop: such an one is teaching the true value of time, as no sermon can teach it.



33 School girls classroom

Google Images

Jan 20th '59

My dear Pa,

In my last letter I expressed a desire to discontinue my music. Miss Fannie told me today that I was just over the worst part of music and might by perseverance overcome all obstacles. The perseverance necessary shall be expected for I must know something about music and wish to continue it. You think me fickle youth and inexperienced. May I in another year, be able to boast of as much stability as my dear Pa.

Kate

Kate's rapid progress in study and amiable deportment prove her worthy of the esteem and approbation of all her teachers.

Mary D. Tyson,
Principal

*Kate's rapid progress in study
and amiable deportment, prove
her worthy of the esteem and approbation
of all her teachers.*

Mary D. Tyson (Principal)

34 Kate Dent Report Note

- XII. Gossip is the besetting sin of some good teachers. The thread of their association is *slack-twisted*. It is *apropos* to every thing. Gossiping should be banished from every recitation room.
- XIII. Nothing can be more radically wrong in education than the attempt at false appearances. It rots the heart of children, and makes them chronic hypocrites. And it fails of its immediate end. The children know, and tell it. The teacher who has *crammed* his scholars for an examination – assigning this proposition to one, and that passage in an author to another – is like the silly bird that hides its head and thinks it is not seen.
- XIV. In all good teaching, "*multum, non multa*," is the rule: *not many things, but much*.
- XV. Teachers must not lose courage at slow progress. "*Gulta, non bi, sed scepe cadendo*."⁸
- XVI. Teachers that *are* teachers cannot be paid. Alexander's conquests would have been no compensation for Aristotle's instruction. Their name is written in heaven.

Hannah More Academy
May 19th 1857

**My dear Ma,
I know you are anxious to hear from me and to know how I like the school; but I think I told Pa that I was as well satisfied here as I could be anywhere except home. The teachers and girls are all very kind. We have a good many amusements, beside there are many interesting books in the library, which we can read in the afternoon, after we know our lessons.**

Kate

⁸ The best things come, little by little.

“While most among us are *dreaming* about ‘Christian nurture,’ and quietly building castles in the air, Bishop Doane is awake, and hard at work. There is an earnestness of zeal, a fearlessness of determination, a disregard of popular whims, a comprehensiveness of plan, a straight forward, undeviating, fidelity of execution, in the Bishop’s purpose, which, with God’s blessing, will not be in vain.

“Bishop Doane has gone to work upon the theory that what is worth doing at all, is worth doing well: and this thoroughness he carries into all the little details which make up the routine of College and Academic life. He overlooks nothing; systematizes every thing; puts the machine in motion; and makes every thing and every body move on in harmony. We have no doubt of the entire success of Burlington College. We can bear witness to convert to the Bishop’s scheme: and this warm confidence, based upon the intuition that he has hit upon the true and only true theory of education.” – *Church Review*

**THAT OUR DAUGHTERS MAY BE AS THE POLISHED CORNERS OF THE
TEMPLE**

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From Jack Newman, archivist at Doane Academy (St. Mary’s Hall): “Margaret and (Catherine) Briscoe graduated with the March Class of 1846, only the fourth class of girls to complete the program at St. Mary’s Hall. Margaret is listed as graduate number 37 in our “Bios” book”.

St. Mary's Hall, Register, Fifteenth Year:

ADDRESS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS AT ST. MARYS HALL:

MARCH, M DCCCLI

"Dearly beloved, it is so, with you, to-day. You stand, for the last time, before me, in the dear relation which has knit our hearts, so long, together. You stand, here, for the last time, as pupils, among pupils. When next you come into these old familiar places; when next you stand, under this hallowed roof; when next you fix your eyes and hearts, on that pale Cross; it will be with memories of what was, to your young spirits, a holy, happy, home. Shall I not catch, with love's impassioned eagerness, this halcyon moment of your hearts; to write on them one word, that shall not die? Can you take with you, from this sacred place; can you take with you, from these loving lips of mine; can you take with you, into life, and keep with you till death; a sentence, more befitting to your age, your sex, your present duties, or your prospective responsibilities, than that sacred legend, so familiar to your sight, which holds, before your hearts, the touching words of that most blessed of all maidens, the meek and matchless Mary: "BEHOLD THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD!" Will you not adopt it, as the purpose of your youth? Will you not adhere to it, for the direction of your life? Will you not look forward to it, as the consolation of your death?"

"BEHOLD THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD!" Adopt it, as the purpose of your youth. You are, indeed, the Lord's. His, as He made you. His, as He redeemed you. His, as, in baptism, He adopted you. But, to be His handmaids, is to own that you are His; and consenting, in your hearts, to His most righteous claim, to give yourselves, in unreserved devotion, to His service. Whatever has been done by you, before when you have passed the threshold of this peaceful home, and nursery of your childhood and your youth, you will be forced to choose. You will have to be the handmaids of the Lord; or else,



**35 The Right Reverend
George Washinton
Doane**

**Courtesy of Doane
Academy Archives**

bondwomen of the world. You cannot blend the services. The world will take no half allegiance. God will not. You have but one heart. And you can bestow it, on but one. "Choose ye, this day, whom ye will serve. If the Lord be God, follow Him: but, if Baal, then follow him." Say, with your heart, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord!" Or be, whatever you may say, the bondwoman of the world. I bless my God, that you have made that choice. I bless my God, that I have not, now, to win your souls, for Christ. I bless my God, that you are signed and sealed, with that most blessed Cross. What I have, now, to say, is, to beseech you, to hold fast to your determination. What I have, now, to ask, is that when you leave this sacred rail, and go out, into life, you will bear, ever, in your heart, and on your brow – not in moroseness, not in the cant of mere profession, not in the Pharisaic pride, which stands by itself, as better than the rest; but, in meekness, gentleness, charity, piety, heavenly-mindedness, the control, the subjugation, and the sacrifice of self, the service, in all deeds of love and offices of devotion, of the God Who made you and Who bought you, with His blood – that sacred legend, "BEHOLD THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD," so clear, distinct and radiant, that whosoever looks upon your modest, gentle and religious youth, shall see in you, the Model, you have chosen, in the Holy Mother of our Lord; and take knowledge of you, that you have been with Jesus.

Be, my beloved, of their beautiful and blessed company. Be of the Maries, and the rest, that were ever glad to be with Jesus, where He was. Keep yourselves, at His feet. Hold to His garment's hem. Lay out on Him, your choicest and most costly and most fragrant ointments. Listen, in faith, to all His words. And gaze, in love, on the divine and blessed beauty of His face. He will keep you. He will comfort you. He will help you. He will bless you. While you listen to Him, you shall be strengthened, for all your trials. When you but touch Him, you shall be healed of all your plagues. While you are gazing on Him, you shall be transformed, into His serene, celestial, beauty. A worldly woman is a mockery of her sex. An irreligious woman is a monster. While, in the meek and quiet, spirit of the holy women who trust in God – patient in suffering, gentle in enjoyment, thoughtless of self, exhaustless in endurance, faithful through life, faithful in death, and faithful after death – we have all we know of angels and come nearest in heaven.

'BEHOLD THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD!' Look forward to it, for the consolation of your death. Beloved, you must die. Though you are well now, you must die. Though you are well, now you must die. Though you are happy, now, you must die. Let me not be misunderstood. Would you be the happiest, would you have perfect health, would you be young forever, you must die. Death is the gate of life. Downward, to those that know not God to an eternal life of anguish and unrest. Upward to those who know and love Him, to unmingled and immortal joy. When the hour shall come, that lays you on the bed of suffering and of pain, from which you are to rise no more; may it be yours, to say, 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord!' When the last fluttering flame of life shall flicker, to go out; may it be yours to say, 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord!' And, when the resurrection morning comes, and the resurrection trumpet has sounded, and the perfect consummation, washed in the blood, and radiant in the spiritual and heavenly beauty, of Him, Who is the Resurrection and the Life, may it be yours, to say, 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord!'"

Sotterley, December 8, 1845

“I am very much gratified to learn from your letter that you girls are now receiving from your teachers kind attention and interest that should be felt and extended and felt under similar circumstances between teacher and students. Beautifully set forth and strongly indicated, as the duty of the fraternity of St. Mary’s Hall, by your Bishop in his last address to the senior class. Let me advise you to read it again and again it will teach you a lesson of your own duty as well as theirs”.

**Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy
Briscoe**

**Hannah More Academy
June 2nd, 1857**

**Dear Parents,
Give my love to the servants and please be a little more punctual in writing. I think each of you ought to write once a week- but the clock is striking nine and if I am not in the school room in a few minutes I will have a mark so I must bid you a hasty farewell!**

Kate



36 Leslie Dent St. Clair

**Courtesy of the St. Mary's County
Historical Society**

St. Mary's Hall:

WINTER TERM, 1845-46.

The Right Rev. GEORGE W. DOANE, D.D., LL.D., Rector; having charge of the departments of Christian Morals, and English Literature, Criticism and Composition;
The Rev. REUBEN J. GERMAIN, Chaplain, and Head of the Family;
The Rev. S. W. HALLOWELL, English and Philosophical Teacher, and Lecturer in Chemistry and the Natural Sciences;
LEWIS J. GERMAIN, Mathematical Teacher;
J. L. H. VER MEER, Ph. & LL.D., Teacher of Ancient Languages, and of French and German;
Sig. A. PALADINI, Teacher of Italian and Spanish;
G. W. HEWITT, Professor of Music;
A. B. ENGSTROM, Drawing Master;
Miss MARY R. BISHOP, Matron;
MELICENT LANE, Teacher of Music;
CAROLINE CAER, " "
HARRIET E. HUBBARD, Teacher of Writing;
LOUISA CRAMERMAN, Assistant Teacher;
CHARLOTTE H. CROFTON, " "
EMILY THOMPSON, " "
REBECCA S. PRICE, " "
LYDIA ANN GERMAIN, " "
SARAH MATTHEWS, " "

MARY ANDERSON,	Charleston, S. C.
HARRIET J. ALLEN,	Shrewsbury, N. J.
MARY AYERLIT,	Buffalo, N. Y.
MARY E. WADSWORTH,	New York.
SARAH F. KIDGLEY,	" "
VERGILIA S. HARRIS,	Warren County, N. C.
ALICE E. BROWN,	Rye, N. Y.
ALICE C. BOULKE,	Queen Anne's County, Md.
MARY BONZ,	" "

37 Saint Mary's Hall Winter Term 1845-46

Page 1

6

NAME.	RESIDENCE.
Mary Bourke,	Queen Ann's County, Md.
Virginia P. Boyd,	Warren County, N. C.
Emily Bucknor,	New York.
Adelaide S. Bucknor,	" "
Catherine Briscoe,	St. Mary's County, Md.
Margaret A. Briscoe,	Charles County, Md.
Sarah A. Briscoe,	" " "
Agnes M. Clark,	New York.
Charlotte M. Cudde,	Newark, N. J.
Jeannette R. Conover,	Philadelphia, Pa.
Hannah M. Clay,	Pottstown, Pa.
Clara A. Cooper,	Trenton, N. J.
Elizabeth W. Davis,	Bangor, Me.
Martha J. Davis,	" " "
A. Frances Davis,	" "
Ellen M. Dyer,	White Hall, N. Y.
Martha A. Exum,	Northampton County, N. C.
Mary T. Exum,	" " "
Sarah C. Barle,	Centerville, Md.
Frances M. Engle,	Burlington, N. J.
Anna M. Fay,	Savannah, Ga.
Harriet E. Fay,	" "
Sarah J. French,	Moorestown, N. J.
Charlotte A. Finch,	Shrewsbury, N. J.
Mary Fennell,	Philadelphia, Pa.
Rebecca Z. Fennimore,	Jacksonville, N. J.
Martha W. Grant,	Enfield, N. C.
Marian A. Greenough,	Sunbury, Pa.
Sarah S. Gibson,	New York.
Ellen B. Gunnell,	Burlington, N. J.
Sarah W. Germain,	" "
Mary E. Germain,	" "
Florence Hazard,	Philadelphia, Pa.
Cornelia Hollister,	Circleville, Ohio.
Eliza W. Hollingshead,	Philadelphia, Pa.
Martha Hollingshead,	" "

38 Saint Mary's Hall Winter Term 1845-46

Page 2

Catherine Briscoe "Kate"

Margaret A. Briscoe "Maggy"

Sarah A. Briscoe "Nannie"

Editor's Note: Margaret is Dr. Briscoe's daughter; she is from Sotterley Plantation in St. Mary's County. Catherine and Sarah are Dr. Briscoe's nieces and they are from Charles County.

NAME.	RESIDENCE.
Sarah L. Humphries,	Greensboro', N. C.
Nancy Holbrook,	Michigan City, Ind.
Eliza V. Harris,	Leonard Town, Md.
Hannah L. Hancock,	Burlington, N. J.
Sarah D. Hughlett,	Easton, Md.
Susan B. Johnson,	LaFayette, Ind.
Sally Kea,	Eastville, Va.
Sidney P. Kleinbans,	Belvidere, N. J.
Mary G. Knapp,	New Berlin, N. Y.
Mary A. Lamb,	Wilkesbarre, Pa.
Anna H. Langstaff,	Mount Holly, N. J.
Anna W. Lawrence,	Hagerstown, Md.
Maria M. Lathrop,	Boston, Mass.
Antonette S. Magruder,	Bardonia, Ky.
Catharine Marsh,	Rahway, N. J.
Cordelia E. Marsh,	" "
Lavinia Matthewa,	New York.
Mary C. Metcalf,	Pittsburg, Pa.
Emma D. Mulford,	Philadelphia, Pa.
Catharine Magennis,	Paterson, N. J.
Anna W. Milnor,	Burlington, N. J.
Susan W. Nichols,	Greenfield Hill, Ct.
Hetty Newell,	Allentown, N. J.
Amelia Nisbet,	Burlington, N. J.
Anna L. Ogilvy,	Bloomington, N. J.
Caroline E. Owen,	Turner's Creek, Md.
Mary A. Peers,	Louisville, Ky.
Arabella S. Peers,	" "
Marcia R. Parker,	Burlington, N. J.
Virginia R. Parker,	" "
Anna M. Prior,	Marion, Pa.
Louisa S. Ryall,	Freehold, N. J.
Eliza Y. Robertson,	Matteawan, N. Y.
Margaret S. D. Robertson,	" "
Elizabeth R. Roads,	Burlington, N. J.
Ellen M. Resnolds,	Burlington, N. J.

39 Saint Mary's Hall Winter Term 1845-46

Page 3

Eliza V. Harris, Leonardtown

Editor's Note: This could be "Lizzie".
More about her to follow.

NAME.	RESIDENCE.
Virginia Rees,	Snow Hill, Md.
Marietta J. Simonds,	Shoreham, Vt.
Columbia A. Simonds,	" "
Julia R. Southall,	Murfreesboro', N. C.
Maria L. Sprague,	Rochester, N. Y.
Sarah A. Smith,	Livingston, Ala.
Amanda Smith,	" "
Virginia A. Smith,	" "
Wilhelmina J. Smith,	Birmingham, Ct.
Maria L. Stonestreet,	Port Tobacco, Md.
Anna M. B. Shippen,	Pottsville, Pa.
Mary S. Sands,	Brooklyn, L. I.
Isidore A. Sills,	Franklin County, N. C.
Caroline A. Sheetz,	Frankford, Pa.
Lucy M. Swayze,	Hope, N. J.
Mary A. Simonson,	Burlington, N. J.
Mary C. Stratton,	Philadelphia, Pa.
Emily H. Smith,	Delaware County, Pa.
Clementina M. Thomas,	Wilkesbarre, Pa.
Elizabeth Q. Thompson,	Keseeville, N. Y.
Valeria E. Wright,	Queen Ann's County, Md.
Sarah E. Williams,	New Berlin, N. Y.
Laura G. Watts,	Carlisle, Pa.
Elizabeth M. Wall,	Key West, Fla.
Sarah B. Woolman,	Burlington, N. J.
Ann E. Wetherill,	" "
Margaret J. Waddill,	Selby, N. C.

14 Saint Mary's Hall Winter Term 1845-46

All Courtesy of Doane Academy Archives

Page 4

Maria L. Stonestreet, Port Tobacco,
Md

More about her will follow.

THE HANNAH MORE ACADEMY,
THE DIOCESAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS,
REISTERSTOWN, MARYLAND.

REPORT.

Miss Lizzie L. Dent.
for the month ending *December 1st 1874.*

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT.
Senior Class.

READING.....		Absent from PRAYERS.....	
DRAWING.....	10	" " RECITATION.....	
PENMANSHIP.....		" " OTHER DUTIES.....	
COMPOSITION.....	99/10	LATE.....	
DICTATION.....	99/10	VIOLATION OF RULES.....	
ENGLISH GRAMMAR.....		DEMERIT MARKS.....	
LITERATURE.....	10	DEPORTMENT.....	10
GEOGRAPHY.....	10		
HISTORY.....	9 1/2	AVERAGE IN STUDIES.....	10
THE NATURAL SCIENCES.....	9 1/2	GENERAL STANDING.....	10
MENTAL AND MORAL PHILOSOPHY.....	10		
MATHEMATICS.....	9 1/2	REMARKS.....	
LATIN.....	9 1/2		
GREEK.....	10		
FRENCH.....	9 1/10		
GERMAN.....			
MUSIC.....	10		
PAINTING.....			
DOMESTIC DEPARTMENT.			
NEEDLEWORK.....			

The marks are 0 to 10.
In scholarship 10 denotes a perfect recitation, & an entire failure; different degrees of attainment are indicated by the intermediate numbers.
In deportment 10 expresses that the Pupil's behavior has been unexceptional. Improperities of conduct reduce this mark according to their importance.
Absences greatly retard the progress of Pupils and when frequent, exonerate the Academy from responsibility for their improvement.

M. C. Kershner
RECTOR.

41 Courtesy of St. Mary's County Historical Society

Baltimore, Nov. 3 1854

Mr. Burch
Bought of F. Newton Kurtz

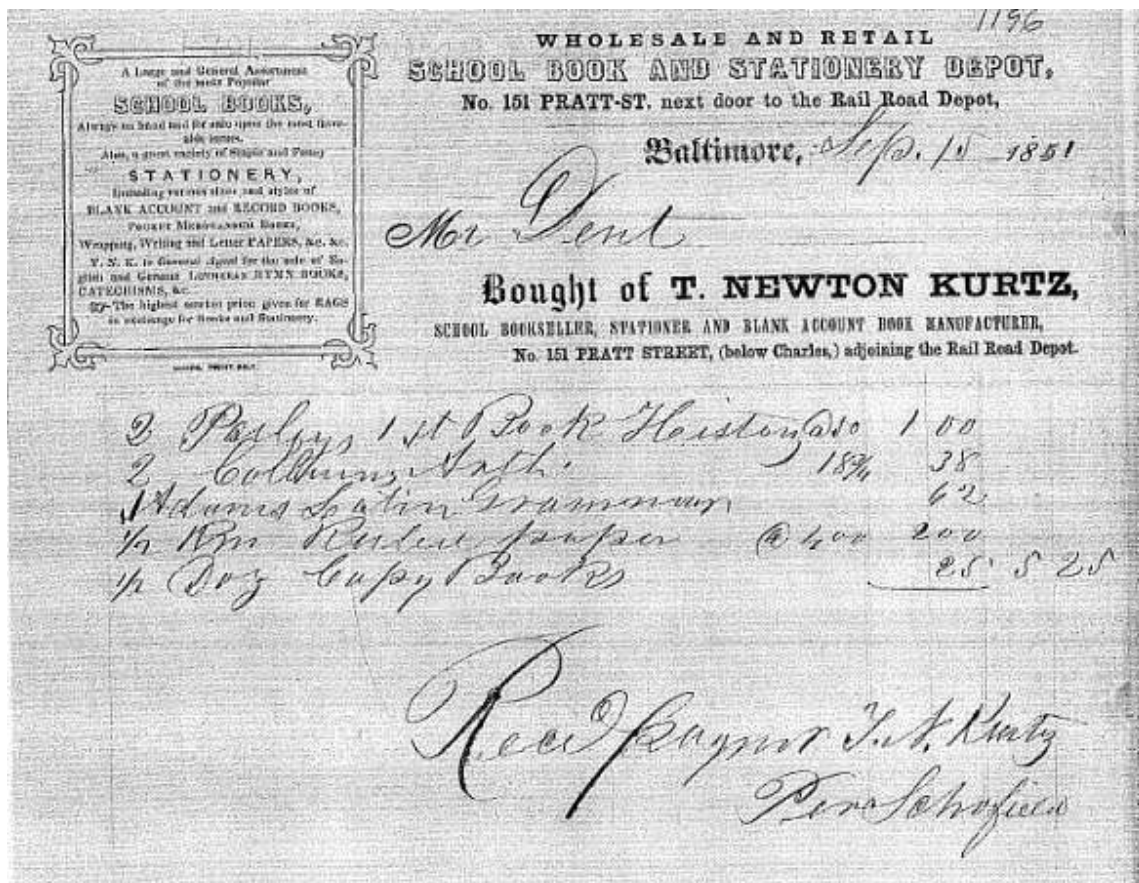
WHOLESALE & RETAIL DEALER IN PAPER,
Bookbinder, Stationer and Blank Account Book Manufacturer,
No 67 Pratt Street, between Charles & Light streets.

Texas

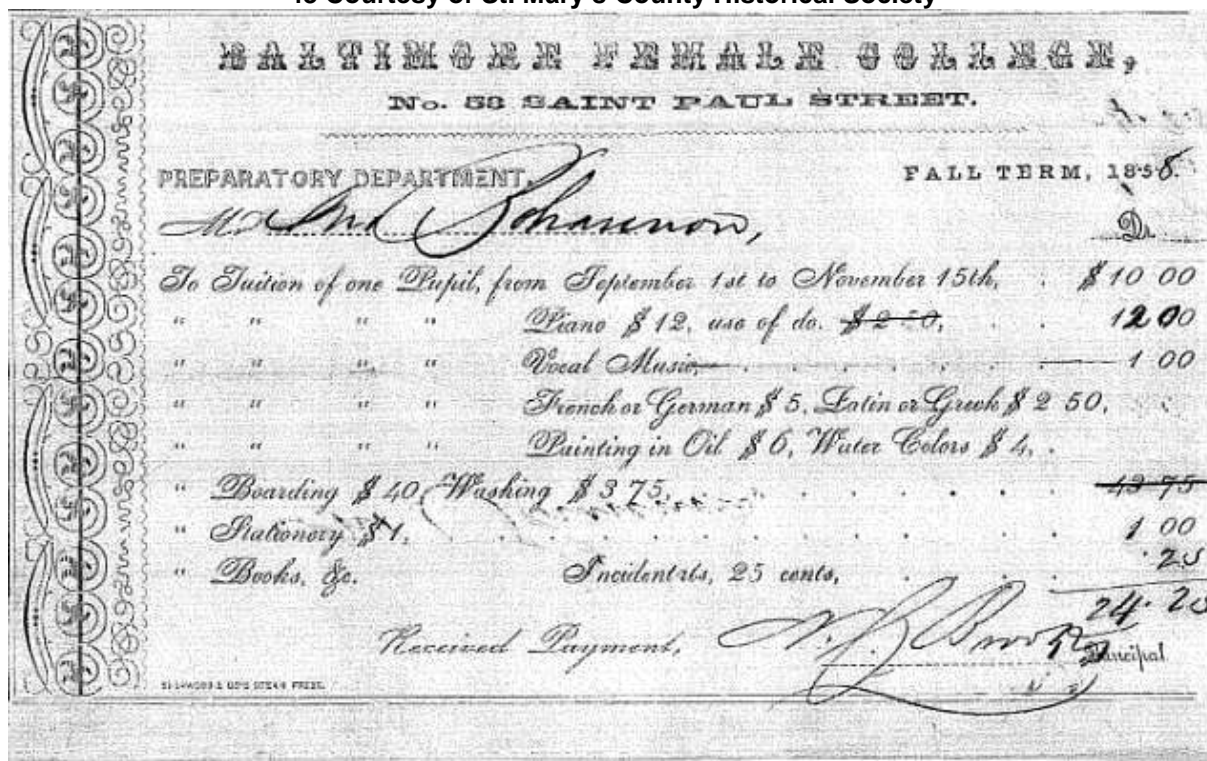
1 Davies Algebra	1/2
1 Comstock's Philosophy	88
1 Davies Legendre	1 50
1 Arthur's Greek Lessons	1/5
1 " " Reader	1 00
1 Ainsworth's Lat. & Eng. Dicty	2 25
	<u>7 13</u>

Received Payment
F. Newton Kurtz
per E. K.

42 Courtesy of St. Mary's County Historical Society



43 Courtesy of St. Mary's County Historical Society



44 Courtesy of St. Mary's County Historical Society

ALNWICK FEMALE SEMINARY.

AN REPORT OF THE COLLEGE AND PROGRESS

of Kate Hunt Feb. 7th 1837

Given at the expiration of every term, by

M. A. TYSON & SISTERS.

Class.		Perfect marks.	Good marks.	Indifferent marks.	Absent marks.	Excuse marks.	Examiner.	
1 st	Reading.....	Has done more distinctly than formerly					No. 1	
	Writing.....	71	1		3		No. 1	
1 st	Spelling.....	31	12	2	2		No. 3	
1 st	Arithmetic.....	25	25	-	-		No. 1	
	Geometry.....							
1 st	Algebra.....	Has just commenced.						
	Book Keeping....							
1 st	Grammar.....	Shows standard proficiency very well						
1 st	Anc. Geography.	Has just commenced.					No. 1	
1 st	Mod. Geography.	15	11				No. 1	
1 st	Mod. History....	15	15				No. 1	
1 st	Anc. History....	14	11				No. 1	
	Nat. Philosophy..	Has finished with this					No. 1	
1 st	Mor. Philosophy..	27	5				No. 1	
1 st	Astronomy.....	19	11				No. 1	
1 st	Composition.....	12	1				No. 1	
1 st	Chemistry.....	13	15				No. 1	
1 st	Physiology.....	17	7				No. 1	
1 st	Keith on the Globes	3	has just commenced					No. 1
1 st	Rhetoric.....	23					No. 1	
	Chronology.....							
	Mythology.....	Has finished with this					No. 1	
1 st	Botany.....	31	12				No. 1	
	Drawing.....	27					No. 1	
	Painting.....	Makes a good attempt.					No. 1	
	Needlework.....							
	Latin.....							
	German.....							
	French.....	71					No. 1	
	Spanish.....	Has just commenced					No. 1	
	Music.....	42	11	2			No. 3	

Marks of disapprobation. Not above 10 in comment.

Marks for want of neatness and order. Not any

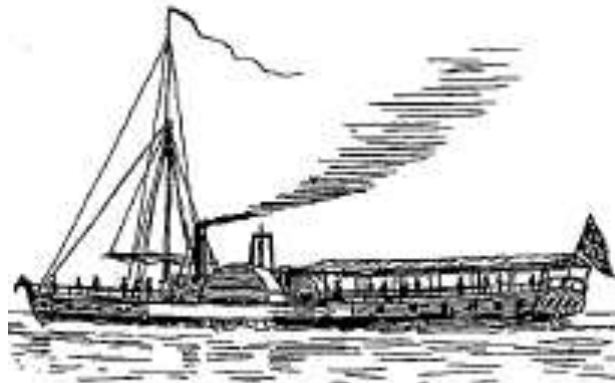
Marks for want of punctuality. 3

A report which is No. One in all respects, is the highest that can be obtained. The number increases according to inferiority.

45 Courtesy of St. Mary's County Historical Society

S TEAMBOAT TRAVEL UP NORTH

Unlike the relatively easy travel over country roads for the Briscoe sons who were attending Charlotte Hall School, Margaret Briscoe travelled almost exclusively by water from St. Mary's County, down the Patuxent and up the Chesapeake Bay to Baltimore by steamboat. A separate steamboat travelled north out of Baltimore's Harbor towards the Elk River at the head of the Chesapeake. There, Margaret Briscoe either travelled by stage coach to the Delaware River or by steamboat through the relatively new Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. From the Delaware River, a steamboat took her north to Philadelphia. St. Mary's Hall in Burlington, New Jersey could be reached either by using another stage coach or by traveling further up river the approximately 23 miles between Philadelphia and the waterfront campus of St. Mary's Hall.



Weems steamer *Eagle* 1813. Drawing copy courtesy Elizabeth S. Anderson *Steam Vessels of Chesapeake and Delaware Bays and Rivers*.

46 Calvert Marine Museum Bugeye Times

"Steamboating on the Chesapeake began when a Captain Edward Trippe of Dorchester County, intrigued by Robert Fulton's successful launching of the *Clermont* on the Hudson River, persuaded two friends to join him in financing the construction of a steamboat. Built at a cost of \$40,000, in Baltimore, the vessel was launched in 1813 and appropriately named *Chesapeake*. Her first trip was a one-day excursion run to Annapolis June 13, 1813 for \$1 "there and the same back." Included was a cold dinner.

"The following Monday the *Chesapeake* began her regular run from Bowley's Wharf, Baltimore, to Frenchtown on the Elk River near the head of the Bay. Passengers disembarked, were carried by stagecoach to New Castle, Delaware, and transferred there to a steamboat for Philadelphia. Shortly, other lines were competing for this north-bound trade and the Upper Bay became the New Jersey turnpike of that era".⁹

⁹ *A Short History: The Weems' Steamboat Line*, The Bugeye Times.



The Penn emphasizes the narrowness of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal as she approaches Buck Bridge, Delaware. Photo: A. Spencer Mansfield

47 Steamboats Out of Baltimore

“The Baltimore and Philadelphia Steamboat Company was incorporated in 1844 by John S. Shriver of Baltimore to operate steamboats to Philadelphia through the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. The Baltimore terminal was at the junction of Light and Pratt Streets, where it was to be for a century, and the Philadelphia terminal was at Pier 3, South.

“For many years the transportation of freight was the mainstay of the company and their boats had only a few berths for

passengers. It was almost always referred to as the Ericsson Line”.¹⁰



48 Baltimore Harbor

Steamboats Out of Baltimore

¹⁰ *Steamboats out of Baltimore.*

Sotterley, May 19, 1845

I will now give you a brief sketch of my homeward journey. After leaving you my return to Philadelphia was soon accomplished where I arrived about half past one o'clock and met your uncles and aunts' family in the same apparent state of happiness and confidence that we left them...

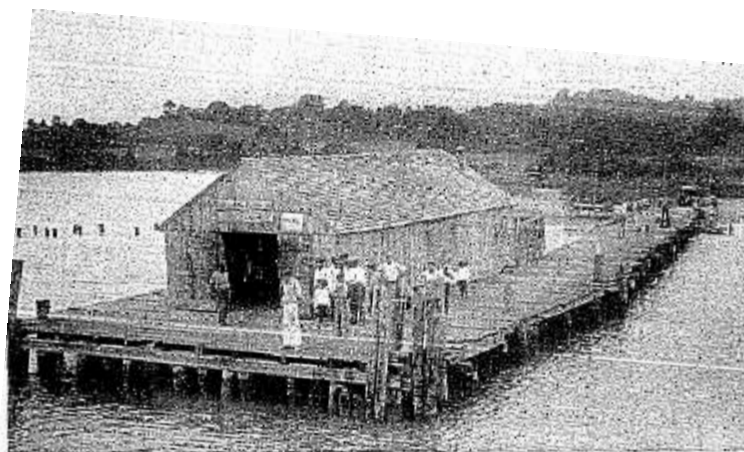


49 Street in Baltimore

Steamboats Out of Baltimore

After what pouring of comfort I could unto the troubled cousins of your uncle and aunt, I started in the first boat in the morning for Baltimore and reached there between 1 & 2 o'clock where I intended to remain until Friday and thence home by way of Washington and down the Potomack to Mr. Gough's landing. But on Thursday about 2 o'clock I received a letter from your mother written on the Friday before (nearly a week) stating that Henry was then ill at Charlotte Hall, not expected to live. That your Aunt Jeanette had been with him for several days and that she herself should start to see him the next day. This of course put me in a hurry and in two hours I was off in a sail (indistinct) which I luckily met with just on the start of our (indistinct) and landed at home early the next day, Friday, expecting at my step from the landing to meet with the news of Henry's death. But none I met and nothing I heard until I reached your mother's room door when lo and behold there he and his mother sat in apparent good heart and cheer. His disease had unexpectedly given way on the day after your mother wrote and his recovery was very rapid so much as to allow him to be summoned home on the following Thursday the day before I reached home.

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe



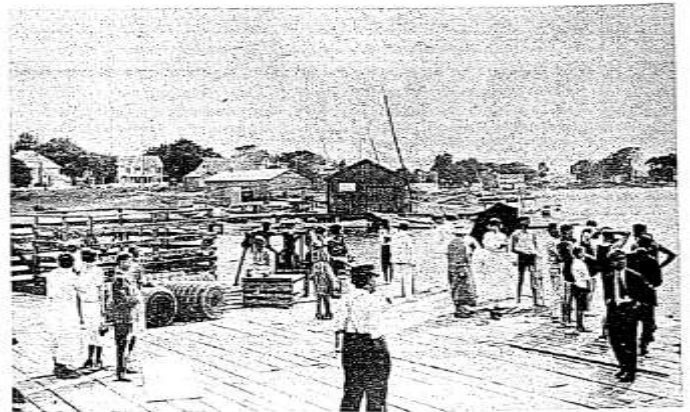
The gently rolling hills of southern Maryland form a backdrop for the quaint wharf at Trueman's Point, on the west bank of the Patuxent River. Photo: The Mariners Museum

50 Steamboats Out of Baltimore

“The waters of the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers were naturally the first roadway known to its adjoining colonists. It was a roadway which needed no building, it never called for repairs, it came to every man’s landing, and so established itself in the life of its people that land roads had great difficulty in ever getting themselves cut through the forests, much less built or improved or impaired.

“In the transition period of the middle of the nineteenth century the river became the roadway of a line of steam packets between Washington and Philadelphia. There was a service of two steamers a week in each direction with a landing in the Potomac at the foot of High Street in Georgetown. But the all-water route down the Potomac river to the Bay and thence on the right to Norfolk or on the left to Baltimore prospered for many years.

“Until the early 1930s river steamers made regular runs between Baltimore and Washington, calling at many landings en route, carrying freight and passengers. Leaving Baltimore on Monday afternoon, the steamer during the night reached its first landing which was at Solomons Island at the mouth of the Patuxent. Then across the Patuxent to Millstone, ‘where is unloaded a calf that protests in a loud and mournful voice’¹¹.



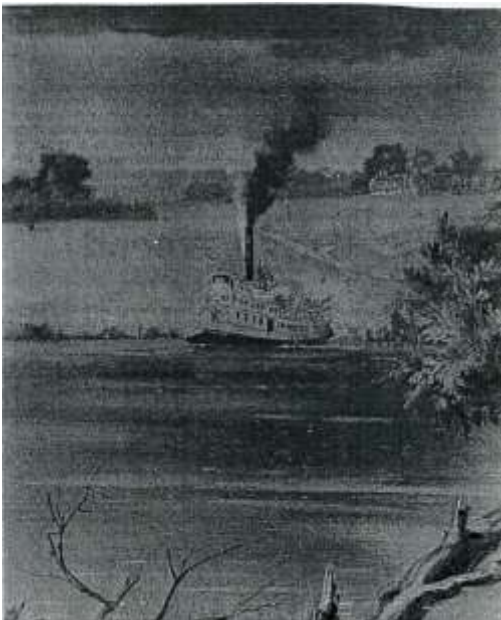
Solomons Island, near the mouth of the Patuxent River, was served after 1924 by the Potomac River steamers and after 1929 by the Planktank River steamers. Social excursions were also

51 Solomon’s Island

Steamboats Out of Baltimore

Dr. Briscoe may have observed on his travels in the 1840’s what one passenger aboard a steamboat several decades later described:

“While we were in the store the deep mellow whistle of the steamboat sounded, which meant she was approaching the wharf, so we walked out on the pier to watch her dock. She was a side wheeler named *Three Rivers*, one of the many steamers that stopped at Bushwood Wharf. As soon as the gangplank was in place the “deck hands” or stevedores commenced loading the freight from the warehouse, and in about fifteen minutes she was ready to go.



52 Steamboat Approaching

Enterprise, March 30th, 1983

¹¹ Radio Script #11, Travel on the Waterways and Roads.

"The steamboats had been the most popular method of transportation to and from the cities since the middle nineteenth century.

"Our steamboats were not like the Mississippi steamers we hear so much about in song and story. They were built for the rough waters of the Chesapeake Bay, and were high-sided and seaworthy with the appearance of ocean-going ships. Boats like the *Northumberland* could have operated safely in the Atlantic coastal waters. The low-sided flat-bottomed steamers of the Mississippi would not have lived long in the stormy Chesapeake and Potomac. Our steamers were thought to have been very beautiful in their day, and it was a common expression in St. Mary's to say, "It is as pretty as a steamboat," when describing something pleasing to the eye.

"Sidewheelers were very maneuverable when docking, for one of the two paddle wheels could be reversed, enabling the boat to turn around sharply.

"Passenger accommodations aboard these steamers were all that would be desired, and the meals were noted far and wide for their excellence. The menus were varied and included Maryland fried chicken and steak, but most people expected seafood, and they were never disappointed. The fried oysters, deviled crabs, and soft crabs were served Southern Maryland style with all the trimmings, including corn bread, and were a gourmet's delight. Nearly everyone knew the captains of the little ships, and they usually dined with the passengers, which was thought to be quite an honor.

"The passengers' quarters were usually spotless and always appeared to have been recently painted. The staterooms were furnished with double decked berths which were always a delight to boys who wanted to sleep in the upper berths. I think it was the *Dorchester* that had a drawing room, that was especially attractive. The carpet and furnishings were dark red plush velvet, and there was a round velvet covered seat in the center of the room that completely encircled a supporting column.



53 Deckhands

Steamboats Out of Baltimore

"One of the most enjoyable features of the trip was sitting on the deck and watching the loading and unloading of freight when the boat docked at the wharves. The deck hands knew the people were watching them, so they always put on a good show. They strutted and danced and used all kinds of body motions as they pushed their two-wheeled hand trucks. Each one had his individual step, and they appeared to be a bunch of comedians rather than stevedores. Sometimes they had trouble getting the livestock aboard, and they really put on a show then, yelling and pushing and twisting the tails of the cattle to make them move along. The

sound of a cow lowing on the water is an out of place, eerie, and unforgettable sound indeed".¹²



54 Deckhands carry sheep
Steamboats Out of Baltimore

Sotterley, September 4, 1845

I wish very much to come on myself to see you all some time towards the latter part of October, and shall certainly do so if I can; but you must by no means expect me, or be disappointed if I do not, as you know it is very difficult for me to get from home for so long a trip.

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

Potomac River Line	
CORRECTED TO MAY 28TH, 1921	
Steamer leaves Baltimore, Pier 3, Light St., weather and tide permitting, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 5:00 a. m., for Washington and intermediate landings, as follows:	
WYNNE,	MUNDY'S POINT,
BROME'S,	PINEY POINT, 10 a. m.
PORTO BELLO,	LEONARDTOWN, 12 noon
GRASON'S,	ABELL'S,
COAN, 5 a. m.	COBRUMS,
BUNDICK'S,	BAY SIDE,
LAKE'S,	BUSHWOOD,
WALNUT POINT,	ROCK POINT, 4 p. m.
COWART'S,	COLONIAL BCH. 8 p. m.
LEWISSETTA,	#MORGANTOWN,
KINSALE, 9:00 a. m.	LIVERPOOL POINT,
LODGE LANDING,	GLYMONT,
	ALEXANDRIA,
Arriving at Washington Wednesday, Friday and Monday mornings.	
#Weather and tide permitting.	
Returning Steamer leaves 7th St. Wharf, Washington, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, weather and tide permitting, at 3 p. m., *Leonardtown, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00 a. m.; Lodge Landing, 10 a. m.; Kinsale, 12 noon; Wynne, 4 p. m.; Porto Bello, 6 p. m.; arriving in Baltimore Wednesday, Friday and Monday mornings, stopping at all the above landings.	
*Except between June 15th, to August 15th, 1921, when steamer will leave Leonardtown and all points below ONE hour earlier.	

55 Potomac River Schedule
Steamboats Out of Baltimore

Another passenger gave this accounting of steamboat travel in the 1900's: "I was given a little state room and my mother and sister had another. We had a number of passengers, some just for a summer trip, others destined for various lower Potomac Wharfs. After taking on freight for different points, we took in our lines and the paddle wheel began to churn as we backed away from the pier and made our turn to go down the Washington Channel.

"At Alexandria we stopped for a few minutes. A bit of freight and some passengers were loaded and off we were again.

"It was time for supper and a Negro with a bell walked the ship announcing 'time to eat'. In

the dining room were long tables with white cloths and silver. The meal was served family style. Bowls of new potatoes, lima beans, sliced tomatoes, ears of sweet corn and platters of fried chicken were in front of us. The food was fresh directly from the farm and it was cooked to perfection. While dining we heard the Dorchester give three long blasts on her fog horn and her bell ringing for an extended period. We all knew that this was the customary procedure as a ship passed Mount Vernon where the Father of our country was buried. By the time supper was over the sun had set and the stars and moon were rising. We found deck chairs on the bow and watched the water separate and pass down each side of the steamboat until the great paddle wheels grabbed the wash and sent it hurling past our stern.

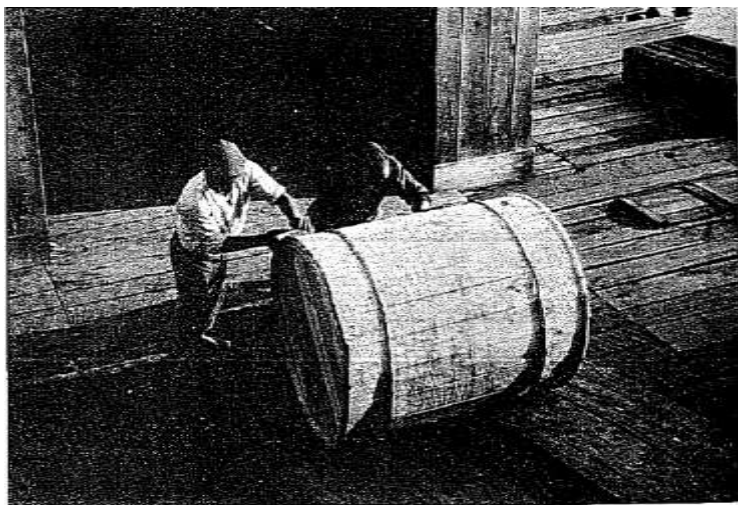
“The little farms were often set well back in some tidewater creek or bay and the boats were the main contact with the outer world. They brought Washington and Baltimore to the neighborhood. Everything came and went by the steamboat.



The deep water of St. Ignace Creek enabled the *John A. Brown* to lie close to the shore at Grason's. This scene was typical of so many of the landings in the Chesapeake Bay country. Photo: J. L. Edgerton

56 Steamboats Out of Baltimore

“Sometime that night when we were asleep in our bunks, I heard a commotion and found that we were about to tie up at a wharf. It was Colonial Beach. The gangplank was noisily slid to the wharf and farmers’ freight destined to the commission men in Baltimore was loaded, a cull cow or two came on board and the howling of several veal calves awakened most of the passengers. The livestock and produce was soon on board and we were again underway. It was light when we made our next stop. It was Lancaster at Rock Point. I quickly dressed and was on deck before we had finished unloading ashore



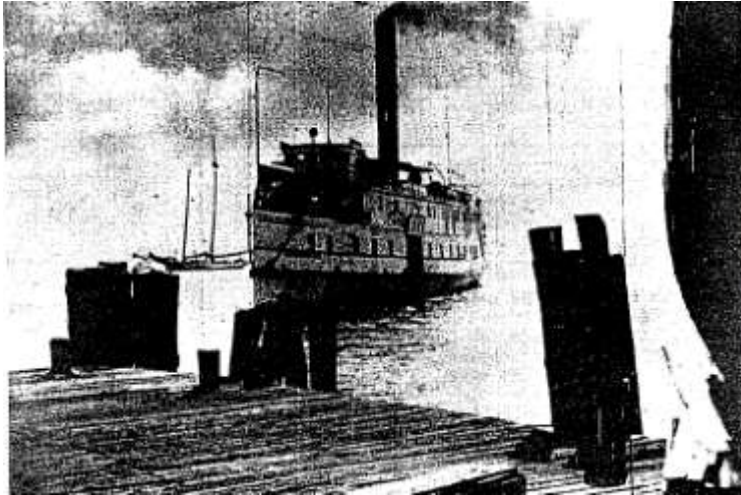
A hogshead of tobacco is rolled up the gangplank to the steamer at Millstone, on the southern shore of the Patuxent River, opposite Solomons Island, Maryland. Photo: The Mariners Museum

57 Steamboats Out of Baltimore

the freight that originated in Washington. This wharf was in Charles County, Md. in tobacco country, and several barrels of tobacco were rolled up the gangplank by the Negro roustabouts. We crossed the mouth of the Wicomico River to St. Mary’s County and put in at Chaptico Wharf. It was time for breakfast and again we dined well. There were pitchers of milk with pieces of ice floating in them. There was hot

oatmeal and cream of wheat. There were fried and scrambled eggs, fried country ham, and country-fried potatoes and biscuits. We all ate heartily.

“At Bushwood wharf, we were in a good seafood area. The cook went out on a pier to see what several boys had caught that morning. He bought some strings of Norfolk Spot fish and soft crabs. I wonder now if these boys were members of the ‘dirty dozen’ who lived in that area. The children of farms would bring vegetables from their gardens. The cook would look them over on the wharfs and only purchase the freshest and best. We would be eating the bounty of the tidewater from both the land and the sea at our next meal, all caught or picked that very morning.



**58 Steamboat *Northumberland*
docking at Bushwood Wharf**

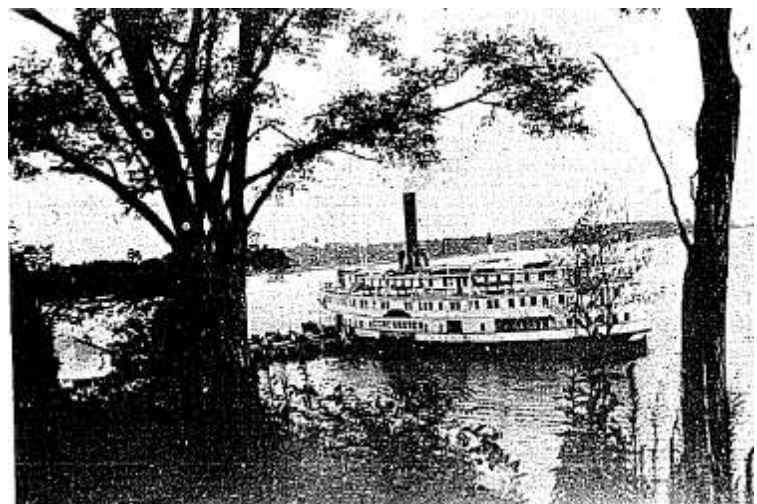
Steamboating on the Potomac River

Edwin W. Beitzell

From The Chronicles of St. Mary's

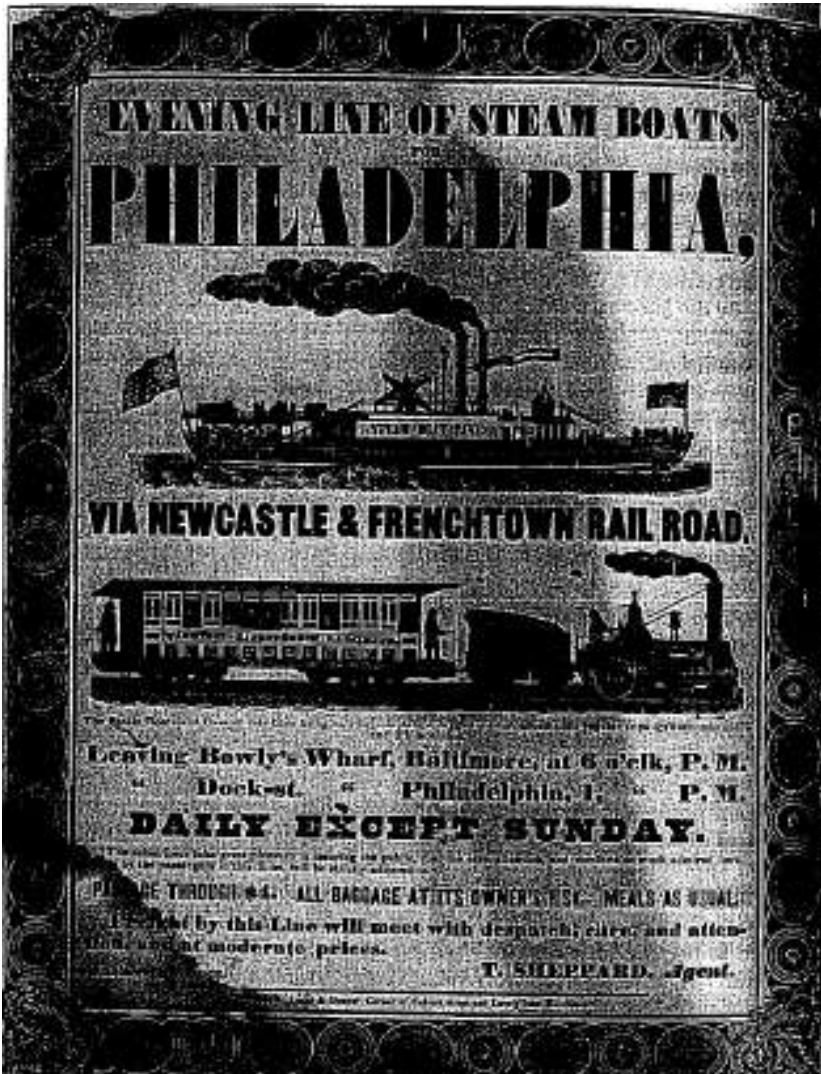
“Suddenly the Captain turned to starboard. There was a wharf at the old plantation of Porto Bello. Someone had hoisted a broom up a pole on the end of the wharf which indicated there was freight to be picked up. At the wharf we found one crate of old hens and a group of children. The children rushed aboard and made straight for the ice cream chest. Shortly they happily went ashore licking their nickel cones. The steamboat was their only source of manufactured ice cream. We wonder how much begging they had engaged in to get their treat, their mother culling her old hens so they could entice the steamer to stop there.

“Finally, as the sun sank behind the hills of Virginia’s Northern Neck, we pulled into the Potomac. At dusk we rounded Point Lookout and headed north up the Chesapeake Bay. Next morning we woke up in the Inner Harbor of Baltimore. It had been a good trip!¹³”



**59 *The Dorchester* at Brome's
Steamboats Out of Baltimore**

¹³ “Steamboat Days” *St. Mary's Today*



60 Evening Line of Steam Boats for Philadelphia
Maryland A Middle Temperament

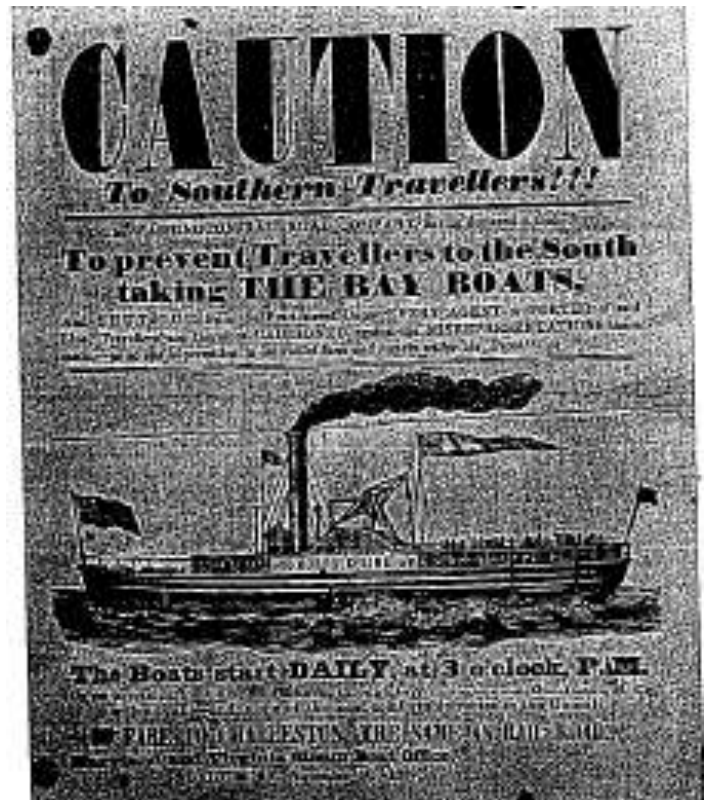
Chesapeake Bay: A Pictorial Maritime History: "Late in the Eighteenth Century passenger traffic through the Atlantic Coastal States increased greatly. Most of it was transported by horse drawn coaches over bad roads, although usually wherever a body of water ran in the right direction a change to watercraft was made. One of the principal links in the chain lay between Baltimore and Philadelphia. From the latter the traveler went by boat down the Delaware River to New Castle or Wilmington, then transferred to a coach which carried him a few miles to the Elk River where another change was made to a boat which carried him to Baltimore. By 1812 there were four lines of daily sailing vessels (schooners and sloops) running between Baltimore and the Elk. All the packet lines advertised their vessels to be "fast sailing" but none of them attempted to foretell an arrival time: wind and tide, not man, ruled that.

"The history of the steamboat on the Chesapeake was one of steady expansion of the routes by small companies until every Bay or river port had both freight and passenger service to Baltimore and Washington".

Steam Packets on the Chesapeake Bay: "This country had been richly endowed by nature with broad, navigable rivers and deep, protected sounds which, like sparkling beads on a giant necklace, are dotted along the coast from Maine to Florida. At the beginning of the Nineteenth Century with no highways worthy of the name and settlements linked together only by sailing craft, pawns of wind and tide, it may be readily seen that the evolution of the steamboat as the *only* reliable and swift means of

communication proved an inestimable boon. The meteoric development of steam-driven craft was in direct answer to the pressing need which first called them into being.

“Let us go back to the beginning of one passenger’s voyage and briefly consider the noble packet which is speeding him southward at the awesome rate of 10 miles per hour. With ample time to kill, our Mr. Smith must have walked down the Wharf, leaned against a weatherworn spike and taken in to the fullest the animated scene before him. Heavy teams groaning under loads of bale, crates, and boxes surged through the dusty thorough-fare. Perspiring stevedores loaded piles of merchandise on hand trucks and rolled them over swaying gangways into the darkened doorways piercing the sides of the *Georgia*. Ladies in billowing dresses picked their way gingerly across the road, leaning heavily on the arms of their escorts, resplendent in stove pipe hats and flowery waistcoats of watered silk. Dusky porters in white coats and caps bearing the legend, ‘Bay Line’, surrounded each approaching carriage, obsequiously bowed out the travelers and whisked away their luggage. In the background, ‘runners’ of the rival ‘Upper Route’ would hint darkly to all who would listen of the alleged dangers of steamboat travel and urge travelers to go on in safety to Washington in the ‘cars’.



15 Handbill issued in 1839 by the Maryland and Virginia Steam Boat Co.

Steam Packets on the Chesapeake

“There was a constant din and the babble of many voices rent the air. Officers on the ship were calling instructions to their seaman; teamsters were shouting to the struggling horses; dock hands and stevedores lightened labor with song; small boys darting under foot yelled to one another; and hawkers impetuously cried the merits of their wares. Suddenly the shrill note of *Georgia*’s newfangled steam whistle resounded and Mr. Smith consulted his heavy gold watch over to the passenger gangway; he mounted in time to catch a startled ‘oh’ from the lady passenger immediately preceding him. She looked down to the dark strip of water separating ship from shore as she climbed the steps. At the head of the gangway, Mr. Smith nodded to a fine frock-coated figure who could be none other than that doughty mariner, Captain James Coffey, master of the noble *Georgia*.

“He surrendered his ticket to another commanding individual, Mr. Wilson, ship’s ‘Clerk,’ as pursers were then termed, and made his way to the upper deck to watch the late arrivals come on board. Another impetuous blast of the steam whistle rent the air and white-coated stewards called, ‘All ashore that’s going ashore’.



62 Arthur "Buck" Briscoe,
Purser

"The last few passengers had hurried across the gangplank when a team of lively horses pranced up to the dock and canvas bags were tossed from the wagon and whisked abroad. The 'Great Southern Mail', just arrived from Philadelphia, had been delivered and now the *Georgia* was ready to begin her 200 mile voyage down the length of the Chesapeake Bay. Lines were cast off as Captain Coffey, speaking trumpet in hand, took his command station on top of one of the giant paddle boxes- the lunette structures that covered the big paddle wheels projecting out of the sides of the vessel like packs on a burro. The gilded wooden eagle surmounting the pilothouse stood ready, poised for flight.

"Crisp orders were given, the paddle wheels began to revolve and the proud steamboat slowly drew away from her dock. Gaining way, she headed straight out into the crowded channel as Spears Wharf and the waving figures ashore diminished and were gradually lost from view.

"Probably Mr. Smith was still in no hurry to go down to find his cabin, as the various sights and sounds of the harbor must have held his attention. By the Lazaretto they passed the steamer *Patuxent* of Captain Weems' Rappahannock River Line. Her churning paddles marked a wake of creamy water far behind. Fleets of graceful pungy schooners, some with watermelons piled high on deck, were sailing up the Patapsco, their snowy canvas and rose pink sides forming the variegated patterns against the foil of blue water and green slopes beyond. At last Mr. Smith reluctantly tore himself from his place at the rail and made his way down to the Gentlemen's Saloon to claim his 'Birth', as it was generally spelled. Coming from the brilliant sunshine outdoors, he was momentarily blinded until his eyes became accustomed to the dimmer light within. Tiers of bunks lined the sides of the richly carpeted cabin and Mr. Smith, assisted by a steward, deposited his luggage in the space assigned to him by lot. By this time, several convivial spirits had assembled around the bar and, although his appetite had already been whetted by the salt air, Mr. Smith decided that he would partake of a julep as a foretaste of the hospitality of the South whither he was bound.

"Supper was now in order and although the dining saloon was below on a deck devoid of portholes the meal was a cheerful one with napery and silver glistening in the light cast by whale-oil tapers. Gaining the deck again, Mr. Smith sought a chair on the open afterdeck and fell into conversation with a naval officer and his lady who, he learned, were bound for Portsmouth where the officer was to be attached to a ship then lying at the Gosport Navy Yard. He had noted on his way through the saloon that several card games were in progress and, although he would have enjoyed whiling away an hour or so at whist, he sensibly decided that playing cards with strangers, particularly on steamboats, was a little risky.

"The officer and his lady retired early and Mr. Smith, stretching out comfortably in his chair, was left to the musings he outlined for us in his description quoted previously. Obviously pleased with his lot, our friend undoubtedly sat up on deck late drinking in the pleasant sights, smells, and sounds, being reluctant to exchange them for the discomforts of a narrow mattress in the stuffy cabin below. The paddle wheels continued

their rhythmic slapping, waves danced in the moonlight, and the phosphorescent wake stretched out astern in a straight line. Clouds of black smoke burst from the tall black funnel that was the *Georgia's* crowning feature and occasional showers of the gleaming sparks burst forth to rival the Milky Way, as Mr. Smith undoubtedly would have expressed it. Up through the fiddley wafted the smell of steam and hot oil and he could hear the distant clanking of machinery and the almost continual thud of heavy pitch-pine logs which the stokers were tossing from bunker to boiler.

"By this time, most of his fellow passengers had either gone below or were sleeping out on deck with coats drawn over them. Occasionally sailors passed pursuing their various duties and, at periodic intervals, Mr. Smith could hear the lookout striking the ship's bells and reporting all well. Off on the horizon shone the lights of passing ships and on the starboard side, the yellow gleam of a lighthouse marked a harbor entrance.

"With a sigh, Mr. Smith at last must have pulled himself from his chair, knocked out his pipe, and, realizing a busy day awaited him in Norfolk, gone down to bed. We have seen that Mr. Smith's berth was one of a number arranged in tiers along the sides of the main saloon aft. In another part of the boat was situated the mirrored and begilded "Ladies' Cabin" from which men were excluded. A smaller cabin was situated forward of the machinery and similarly equipped with curtained berths. The *Georgia* also had four staterooms with two berths each on the main deck; the modern equivalent would be cabins deluxe or bridal suites."

Although long planned, the Delaware and Chesapeake canal was not completed until 1828 and the then accustomed routine of the southbound traveler consisted of boarding a sailing packet at Philadelphia for the passage down Delaware Bay to Newcastle; thence via swaying stagecoach across the upper neck of the Delmarva Peninsula to Frenchtown, where he again embarked on a sailing packet for the trip down the Elk River, across the head of the Chesapeake, and up the Patapsco River to Baltimore. This region is notorious for its calms and transportation was both slow and uncertain. As soon as the builders could have her ready, the *Chesapeake* was placed on the Baltimore-Frenchtown run on what became known as the Union Line.

When the ships were crowded, passengers slept on chairs or couches, the dining room tables, or even the floor. Signs requested them to remove their shoes before getting in bed. Ladies had their separate cabin, but came to the men's cabin at mealtime, for this also served as the dining room. The galley was situated close by the engine room and furnished meals which must have seemed extremely plain. Vegetables were boiled in steam drawn from the ship's boiler and the spit was turned by a gear connected with the main paddle shaft. Forward of the engine room were crew's quarters and storage space.

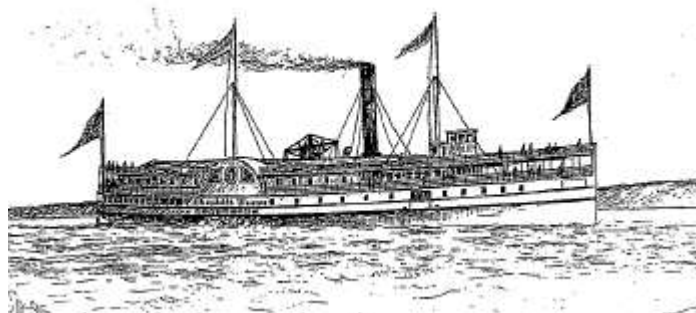
Here follows a sidelight on the type of passengers who were occasionally to be seen in steamboats:

"As we thus lay together, I noticed that the upper or promenade deck of the *Columbus* was completely taken up by a double row of flashy-looking covered carts, or tilt-waggons, as they are called here. Upon inquiry, I found that these contained the goods, and were, indeed the movable stores, or shops, of that much enduring class, the

Yankee pedlars, just setting forth for their annual winter cruise amongst the plantations of the South: where, however their keen dealing may be held in awe, they are looked for with lively anxiety, and their arrival greeted as an advent of no little moment. Arranged in a half circle about the bow on the main-deck, I observed the horses of these royal pedlars: they stretched their necks out to examine us with a keenness of look worthy their knowing master's reputation and their own education."

Railroads continued spinning their iron webs across the countryside. At first, the tracks merely replaced existing stagecoach lines and travelers in 1832 who journeyed from Philadelphia to Baltimore still used two lines of steamers, but crossed the neck of the Eastern Shore Peninsula on the 16-mile Frenchtown-Newcastle Railway. Meanwhile, Baltimore and Washington had been connected by rails and thus two separate lines were offered the southbound traveler.

So it is that Dr. Briscoe, Margaret Briscoe, and even Kate Dent would have travelled north from St. Mary's County to their respective schools and south again to return home.



63 Theodore Weems Steamer

Calvert Marine Museum Bugeye Times



16 Sotterley Wharf in the 1900's

Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

M. D. & V.		
Patuxent River Line		
CORRECTED TO SEPTEMBER 12, 1921		
Steamer leaves Baltimore, Pier 4, Light St., Tuesday and Thursday, 2.30 p. m. weather and tide permitting for the following points:		
Fair Haven, Plum Point, Dare's, Governor's Run Millstone, Solomon's Island,	Spencer's, St. Cuthbert's, St. Leonard's, Sollers, Sotterley, Cashner's,	Parker's, Forrest's, Duke's, Holland Point, Benedict, Lower Marlboro,
Returning, Steamer leaves:		
Lower Marlboro, WEDNESDAYS and FRIDAYS 9.30 a. m. weather and tide permitting, stopping at points as follows: Magruder's Ferry, Holland Cliffs, Deep Landing, Trueman's Point, Litch's, Holland Point, 11.50 a. m. Benedict, 12.00 noon, Duke's, Forrest's, Parker's, Cashner's, Sotterley, 2.30 p. m., St. Leonard's, Sollers, St. Cuthbert's, Spencer's, Solomon's Island 3.50 p. m., Millstone, 6.00 p. m., Cove Point, Governor's Run, 8.00 p. m., Dare's, 8.20 p. m. Plum Point, 9.00 p. m., Fair Haven, 10.00 p. m., arriving at Baltimore next morning.		
Steamer leaves Baltimore, Pier 4, Light St., weather and tide permitting, Saturday, 2.00 p. m., for the following points:		
Fair Haven, Plum Point, Dare's,	Sollers, Sotterley, Cashner's, Holland's	Trueman's Point, Deep Landing, Holland's Cliffs, Magruder's Ferry

65 Patuxent River Line

Steamboats Out of Baltimore

SICKNESS AT SOTTERLEY PLANTATION

One hundred and fifty years ago, the best known and most dreaded form of streptococcal infection was scarlet fever. Simply hearing the name of this disease, and knowing that it was present in the community, was enough to strike fear into the hearts of those living in Victorian-era United States. This disease, even when not deadly, caused large amounts of suffering to those infected. In the worst cases, all of a family's children were killed in a matter of a week or two. Indeed, up until early in the 20th century, scarlet fever was a common condition among children. Children with scarlet fever develop chills, body aches, loss of appetite, nausea, and vomiting.

Historical data suggests at least three epidemiologic phases for scarlet fever. In the second phase (~1825-1885), scarlet fever suddenly began to recur in cyclic and often highly fatal urban epidemics. From 1840 until 1883, scarlet fever became one of the most common infectious childhood diseases to cause death in most of the major metropolitan centers and the United States, with case fatality rates that reached or exceeded 30% in some areas. Because scarlet fever was by no means always fatal, and because the opiates, alcohol, and other ingredients might make patients feel some relief from symptoms, there were occasions when physicians were highly valued for their efforts, despite their limited capacities to treat and certainly to cure."¹⁴

¹⁴ Source – Scienceblogs.com

The Brandreth Pills



The Brandreth pills are daily recommended by thousands of persons whom they have cured of consumption, influenzas, colds, indigestion, headache, and a sense of fullness in the back part of the head, usually the symptoms of apoplexy, jaundice, fever and ague, scarlet, typhus, yellow, and common fevers of all kinds; asthmas, gout, rheumatoid, nervous diseases, liver complaint, inward weakness, depression of the spirits, ruptures, inflammation, sore eyes, fits, dopey, smallpox, measles, coughs, whooping cough, cholera morbus, gravel, worms, dysentery, deafness, ringing noises in the head, king's evil, St. Anthony's fire, white swelling, ulcers, some of thirty years standing; cancers, tumors, swelled feet and legs, piles costiveness, all eruptions of the skin, frightful dreams, female complaints of every kind, especially obstructions, relaxation.

This universal medicine mildly, but surely cleans the whole extent of the alimentary canal. It then gives increased power to the circulation of the blood, by which it deposits any impurities it may contain in the bowels, which organ expels them from the body.

Let me impress upon conscientious physicians the importance of a trial of the Brandreth pills. Let them make only a fair trial of them and they will concede the medicine is the best evacuant of the bowels hitherto discovered. The ingredients are all prepared expressly for the manufacture of the Brandreth pills, and it is impossible to obtain a purgative of the same properties except from Dr. B. Brandreth. Let physicians and the world at large bear in mind that the Brandreth pills may be taken if necessary for any length of time daily not only without injury, but with a certainty.¹⁵

The letters from Dr. Briscoe in almost every instance talk about someone who is ill or perhaps even near death so we are going to focus in this section on those references. By the time Margaret left for St. Mary's Hall, her older brother Walter had already died at Sotterley, the result of a fatal illness. Imagine as a young girl who has perhaps left home for the first time in her life getting this news in the very first letter from home while at boarding school:

Sotterley, May 19, 1845

I received a letter from your mother written on the Friday before (nearly a week) stating that Henry was then ill at Charlotte Hall, not expected to live.

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

¹⁵ The New York Herald. May 22, 1854, Morning Edition.

The news of illness at home was constant:

Sotterley, June 20, 1845

We are about as well as usual. Henry is still at home and will remain I expect until after the August vacation. His health is tolerable again but not as such as to justify his return to school. Aunt Lydia has had a smart spell of sickness, and is still sick. But ill health in this family is not to be wondered at by those who know their habits; and then imprudence should warn you to abstain from similar indulgences, particularly should you, Maggy, guard against exposures that may subject you to cold; to which, like myself, you know you are very subject; and you are now in a more northern latitude you should be more careful.

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe



17 Google Images

Kate Dent, too, frequently worried about the health of those she cared about:

**Hannah More Academy
June 16th 1857**

Dear Pa,

I received your letters of June 5th Thursday evening, and was very sorry to hear that Ma was sick. I think if you would bring her out here to spend a part of the summer, she would not have any more chills this season. Give my love to the servants and tell Jane she must get well of chills.

Kate

Margaret Briscoe would be justified in worrying about all of her siblings:

Sotterley, November 17, 1845

I had quite a trying time when your Father was gone. The children were so sick; little Addy was very sick but she is now better than she has been for two months. Jinny and Samuel's health is quite bad, they both look badly. I feel they will be sick on and off all winter. Little Davy and Sally too have the ague and fever. Chap has got perfectly well. Your Aunt's room looks like a hospital sometimes all three of the children sick at once.

Emeline Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

A WOMAN'S WISDOM.

The worried mother wakes up to hear her baby's heavy breathing—a little cough—perhaps the croup or whooping cough. She does not want to send for the doctor when perhaps the trouble does not amount to much. Finally she thinks of that medical book her father gave her, *The Common Sense Medical Adviser*, by R. V. Pierce, M. D. She says "just the thing to find out what is the matter with the little dear." Two million households in this country own one—and it's to be had for only 31c. in stamps—1,000 pages in splendid cloth binding. A good family adviser in any emergency. It is for *either sex*. This is what many women write Dr. Pierce—in respect to his "Favorite Prescription," a remedy which has made thousands of melancholy and miserable women cheerful and happy, by curing the painful womanly diseases which undermine a woman's health and strength.



MRS. ZUEBERT AND BABY.

"My desire is to write a few lines to let you know what your valuable medicine has done for me," writes Mrs. MARGARET ZUEBERT, of 323 S. Bentalon Street, Baltimore, Md. "Before the storck came to our house I was a very sick woman. I wrote you for advice which was kindly given and which made me a different woman in a short time. After taking the first bottle of 'Favorite Prescription' I began improving so that I hardly knew I was in such a condition. I did my own housework—washing and ironing, cooking, sewing, and the worst of all nursed three children who had whooping cough. I hardly knew of the advent ten minutes before—so easy was it. The baby is as fat as a butter-ball. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the best medicine for any woman to take when in this condition. I recommend it to all my friends."

6718 The Democratic Advocate: Westminster, MD. October 4, 1912.

And Margaret's father, in worrying about his daughter's health, may just as likely have caused her great concern she'd succumb to illness:

Sotterley, December 8, 1845

Allow me to say a word or two upon the subject of your personal health and manners. These are to be seen by the eye and should receive some care and attention. Permit me then in the first place to advise you to guard your health with all reasonable and prudent care, particularly in relation to cold which you know you are very subject; and by this (?) in a more Northern Climate than you have hitherto been more accustomed to will require you to be still more observant and careful. The children are better. They occasionally have chills and fevers some of them, so it will be I expect through the winter.

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

Alnwick Seminary, October 17th

My dear Pa,

Your letter of the 9th was duly received & appreciated, although it contained some unpleasant intelligence. I hope however that before this reaches you, you all will have entirely recovered. I have so far enjoyed perfect health. But I am sorry to say that even in this healthy place all are not equally favoured. Mrs. Tyson is quite sick & Miss Mary is not so well as when you were here. I have received the Beacon & was much interested in the account of the town. Who is the writer of it? Tell Carrie J that Laura received a letter from her Mother yesterday saying that Bernie was so ill as to require visits from his physician five times a day.

Kate

Alnwick Seminary, October 17th
Sotterley, January 12, 1846

We are all as well as usually well under some apprehension about the small pox as there are some cases in the county. Do be careful about it yourself.

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

Sotterley, February 17, 1846

Since I last wrote we have received several letters from you the last of which is dated the 5th of this month and I will now endeavor to give such of them, as it is most necessary to answer the notice they seem to require. I say such of them as are the most necessary to be answered, because I fear I should hardly (?) the time necessary for that before our necessary mail; being much occupied with, and often called away to the bedside of the sick. We have of late been sorely tried with sickness in the family. Though the whole fall and winter so far (?) over (?) more of the children have been almost constantly sick, though until within the last three weeks their sickness has been comparatively light – but since that time six of them have been down, most of them ill and some right unto death; indeed on Tuesday and Wednesday last it was thought Chapman could not possibly live. He was attacked on Monday with congestive fever and was for two days and nights following without the smallest prospect of recovery, suffering the whole time the greatest agony. The good Lord however has seen fit to restore him in part, and will I hope soon place him on his feet again. Your aunt and myself have not had our clothes off for the last week or two days, and Henry and Chapman still require us to keep up with them at night. Little Jenny is still very feeble and far from being well. Little Dave, Sally and Addy and the others that were last sick. I hope the Lord will give us strength and patience to bear all our trials with resignation and submission and so work in upon us to our everlasting good.

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe



68 Google Images

Hannah More Academy,
August 2, 1875

My Dear Ma,

Although I would be very glad to hear from home at any time, indeed there is no pleasure so great now as to hear from you all frequently, yet I would not like you or Pa to neglect other things, or when you are wearied by the performance of your duties, I would not like you to write, for I know when any one is tired they do not feel like writing. When I am tired I try the never failing remedy, sleep, if I can get the time, but I do not sleep so much as when at home. So this is only the half of a sheet, I must stop.

Kate

Sotterley, March 9, 1846

Your letter was received by us with a great deal of pleasure and we were greatly relieved from our anxiety when we heard Nannie was better. Your father believed she would die and I know you are well aware what he felt until he received your letter. I did not think so myself and tried to make him think with me believing she had every kindness and attention shown her. With youth on her side and many kind friends and relationships around her. Still if the family had been in a situation to leave I believe he would have gone on to see her. I begin to fear he will not be able to go on for you. He is very anxious to do so and if he does he will be very much hurried. Chapman mends very slowly. Saturday is the first time he has ever attempted to set up and then only for a few moments. He has fever every night and sleeps badly and your father is very much disturbed with him. I never saw your father stand so much fatigue in my life and keep in such good health. Truly I do thank my Heavenly Father for keeping him in such good health for I had been no use at all to him. Little Addy is so sickly that it requires all my care for her at night and the others take your aunt's attention for since last May we have not been clear of sickness. Sometimes three of the children at a time in your Aunt's room. Tell Nannie little Addy is thought very much like her; she is the whitest little creature I ever saw. All the children are up and about at present and sincerely do I hope our Heavenly Father will grant them to continue so.

Emeline Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

Sotterley, March 5, 1845

Sickness still follows us home, and though I do not say it in the way of complaint, yet may I note we have been pretty well tried since last spring. Since Henry's spell at Charlotte Hall last May, whilst I was away with you, I don't think there has a week passed over us without sickness among the children in some shape or other. Chapman is still on his back, his amendment very slow indeed; so severe was his attack. Henry and Jimmy not yet entirely recovered. Samuel and Jimmy just out of bed again; and the rest (David, Sallie and Addy) frequently more or less unwell in some way or other. This with occasional sickness among the servants, of which we have some at this time, would seem to indicate the impossibility of my ever leaving home for more than a day or two at a time; and yet have we not great cause to praise and thank the Lord for his mercy in granting us, the older ones, health and strength to watch over them and nurse them; and in sparing them from the grave. May He in His kind mercy continue to watch over all of you for good during the balance of absence from us; and though He has in His wisdom seen fit to afflict one of you with some sickness, yet that He in His good time will restore her to health again; and finally return you to the bosom of your home in that health and happiness that will enable you to realize, to the fullest extent, the pleasure and enjoyment you seem so warmly to anticipate is the sincere and ardent prayer of your unworthy father.

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe



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The Small-Pox Epidemic.
 Health Commissioner, Dr. J. Howell Billingslea, calls particular attention to the following from the State Board of Health. It is a well-known fact that small-pox is prevailing in the West; that hundreds of tramps, known as Coxey's Army, etc., are here and still coming; that at Chesapeake Beach, this State, the disease has made its appearance among the hands employed on the railroad there; and that the hospital in Baltimore has some 35 or 40 cases. Let our citizens act promptly in this matter and all be vaccinated. Following is the circular.

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF HEALTH,
 SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
 Baltimore, Md., May 10th, 1894. }

To the People of Maryland:—The remarkable prevalence, at the present time, of epidemic small-pox, in numerous and widely scattered parts of the United States, and the recent outbreak of the disease in Maryland are just causes of anxiety.

Periods of immunity from this loathsome pestilence are always followed by renewed invasions of more or less severity. It has been the common experience of all past times and true of epidemic diseases in general. The explanation is, that the prevalence of a contagious disease, in running its course, exhausts the material upon which it feeds, by attacking all who are susceptible to it. An interval must therefore elapse long enough to allow a new crop of susceptible persons to accumulate before another epidemic is possible.

Small-pox could always be made an exception to this law, if the people would universally practice vaccination and revaccination. In some of the

Sotterley, March 23, 1846

Chapman is still on his back slowly recovering from a severe attack of pneumonia, which came on after your mother wrote to you the second week of this month. The other children, from Chapman down, are also now getting the whooping cough as we believe in what state they may be in a week hence is impossible to conjecture. So continuing with this letter I will however hope for the best.

I would also guard you against the smallpox. I know not how it is in Philadelphia; but in Baltimore it is just as thick as ever. We have not heard directly from your Aunt Harriet or Cait, and cannot for certain say whether it has been in her family or not; we can say for certain that it has been in her immediate neighborhood, and may be there still, so that should you come on without me, you had better be careful in all your movements in Baltimore, and endeavor to know for certain whether there will be any risk in going to see her before you continue through. Should you girls have not been vaccinated this winter I think you had better have it done before you start home – say as soon as you go to the city.

Emeline Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

70 The Democratic Advocate: Westminster, MD. February 27, 1904.

Hannah More Academy
June 20th, 1857

Dear Ma,

I received yours and Brother's letters this week, and was very glad to hear that you had missed your chills. I hope Georgy has not the whooping cough as Pa seemed to fear when he wrote.

Kate

Best Remedy for Whooping Cough.
"Last winter when the little boy had the whooping cough I gave him Chamberlain's Cough Remedy," writes Mrs. J. B. Roberts, East St. Louis, Ill. "It kept his cough loose and relieved those dreadful coughing spells. It is the only cough medicine I keep in the house because I have the most confidence in it." This is also a good remedy for cold and croup.
Advertisement.

71 Catoctin clarion: Mechanicstown, MD. May 2, 1918

Sotterley November 27th, 1854

Your father says you must give him ten days notice before you wish to come home. The children all have had very bad colds particularly Ella. Some of the servants have dreadful coughs and we begin to fear it is the whooping cough as it is confined to those children who never have had it. M Carroll's child I think there is no doubt about having it. And if our children have it this winter we shall have I am afraid a very hard time with them. Ella is quite a good child; she has given me very little trouble. Sally still continues sick; she had a chill today and remains well only for a few days at a time. Johnny has the third day ague and fever, but I hope soon to get him well again. Your father returned from Baltimore quite sick but in a few days recovered his health. But at present has a very bad cough. Chap was home last week and said he had been to see Jannette the week before that they were both well. I must now stop as I have nothing but bad news to write. Give my love to your Aunt when you see her. Tell her I am afraid her two children will have the whooping cough in spite of all her care. She had better make haste and get her (brood?) out and come home and help me to nurse them.

Emeline W. Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

It is somewhat interesting to observe that so many people in the household of a doctor were sick almost all of the time. It makes you wonder about the medical capabilities of that day and age.

We know from the research and writings of Agnes Kane Callum that Dr. Briscoe did travel around St. Mary's County to see patients; Agnes Callum's ancestor was the coachman for Dr. Briscoe. This is what she said:

"When Hilry Kane was with his family at Sotterley and not laboring in the fields, he made furniture including beds, chairs, and tables for the cabin. He also made, and played quite well, the banjo. Knowledgeable about medicinal herbs, Hilry was considered the "doctor" for the plantation's slaves. He used roots and herbs to treat a variety of ailments. The family also spent time outdoors, cooking their rations of fatty pork and corn which

they received at the back door of the manor house on Saturdays, and hunting for rabbit, deer, and opossum to supplement those rations. On Sundays, although Catholic by all accounts, the Kanes attended the local Episcopal church with their masters, the Billingsleys and the Briscoes.

"Frank Kane¹⁶ got to be Dr. Briscoe's chauffer or coachman as they were called in that day. And he was very close to Dr. Briscoe. 'Course they would have conversations as they went about making house calls. Frank Kane got married in the parlor over there in the mansion. And I got those records from the courthouse in Leonardtown. And it was a big social affair because whites and blacks were invited to the wedding. And they served the slaves sweetened water – that's cold water with sugar – and sweetbread – that's a cake with sugar in it. And that was Frank's second marriage, Frank had married a lady on the plantation, Evelina Steward."

For greater insight into the medical practices of this time and location, a convenient reference is the book *I Wouldn't Take Nothin' For My Journey: Two Centuries of an Afro-American Minister's Family* by Leonidas H. Berry M.D. The oral

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ONE DAY OLD

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50 YEARS OLD.

Will cure the infant's cough or the obstinate cough of 50 years standing. Nothing equals Pine Root Cough Syrup for WHOOPING COUGH or the CROUP. It is Nature's positive cure for GRIP COUGHS: don't neglect this. The Grip has killed more people than any American War.

PINE ROOT POSITIVELY CURES GRIP COUGH.

Sold in 25 and 50c bottles. A printed guarantee with every bottle. If it does not do as we say, you get your money back. You run no risk. Take Pine Root Cough Syrup first; then speak for yourself. Sold by druggists everywhere.

Wholesale agents for Michigan and adjoining states: Farrand, Williams & Clark, and Michigan Drug Co., Detroit; Hazleton & Perkins Drug Co., Grand Rapids; Morrison, Plummer & Co., and Fuller & Fuller, Chicago.

GRANT HOLDEN, Special Agt., Yale.

72 The Yale Expositor: Yale, MI. March 3, 1899

¹⁶ Frank Kane was the son of Hilary Kane.

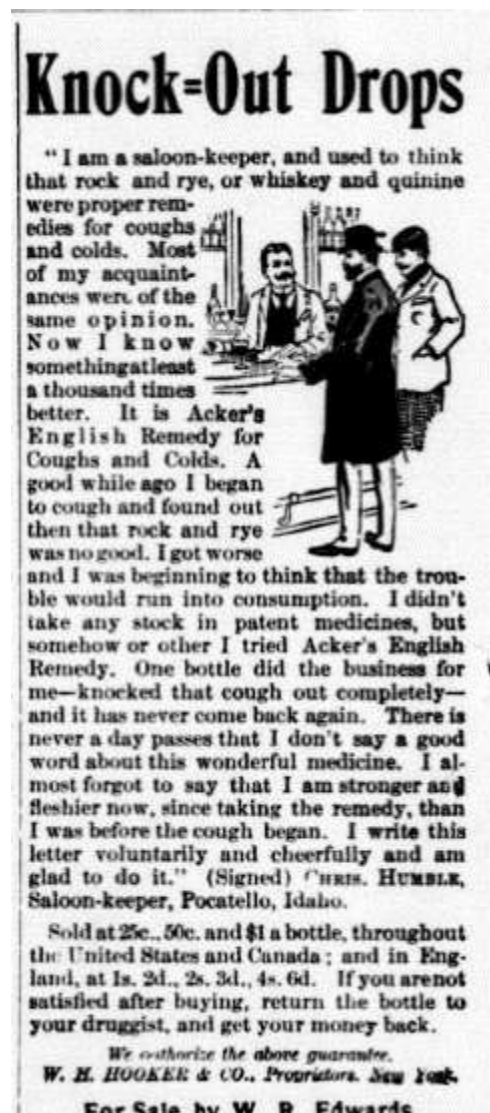
history recited in this book comes down from the slave who drove Dr. Thomas around St. Mary's County close to the same time Dr. Briscoe resided at Sotterley. Dr. Thomas resided just a few miles up the river from Sotterley at his plantation known as Cremona. (Dr. Thomas' granddaughter would one day marry Dr. Briscoe's youngest son, Walter.) This is the oral history recounted in that book:

"Henry Jennifer was a slave of Dr. William Thomas whose brother James Thomas, also a physician, was the 26th governor of Maryland. Dr. Thomas studied under Dr. Physick in Philadelphia and was graduated from the Philadelphia Medical College in 1814. Along with the practice of medicine, he owned and managed a very large plantation with many slaves. Thomas and his brother were sons of Major William Thomas, a celebrated officer of the American Revolution. The original Mr. Thomas settled on large acreages at Deep Falls, Maryland, ceded to him in 1660. The Thomas family was directly related to Leonard Calvert, the proprietary Lord Baltimore. Young Henry had already taken care of the Doctor's horse and buggy with the prospect of one day becoming the doctor's assistant. The Jennifer family had served the Thomases for two or three previous generations.

"Many slaves were attended by old "Doc" Henry who became a skillful practitioner. He could look at your tongue and tell you about chills and fevers, dysentery and the bloody flux. He could go into the woods and come out with just the right roots and herbs, make a stew or poultice and cure constipation, worms, rheumatism or galloping consumption. He once said, "Ever once and agin de best cure fer rumatiz is to thank God it ain't de gout!"

"White folks, too, would send for him at night when the master's physician could not be located or when the big boss had failed a cure. Old Doc Henry became a seasoned doctor and a deeply religious man who sometimes preached to the slaves in the grove on Sunday. He would say a prayer and then a few words of voodoo that would work miracles. He could also work black and white magic. Henry Jennifer knew a lot of tricks taught him by his root doctor father Will Jennifer, who drove for the earlier doctors Thomas before the War of 1812. The earliest Thomases were active in the Chesapeake Bay "tea party" equivalent to the one in the Charles River at Boston, which helped to bring on the Revolutionary War in 1776.

"On one occasion Dr. Thomas sent his slave apprentice, Henry, to carry out the daily mopping of a large open wound on the foot of a white farmer. The same mop was used each day and the solution was carbolic acid and water. The wound did not heal in several weeks; the patient complained that it was



Knock-Out Drops

"I am a saloon-keeper, and used to think that rock and rye, or whiskey and quinine were proper remedies for coughs and colds. Most of my acquaintances were of the same opinion. Now I know something at least a thousand times better. It is Acker's English Remedy for Coughs and Colds. A good while ago I began to cough and found out then that rock and rye was no good. I got worse and I was beginning to think that the trouble would run into consumption. I didn't take any stock in patent medicines, but somehow or other I tried Acker's English Remedy. One bottle did the business for me—knocked that cough out completely—and it has never come back again. There is never a day passes that I don't say a good word about this wonderful medicine. I almost forgot to say that I am stronger and fleshier now, since taking the remedy, than I was before the cough began. I write this letter voluntarily and cheerfully and am glad to do it." (Signed) CHAS. HUMBLE, Saloon-keeper, Pocatello, Idaho.

Sold at 25c., 50c. and \$1 a bottle, throughout the United States and Canada; and in England, at 1s. 2d., 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d. If you are not satisfied after buying, return the bottle to your druggist, and get your money back.

We authorize the above guarantee.
W. H. HOOKER & CO., Proprietors, New York.

For Sale by W. R. Edwards.

73 The Coconino Sun: Flagstaff, AZ.
September 8, 1900.

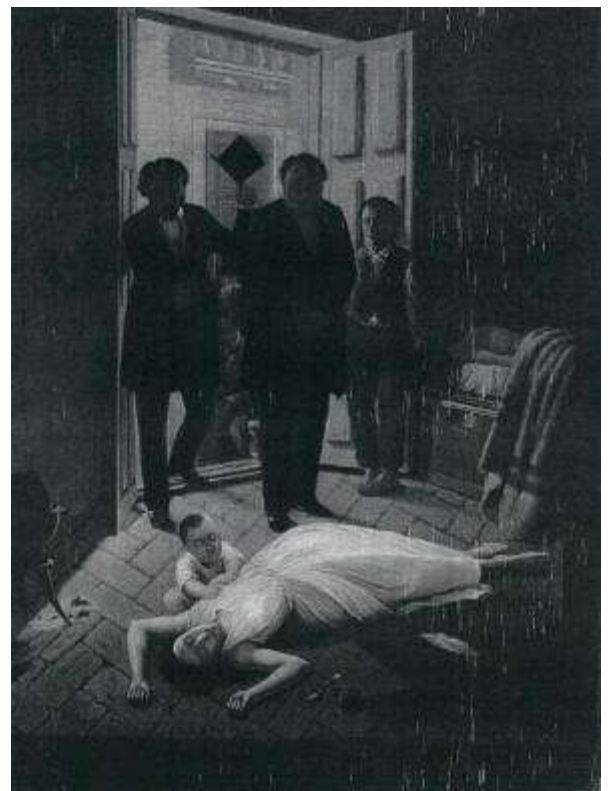
getting worse; Doc Henry agreed and told the patient that he had a better treatment, if he could keep a secret. The patient requested a trial of the slave doctor's remedy. Doc Henry soaked a hunk of wheat bread in water and left it in the open air until it was covered with a heavy growth of mold. He applied the molded bread and cured the open wound. Dr. Thomas never knew that his carbolic acid washings did not cure the infection. This crude application of penicillin was a hundred years ahead of its time.

"The customs of primitive men involved the search for food among wild animals on land and stream and among growing plants. Wild plants including roots and herbs have also been the source of food and medicines for physical and mental ills for centuries. The slave trade created one of the routes of the spread of "medical culture". The major route leading to modern medicine also had much of its origin in ancient Africa through medieval Europe to America.

"Doc Henry, the slave doctor in colonial Maryland, had a mixture of talents. First he had the cultural heritage from slave root doctors. He mixed this knowledge with practices of his slave master Dr. William Thomas. Doc Henry used bark of a cinchona-like tree similar to trees used in Africa in treatment of malaria. Dr. Thomas used the refined quinine made from the real cinchona bark from America and Europe.

"Doc Henry learned in his earlier years how to cut for snake bite and suck out the venom. He prescribed the chewing of fern leaves for intestinal worms. The Oleo resin of male fern was listed as aspidium, an official drug used by regular doctors many years later for intestinal worms.

"Doc Henry also practiced what would now be called psychotherapy and preventative medicine; notably the use of the "Jenifer asafoetida bag" worn around the neck. It has a strong obnoxious odor calculated to drive away the most dreadful of diseases. Regular doctors used it too, but none compared in quality and degree of stench with the "Jenifer variety", nor with Doc Henry's claim of effectiveness. The Jesuits wore charms and figurines of Saints around their necks to protect against disease and the evil One. This practice was far less attractive to most of Doc Henry's patients. Asafoetida after all could attack like the spraying effect of a Maryland skunk and immobilize the victim at 50 paces or could be taken by mouth for its cathartic effects. There were many other preventatives of disease and black magic in Doc Henry's "bag of tricks", like the upside down horseshoe for the cabin door. Old Doc Henry was allowed to earn money for night work among the slaves. The money was kept for him by his master Dr. Thomas. In 1848 during an epidemic of yellow fever, Doc Henry Jenifer became one of the great heroes of the County. As the epidemic reached its



74 Google Images

height, he was taught “bloodletting” and the “cold air” treatment. During the hot summer months the epidemic became widespread and the County officials had to call for help from the surrounding country-side. Almost everybody in the county became deathly afraid of the scourge. Many fled the county to surrounding communities until stopped by gun point. Doc Henry would fearlessly go into a house and treat a semiconscious patient, frequently with family members lying dead or dying on the floor. In one instance he treated a dying mother while the father lay dead on the floor and two small children were the only persons left in the isolated farm house.

“He carried his lancet for bleeding and used it often during the plague. The battle cry of Dr. Thomas and the consultants who came to help was “bleed and purge”. The blood of bond and free was spilled in front yards and near cabin doors. It was dried and putrified, stank and drew flies and mosquitos. The favorite potion for purging was dished officially ten grains calomel and ten grains of jalop powder. Doc Henry always prayed before administering and continued praying, until the last breath was taken. He would then prepare and dispose of the remains with dignity and religious sanctity.

“He gathered to work with him a group of black women, whom he helped train as nurses and black men to do the heavy work. It was remarkable that during many weeks of service only a few of the black nurses had fever attacks; none of them fatal. It was not until the late 19th century that Doctors learned about the parasites of malaria and the virus of yellow fever carried by female mosquitos. It then became clear that these death dealing epidemic fevers began in the swampy lowlands such as existed near the river fronts where there were mosquitos and not because of “eufuvia emanations” and the “filthy” poor whites and Blacks who lived in these areas.

“It was not until the 20th century that the partial immunity of black people to yellow fever and malaria was found to be real. These fevers were brought to the New World for the first time by infested mosquitoes transported with human cargo packed in slave ships. These dreaded fevers were not known to the Western world before the slave trade. Partial immunity was developed after many centuries of exposure to malignant fevers causing the death of millions. Only those developing immunity survived and transmitted immune genes to their offsprings. Sickly red blood cells is a mechanism of immunity to malaria fever. It may be transmitted from parent to children but is not a racial trait.

“So much for science and health with the key to the “Jenifers”. One day at the height of the yellow fever plague of St. Mary’s, ‘Doc’ Henry arose about 4 a.m. to get out the rig for a heavy day with Dr. Thomas. It was a very dark, cold and dreary night when he spotted some moving lights a good distance away in

All Diseases of the NOSE, THROAT and LUNGS.
THE COMPOUND
Tar and Mandrake Pill.
 for use in connection with the ELIXIR TAR, is a combination of the TWO most valuable ALTERNATIVE Medicines known in the Profession, and renders this Pill without exception the very best ever offered.
 The SOLUTION and COMPOUND ELIXIR of

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is without doubt the Best remedy known in cases of
CHOLERA AND YELLOW FEVER.
 It is a Specific for such diseases, and should be kept in the household of every family, especially during those months in which
CHOLERA AND YELLOW FEVER
 are liable to prevail. A small quantity taken daily will prevent contracting these terrible diseases.

Solution and Compound Elixir, \$1.00 per Bottle
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 Send for Circular of **POSITIVE CURES** to your Druggist, or to

L. F. HYDE & CO.,
 SOLE PROPRIETORS,
 110 E. 22d St., New York.

75 Port Tobacco Times December 20, 1872.

the area of the white folks graveyard. At first he paid little attention, but he began to hear distant noises like howling of wolves. Suddenly he remembered that on the day before, they had buried “mean massa, Big Jim Milburn” who had dropsy for years and was stricken with the yellow plague. They had given him up for dead when he sat straight up; rolled his yellow eyes and sneezed. It was several hours later that he appeared really dead and he was hauled away for burial. Henry was a deeply religious man and never believed in “haints” – that is, never before this early morning experience. He aroused everybody in the cabin and pointed out the first real “haint” he had ever seen. Big Massa Jim had refused to die and was holding a “pow wow” with the other dead slave masters refusing to stay in hell. Others who had gathered around agreed with Doc Henry that it was time to sing and pray cause “massa Jim” and other “massas” was coming back.

“The cabin group was led in prayer by Doc Henry: “Oh God”, intoned Brother Henry as he knelt on the dirt floor, “we bow our heads belo’ our hearts and our hearts belo’ our knees, and our knees in some lonesum valley. Dear Lord, please God, tak’ away dis plague, but don’t bring back dem what’s dead. Don’t let dem massas stir up no more er dat yella potion.” With the aid of the kerosene lamp and with one eye open, Brother Henry looked at his yellow, bile-stained hands as they partially covered up his face in prayer. “I smells dat strong bitter gall, Lord, what dey’s makin’ up over dare, way over here, dear Lord. We have sinned agin you, Lord, but dere’s moe sin agin us now dan we can bear.

“Protect us, your servants, Lord, and when we’s dun wit dis world, take us in yo kingdom, massa Lord, where we will praise you name forever, Amen. Amen. Amen.”

“Up from their knees, the small group began to sing one of “de white folks funeral songs,” “Nearer My God To Thee.” As they looked outside, they saw the beginning of the break of dawn. The peculiar lights in the graveyard were still moving, but now they could see human forms. They ventured out of the cabin and moved slowly toward the spectacle. Now there was a little more light, and they could see that the lights were coming from lanterns and suddenly beheld not slave masters rising from the dead, but slave workmen digging graves for dozens of slave masters and would-be slave masters. They were piled high in boxes, where they had been deposited the day before. The death toll especially among white had forced the slave gravediggers to go to the graveyards long before daybreak, after only an hour or two of sleep. “Lawd, dem ain’t no haints,” cried Sister Matilda, half-joyfully but more relieved. “De Lawd dun killed so many of dem mean white folks wit the plague like it say in the Bible, niggers had to work all night to bury dem.” “Lawd have mercy on dey souls.”

“There were pitiful, sorrowful and fearful episodes in the lives of black and whites alike during the long weeks of the summer pestilence of 1848. As the fall winds began to blow north to east and into the ocean currents, the yellow fever epidemic began to tail off in St. Mary’s County. The powerful prayers of Brother “Doc” Henry Jenifer, of other slaves and slave masters, white, black, mulatto and red human beings were finally being answered. All of the mortally stricken victims were buried by the first of November, filling all of the graveyards and many cornfields. The lingering, chronically ill were slowly recuperating and no new cases were being reported.

“In order to give thanks to God for preserving the lives of so many, while thousands of others perished, officials of government, merchants, owners of plantations,

Lettuce Prevents Smallpox

From Medical Talk for March

Don't forget that lettuce is a preventive of smallpox.

So far as it is possible for a human being to be protected from catching smallpox, lettuce is a protection.

No need for vaccination whatever. Any person who eats a small quantity of lettuce twice a day, morning and evening, is as well protected against smallpox as it is possible for any one to be.

To be sure, one ought to be clean, ought to live in ventilated rooms, and avoid dirt of all sorts. Also avoid contact with people who have smallpox. Foolish exposure to the contagion of smallpox is not to be thought of. But there is no need for vaccination.

Go calmly on about your business. Provide a small quantity of lettuce morning and evening, and you can feel sure that you have protected yourself and your family in the best possible way against smallpox.

Lettuce is one of the ablest vegetable remedies known to the medical profession. Long before it was used as food it was used in medicine. Many times it has been claimed that it has magical or miraculous powers to prevent contagious disease. We believe this is carrying matters altogether too far. But lettuce does furnish to the system exactly what is needed to protect it against the poison of smallpox.

We defy any one to produce a case of smallpox that has been contracted by any person who made daily use of lettuce as a food. If there is any such case on record, we would be so glad to hear of it.

**The Democratic Advocate: Westminster, MD. February 27, 1904.*

members of churches of all denominations organized the biggest Thanksgiving in history. On the appointed day, all unnecessary work was stopped. There were no slaves, no masters, no race, no color, no creed. Saint and sinner sat side-by-side in churches. Men, women, and children gathered on mansion houses' front lawns, back yards, cabins, open clearings or farmlands, in taverns and river boats. Church bells rang and prayers were offered everywhere amid a mixture of joy and sorrow. Black singers serenaded the people gathered in the big house and churches where they had never entered before with their harmonious religious slave songs. "Nobody knows de trouble I see, Glory Hallelujah!" "There is a balm in Gilead." "I'm so Glad trouble don't las' always, oh my Lawd, oh my Lawd." Hard-hearted slave masters were seen to weep unabashedly. Maids and mistresses embraced their mammies as they listened to the penetrating words set to doleful folk music by their slaves. Jesuit priests and parishioners said, "Have thine own way, Lord." Songs of praise, resignation and thanksgiving penetrated the air. Young widows and orphans and the newly poor were observed everywhere."

"A group of slaves gathered in the large yard in front of Cremona, the Thomas' mansion house on the banks of the Patuxent River. They were joined by many white men and women as they sang with bowed, uncovered heads. Their voices reverberated against the water of the famous river nearby. With the precision of a dress rehearsal, their harmony was breathtaking as they sang,

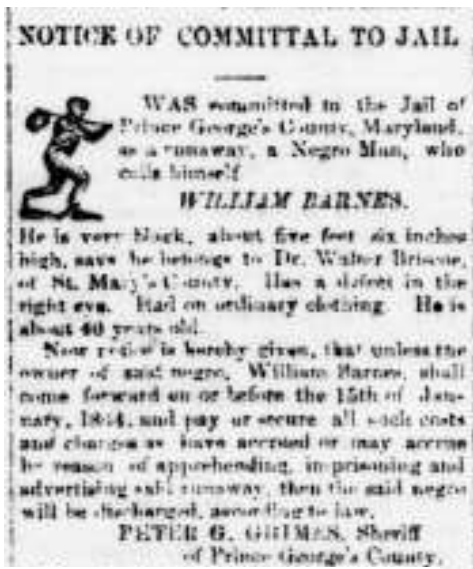
"Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. Lord, I want to be more loving, more holy. I don't want to be like Judas. I want to be like Jesus in my heart."

"This was indeed the long moment of truth and poetic justice when all men, women, and children were equal in the sight of an omnipotent and merciful God.

"After ten weeks and thousands of deaths in Southern Maryland, Doc Henry Jenifer felt for certain he had at last won the freedom he had prayed for so long. Massa

Doctor Thomas had promised that some day he would allow Henry to purchase his freedom if he could save enough money or the equivalent in “good tobacco” from doctoring at night. At a time when Henry was at the height of his fame in religious medical service around the county and as the great calamity was waning, Henry approached Doctor Thomas with great expectations on the subject of whether he had accumulated enough savings during 12 years to buy his time and freedom. The doctor, who had become quite dependent upon Henry as an assistant and menial servant was reluctant to let him go. “Massa Thomas,” said Henry, “I been workin wit you all my life. You sho is a good massa, but I kin care and do jus’ as much good workin’ fur you after I buy my time as I kin now. You promise’ me many years ago, if I could save enough to pay you for yo troubles, I could buy my time. I am gittin’ older and my chillums is grown. I think I give you enuf money for overtime work to buy my time. De plague is ‘bout over and I am tired enough to drop right here in my tracks.”

“Doctor Thomas finally announced that while things were so disorganized during the plague someone had stolen the 12 year savings he had held for Henry and that it might take another 10 or 12 years, if he worked hard enough overtime, to earn enough money to buy his freedom



19 William Barnes, a slave of Dr. Briscoe St. Mary's Gazette December 3, 1863

NOTICE OF COMMITAL TO JAIL

WAS committed to the Jail of Prince George's County, Maryland, as a runaway, a Negro Man, who calls himself

WILLIAM BARNES.

He is very black, about five feet six inches high, says he belongs to Dr. Walter Briscoe of St. Mary's County. Has a defect in the right eye. Had on ordinary clothing. He is about 40 years old.

Now notice is hereby given, that unless the owner of said negro, William Barnes, shall come forward on or before the 15th of January, 1864, and pay or secure all such costs and charges as have accrued or may accrue by reason of apprehending in prisoning and advertising said runaway, then the said negro will be discharged, according to the law.

PETER G. GRIMES, Sheriff of Prince George's County.

“Since the Nat Turner uprising in Virginia in 1831, life for most of the slaves had become increasingly more stringent. Everybody in the slave world was hearing about the activity of the underground railroad escape passage to Canada. This activity was greater during the period of the epidemic. Henry was called old, but really was about 38 to 40 years of age. He suffered deep disappointment and many days of depression because of what he rightfully regarded as an unforgivable betrayal. Slaves were never as dumb as they were supposed to be. Henry had saved some money on his own during the great epidemic, when fever victims were color-blind and money was no object. His many days

of depression finally turned into anger, and he made up his mind that he was going to escape by the underground to Canada, following the North Star that he had heard so much about.

“One morning when Dr. Thomas was waiting and smoking his after-breakfast cigar, Henry did not show up with a freshly curried horse hitched to a nicely-shining victorian carriage ready for the morning rounds. After waiting and waiting, he took over the reins for himself and rounded up all of the Jenifers to find out about Henry. Nobody knew of the whereabouts of Henry. After several days, the older Jenifers learned by the Black Dispatch what they had suspected all along. “I ‘spect Henry dun run away with dat ‘Harriett’ woman,” said Matilda to one of her very close friends. “Yeah, she sho is some smart woman”. I hear been hangin’ around over to de creek at night.” “Dey say if you ain’t scared to go, she can take you all de way safe on dat Underground train”. “Ain’t nobody seed him in two weeks.” “Yeah,” said Matilda, “I don’t believe we’s gon ever see him no mo’”. “He’s mad and ain’t scare o’ no slave catcher.”



77 Harriet Tubman Google Images

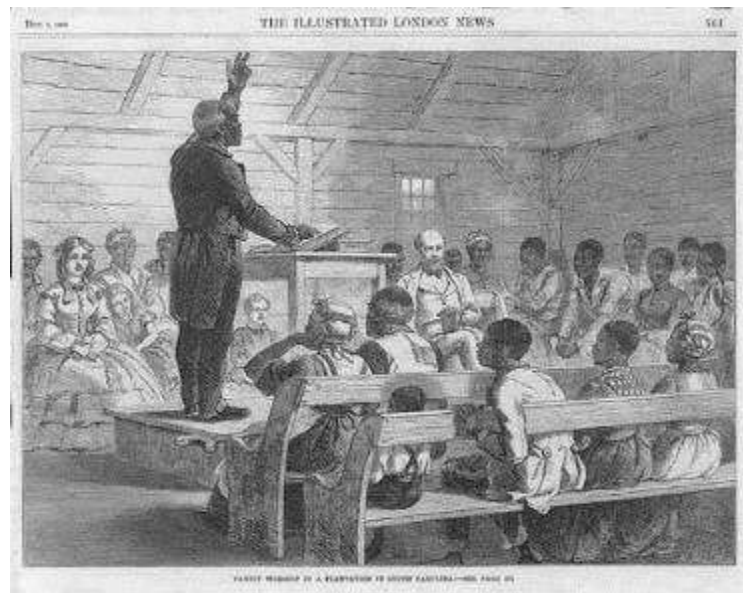
“Matilda and her friend were dead right. Harriet¹⁷ had contacted Henry through her efficiently working grapevine, although they had never seen each other before. Her Maryland terminal was on the Eastern Shore. Her trail, temporarily interrupted during the epidemic, consisted of a carefully measured system of way stations, a nights run apart. Dozens of people, seen and unseen, were involved on the long route to Canada. White and black, male and female, housewives, businessmen, wagon-drivers, coachmen, riverboat men were involved with signals, code-words, foodstuffs, clothing and camouflage; counter-espionage, basements, swamps, attics, cornfields, rivers, churches and schools. Harriett was just as anxious to deliver ‘Doc’ Henry as Henry was to deliver himself. The time was set, under the cover of darkness, the contacts made. The route was eastward from the back roads and fields of Leonardtown, across the Patuxent River to Olivet by rowboat. Then on a fishing boat to Cove Point in the Chesapeake Bay.

There, biding his time, following instructions, hiding away in a freight boat for a fee, Doc Henry crossed the Bay into Dorchester County. He had survival rations from the boat. He hid away in the woods until nightfall. Then by foot to Church Creek, and to the outskirts of Cambridge. There he made contact with Harriett, face-to-face for the first time. He had money in his pocket, survival rations in a knapsack, and determination in his heart; but he was far from being out of danger. Like a military picket in a field of battle, this daring young woman continued to blaze the trail. There were other escapees within her range of operation heading northward. Some would falter and need special help, or be lost. But Henry’s determination grew stronger as he pushed onward to Smyrna, Odessa, and into the outskirts of Wilmington, Delaware and now he could travel by day as well as by night on to the outskirts of Philadelphia and eventually New York and straight upstate to Troy, then westward to Schenectady. All along this northern trail,

¹⁷ Harriet Tubman

there were friendly Quakers and friendly blacks commanding way-stations on into Little Falls, Oneida, Syracuse, Rochester and Niagra, and finally across the water into the St. Catherine's, Ontario. Before he crossed the water he could see the Promised Land in the distance.

"As his feet touched the free soil of Canada, he took a deep breath of fresh air. It was as if shackles from a chain gang had suddenly unbound his sore limbs and blistered feet. Suddenly and for a while he thought of his loved one left in chattel slavery. All were still there. He felt a mixture of joy and sorrow. But, soon he was struck with the reality of survival in a new world. High visibility of Black people was in his favor at this point. He soon found himself in a meeting of the St. Catherine's African Methodist Church, which was founded in 1831 by missionaries from the New York A.M.E. Conference for escapees. Other missions of A.M.E. church were organized by escaped slaves and their offspring at Amertsberg, Chatham, Hamilton, Nova Scotia, Dresden and elsewhere throughout Canada West. One of the most famous escaped slaves was also a former Marylander, Rev. Josiah Henson of Dresden.



78 Plantation Preacher

Google Images

"Henson was the authentic Uncle Tom of Harriett Beecher Stowe's novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin". He was first an A.M.E. and later a minister of the British Methodist Episcopal (B.M.E.) church, an early splinter of the A.M.E. church of Canada. The seeds of liberty were widely sewn in many places.

"Slavery in Old St. Mary's had only a decade and half more of official existence. Before many more crops were harvested on the banks of the Patuxent, news drifted back to Old St. Mary's. Relatives and friends heard that a Black preachin', medicine man with St. Mary's roots was prosperin mightily with an interracial following among the needy in mind, body and spirit in freedom.

“Sam Jenifer, Henry’s nephew, and my grandmother’s brother along with hundreds like him, waited for their moment to move from slavery to freedom. It is their story and the story of their descendants I tell”.

Post Script

Not only did Maggy Briscoe’s brother Henry Briscoe recover from his childhood illnesses, but he grew up to become a doctor himself, and he set up his practice in St. Mary’s County.

C A R D .

DR. ROBERT NEALE having taken into partnership Dr. Henry Briscoe, will continue the practice of Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery, and begs leave to tender his most grateful acknowledgments to those who have honored him with their confidence.

Docts. Neale and Briscoe respectfully solicit the patronage of all who have heretofore honored the former with their confidence, and all others who may regard them as worthy of their trust. Dr. Neale can be always found at his residence, Hillilee, and Dr. Briscoe at Mr. Robert Grey’s Hotel, Chaptico, when not professionally engaged.

79 Henry Briscoe's Practice

St. Mary's Gazette

The Nature, Treatment, History and Prevention of Smallpox.

At a lecture delivered last month at the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, Dr. B. F. Chatham gave an interesting historical sketch and an account of the ravages of smallpox. The following synopsis embraces the leading points of his lecture:

Nature—No other malady known to medical men has been held in so fearful abhorrence, has so devastated nations, so decimated populations and been so potential in crushing out from the human heart, in the reign of some of its direful visitations, those emotions, affections and charities, which ordinarily cement the members of the human family into the spirit of a common brother-hood. Its nature is in the highest degree contagious.

Smallpox is an eruptive fever, marked by the occurrence, more or less, of pustules over the entire surface of the body, which appear at a definite period, run a regular course, and upon subsiding by the shedding off of a brown crust, frequently leave deep and indelible cicatrices. This pitting or scarring is caused by the destruction of the cutis vera or true skin (the middle coat), thus allowing the external coat and the internal coat to approach each other in patches, and adhere.

Symptoms and course—It usually commences with the ordinary concomitants of a severe cōkī, and the symptoms resemble those ushering an attack of measles. The peculiar symptoms are an unusually severe pain in the back and limbs, the degree of the lumbar pain often being considered as a measure of the violence of the attack.—The eruption appears on the third or fourth day, and is completed by the fifth, when the fever disappears, often suddenly. The eruption is at first popular, then vesicular, and, lastly, pustular, by the twelfth day, by which time the secondary, or constitutional fever, caused by the local inflammation sets in. The body now exudes a peculiar odor, which recognized is seldom forgotten. The pustules now dry and flatten and from them flows an icherous fluid, which concretes into a brownish yellow crust, which for weeks undergoes the process of desiccation or shedding. Between the appearance of one, two or three pustules, and an almost universal mass of supuration all over the body, there is every possible grade and degree of the affection. The rule is that smallpox attacks the same individual but once, but there are recorded instances of duplicate and even triplicate cases.

Treatment—As this belongs to the province of the intelligent physician, it would be out of place to discuss it here. It is enough for me to say that the main principles are complete isolation, thorough ventilation and cleanliness, cooling drinks during fever and nourishing diet during convalescence.

80 The Cecil Whig: Elkton, MD. March 16, 1872

THE MORGANS AT THE PLYMOUTH ROCK OF THE SOUTH

J. Pierpoint and His Son-in-Law Invade the
Quaintest Region in Maryland, Where Their
Summer Home Will Be on Historic Ground



The property has been in the Briscoe family since long before the civil war. Here the Briscoes lived in great rural magnificence before the slaves were set free.

Their sons rode the best horses in Maryland, their daughters were attended by most servants and driven in costliest coaches. New

York, Baltimore, and Washington knew them well, and then wealthy people of those centres greatly envied the prodigality with which the aristocrats from these plantations spent money upon their occasional visits.

**The New York Times February 12, 1911*

In several of the letters from Dr. Briscoe and his wife, Emeline to their daughter, Margaret, reference is made to the purchase of clothing in Philadelphia and Baltimore. Here are some of the excerpts:

Sotterley, August 15, 1845:

You say something about your clothes. Your mother I believe said in her letter what she thought about the matter, and I have only to say in addition that as we are so far from you and cannot therefore know what you girls may require you must make a mother of your Aunt Nancy for all such purposes. We wish you to dress neatly and genteelly and without extravagance. You can always see her when necessary and get her to deal and be for you. As to sewing work, mending of stockings, I would not allow such things to interfere with my studies. I think it would be better to pay for a little now and then—stockings you might lay by as they wear out and buy others until you come home and then you will have time to mend all up and have a good supply. Be economical but not mean in anything and I will endeavor to pay the bills when I come on after you. Should you want money for any purpose let me know and I will endeavor to send it to you.

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe



20 The Vintage Fashion Guild

November 17, 1845

Jinny was quite disappointed you didn't send her some music but when I received your letters she appeared quite satisfied. I like the drapes you sent very much; it is the article I wanted but I did not know the name of it so I thought I would send for cashmere expecting it had become cheaper but your Aunt Lydia¹ found it so dear in Baltimore that her and Lydia bought silk drapes in preference. Lydia has come home elegantly draped with a fine silk bonnet and plumes merino shawl and silk drape of different color full of buttons and fringe. Give my best love to her and tell her I am much embalmed to her for shopping for me and that I like everything she has sent very much. Tell her I shall look forward very much to see her and brother Joseph this winter at Sotterley and if they don't come home this winter then I hope they come home with you next spring.

Emeline Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

Sotterley, January 12, 1846

For some time back I have wished for a spare moment where in I might sit myself down and answer your two last letters to me but so far have not been able to do so to my satisfaction. I now take up my pen only to relieve your mother,(who is sitting by me Darning stockings with all her (?) by candle light in the answer she has to make to your request about an undergarment and you enquire about your bonnet. She bids me tell you should the opportunity offer which you spoke of you should have that article of dress (?) but the opportunity we do not look for and therefore will say to you again as we have hitherto repeatedly done you must look to such things yourselves with the assistance and the advice from your aunt. As to your bonnet your mother can say nothing except whatever is necessary to be done with it ought to be done to enable you to appear in the street and at church in decency and with satisfaction to yourselves at the same time avoiding all unnecessary expenditure of money. I should think you would at times find a ready and competent friend and advisor in your aunt in such matters and being as it were on the spot with you she with yourself must certainly be better able to judge what is necessary for you better than we can at this distance from you. Our desire is that you should at all times appear at all respects genteel and respectable nor should you ever find me wanting in my efforts to render you so as to enable you to appear so as I see a corresponding effort on your part. You ought however to avoid all extravagance for extravagance is by no means to meetings and gentility. Your mother subjects the idea of you getting such a silk bonnet as will wear you through the balance of winter and spring... She has seen such bought in Baltimore the last fall from three to four dollars. This however is a mere suggestion of hers by no means to be a dictation bidding upon yours and your Aunt's wishes and judgment. And I will tell you once more and I hope you will remember it and act upon it that whatever may be necessary for you during your stay at Burlington that the way of clothes or other respects you will consult with your aunt about and act upon without delaying to write home. It may not be perhaps be prudent or safe for you to go to the city whilst the small pox is so prevalent for seeing your aunt I hope you will not view the last wish but I have no doubt that if you would send for her she would serve you in any way she can and if you have any information (?) to make in the way for clothes of the march examination you have better be in time about it that you may not be caught as you were in September. Should it be so that you cannot see you aunt in time for your necessities why can not you make a friend of Mrs. Bishop or Mrs. Sane (?) to advise with and (?) you in such matters. Your mother and myself would feel deeply gratified to them and I cannot believe it would afford them of the pleasure thus to serve you. There need be no fear that your bills will not be paid. I hope you will be as careful as (?) possible as appearing as you say (?) for (?) another detest but carefulness and economy are entirely different from meaning for economy and (?) often go together. And thus acting you will always find me ready the Lord bring my help into settle any liabilities you may necessarily occur. Should you however need money to settle bills before I come you can let me know.

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe



Sotterley, February 17, 1846

You must keep me regularly advised from this time to the end of your term of each and every bill you make that I shall have to pay. With regard to your ottomans your mother and I both think you had better not have this made in Philadelphia. In the first place I do not know that I shall have the money to spare at that time to pay for them. In the second they can be done as well in Baltimore. In the third they will be troublesome and expensive to get home.

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

Sotterley, March 23, 1846

Now for little caution again. You talk about short sleeves; (?) muslin, and silk stockings for your examination. You should recollect that the seasons for pleurisy is not yet over; more (?) it is first be the most likely season for it; from the very fact, and for the very reason that changes are made in bed clothing and day clothing cause one day happens to be a little warmer than another or the weather generally happens to be a little warmer than it is in winter. Now let me tell you it is more necessary to be particular in matters of clothing and exposure at this season of the year than in the dead of winter for the reason that the humans system is much more acceptable of such (?) (cold in the form of pleurisy) at this season. If therefore these articles are to be worn you should be careful to supply their deficiency with something under them.

Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Maggy Briscoe

POST SCRIPT

It is said that Abraham Lincoln received perhaps a single vote in St. Mary's County when he was elected president. The civil war brought Union occupation to Southern Maryland, an area the Union troops referred to as "Little Dixie". In 1862, Dr. Briscoe's brother-in-law and immediate neighbor, Chapman Billingsley, was serving in the Maryland Senate. The Briscoe children referenced in the letters previously written by Dr. Briscoe to his daughter were now adults and four of his sons were then across the Potomac River fighting for the Confederacy.

The sentiment of many in Southern Maryland might be expressed in this letter written by Chapman Billingsley to his brother in law, Dr. Briscoe:



My Dear Doctor Baltimore 14th January 1862

I often think of you all, and the many acts of kindness which you have so cheerfully done for me, during my unavoidable absence from home, which I assure you will be remembered with everlasting gratitude in this world & doubtless will form your reward in the world to come. I have this morning been more than usually reminded of our close intimacy and abiding friendship in days gone by, and feel more closely as the shadows of this earth cluster around us, how beautiful that retrospect and though at times a little ruffled by these infirmities, the lot of man before yet in the decline of life it has lost none of its vigor, may flush up but as brightly and as hopefully runs on as when it first began. Oh it is my morning & evening prayer, that Heaven's choicest blessings may be yours his protection yours from the sad calamities of this civil fratricidal war. Oh how beautiful, how inspiring the thought, the hope of that reunion around the family altar, with a restored Country & Constitution, the sweet and dear children as pure in thought, as pure in deed, and uncontaminated by conflict with the world, the sweet incense of prayer and praise shall ascend to the true God in one accord for their return. Oh see the tears are falling fast while I write & pray God they may be inspired tears, the earnest of happier days.

With what vividness does memory come back with her record of the past, when we both started upon the grand theatre of life, each to play his part in this world with buoyant hopes & the stern will to battle on, whilst every

heart felt proud, that God had decreed, that in the Forest
Home of the Indian Savage, this Land should teem with
freedom to the world, and be handed to time, as God's
promise^{home} of the Captive and oppressed - but alas now how
changed, its beauty blured as by a dismal scroll & freedom
but a name - enough of this.

man or interrupt it in any particular. I wish this
war ~~ended~~ ended upon terms honourable to us all
and it can only be done by Kindness, conciliation
& compromise - and I will make any sacrifice
consistent with honour & principle to consummate
so great a blessing to my Country.

How are you all, how are all at home, how are they getting
on with winter work - are there any troops in the neighbourhood
Have they done any damage in the neighbourhood - is there
any sickness at home, or in the neighbourhood - how come
on the Ponies are they fat & fiery - write very soon & direct
to Annapolis and let me know every thing going on, for
I feel so interested in you all, that any news will be accep-
table - Lydia sends her love to you all Doct & Mrs Neal
Margaret & Miss Paxton & will ^{answer} ~~write~~ Sally's kind letter
immediately - she has been sick ever since she came
to Balto with a very bad cold - she has been out
but twice - Good bye - direct your letter to Annapolis

Yours Truly
C. Billingsley

Excerpts:

Baltimore 18th January 1862

My Dear Doctor,

I often think of you all, and the many acts of kindness which you have so cheerfully done for me, during my unavoidable absence from home, which I assure you will be remembered with everlasting gratitude in this world & doubtless will form your reward in the world to come. I have this morning been more than usually reminded of our close intimacy and abiding friendship in days gone by, and feel more closely as the shadows of this earth cluster around us, how beautiful that retrospect and though at times a little muffled by those infirmities, the lot of man below (?), yet in the decline of life it has lost none of its vigor, nay freshness, but as brightly and as hopefully beams on as when it first began. Oh it is my morning and evening prayer that Heaven's Choicest blessings may be yours, his protection yours from the sad calamities of this cruel fratricidal war. Oh how beautiful, how inspiring the thought, the hope of that reunion around the family altar, with a restored Country & Constitution, the sweet and dear children as pure in thought, as pure in deed, and uncontaminated by conflict with the world, the sweet incense of prayer and praise shall ascend to the "true God" in one accent for their return Oh Sir the tears are falling fast while I write & pray God they may be inspired tears, the earnest of happier days. With what vividness does the memory come back with her record of the past, when we both stand upon the grand theatre of life, each to play his part in the with buoyant hopes & the stern will to battle on whilst every heart felt proud, that God had decreed, that in the Forest Home of the Indian Savage, this Land should teem with freedom to the world, and be handed down to time, as God's promised home of the Captive and oppressed - but alas now how changed, its beauty blurred as by a dismal scroll & freedom but a name - enough of this.

I wish this war ended upon terms honourable to us all and it can only be done by kindness, conciliation & compromise - and I will make any sacrifice consistent with honour & principle to consummate so great a blessing to my Country. How are you all, how are all at home, how are they getting on with winter's world - are there any troops in the neighbourhood have they done any damage in the neighbourhood - is there any sickness at home, or in the neighbourhood - how come on the Ponies are they fat & fiery. Write very soon & direct to Annapolis and let me know everything going on, for I feel so interested in you all, that any news will be acceptable. Lydia sends her love to you all, Doctor & Mrs. Neale, Margaret & Mrs. Garton & will answer Sally's kind letter immediately - she has been sick ever since she came to Balt. with a very bad cold - she has been out but twice. Goodbye - direct your letter to Annapolis.

**Yours truly
C Billingsley**

FAMILY TREES AND RELATIONS

INTRODUCTION

A reader who does not live in Southern Maryland may not appreciate how interrelated families were in the mid-1800s. The Southern Maryland counties of Charles and St. Mary's are surrounded by water; these counties essentially comprise a large peninsula. As a result, many of the people mentioned in this chapter were related by blood or marriage, and sometimes by both.

A review of the letters written by Dr. Briscoe includes references to other students. So, too, the St. Mary's school records refer to other students from Southern Maryland. Those students and their families will be addressed in this section.

In order to explain how the people in this chapter were related, and in order to give some background into the lives of the people mentioned here, I offer the following family trees and family relations:

THE RELATIONSHIP OF DR. WALTER H.S. BRISCOE OF SOTTERLEY PLANTATION TO PHILIP BRISCOE OF CHARLOTTE HALL

Because both of these gentlemen had schools under their supervision at the same time, it is worth exploring what the familiar relationship was for these two men. It starts with their common ancestor, John Hanson Briscoe.

John Hanson Briscoe ¹⁸

Samuel Briscoe	(Brothers)	John Briscoe ¹⁹
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Philip Briscoe ²⁰	(First Cousins)	Samuel Briscoe ²¹
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Dr. John Hanson Briscoe ²²	(Second Cousins)	William Dent Briscoe ²³
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Philip Briscoe ²⁴	(Third Cousins)	Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe ²⁵
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¹⁸ Captain Hanson Briscoe of Charles County Maryland, born 1678. Justice of the Quorum of Charles County Court from 1720-1734.

¹⁹ John Briscoe born 1707; married Mary Hanson, the sister of John Hanson, President of Continental Congress 1781-83.

²⁰ Philip married Chloe Hanson, the sister of John Hanson, President of the Continental Congress 1781-83.

²¹ Samuel Died 1786.

²² Dr. John Hanson born 1752 in the village of Chaptico Maryland; was educated in Edinburgh, Scotland and graduated at the University of Edinburgh, 1773. On 6th January 1776 elected Major of Upper Battalion, St. Mary's County Md. ; Surgeon in Continental Army, Second Maryland Regiment, Major-Gen. William Smallwood's Brigade. At close of war, he was in charge of government hospitals in Philadelphia.

²³ William Dent Briscoe died 1808.

²⁴ Philip Briscoe born 1786, died 1842; twice elected principal of "Charlotte Hall," his Alma Mater.

THE RELATION OF MARGARET BRISCOE TO SARAH CATHARINE BRISCOE AND SARAH ANN BRISCOE

The three Briscoe girls who attended St. Mary's Hall were first cousins. Margaret "Maggie" Briscoe was the daughter of Dr. Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe. Sarah Catharine "Kate" Briscoe and Sarah Ann "Nannie" Briscoe were the children of William Dent Briscoe, Dr. Briscoe's brother. William Dent Briscoe died in 1843. In his will, he granted freedom to his slave Ann and provided for the payment of \$200.0 to her by his executors his brother Dr. Walter H. Briscoe of St. Mary's County and his brother-in-law Walter H.T. Mitchell (himself the father of a student at St. Mary's Hall.) Certain slaves were bequeathed to his three daughters Mary Ann, Sarah Catharine and Sarah Ann Briscoe, with the residuary to be divided equally among the three daughters. Margaret A. Briscoe and Catharine Briscoe are both listed as being graduates of the fourth class of St. Mary's Hall in March of 1846. It appears that when these two girls graduated, Catharine's younger sister Sarah Ann Briscoe, simply did not return to St. Mary's Hall.

JANE B. STONESTREET

Jane B. Stonestreet is listed as a graduate of the twelfth class of St. Mary's Hall in March of 1850. Her home was listed as being in Port Tobacco, Charles County, Maryland. Her cousin, Maria Louisa Stonestreet, also from Port Tobacco, attended St. Mary's Hall at the same time as the Briscoe girls. Her mother, Anne Eliz. Harris Stonestreet, was a relative of another student, Susan R. Harris. Her father, Nicholas Stonestreet, died at La Grange.



La Grange

82 Old Maryland Landmarks

At one point in the 1800's, the Stonestreet family owned the plantation "La Grange". La Grange is today known as the home of a former slave by the name of Josiah

²⁵ Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe of Sotterley, St.Mary's county, born 1800 died 1885.

Henson. He lived at La Grange for the first seven or eight years of his life. The autobiography of this former slave, published in 1849, provided integral source material- and some say inspired the title character- for Harriett Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" which was published three years later. This book is credited with helping antislavery forces gain support for their cause in the years leading to the Civil War. In his book, Henson tells of how his family was separated and he and his mother were then sold to an owner in Montgomery County. He later tried to buy his way out of slavery but was cheated out of money by his former owner. Finally, in 1830, he escaped from a slave owner and made his way to freedom in Canada where he founded a settlement for former slaves.²⁶

SUSAN R. HARRIS

"The list of past seniors" published by St. Mary's Hall in 1852 lists Susan R. Harris of Leonardtown Maryland, related in some way to the Stonestreet students.

Notable members of the Harris family in the 1840s included "Colonel" Joseph Harris, Louisa Stonestreet's grandfather, who was Clerk of the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County for nearly a half century; he was born in 1773 and died in 1855 at "Mt. Tirzah," the ancestral home of his family near Bayside, Charles County Maryland. Joseph Harris owned almost 1600 acres by 1826, including historic Cross Manor and Ellenborough.

Benjamin Harris, Louisa's uncle, was born at "Ellenborough" in 1806, was educated at Yale University and continued his studies at Harvard University Law School. He was admitted to the Bar in 1840, but in the meantime had served two terms in the Maryland House of Delegates in 1833 and 1836. During the period 1840 to 1863 Mr. Harris practiced law in Leonardtown, served again in the Maryland Legislature, was a member of the Constitutional Convention, and continued to operate his plantation²⁷. He was known favorably throughout the state and was a recognized leader in St. Mary's County. As a democrat, he was elected to the 38th Congress of the United States which convened on March 4th, 1863 and served a second term, being reelected to the 39th Congress which ran until March 3rd, 1867.



83 Maryland State Archives

MARY C.B. MITCHELL

The Saint Mary's Hall register for 1852 lists as a "past senior" Ms. Mary C.B. Mitchell of St. Mary's County, Maryland. Her father, Walter Mitchell, was the maternal uncle of Sarah Catharine and Sarah Ann Briscoe, making Mary C.B. Mitchell first cousins with these other St. Mary's Hall Students. (Dr. Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe's brother, William Dent Briscoe, had married Walter Mitchell's sister, Elizabeth.)

²⁶ Heim, Joe. The Washington Post, "In Search of Uncle Tom."

²⁷ Chronicles of St. Mary's, April 1956, "Honorable Benjamin Gwinn Harris" written by: E.W. Beitzell "Joseph Ellen of Elklenborough" written by George Forbes, Baltimore, Maryland (undated manuscript)

The first member of the Mitchell family to come to America settled in Port Tobacco, Charles County, Maryland in 1720. Port Tobacco in that day was a thriving town and, as its name indicates, was a center for the surrounding country for shipping tobacco to England. The plantations located on both sides of Port Tobacco Valley were very prosperous during this period and in fact remained so until the War Between the States which stopped short the southern planters' mode of life.

Walter J.H. Mitchell was the first member of the family to occupy "Linden." He was a very prominent lawyer and at one time was defeated by only one vote for the nomination for Governor of Maryland in a State Convention.



"LINDEN"
The Original Mitchell Homestead in Charles County

84 The Chesapeake Bay Country

KEY FAMILY

The 1856 edition of the St. Mary's Hall register lists as "past seniors" Julia R. Key and Mary H. Key, both of Chaptico, Maryland. They were direct descendants of Philip Key, the progenitor of the Key family in Southern Maryland.

Philip Key was born in London, England approximately in 1696 and died in 1764. He is buried in the Key family vault at Christ Church in Chaptico, Maryland. Philip Key was educated in Law in the Temple, London, England, and migrated to America in November of 1720 where he settled in Chaptico. He was elected Lord High Sheriff of St. Mary's County, Maryland and became Presiding Justice Member of the Council of Maryland; about 1730 he built "Bushwood Lodge" and donated a part of his land to Christ Church, Chaptico, Maryland; he had the building bricks brought from England and as High Lord Sheriff oversaw the building of the Church and its burying



85 Christ Church, Chaptico

Google Images

ground. The Key family vault was built at the rear, under the Church. He owned over 800 acres in St. Mary's County alone and 11,000 acres in Southern Maryland.

His son, Philip Key II, was born in 1750 in St. Mary's County, Maryland; he died in 1820. Phillip married Rebecca Jowles Sothoron. In 1767 he went to London to be educated in Middle Temple Law; he presented at the Court of St. James in London at the age of 19. In 1770 he returned to Maryland to become a lawyer, tobacco planter, merchant, and schooner owner. He owned vast amounts of land including 1133 acres, and all of the village of Chaptico. He helped to finance the American Revolution and was an owner of "Tudor Hall" which he later gave to his son, Henry Greenfield Sothoron Key, as a wedding gift. (Henry Key's daughter would later marry Dr. Briscoe's son, David Stone Briscoe, continuing the intermarriage of these various families.) Philip was a member of the Lower House in St. Mary's County Maryland, held numerous local offices; was the judge of St. Mary's County Orphans' Court; Speaker of the House of Maryland Assemblies. He was offered the Office of Governor of Maryland and also a place in President James Monroe's Cabinet but declined both offers, wishing to remain a country gentleman.

His son, John Hall Key, was the father of the students, Julia and Mary Key. His brother, Henry Greenfield Sothoron Key, married Maria Louise Harris; the daughter of Joseph Harris of Ellenborough (thereby explains the first cousins relationship of the Key students with the previously mentioned student, Louisa Stonestreet, and also establishes the marital relationship of the Briscoes and Harrises.)



86 Tudor Hall

Maryland State Archives

GEORGEANNA MADDOX AND JULIA AUGUSTINE MADDOX

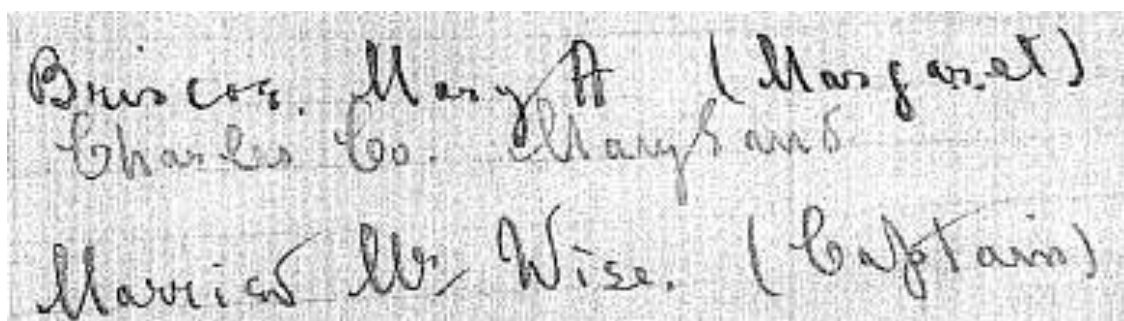
The 1856 edition of the St. Mary's Hall register lists as "past seniors" Georgeanna and Julia Augustine Maddox, who were both of Chaptico, Maryland. Not much could be found about either of these children other than that they were sisters, that their father was

George Francis Maddox, the owner of the *Greensprings Farm Plantation* in Chaptico, and that they attended Christ Church.

DOLLY BUSWELL

A special thanks has to be extended to Ms. Dolly Buswell of Charlottesville, Virginia. As I have heard the story, Ms. Buswell was on a tour of Sotterley when she noticed a familiar photograph hanging on the wall. She told the Sotterley docent that she had the same photograph in her home; it was a photograph of Dr. Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe. Upon learning of Ms. Buswell's familiar connection with Sotterley, she has since made significant contributions to the Sotterley Foundation. Several years ago, she provided Sotterley with the portraits of Dr. Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe and his wife Emiline Dallam Briscoe. Ms. Buswell is also the protector of the original letters written by Dr. Briscoe to his daughter Margaret. Her lineal connection with Dr. Briscoe is as follows:

First, we know that Dr. Briscoe's daughter, Margaret, attended St. Mary's Hall. The records at the school incorrectly note that Margaret was a resident of Charles County, Maryland, but those notes correctly indicate that Margaret married Captain Robert Hanson Wise in 1861.



Briscoe, Mary A (Margaret)
Charles Co. Maryland
Married Mr Wise. (Captain)

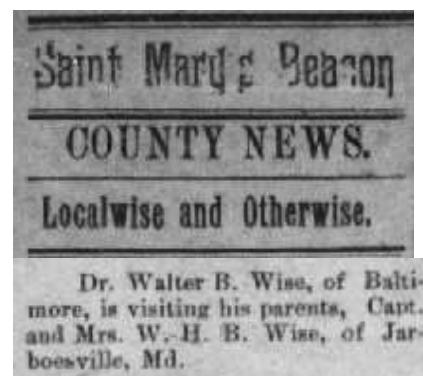
87 Note Courtesy of Doane Academy Archives



21 First Notice

St. Mary's Beacon April 18, 1907

The St. Mary's Beacon Newspaper twice refers to the son of Captain and Margaret Wise, Dr. Walter D. Wise. In April of 1907 the Beacon notes "Dr. Walter Dent Wise of Baltimore City Hospital is on a visit to Leonardtown." That same paper in October of 1916 notes "Dr. Walter D. Wise, of Baltimore, is visiting his parents, Captain and Mrs. W.H.B Wise, of Jarboesville, Maryland."



89 Second Notice

St. Mary's Beacon October 5, 1916

A wedding notice notes that Dr. Wise, "an eminent surgeon of Baltimore" was married in August of 1921. The couple would reside in Roland Park, a section of Baltimore.

WISE—McMILLAN

A wedding of interest to Baltimore and Maryland society is that of Mrs. Hugh McMillan, of Colorado Springs, Col., and Dr. Walter Dent Wise, of Goodwood Gardens, Roland Park. The wedding took place Wednesday at the home of Mrs. McMillan in Colorado Springs.

Mrs. Wise, who was the widow of Hugh McMillan, of Detroit, formerly was Miss Josephine Warfield, of this city. She is the sister of Miss Nina H. Warfield, of Baltimore; Mrs. Charles C. Patterson, of Boston; Mr. James Gavigue Warfield, of Denver, and Mr. T. Wallace Warfield. Dr. and Mrs. Wise will return to Baltimore from their honeymoon in September.

Dr. Wise, an eminent surgeon of Baltimore, is the son of Capt. and Mrs. Walter Wise, of Leonardtown, and is a native of St. Mary's, where he has a host of friends who will wish him and his bride many years of happiness.

90 Wedding Notice

St. Mary's Beacon August 4, 1921

Dr. Wise had a daughter, Agnes Whiting Wise, and she was the mother of Ms. Marion Dulany Rulon-Miller, who is known to her friends as Dolly Buswell. Dolly Buswell inherited the letters written by her great-great grandfather to her great grandmother almost 170 years ago.

FINAL WORDS

From *Yesterday in Old St. Mary's County*: "A word to you young people, from one who by experience, feels qualified to give you this advice. Enjoy your young lives, but try to remember as many details as possible, especially about your parents and grandparents. You will treasure these memories as you grow older, when they are no longer with you. You will treasure little things they said which might have seemed of no importance at the time. And above all, do not hesitate to write things down, for the written word has an infallible memory. Remember that there are only two things that really last: land and history. And history, no matter how important, will soon be forgotten unless someone records it".

Robert E. T. Pogue

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David Brown, Trustee, Historic Sotterley

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Dolly Buswell, Descendent of Dr. Walter Hanson Briscoe and his daughter Margaret Briscoe

O RIGINAL LETTERS AND TRANSCRIPTIONS

This collection of letters was received from Dolly McMillan Buswell, the great granddaughter of Margaret A. Briscoe and Robert Wise. The letters in the collection were addressed to Margaret and fall into two groups. First group is letters from her parents, Walter and Emeline Briscoe, to Margaret while she was attending school at St. Mary's Hall during 1845-6. The second group is letters to Margaret from various cousins written between 1854 and 1859. We are deeply in debt to Margaret and her descendants, most importantly Dolly, for preserving these letters and making them available to Sotterley.

The transcriptions follow the manuscript letters as closely as possible. That means that the grammar and spellings used by the writers in the nineteenth century are preserved, even when those differ from current usage. When punctuation is not it the original, none has been inserted in the transcriptions. When words seem to be mistakenly repeated in the manuscript, that is retained. As the transcription has been done carefully, the use of "(sic)" after unusual spellings has been dispensed with. Each illegible word is noted in the text as (illegible). Where some part of the manuscript has been torn away it is noted as (missing). When there is uncertainty about a word, (?) is inserted after that word. Clarifications from the transcribers are in [square brackets].

When there is an envelope, the information on it is recorded. Notes are appended to each letter to clarify, where possible, people, places and events mentioned in the letters. The letters in each category have been placed in chronological order. To avoid unnecessary repetition in the notes, people or places that have notes in earlier letters are not repeated in subsequent letters in that group of letters. This will require readers at times to refer back to notes on earlier letters.

May 19 th , 1845... Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe	106
June 20 th , 1845... Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe	114
July 10 th , 1845... Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe	120
August 15 th , 1845... Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe	127
September 4 th , 1845... Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe	134
November 17 th , 1845... Emeline W. Briscoe	141
December 8 th , 1845... Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe	146
January 12 th , 1846... Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe	152
February 17 th , 1846... Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe	158
March 5 th , 1846... Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe	164
March 9 th , 1846... Emeline W. Briscoe	169
March 23 rd , 1846... Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe	175
November 27 th , 1854... Emeline W. Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe	181
November 29 th , 1855... Elizabeth to Margaret A. Briscoe	186
March 28 th , 1859... Sarah R. Webster to "cousin"	193
May 1 st , 1859... Elisa to "cousin"	199
December 6 th , 1859... Lizzie to Margaret A. Briscoe	205
Undated, Partial letter... Lizzie to Margaret A. Briscoe	211
Undated, Partial letter... Lizzie to Margaret A. Briscoe	213

Undated, Partial letter... Lizzie	216
January 18 th , 1862... Chapman Billingsley to Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe	220

Sabbath May 19th - 1845

Dear Massy

I suppose perhaps your girls would like by this time to see something from old Sottery though it be but a bit of a scrawl. It's today just a fortnight since (as you will perceive from the date above) I dropped you at Burlington and though the time in reality has been so short I can well conceive that you feel to have been a year. - Such a delusion is but natural, particularly with those who have been so little from home. But have no doubt a chance of imagination in this particular will soon come over you, and then the longer the time seems the shorter it will appear; and perhaps when the period rolls round for me and Kate to return to your friends here you will scarce be able to realize the fact that you have spent year from home.

I will now give you a brief sketch of my homeward journey. After leaving you my run to Philadelphia was soon accomplished, where I arrived about half past one o'clock and met your Uncle & Aunt quite in the same apparent states of happy ease and confidence that we left them; but even the time for the repose of night was soon how sadly was the fair prospect changed. - How deceptive the outward show as an index to the human heart & mind. - Susan (the idol of her father) and the rest of a family that I could have suspected of such an act, went out about five in the afternoon to take, as she said a walk with her Cousin, but with what truth and sincerity the developments of the evening most clearly and sorrowfully proved. She did not return as early as the family expected.

yet no fears were excited because ^{no} suspicious were enter-
= dained; but the clock had hardly tolled the hour nine
when the fact of her elopement and marriage was ann-
= ounced in a way that put its certainty beyond all doubt. -
Sad to behold the fond parents of this deluded child sinking to
the heart by her unfilial disobedience and deception. - But
enough. - How far this poor child will be able to reconcile
her conduct with Christian duty to her suffering parents
and thus to gather to herself a quiet conscience for the future
time can only determine. - My anxious care and earnest
prayers for you, and for all with whom I have to do, are, that
you and they may ever be able, by sound judgment, sober
reflection, and above all a constant looking unto God the
only true fountain of wisdom and strength, so to regulate;
arrange, and order all your affections, desires, and actions
as, not only to escape the unhappy consequences of a similar
act of parental ingratitude, but also the more pungent
corrodents of the here and hereafter of the hapless soul that
lives but to die. -

After pointing what of comfort I ^{troubled} led into the bosom of your
Uncle and Aunt I started in ~~the~~ ^{the} first boat in the morning
for Baltimore and reached there ~~at~~ ^{at} 1 & 2 o'clock, where
I intended to remain until Friday and thence home by the
way of Washington and down the Potomack to Mr. Gough's
landing. But on Thursday about 3 o'clock I received a letter from
your Mother, written on the Friday fore (nearly a week)
stating that Henry was then ill at the 10th Hall, not expected
to live. - that your Aunt Jennet had been with him for
several days and that she herself should start to see him
the next day. - This of course put me in a hurry and in
two hours I was off in a sail boat which I luckily met
with first on the start for our river and landed at home

early the next day, Friday, appearing at my step from the
Landing to meet the news of Henry's death. - But none I met
and nothing I heard until I reached your ^{mother's} room
door, when lo and behold there he and his mother sat in appear-
-ly good heart and cheer. - His disease had unexpectedly given
way on Tuesday after your mother wrote and his recovery was very
rapid so much so as to allow him to be removed home on the
following Thursday the day before I reached home. - He is now
nearly well again and I think will be able to return to school
in the course of a few days more. - Little David's health
seems to be and I hope is improving. - Little Sally and Addy
become daily more and more interesting, and the rest of us
appear to be getting along as usual; for all of which, and the
many other blessings we enjoy, our most humble and heartfelt
praises are due to our Almighty Lord. - I know of no
changes here and hereabouts since you left us of any consequence.
The crows have taken up our forward chimneys and Sparrows
have nearly finished our strawberries &c. but all this is not
meet. - We may yet have a sufficiency to keep us from starvation.

I must now ask you to let us hear something
how you like Buntington and what you are about. I found
seeing you - better in good time and found it
such an one as from the time it was written we might
have expected. - You see however that a little will sport in
your respective duties will soon correct you on exactly the
return home before the proper period. I wish you to write
me as soon as you leisure will allow and give me a particular
account of my thing in relation to yourself and the girls in your
present situation. - I was highly gratified in all I saw at the
school and could not but believe that you would all spend a
happy residence there. - Let me know what classes you have
intended and what branches you are pursuing, and what you
wish and intend to pursue as far as your own and present
know. - How you like the discipline and mode of instruction
what are the hours of each particular avocation of the day. - How
your time is divided for devotion, instruction, recreation, and rest, and
in saying things in relation to you as a resident of the Buntington

School. I wish you to speak out freely and unreservedly now and at all times. I want no restraint either of opinion or feeling; and this I ask that we at home may be enabled to think and judge the more satisfactorily for you. It is your parents my dear child that think and feel the most sensitively and anxiously for you, for beyond any thing that you can think or feel for yourself; and therefore no good can arise from concealments between you and them. And now allow me ~~for~~ ^{to} ~~con-~~ ^{com-}mit you to the safe keeping of the Lord, particularly during your absence from home. May His blessing rest upon you. May the Holy Spirit draw near unto you and draw you near unto Him.

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Corrode
some
now
now

Maynard C. Brown
1st May 1854
Burlington
New Jersey

ATLANTA MAY 3 1854

and by His sanctifying influence upon your heart make you
thoroughly His through time and eternity. Show this to Kate
and Mary; for though addressed to you, what I say to you I must
also say to them. They are of my blood and have my affection
and I hope I have their love and confidence. You all must
write often. It will improve you in letter writing and afford re-
satisfaction. All the family desire to be remembered to you and send
to each of you a great store of love. Yours affectionately
M. H. K.

Walter Hanson Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe

Sotterly May 19th, 1845

Dear Maggy,

I suppose perhaps you girls would like by this time to see something from old Sotterly though it be but a bit of a scrawl. It's today just a fortnight since (as you will perceive from the date above) I dropped you at Burlington and though the time in reality has been so short I can well conceive that you feel it to have been a year. Such a delusion is but natural, particularly with those who have been so little from home. But have no doubt a chance of imagination in this particular will soon come over you, and then the longer the time seems, the shorter it will appear; and perhaps when the period rolls round for you and Cate to return to your friends here you will scarce be able to realize the fact that you have spent a year from home.

I will now give you a brief sketch of my homeward journey. After leaving you my return to Philadelphia was soon accomplished where I arrived about half past one o'clock and met your uncle's and aunt's family in the same appearant state of happiness and confidence that we left them. But ere the time for the repose of night came round how sadly was the fair prospect changed. How deceptive the outward mien as an index to the human heart and mind. Susan (the idol of her father, and the last of the family that I could have suspected of such an act) went out about five in the afternoon to take, as she said, a walk with her Cousin; but with what truth and sincerity the devilments of the evening most clearly and sorrowfully proved. She did not return as early as the family expected...yet no fears were excited because no suspicions were entertained; but the clock had hardly tolled the hour nine when the fact of her elopement and marriage was announced in a way that put its certainty beyond all doubt. Sad to behold. The fond parents of this deluded child sickened to the heart by her unfilial disobedience and deception. But enough. How far this poor child will be able to reconcile her conduct with Christian duty to her suffering parents and thus to gather to herself a quiet conscience for the future, time can only determine. My anxious care and earnest prayers for you and for all with whom I have to do, are that you and they may ever be able, of (?) sound judgement; sober reflection, and above all a constant looking unto God the only sure fountain of wisdom and strength, so to subdue; arrange, and order all your affections; desires, and actions as, not only to escape the unhappy consequences of a similar act of parental ingratitude, but also the more pungent corroding of the here and hereafter of the hapless soul that lives but to die.

After pouring what of comfort I could unto the troubled bosoms of your uncle and aunt, I started in the first boat in the morning for Baltimore and reached there between 1 & 2 o'clock where I intended to remain until Friday and thence home by way of Washington and down the Potomack to Mr. Gough's landing. But on Thursday about 2 o'clock I received a letter from your mother written on the Friday before (nearly a week) stating that Henry was then ill at Charlotte Hall, not expected to live. That your aunt Janette (?) had been with him for several days and that she herself should start to see him the next day. This of course put me in a hurry and in two hours I was off in a sail vessel (?) which I luckily met with just on the start for our river (?) and landed at home early the next day, Friday, expecting at my step from the landing to meet with the news of Henry's death. But none I met and nothing I heard until I reached your mother's room door, when lo and behold there he and his mother sat in apparent good heart and cheer. His disease had unexpectedly given way on the day after your mother wrote and his recovery was very rapid so much so as to allow him to be removed (?) home on the following Thursday the day before I reached home. He is now nearly well again and I think will be able to return to school in the course of a few days more. Little David's health seems to be and I hope is improving. Sister Sally and Addy becomes daily more and more interesting, and the rest of us seem to be getting along as usual; for all of which and the many other blessings we enjoy our most humble and heartfelt praises are due to our Almighty Lord. I know of no changes here and hereabouts since you left us of any consequence. The crows have eaten up our forward cherries and the partridges have nearly finished our strawberries, but all this is not much. We may yet have a sufficiency to keep us from starvation.

I must now ask you to let us hear something (missing, torn page) how you like Burlington and what you are about. (Missing, torn page) received your letter in good time and I found it (missing, torn page) such an one as from the time it was written we might have expected. I feel sure however that a little time well spent in your respective duties will soon correct your own anxiety to return home before the proper period. I wish you to write me as soon as your leisure will allow and give me a particular account of any thing in relation to yourself and the girls in your present situation. I was highly gratified in all I saw at the school and could not but believe you would all spend a happy residence there. Let me know what classes you have entered and what branches you are pursuing and what you wish and intend to pursue as far as you can at present know. How you like the discipline and mode of instruction; what are the hours of each particular avocation of the day. How your time is divided for devotions, instructions, recreation, and rest—

and in time any thing in relation to you as a resident of the Burlington school. I wish you to speak out freely and unreservedly now and at all times. I want no restraint either of opinion or feeling; and this I ask that we at home may be enabled to think and judge the more satisfactorily for you. It is your parents, my dear child, that think and feel the most sensitivity and anxiously for you, even far beyond anything that you can think or feel for yourself; and therefore no good can arise from your concealments between you and them. And now allow me prayerfully to commit you to the safe keeping of the Lord; particularly during your absence from home. May His blessing rest upon you. May the Holy Spirit draw near around you and draw you near unto him...and by His sanctifying influence upon your heart make you thoroughly His through time and Eternity. Show this to Kate and Nanny, for though addressed to you, what I say to you I must also say to them. They are of my blood and have my affection and I hope I have their love and confidence. You all must write often. It will improve you in letter writing and afford us gratification. All the family desire to be remembered to join sending to each of you a great slice of love.

Yours affectionately,

W.H.B.

Envelope: Postmarked: Baltimore, Maryland, May 25th and addressed to: Ms. Margaret A. Briscoe, St. Mary's Hall, Burlington, New Jersey

Notes;

1. Note that Walter spells the name of his home as "Sotterly." This is repeated in subsequent letters indicating it wasn't a spelling error but the spelling they used. Walter Briscoe had return from taking his eldest daughter, Margaret, to the start of the spring semester at St. Mary's Hall, her first semester there and apparently her first extended stay away from home.
2. St. Mary's Hall in Burlington, New Jersey prides itself on its reputation as the first all-girls, academic boarding school in the United States. Known now as Doane Academy, St. Mary's Hall was founded in May 1837 by the Right Reverend George Washington Doane, the second Episcopal bishop of New Jersey. Burlington is about 15 miles northeast of Philadelphia on the Delaware River.
3. Cate is Sarah Catharine Briscoe the daughter of William Dent Briscoe, Walter Briscoe's older brother, who had passed away in 1843.
4. The uncles and aunts in Philadelphia? Not yet identified.
5. Their daughter Susan? And her cousin? Not yet identified.
4. Henry is the Briscoe's son, Henry Briscoe, then 13, enrolled at the all boys Charlotte Hall School.
5. Aunt Janette? This may be Walter Briscoe's sister Jeannette.
6. Little David was David Stone Briscoe, then about five. Sally (Sarah Emeline Briscoe), then three, and Addy (Susan Adelaide Briscoe), almost one, were their youngest children.
7. Kate is the Cate mentioned above. Nanny is her sister, Sarah Ann Briscoe. Both are children of Walter's deceased older brother William and students with Margaret. The many references in

his letters to these two girls seems to indicate that Walter feels almost as much responsibility for them as for Margaret. Perhaps they have been living at Sotterley.

8. Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe signs himself in this and subsequently letters with just the three initials W. H. B. or W. H. Briscoe.

Sabbath June 20th 1845

Dear Daughter

Ever since the day your last letter came to
hand I have been busily engaged with my wheat harvest,
so much so that, though very anxious to write you
immediately, I have not found time by night or day
to do so until today, which, being an unfit day
for the harvest field, affords me the desired opportunity
for the first place this ^{morning} in expressing to you the
thanks of your letter to this neighborhood had been
received. Those to me dated the 20th and 21st of May came
just after I had written to you, requesting you to give
me a full and unvarnished statement of any thing in rela-
tion to yourself, Kate and Mary, both in school and out.
I felt solicited to know whether or not you all were
satisfied and happy, and if your studies had been
anything according to my wishes. These letters increased
my anxiety to hear from you in reply to my request, and
I impatiently awaited your next mail and the return
of Mr. Johnson, hoping thereby to receive the desired
information; and to know that your remembrance of
mine about home had not been forgotten. I am glad to
find from your letter of the 8th inst. that in this last
particular my hopes have been realized. The
challenges of the present however you have failed to
answer at all; and I must therefore again urge you to
write me fully upon the subject especially in relation
to your studies. I want to know not only what parts

cular branches each of you are now pursuing,
but also what each of you would like to pursue,
and if there be any difference in those of yourself
and Catherine. — I wish you to confer with her
in the matter, and let me hear from you as early
as possible, so as to enable me, should I wish to
— say, to write to Mr. Guiney or the Bishop, and
get your regularly and fully to report at the earliest
period, that you may derive the greatest possible
benefit of your limited time at the school. — Be
particular and omit nothing in your answer that I
have requested information about. — Catherine must
write also and give me her views and wishes for
herself and Mary. — My letters in the general are
to them and for them as well as for you and to you.
You all know that I have but little time for
letter writing, and therefore what I write in the
general is intended for all, though the letter may
be directed to the one or the other.

I sincerely hope that the anticipations I expressed
in my former letter relative to your contentment
and satisfaction at school may have been even this
thoroughly realized by you all; nor is such a state of
the mind and affections at all incompatible with a
properly regulated stage and regard for all you have
left behind. — I should indeed be sorry to feel
or believe that separation or absence could break
the cords that bind us to each other, and I wish
you to be happy wherever you may be.

— Give special of the kind attentions of your relations
at Philadelphia and God bless them, and the pleasure it

affords you to visit them. — This is nice; and I am
gratified to hear that they thus feel towards you, and
you too them; and I hope you will ever continue to
prove yourselves worthy of their best regards and fullest
confidence. — But allow me here to guard you against a
too free indulgence in such recreations. — You are
all young; inexperienced, and unsuspecting, and
therefore unfit to encounter the intrigues, follies, and
dangers of City Combinations. — and the less frequently you
vacate your proper places at the Hall the more perhaps
you will be out of harm's way. — Independent of this
I feel sure your Sabbaths are better spent in Berlin
at home than out of it.

There is nothing new in the neighbourhood. — We are
about as well as usual. — Harry is still at home, and
will remain I expect until after the August Vacation.
His health is tolerable again but not such as to
justify his return to school. — John and Lydia
has had a smart species of Scurvy, and is still better.
But ill health in that family is not to be wondered at by
those who know their habits; and I then impudently should
warn you to abstain from any further indulgence, particu-
larly should you expose yourself to exposures that may
subject you to cold; to which, like myself, you know you
are very subject; and I am now in a more northern
latitude you should be the more careful. — Why not
you and the Harris girls mention each other in your
letters to your friends. — We should thereby hear the more
frequently from you. — You and Kate must take it by
turns and write often. — Mary must write also. —
Little Faddy is standing by, and prattling away says she

Walter Hanson Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe

Sotterly June 20th 1845

Dear Daughter,

Since the day your last letter came to, and I have been busily engaged with my wheat harvest, so much so that, though very anxious to write you immediately, I have not found time by night or by day to do so until today, which, being an unfit day for the harvest field, affords me the desired opportunity. In the first place then it may be gratifying to you to know that all your letters to this neighborhood have been regularly received. Those to me dated the 20th and 21st of May came first after I had written to you, requesting you to give me a full and unreserved statement of any thing in relation to yourself; Cate and Nanny, both in school and out. I felt solicitous to know that you all were satisfied and happy and if your studies had been arranged according to my wishes. These letters increased my anxiety to hear from you in reply to my request and I impatiently awaited my mail and the return of Mr. Johnson; hoping thereby to receive the desired information, and to know that your uneasiness of mind about home had subsided; and I am glad to find from your letter of the 3rd inst. that in this last particular my hopes have been realized. The ballance of the request however you have failed to answer at all; and I must therefore again urge you to write me fully upon the subject – especially in relation to your studies. I want to know not only what particular branches each of you are now pursuing but also what each of you would like to pursue and if there would be any difference in those of yourself and Catharine. I wish you to confer with Cate in the matter and let me hear from you as early as possible so as to enable me, should it be necessary, to write to Mr. Germain or the Bishop and get you regularly and fully to work at the earliest period; that you may derive the greatest possible benefit of your limited time at this school. Be particular and omit nothing in your answer that I have requested information about. Catharine must write also and give me her views and wishes for herself and Nanny. My letters in the general are to them and for them as well as for you and to you. You all know that I have little time for letter writing, and therefore what I write in the general is for all; though the letter may be directed to the one or the other.

I sincerely hope that the anticipations I expressed in my former letter relative to your contentment and satisfaction at school may have been ere this fully realized by you all; nor is such a state of the mind and affections at all incompatible with a properly regulated love and regard for all you have left behind. I should indeed be sorry to view or believe that separation or absence could weaken the cords that bind us to each other and I wish you to be happy wherever you may be.

You speak of the kind intentions of your relations in Philadelphia and Bordentown and the pleasure it affords you to visit them. This is well; and I am gratified to learn that they thus feel towards you, and you to them; and I hope you will ever continue to prove yourselves worth of their best regards and fullest confidence. But allow me here to guard you agnt too free indulgence in such (illegible). you all are young; inexperienced and unsuspecting; and therefore unfit to encounter the intrigues, follies and dangers of city conditions and the less frequently you vacate your proper places at the Hall the more perhaps you will be out of harm's way. independent of this I feel shure your Sabbaths are better spent in Burlington than out of it.

There is nothing new in the neighborhood. We are about as well as usual. Henry is still at home and will remain I expect until the after the August vacation. his health is tolerable again but not as such as to justify his return to school. Aunt Lydia has had a smart spell of sickness. But ill health in that family is not to [be] wondered at by those who know their habits; and their

imprudence should warn to abstain from similar indulgences, particularly should you Maggy guard agnt. exposures that may subject you to cold; to which, like myself, you know you are subject; and being (?) now in a more northern latitude you should be more careful. Why not you and the Harris girls mention each other in your letters to your friends, we should thereby hear more frequently from you. you and Cate must take it by turns and write often. Nanny must write also. Little Addy is standing by and prating away says she wants to see you. All unite in sincere love to and the best wishes for the welfare and happiness of you all.

Sincerely yours,
W. H. Briscoe

Envelope: Post Mark Leonardtown Maryland June 23rd and addressed to Mrs. Margaret Ann Briscoe, Saint Mary's Hall, Burlington New Jersey

Notes:

1. Mr. Johnson appears to be a neighbor. Not yet identified.
2. Mr. Germain is Rev. Reuben J. Germain, principal and chaplain at St. Mary's Hall.
3. The Bishop is Right Reverend George Washington Doane, the founder and Rector of St. Mary's Hall.
3. Bordentown is in Burlington County New Jersey near St. Mary's Hall.
4. Aunt Lydia is Lydia Barber Billingsley, Emeline's step-sister. She is married to Chapman Billingsley and living on the adjacent Fenwick Manor.
6. The Harris girls: Susan R. Harris of Leonardtown was a student at St. Mary's Hall. The other Harris girl may be Eliza V. Harris who was at some time a student there.

Sabbath July 11th 1845

Dear Daughter

I have just received your letter of the 1st inst., and hasten to its reply, and will endeavor so to express my views as to get your studies arranged without further delay, that you may thereby be enabled to derive the greatest possible advantage that your limited time at school will allow. It would be highly gratifying to me, and I have no doubt to you also, could you succeed long enough to take the classes regularly through, and so prepare yourselves for the highest honors of the institution; but, if I understand aright the course laid down for the pupils to pursue, according to those testimonials, I see no possibility of you and Catherine accomplishing this object within the time prescribed for your stay. Yet I can see no difficulty or objection myself in your pursuing such selected branches for each of the classes as you and your friends think best, and as will afford you the greatest amount of useful knowledge in the shortest period. I will now therefore give you a list of the branches that Walter Mitchell and myself agreed upon as being those most likely to be useful to you, and which I would like you to learn as far as your time and health will enable you. They are as follows;—Exercises in Composition; Chemistry; Book keeping; Rhetoric; Grammar, including analysis of English Poetry; Geography; Astronomy; and Astronomical Geography with the use of globes; Natural Philosophy; General History; French; Drawing & painting, both in water and oil; Sacred Music & other music if you like, and perhaps Botany.—This last I have no doubt is a pleasant study, and if you can acquire a sufficient knowledge

of it to be useful to you in after life without its inter-
fering or taking the place of another branch more useful
still, it would be well to go on with it. — Menology,
and all the algeis, I am decidedly of the opinion you should
not take up your time with. — I therefore advise you to drop men-
ology at once. — Sacred music I must insist upon with
Margaret Anna, and I would strongly recommend it to Kate
and Manning. — I hope you will learn it, not only practically,
but also as a science, that you may be able to teach me and
all of us when you return home. — It greatly adds to
our enjoyment of both family and public worship. —

These are the branches, as above stated, that I and your friends
have thought most likely to be most beneficial to you, and
I have suggested them, believing that you and Kate will adopt
and pursue them to the fullest extent that your time and the
best services of your body and mind will permit. — I do
not however suggest them as binding upon you. — To be
successfully pursued they must be pleasant and
agreeable. — Nor would I have you to impair your
health by too close application. — Algebra is a
another most useful branch of education, but whether
you can study it to any advantage in the short time
you have to remain is somewhat doubtful to me. —
If however you find you have the time to devote to it,
you could and ought to consult Mr. Halliwell upon the
subject. — Indeed, I think you might not, I hope you will
not feel any backwardness in consulting a I advise you with
her and your teachers generally about your studies. —
You and Kate go to her together and express your
wishes and my wishes in relation to those matters freely.
I can see no objection to it. — I feel assured that you
will always be respectful to your teachers and so long
as you are respectful to them I cannot but believe
they will be respectful to you, feel ready and happy to

to direct, assist, and I push you forward in your
pursuit after knowledge; particularly if you manifest
an earnest desire to acquire it; and recollect my Dear
Children that this is a most important year with you,
the proper improvement of which both temporally and
spiritually must and will have an ever abiding influence
upon your future lives.

Mr. Halliwell and Mr. Garrison both upon I was
before I left Burlington that your studies should
be arranged to suit my wishes as near as possible,
and I have no doubt if you will be free and untrammelled
in the expression of your wishes you will be satisfied.
I should like to know also what Henry is learning. The
arrangement of his studies should be attended to. Tell him
the next time you write to me. Do not delay talking with
Mr. Halliwell after you receive this letter. Time is flying
fast, and a precious hour can never be recalled. —
When you have talked over the matter with Mr. H. and got things
settled, I to you please let me know all about it. I am
just anxious about it. I have — Let me know
you must what will be the additional cost for oil
painting, and whether it will be necessary to visit the
mural whatever it may be.

You can dispose of to complain somewhat of not seeing
a letter from your Mother — she is well away it would
afford you pleasure, and I dare say it would afford her
pleasure to write, but our duty obliges us sometimes
to forego acts, which though they may stand in the way of
duty, would not only be innocent pleasures but commu-
nicable; and this, when you reflect a little I am sure you will
know to be the case with your Mother — How often has she
been from the cares of her family that she — you all to be as
unwilling in the discharge of their appropriate duties as
your Mother there could be but few devoted regards for

Happiest time, you must think make up for me 3
 to appear in a little longer - There is nothing new
 in the neighborhood. We are all in pretty good health
 at present - Henry I think is improving but will not return
 to school until after the August vacation. - Send to
 Uncle Joseph for old News Papers - He gets two or
 three every and will supply you & as sure if you will
 only ask - Good by - The Lord bless you & mine
 and keep you safe & happy and I love is ~~the~~ cannot
 part of you affectionately - Father

Paid 5



Miss Mary & Anne Brewster

St Mary's Hall
 Brooklyn

N.Y.

Walter Hanson Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe

Sotterly July 10th 1845

Dear Daughter,

I have just received your letter of the first, and hasten to its reply; and will endeavor so to express my views as to get your studies arranged without further delay, that you may thereby be enabled to derive the greatest possible advantage that your limited time at school will allow. It would be highly gratifying to me, and I have no doubt to you also, could you remain long enough to take the classes regularly through; and so prepair yourselves for the highest honours of the institution; but, if I understand aright the course laid down for the pupils to pursue, intittling them to those testimonials, I see no possibility of you and Catharine accomplishing this object within the time prescribed for your stay. Yet I can see no difficulty or objection myself in your pursuing such selected branches from each of the classes as you and your friends think best, and as will afford you the greatest amt. of the useful knowledge in the shortest period. I will now therefore give you a list of the branches that Walter Mitchell and myself agreed upon as being those most likely to be useful to you, and which I would like you to learn as far as your time and health will enable you. They are as follows; Exercises in Composition; Chemistry; Book keeping; Elocution; Grammar, including analysis of English Poetry; Geography; Astronomy and Astronomical Geography with the use of globes; Natural Philosophy; General History; French; Drawing & painting both in water and oil; Sacred Musick & other musick if you like, and perhaps Botany. This last I have no doubt is a pleasant study, and if you can acquire a sufficient knowledge of it to be useful to you in after life without its interfering or taking the place of another branch more useful still, it would be well to go on with it. Mineralogy, and all the ologies, I am decidedly of the opinion you should not take up your time with. I therefore advise you to drop mineralogy at once. Sacred Musick I must insist upon with Margaret Ann, and would strongly recommend it to Cate and Nanny. I hope you will learn it, not only practically, but also as a science that you may be able to teach me and all of us when you return home. It really adds, I think to our enjoyment of both family and publick worship.

These are the branches, as above stated, that I and your friends here think most likely to be most beneficial to you, and I have suggested them, believing that you and Cate will adopt and pursue them to the fullest extent that your time and the best energies of your body and mind will permit. I do not however suggest them as binding upon you. To be successfully pursued they must be pleasant and agreeable nor would I have you to injure your health by too close application. Algebra is another most useful branch of education; but whether you could study it to any advantage in the short time you have to remain is somewhat doubtful to me. If however you find you have the time to devote to it, you could and ought to consult Mr. Hallowell upon the subject. Indeed I think you ought not; I hope you will not; feel any backwardness in consulting and advising with him and your teachers generally about your studies. You and Cate go to him together and express your wishes and my wishes in relation to those matters freely. I can see no objection to it. I feel assured that you will always be respectful to your teachers and so long as you are respectful to them I cannot but believe they will be respectful to you; feel ready and happy to direct; assist and push you forward in your pursuit after knowledge; particularly if you manifest an earnest desire to acquire it, and recollect my Dear Children that this is a most important year with you, the proper improvement of which both temporally and spiritually must and will have an ever abiding influence upon your future lives.

Mr. Hallowell and Mr. Germain both assured me before I left Burlington that your studies should be arranged to suit my wishes as near as possible, and I have no doubt if you will be free and unreserved (?) in the expression of your wishes you will be so gratified. I should like to know also what Nanny is learning. The arrangement of her studies should be attended to. Tell her she must write to me. Do not delay talking with Mr. Hallowell after you receive this letter. Time is flying fast, and a misspent hour can never be recalled. When you have talked over the matter with Mr. H. and got them adjusted to your liking let me know all about it. I (illegible) feel anxious until I hear. Let me know in your next what will be the additional cost for oil painting, and whether it will be necessary to remit the money whatever it may be.

You seem disposed to complain somewhat of not receiving a letter from your Mother. She is well aware it would afford you pleasure, and I dare say it would afford her pleasure to write; but our duty obliges us sometimes to forgo acts, which, did they not stand in the way of duty, would not only be innocent pleasures but commendable; and this, when you reflect a little I am sure you will know to be the case with your Mother. No one has less time from the cares of her family than she. Were all to be as (illegible) in the discharge of their appropriate duties as your Mother there

could be but few deathbed regrets for misspent time; you must therefore make up your mind to excuse her a little longer. There is nothing new in the neighborhood. We are all in pretty good health at present. Henry I think is improving, but will not return to school until after the August vacation. Send to Uncle Joseph for old Newspapers. He gets two or three a day and will supply you I am sure if you will only ask. Good by. The Lord create you anew and keep you safe in body and soul is the earnest prayer of your affectionate –

Father

Envelope: Postmarked: Leonardtown, Maryland July 11, and addressed to Margaret Ann Briscoe, St. Mary's Hall, Burlington, N.J.

Notes:

1. Walter Mitchell is the uncle of Catharine Briscoe, whose parents were William Dent Briscoe and Elizabeth Mitchell. William, who died in 1843, was Walter H. Briscoe's older brother. Walter Briscoe and Walter Mitchell were the executors of his estate. Elizabeth and her children may have come to live either at Sotterley or with Walter Mitchell elsewhere in St. Mary's County, possibly Leonardtown. The 1840 census list a Walter Mitchel living in Charles County. Walter Mitchell had relatives living in Burlington, one of whom, Caroline L. Mitchell had graduated from St. Mary's Hall in March 1845.
2. The Rev. S.W. Hallowell was an instructor in English and Philosophy as well as a lecturer in Chemistry and the Natural Sciences at St. Mary's Hall.
3. Uncle Joseph was identified in another letter as a brother of Emeline.
4. The envelop is marked "paid 5." There were no postage stamps in use at the time; the first US postage stamp was issued in 1851.

[illegible]

in a state of mind but little befitting for calm, sweet,
and thoughtful research. — And now my Dear Child
let me ask you why it is so with you? Is there in reality
any just Cause for it, or is it merely the effect of your
tender and childish yearnings after home and your
immediate family? — Is it possible that among so many
young ladies and old ladies there can none be found
of a kind and spirit in whom you can confide and
make your friends? Is it so with your Cousins, Aunts
and Maunts, are they unhappy also? Are any of your
relatives by birth, old or young, that are in Stations
high or low, that are worthy of your thoughts, or with whom
your duties require you to act or visit that you only
occasionally meet a cold stare — an indifferent look, or that
you do not in the primal meet the same cordial responses
of affection that you have been accustomed to at
home? If the latter, permit me to assure you, from personal
experience and knowledge of the world, that your sorrows
is only imaginary — that you allow your feelings to
operate too strongly upon your mind and affections. —
It is not within the workings of human nature, and
therefore you need not expect the same sympathies any
where from home that you have met at home. — It is but
any of the former Causes that operate to keep you unhappy
let me know, or what is in my power let me know, as
I have before said to you, speak out — speak, without the
last reserve, all you feel and what you wish. — I wish you
to be happy, as you will know, and therefore wish to be fully
informed of all causes of the contrary where any exist, that I may
if I can apply the remedy. — There is one thing however
that should influence your thoughts, as far as you can

bring your mind to dispassionate reflections, and that is, the importance of your present opportunities both for time and eternity. — The opportunity and means, where you are, (I should think) for useful acquirement must be great if you can fully ~~bring~~ yourself to the subjects of investigation, but if your thoughts are ~~diverted~~ ^{diverted} & harassed by the time for home you have perhaps ^{been} returned at the expiration of the first term.

I will now answer that part of your letter in relation to painting. — Oil painting, so far as I can learn, from those who have learned, it is the most easy of all painting after one has acquired a knowledge of drawing. — This you have already learned in painting with water colours, and therefore your greatest difficulty in oil painting is already overcome. — Now if you can devote two hours any week, or say every one, to that kind of painting I should suppose that you might acquire such a knowledge of it (if you did not become perfect) as would enable you to perfect yourself after your return home. I should therefore, if I were you, insist upon your going with it; unless it in some particular way interfered with the prospect of your graduating. — If it is to defeat your graduating I would let it go. —

You say something about your clothes. — Your Mother & I believe said in her letter what she thought about the matter, and I have only to say in addition, that as we are so far from you and cannot therefore know what you girls may require you must make a Mother of your Aunt Mary for all such purposes. — We wish you to dress neatly and genteelly. — Without extravagance you can always see how necessary and I set her to deal and do for you. — As to sewing work — mending of stockings, &c. I would not allow such things to interfere with my studies. — I think it would be better to pay for a little now and then — stockings you might lay by as they wear out and buy others until you can have and then you will have time to mend all up and have a good supply. — Be economical but not mean in any thing and I will endeavour to

Insurance for the present
put off to the end

Miss Margaret R. / Burdett
St. Marys Hall
Burdett St
N. York

Walter Hanson Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe

Sotterley August 15th 1845

Dear Daughter,

Your letter to your mother of the 1st August we have received, as also those to your aunt and Saml. and it falls to my lot to answer your mother's as she has just written to you and could not well spare the time to write again so soon. I feel very much gratified that you should have favored your aunty with a letter. It manifests a love and respect towards her that well becomes you, and which, I know, will by no means be lost upon her or forgotten by her. She has indeed been a true and sincere relation and friend to you and all of us. In this respect your letter was a source of gratification to us all; but other items of your letter has not left us without regrets and sorrow; towit the details of unkind treatment at school and your consequent discontent with your situation. We had believed from your first letters that you were certainly very unhappy, but, knowing your disposition we thought it the very natural result of your sudden and unaccustomed separation from your family, which would, as you became familiarized with names and faces and habits and things generally, give place to contentment and satisfaction; and your subsequent letters, up to the last your mother, strengthened our hopes in this respect. But alas, from this your last letter upon the subject we find you still unhappy and I fear in a state of mind but little befitted for calm, quiet and thoughtful research. And now my Dear child let me ask you why it is so with you? Is there in reality any just cause for it, or is it merely the effect of your tender and childish yearnings after home and your immediate family? Is it possible that among so many young ladies and old ladies there can none be found of a kindred spirit in whom you can confide and make your friends? Is it so with your cousins Catharine and Nanny? Are they unhappy also? Are any of you ill treated by any old or young, that are in stations high or low, that are worthy of your thoughts, or with whom your duties require you to act? or is it that you only occasionally meet a cold answer—an indifferent look, or that you do not in the general meet the same cordial responses of affection that you have been accustomed to at home? If the latter, permit me to assure you, from personal experience and knowledge of the world that your grievance is only imaginary—that you allow your feelings to operate too strongly upon your mind and affections. It is not within the workings of human nature, and therefore you need not expect the same sympathies anywhere from home that you have met at home. If it is be any of the former causes that operate to keep up your unhappiness let me know or whatever it may be let me know. As I have before said to you, speak out—speak without the last reserve, all you feel and what you wish. I wish you to be happy, as you

well know, and therefore wish to be fully informed of all causes of the contrary where any exist, that I may if I can apply the remedy. There is one thing however that should influence you I think as far as you can bring your mind to dispassionate reflections and that is the importance of your present opportunities both for time and Eternity. The opportunity and means where you are, (I should think) for useful acquirement must be great if you can fully bind yourself to subjects of investigation, but if your thoughts are diverted and harassed by the desire for home you had perhaps better return at the expiration of the first term.

I will now answer that part of your letter in relation to painting. Oil painting, so far as I can learn from those who have learned it is the most easy of all painting after one has acquired a knowledge of drawing. This you have already learned in painting with water colours, and therefore your greatest difficulty in oil painting is already overcome. Now if you can devote two hours every week, or say even one, to that kind of painting I should suppose that you might acquire such a knowledge of it (if you did not become perfect) as would enable you to perfect yourself after you returned home. I should therefore (if I were you) insist upon going (illegible) with it; unless it in some particular way interfered with the prospect of your graduating. If it is to defeat your graduating I would let it go.

You say something about your clothes. your mother I believe said in her letter what she thought about the matter, and I have only to say in addition that as we are so far from you and cannot therefore know what you girls may require you must make a mother of your aunt Nancy for all such purposes. We wish you to dress neatly and genteelly without extravagance. You can always see her when necessary and get her to deal and etc. for you. As to sewing work, mending of stockings etc. I would not allow such things to interfere with my studies. I think it would be better to pay for a little now and then—stockings you might lay by as they wear out and buy others until you come home and then you will have time to mend all up and have a good supply. Be economical but not mean in any thing and I will endeavor to pay the bills when I come on after you. should you want money for any purpose let me know and I will endeavor to send to you. Let me know the amt. of your bills as you make your purchases or any expenses that you have to incur that I may be able to prepare the amt. necessary for their payment. In this respect Cate and Nanny must do likewise. Give my best respects to Mr. Halowell and tell him I feel much indebted to him for the interest he has manifested for your advancement. I want you to take time and answer this particularly. May the Lord bless you and sanctify and make you all happy. We are all well. Miss Mary's vacation has just commenced.

Farewell for the present

W. H. Briscoe

Envelope: Postmarked: Leonardtown, MD August 15 and addressed to Ms. Margaret A. Briscoe, St. Mary's Hall, Burlington, N Jersey

Notes:

1. The reference to a recent letter by her mother indicates that this collection does not include all the family letters that were written to Margaret while she was at St. Mary's Hall.
2. The Aunt is almost certainly Lydia Billingsley, though Margaret has other aunts in the area.
3. Saml. Is Margaret's brother Samuel William Briscoe, then about ten.
4. Aunt Nancy seems to be someone living near St. Mary's Hall. Not yet identified.
5. Miss Mary is Mary Blades the teacher at the school at Sotterley.

Sabbath September 4th 1845

My Dear Maffey

Yours of the 28th of last month came to hand on Sunday last and I hasten to answer it to the measure, as far as I can to relieve your and Cattie's difficulties, and to appease your fears and apprehensions in relation to your studies and approaching examinations, as it seems that this is the principal cause of your unhappiness; and I know not better how to attempt this than to say to ^{you} fear not - your fears are greater than you will find the reality, and for this I am borne out by others who know something about such matters - your old friend, Mr. Clayton, for instance. He says you must not be so much worried of your examinations - that your solicitude about it is the surest guarantee that you will make a good one, if you do not allow yourselves to be frightened out of it - that there is not the least occasion for so much anxiety about it; for teachers are always as anxious that their pupils should succeed well in their public examinations as the pupils themselves, and consequently are always careful not to press them too hard, or oppress them; and so others say also. There cannot therefore be in reality any cause for so much alarm; particularly as you entered the class so late in the term you cannot be expected to be so well versed and prompt as those that entered earlier. - There is one reflection however that should console you, in the very difficulty in which you may find yourselves, namely, the conscientious discharge of

your engagements and duties to the best of your abilities. -
This done, nothing more can or will your teachers, or any
one else expect or require of you. - They must and will
see your anxiety and determinations to accomplish all
in your power, and will rightly appreciate your exertions,
and feel, and act towards you accordingly. -
There is no doubt your late entrance in the class
causes you more difficulty in keeping up with it, but
then, if you can keep ^{up}, though it be ^{but} rather badly for the
present, it shows your entire ability, under equal circum-
stances, to do so well, and should teach you that after the
first term, when you will start even, your difficulties,
in that respect will be over; and though you work under
disadvantages now, your extra exertions will be repaid
by this advance in your class, without which perhaps
you might not be able to graduate. - Perhaps
you have ever tested yourselves in the number of the branches
you are studying? - If so can't you drop some of them for the
present and take them up again in the next term without
throwing yourselves back? - But all first as you like best. -
I am satisfied now, that your situation at Burlington,
under the most favourable circumstances, must be
trying to your feelings, and am therefore perfectly willing
and desirous, that you should pursue first that course
of study most agreeable to you, and indeed I trust you
may be most happy; being perfectly sure within myself
that you will spend your time to the best advantage. -
I think you ought to talk to some one of your teachers, and
open your difficulties to them. - Let them know your diffidence,
and consequent embarrassments. - The one could communicate
to the others for you, and so be enabled to make such allow-
ances for you as might be necessary. - I can see no

impropriety in such a course. — Indeed I think a respectful
freedom between pupils and teachers, not only admissible, but
very necessary, as the only sure and proper correction in many
cases of such evils and difficulties. — The relation to
your sister course with the girls generally, I can only say
that you must not expect too much cordially from them,
they are I suppose mostly from the states north of you,
and the further you go north you know the more cold
and calculating are the people; but you, easy, and
independent yourselves; and thus let them see, and make
them understand the influence of a more congenial
climate upon your tempers and dispositions. — Above

all keep close to your Heavenly Father as your only sure
help and guide in all your trials and troubles. —
you speak of rail road trips, and steam boat voyages
during your vacation. — I certainly can have no objections
to any innocent amusement at any time; but advise me to
guard you against being introduced into dangers, excesses, or indiscre-
tions of any kind. — I understood that Mrs. Stonestreet
will go on in the vacation to see her daughter, and
intends taking her and Eliza Harris to New York. —
Should you finally determine to take the trip you speak
of you had better sit your Aunt Ann, if you can,
to go with you, and go along at the time Mrs. Stonestreet
goes. — I enclosed I send you ten dollars in five for yourself
and five for Mary, as from your letter you two are in want. —

I want you to write again before the receipt of this and
your explanation, if you can, and let me know how you
are getting on; what news you have made, if any; and what
amount of money it will be necessary for me to send you in ad-
vance of the hundred and thirty five dollars to be paid in
the school for the next term. — Walter Mitchell talks of
coming on to see you all, and his brother the first of next
month and I wish to send it on by him, should he do so. —
True.

Dear Kate I have just received his letter and I will endeavor
 to answer it next week. I wish very much to come on my-
 self to see you all some time towards the latter part of October,
 and I shall certainly do so if I can; but you must by no means
 expect me, or be disappointed if I do not, as you know it is
 very difficult for me to get from home for so long a trip. Our
 trust and help for all things must be in the Lord and my Dear
 Children. So let them be theirs and I write in haste.

Yours affectionately
 M. H. Burrows

PAID
 Miss Margaret A. Burrows
 St. Mary's Hall
 Burlington
 N. H.



Walter Hanson Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe

Sotterly September 4th, 1845

My Dear Maggy,

Yours of the 21st of last month came to hand on Sunday last and I hasten to answer it to endeavour, as far as I can, to relieve yours and Cate's difficulties; and appease your fears and apprehensions in relation to your studies and approaching examination as it seems that this is the principle cause of your unhappiness; and I know not better how to attempt this than to say to you, fear not – your fears are greater than you will find the reality; and in this I am borne out by others who know something about such matters – your old friend, Mr. Claxton, for instance. He says you must not be in so much dread of your examination – that your solicitude about it is the surest guarantee that you will make a good one, if you do not allow yourselves to be frightened out of it – that there is not the least occasion for so much anxiety about it; for teachers are always as anxious that their pupils should succeed will in their publick exhibitions as the pupils themselves, and consequently are always careful not to sum them too hard, or expose them; and so others say also. There cannot therefore be in reality any cause for so much alarm; particularly as you entered the class so late in the term you cannot be expected to be so well versed and prompt as those that entered earlier. There is one reflection (?) however that should console you, under every difficulty in which you may find yourself, namely, the conscientious discharge of your engagements and duties to the best of your abilities. This done, nothing more can or will your teachers, or anyone else expect or require of you. They must and will see your anxiety and determination to accomplish all in your power, and will rightly appreciate your exertions, and feel, and act towards you accordingly. There is no doubt your late entrance in the class causes you more difficulty in keeping up with it; but then, if you can keep up, though it be but rather badly for the present – it shows your entire ability, under equal circumstances, to do so well; and should teach you that after the first term, when you will start even, your difficulties in this respect will be over; and though you work under disadvantages now, your extra exertions will be repaid by this advance in your class; without which perhaps you might not be able to graduate. Perhaps you have over taxed yourselves in the number of the branches you are studying. If so can't you drop some of them for the present and take them up again in the next term without throwing yourselves back? But all just as you like best. I am satisfied now, that your situation at Burlington, under the most favorable circumstances, must be trying to your feelings, and am therefore perfectly willing, indeed desirous, that you should pursue just that course of study most agreeable to you, and under which you may be most happy; being perfectly sure within myself that you will spend your time to the best advantage. I think you ought to talk to some one of your teachers, and open your sensibilities to them. Let them know your diffidence, and consequent embarrassments. The one could communicate to the others for you, and so be enabled to make such allowances for you as might be necessary. I can see no impropriety in such a course. Indeed I think a respectful freedom between pupil and teacher, not only admissible, but very necessary, as the sure and proper correction in many cases of such evils and difficulties.

In relation to your intercourse with the girls generally, I can only say that you must not expect too much cordially from them. They are I suppose mostly from the states north of you, and the further you go north you know the more cold and calculating the people; but be fair, easy, and independent yourselves; and thus let them see, and make them understand the influences of a more congenial climate upon your tempers and dispositions. Above all keep close to your Heavenly Father as your only sure help and guide in all your trials and troubles.

You speak of railroad trips and steam boat voyages during your vacation. I certainly can have no objections to any innocent amusement at any time; but allow me to guard you agst. running into danger; excesses, or indiscretions of any kind. I understand that Mrs. Stonestreet will go on in the vacation to see her daughter, and intends taking her and Miss. Harris to New York. Should you finally determine to take the trip you speak of you had better get your Aunt Ann, if you can, to go with you, and go along at the time Mrs. Stonestreet goes. Inclosed I send you ten dollars – five for yourself and five for Nanny, as from your letter, you two are in want.

I want you to write again between the receipt of this and your examination, if you can, and let me know how you are geting on; what bills you have made, if any; and what amt. of money it will be necessary for me to send on independent of the hundred and thirty five dollars to be paid in the school for the next term. Walter Mitchell talks of coming on to see you all and his brother the first of next month and I wish to send it on by him, should he do so. Tell Cate I have just received her letter and will endeavor to answer it next week. I wish very much to come on myself to see you all some time towards the latter part of October, and shall certainly do so if I can; but you must by no means expect me, or be disappointed if I do not, as you know it is very difficult for me to get from home for so long a trip. Our trust and help for all things must be in the Lord and my Dear children so let Him be thine. I write in haste (?)

Sincerely yours,
W.H.Briscoe

[postscript] My dear Mag- Your mother suggests the idea since reading my letter to you that you might think from what I have said about your pleasure trip with Mrs. Stonestreet I intended you should go any how even it were upon your own expenses and I put in this little bill to correct such an impression for really money is too scarcer with me to spend in traveling unnecessarily however gratifying such trips might be. I only intended to convey the idea that it might be better and more agreeable to you to go along at that time could you get Capt. Shippen to arrange his promise to suit that time. You must be careful of yourselves during the vacation or wherever you may be. There is another thing I must guard you against. It is that in future you write nothing upon newspapers or pamphlets sent in the mail however trifling as there is a heavy fine of all such things if found out which might ruin both me and yourselves. So remember and be careful. I think you were apprised of this before you left home but have I suppose forgotten it. Lastly let me pray you and Cate that you do not longer make yourself unhappy about your studies. For at the worst if you cannot graduate it it ought not kill you. Have courage and confidence in yourselves. Yours W. H. B.

Envelope Postmarked Leonardtown, Maryland September 9th and addressed to Miss Margaret A. Briscoe, St. Mary's Hall, Burlington, N Jersey

Notes:

1. Mr. Claxton a family friend. Not yet identified.
2. Note WHB's views on northerners.
3. Mrs. Stonestreet is probably the mother of Jane B. Stonestreet from Port Tobacco, Charles County who graduated from St. Mary's Hall in 1850 and Maria L. Stonestreet who was a student there at some point. Either of these girls could have been at the school in 1845-6.
4. Aunt Ann presumably lived near St. Mary's Hall, but perhaps as far away as Philadelphia. Not yet identified.
5. It seems that the tuition for each semester that year was \$135.
6. There was a Mitchell family living in Burlington, one of whom was Walter Mitchell's brother. See note 1 for the letter of July 10, 1845.

7. Capt. Shippen. Not yet identified.

Saturday November the 17th 1845

My Dear Child

On Tuesday the eleventh I welcomed your Father home with a great deal of joy, and on the following Friday I received your affectionate letter. It is very grateful my dear Child to the hearts of your parents that you think of home with so much affection but I hope you will not let it interfere with your studies, five months will soon pass by particularly the short days of winter and you will be with us at your happy ^{home} which I hope you will never wish to leave any more. I had quite a trying time while your Father was gone the children were so sick little Abby was very sick but she is now better than she has been for two months. Fanny and Samuel's health is quite bad they both look badly. I am fearful they will be sick off and on all winter. Little Davy and Sally ~~two~~ have the ague and fever. Chap has got perfectly well, your Aunt's room looks like a hospital sometimes, all three of the children sick at once. Fanny was quite disappointed you did not send her some music but when I received your letter she appeared quite satisfied. I like the drops you sent very much it is the article I wanted but I did not know the name of it so I thought I would send for cashmere expecting it had become cheaper but your Aunt Lydia found it so dear in Baltimore that her and Lydia bought silk dresses in preference. Lydia has come home elegantly dressed with a fine silk bonnet and plumbeous muslin shawl and silk dress of different colours full of buttons and pings. Your Aunt is in the cellar working butter she calls to

me just now and says tell her I wish she was at home
to do it I expect you had rather eat some of it if you
were here. That work it for you know it not very easy
work in winter I wish I could get a pot to sister for we
make a great deal for this time a year. but I suppose it
is an impossibility. Give my best love to her and tell her I am
much obliged to her for shopping for me, that I like every thing
she sent very much. tell her I shall look forward with
a great deal of pleasure to see her and Brother Joseph
this winter at Sutterly and if they do not come this winter
I hope they will come home with you next spring.
Poor Sue I feel truly sorry for her. To think she repents her bargain
already is an awful warning to all who would follow her
example. My Josephine Davis and I Franklin were
married on the fifth your Aunt and step Mary went
with Lydia Hyde to the wedding and your Aunt Lydia
came over and staid with me. it was a very small
company and a plain wedding and she went home
on Saturday with the I to his farm on west river
your Aunt says she never utters so plain a passion
in her life every one appeared affected in the room the
tears trickled down her poor old Fathers cheeks it is
his last child he has to give away it must have been
very trying to his feelings. Your Father brought
your Cousin Betsey Tolson home with him I expect
she will spend the winter with us she says I must give
her love to you and Helen Able was here on Saturday
with Catharine she also desires to be remembered to you
your Cousin Alice and Len have determined to move
to Charles on a farm he has bought of Mr Hammet

I expect they will be off in a week or two and that
Mr Thomas has sold Kingston to a gentleman in
Calvert and intends living in Leonard Town.

My dear Aunt sends her love to you and says she read
your letter and bids me tell you she hopes you will
come home with something higher than the honours
of the school upon you that you must not forget
the main object ~~is~~ ^{is} pending ~~you~~ ^{you} ~~there~~ ^{there}

I must now bid you ^{adieu} my Dear child
having written you all my poor heart can muster
with my love to all the girls and a mother's love
for yourself

E W Briscoe

They both
all yours

Emeline W. Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe

Sotterly November the 17th 1845

My Dear Child,

On Tuesday the eleventh I welcomed your Father home with a great deal of joy, and on the following Friday I received your affectionate letter. It is very grateful my dear child to the heart of your parents that you think of home with so much affection but I hope that you will not let it interfere with your studies, five months will soon role by particularly the short days of winter and you will be with us at your happy home, which I hope you will not wish to leave anymore. I had quite and trying time while your Father was gone the children were so sick little Addy was very sick but she is now better than she has been for two months. Jinny and Samuel's health is quite bad they both look badly I feel they will be sick on and off all winter. Lit tle Davy and Sally too have the ague and fever. Chap has got perfectly well, your Aunt's room looks like a hospital sometimes, all three of the children sick at once. Jinny was quite disappointed you didn't send her some music but when I received your letters she appeared quite satisfied. I like the drapes you sent very much it is the article I wanted but I did not know the name of it so I thought I would send for cashmere expecting it had become cheaper but your Aunt Lydia found it so dear in Baltimore that her and Lydia bought silk dresses in preference. Lydia has come home elegantly draped with a fine silk bonnet and plumes, merino shawl and silk dress of different coulours, full of buttons and fringe. Your Aunt is in the cellar working button [mutton ?] she called to me just now and says tell her I wish she was at home to do it. I expect you had rather eat some of it, if you were here. For you know it not very easy work in winter. I wish I could get a pot to Sister for we make a great deal for this time a year, but I suppose it is an impossibility. Give my best love to her and tell her I am much obliged to her for shopping for me and that I like everything she has sent very much tell her I shall look forward very much to see her and brother Joseph this winter at Sotterly and if they don't come home this winter, I hope they come home with you next spring. Poor Sue I feel truly sorry for her. To think she repents her bargain already is an awful warning to all who would follow her example. Miss Josephine Harris and Doctor Franklin were married on the fifth your Aunt and Miss. Mary went with Lydia to the wedding and your Aunt Lydia came over and staid with me. It was a very small company and a plain wedding and she went home on Saturday with the Dr. to his farm on West river. Your aunt said she never witness so solemn (?) a ceremony in her life everyone appeared affected in the room the tears trickled down her poor old Father's cheeks it is his last child he had to give away it must have been very trying towards his feelings. Your Father brought your cousin Betsy Tolson home with him I expect she will spend the winter with us she says I must give her love to you. and Celia Able was here on Saturday with Catharine she also desires to be remembered to you. Your cousin Alex and Lin have determined to move to Charles on a farm he has bought of Mr. Hammet. I expect they will be off in a week or two and old Mr. Thomas has sold Kingston to a gentlemen in Calvert and intends on living in Leonard Town. Your Aunt send her love to you and says she read your letter and bids me tell you she hopes you come home with something higher than the honour of the school upon you that you must not forget the main object in sending you there.

I must now bid you adieu my dear child having written you all my poor head can muster with my love to all the girls and a mother's love for yourself

E W Briscoe

Notes:

1. November was a month of vacation at St. Mary's Hall.

2. Walter has returned from a trip. The next letter indicates that he did visit Margaret in November as he has planned to do.
3. Ague was a term used at the time for a condition involving shivering, fits and fever.
4. An aunt has a room in the house. This may be Walter's sister-in-law, Elizabeth Mitchell Briscoe, the wife of his older brother William Dent Briscoe. It is possible that Elizabeth, along with daughters Cate and Nan, had come to live at Sotterley after William's death.
5. Who is the Lydia who accompanied Aunt Lydia to Baltimore? Her daughter? Not yet identified.
6. Merino is a fine quality wool.
7. Who is the "sister" she mentions who lives near Burlington? It was not previously known that Emeline had any siblings. Not yet identified
8. Sue and her regretted bargain? Not yet identified.
9. Josephine Harris marries Dr. Franklin. Dr. Franklin has a home on West River, presumably in Annapolis. Not yet identified.
10. Cousin Betsy Tolson must be close to the family as she is to spend the winter at Sotterley. Not yet identified.
11. Celia Able and Catharine. Not yet identified.
12. Cousin Alex and Lin who are moving to Charles County. Not yet identified.
13. Old Mr. Thomas, who owned Kingston. Not yet identified. There was a Kingston estate not far from Sotterley.

Saturday Dec. 8th 1845

My Dear Daughter

After the lapse of a month, which has intervened since I parted with you last, I can scarcely find time to write you, though I have much desired it since since the first week of my return home — on my arrival at home I found much, very much, to be done before the close of the year — the breaking up of my farm in Charles, and the establishing another near Leonard town in its stead — the putting up of quarters &c. with attention to other things have taken me much from home, and I occupied almost my moment of my time; now have I got through it, close as Christmas is running up on us. — This very morning I should have started for Port Tobacco again for the purpose of making a finish, if possible, in Charles for the winter, but rain and snow has stoped me for the present, and they confine pretty much to the house today by the weather I take advantage of it to let you hear from us —

I received your letter of the 30th of Nov. and was very much gratified, I assure you, to find that you had realized a satisfactory change in your state of mind, and that you were pursuing your studies with contentment and satisfaction in all particulars — I hope you will also realize a reasonable amount at least of benefit therefrom and so find cause still further to congratulate yourself upon the triumph of your better judgment in the

determination you formed and kept to remain at your post; and fit yourself as far as possible within your allotted time for future usefulness in life, and satisfaction to yourself and friends. — I know that your feelings of love and attachment to your family are strong, and in this, far be it from me to think or say that you are in fault. Nay, be assured that it is rather a source of high gratification to us all to know and think that your attachment to us is such as would lead you to be with us. — But constituted as we are, with the temptations and allurements of the world around us, the strivings of duty must, and will, often be opposed by the leanings of our affections. — But duty first. — Let duty and justice (both to Heaven and Earth) be your motto, and your highest aim. Study it in its highest shades, and its various bearings and it must and will vastly lighten all other cares and trials. — I hope you may continue to enjoy, through the blessing of your school term and absence from home, perfect health and happiness, and that your Heavenly Father will, through the influence of His Holy Spirit, and the aid of your teachers, enable you so to advance in spiritual experience and temporal knowledge as to fit you for the rational enjoyment of life and usefulness in the world; and that He, in His good Providence, will be pleased to return you in due time and in safety to the fond embraces, and ~~dearest~~ endearments of your family, friends, and home. But of this desirable result I do not feel confident. I think of it with the same uncertainty that we should look to all other events of futurity as entirely dependent upon the Divine wisdom, will, and pleasure of the Deity whose decrees we know nothing of until their fulfilment open them to our view. — But rather pray to Him continually to have mercy upon you — to do with you as He sees best for your future glory and rest, and to give you grace and faith to be therewith content. —

I am very much gratified to learn from your letter that your girls are now receiving from your teachers that kind attention and interest that should be felt and extended at all times under similar circumstances by and from teacher to pupil, and which is so beautifully set forth, and strongly inculcated, as the duty of the fraternity of St. Mary's Hall, by your Bishop in his last address to the Senior Class. Let me advise you to read it again & again. It will teach you a lesson of your own duty as well as theirs.

Now, my Dear Daughter having somewhat admonished you of the expense of your duty to your God, I should like to be your first and lastest care, and congratulate you upon the satisfactory prosecution of your scholastic duties, allow me to say a word or two to you upon the subject of your person, health and manners. - These are to be seen of the eye and should receive some care and attention. - permit me then in the first place to advise you to guard your health with all reason and prudent care, particularly in relation to colds, which you know you are very subject to; and buy this in a more northern climate than you have hitherto been accustomed to will require you to be still more observant and careful. - Your person and manners should also share your care and improvement. - you have gone from home not for improvement in one particular alone, but in all aspects, and should therefore there be no improvement in the appearance, dress, and manners the public eye is disappointed both in the individual and school. - Try therefore for a straight erect person, a beautiful complexion, a dignified walk, and easy graceful manners - affectionate feelings your already possessors. - These with a good share of school improvement, and Christian advancement; which though last named here is by no means the least in importance, will make you beloved, admired, and respected by all. - And this is intended for Father and Man as well as yourself. The children are better. - They occasionally have chills & fever some of them, and so it will be I ^{suppose} through the winter.

I shall I hope be able to write again before very long and I
 will then give you an answer to your request about the bracelet. I expect
 however you would want your friends for other purposes - give my love to
 the girls and tell them I should be pleased to hear from them. I
 should give her your love's family give our best love to them and I see
 your friends I shall expect him to perform his promise. —
 All desire to be remembered to you - Little Sally often talks
 about sister - Miss Margaret Ann - Miss Kate and Miss
 Harry and wants to know when I am going to buy them
 home. — I hope to see you again Richard and I find when
 you are there. —

Yrs. sincerely

1844.10.

Paid

Miss Margaret A. Bacon

St. Mary's Hall

Burlington

Ms. Gregory



Walter Hanson Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe

Sotterly Decr. 8th, 1845

My Dear Daughter,

After the lapse of a month, which has interveaned since I parted with you last, I can scarcely yet find time to write you, though I have much desired it since the first week of my return home. On my arrival at home, I found much, very much, necessary to be done before the close of the year. The breaking up of my farm in Charles, and the establishing another near Leonard Town in its stead. The putting up of quarters etc. with attention to other things have taken me much from home, and occupied almost every moment of my time; nor have I got through yet, close as Christmas is runing upon us. This very morning I should have started to Port Tobacco again for the purpose of making a finish, if possible, in Charles for the winter, but rain and snow have stoped me for the present, and being confined pretty much to the house today by the weather, I take advantage of it to let you hear from us.

I received your letter of the 20th of Nov. and was very much gratified, I assure you, to find that you had realized a satisfactory change in your state of mind, and that you were pursuing your studies with contentment and satisfaction in all particulars. I hope that you will also realize a reasonable amount at least of benefit therefrom; and so find cause still further to congratulate yourself upon the triumph of your better judgment in the determination you found and kept to remain at your post; and fit yourself as far as possible within your allotted time for future usefulness in life and satisfaction to yourself and friends. I know that your feelings and attachment to your family is strong; and in this, far be it from me to think or say you are in fault; nay, be assured that it is rather a source of higher gratification to all of us to know and think that your attachment to us is such as to lead you to be with us. But as constituted as we are the temptations and allurements of the world around us, the strivings of duty must, and will, be opposed by the leanings of our affections. But duty first. Let duty and justice (both to Heaven and Earth) be your motto, and your highest aim. Study it in its highest shades, and its various leanings (?) and it must and will vastly lighten all other cares and trials. I hope you may continue to enjoy, through the ballance of your school term and absence from home, perfect health and happiness, and that your Heavenly Father will, through the influence of the Holy Spirit, and the aid of your teachers, enable you so to advance in spiritual experience and temporal knowledge as to fit you for the rational enjoyments of life and usefulness in the world; and that He, in his good providence will be pleased to return you in due time and in safety to the fond embraces and endearments of family, friends, and home. But of this desirable result be not too confident. Think of it with the same uncertainty that we should look to all other events of futurity as entirely dependent upon the Divine wisdom, will, and pleasure of the Duty whose decrees we know nothing of until their fulfillment open them to are view. But rather pray to Him continually to have mercy upon you, to do with you as He seeth best for your future glory and rest (?) and to give you grace and faith to be therewith content.

I am very much gratified to learn from your letter that you girls are now receiving from your teachers that kind attention and interest that should be felt and extended at all times under similar circumstances by and from teacher to pupil, and which is so beautifully set forth and strongly indicated, as the duty of the fraternity of St. Mary's Hall, by your Bishop in his last address to the senior class. Let me advise you to read it again and again. It will teach you a lesson of your own duty as well as theirs.

Now my Dear Daughter, having somewhat admonished you of the exercise of your duty to your God, which should be your first and (illegible) care; and congratulated upon the satisfactory prosecution of your socialistic duties, allow me to say a word or two upon the subject of your

person; health and manners. These are to be seen of the eye and should receive some care and attention. Permit me then in the first place to advise you to guard your health with all seasonal and prudent care, particularly in relation to (missing, torn page) which you know you are very subject; and being this winter in a more northern climate than you have hitherto been accustomed to will require you to be still more observant and careful. Your person and manners should also show your care and improvement. You have gone from home not for improvement in one particular alone but in all respects, and should therefore there be no improvement in the appearance; mien and manners, the publick eye is disappointed both in the individual and the school. Try therefore for a strait erect person; a healthful complexion; a dignified walk, and easy graceful manners - affectionate feelings you already possess. These with a good share of school improvement, and Christian advancement; which though last named here is by no means the least in importance, will make you beloved; admired and respected by all. And this is intended for Cate and Nan as well as yourself.

The children are better. They occasionally have chills and fevers some of them, so it will be I expect through the winter. I shall I hope be able to write again before very long and will then give you an answer to your request about the bracelet. I expect however you would want your funds for other purposes. Give my love to the girls and tell them I should be pleased to hear from them. Should you see your aunt's family give our best love to them and tell your uncle I shall expect him to perform his promise. All desire to be remembered to you. Little Sally often talks about sister - Miss. Margaret Ann, Miss. Cate, and Miss. Nanny and wants to know when I am going to bring them home. Remember me to your cousin Richard and family when you see them.

Yours sincerely,

W. H. B.

Envelope: Postmarked Dec. 8 Leonardtown MD and addressed to Margaret A. Briscoe, St. Mary's Hall, Burlington, N. Jersey

Notes:

1. The reference to "breaking up" his farm indicates that he did own a farm in Charles County. What farm was this? Was it one he inherited on the death of his brother William? He also planned to "establish" a farm in its place near Leonardtown. It was not previously documented that he owned a farm in Charles or known that he planned to establish one near Leonardtown.
2. Is the reference to "quarters" and indirect reference to his owning slaves? If so, it is one of the rare references to slaves in Walter's letters.
3. Another mention of an Aunt and Uncle near Burlington. Not yet identified.
4. Cousin Richard and his family near Burlington. Not yet identified.

Saturday January 12th - 1846

My Dear Daughter

For some time back I have wished for a spare moment when I might sit myself down to answer your two last letters to me but so far have not been able to do so to my satisfaction and I now take up my pen only to relieve your Mother (who is sitting by me darning stockings with all her heart by candle light) in the answer she has to make to your request about an under garment and your enquiry about your bonnet. She bids me tell you that should the opportunity offer which you speak of you shall have that article of dress but the opportunity we do not look for and therefore will say to you again as we have hitherto repeatedly done you must look to such things yourself with the assistance and advice of your Aunt. As to your bonnet your Mother can say nothing except that whatever is necessary to be done with it ought to be done too enable you to appear in the street and at Church in decency and satisfaction to yourself at the same time avoiding all unnecessary expenditure of money. I should think you would at all times find a ~~very~~ ready and competent friend and adviser in your Aunt in such matters and being as if were on the spot with you she with yourself must certainly be better able to judge what is necessary for you than we can at this

distance from you. — Our desire is that you should at all times appear in all respects gentle and respectable nor shall you ever find me wanting in my efforts to render you so, or to enable you to appear so so long as I see a corresponding effort on your part. — You ought however to avoid all extravagance for extravagance is by no means necessary to neatness and gentility. — Your mother suggests the idea of your getting such a silk bonnet as will wear you through the ~~the~~ ballance of the winter and saving a good deal with care on your part and the necessary attention might answer for next winter at home. — She has seen such bought in Baltimore the last fall for from three to four dollars. — This however is a mere suggestion of hers by no means intended to be a dictation binding upon you and your Aunt's wishes and judgment. — And now I will tell you once more and I hope you will remember it and act upon it that whatever may be necessary for you at any time during the remainder of your stay at Burlington in the way of clothes or other respects you will consult with your Aunt about and act upon without delaying to write home ~~about~~. It may not perhaps be prudent or safe for you to go to the City whilst the small pox is so prevalent for the purpose of seeing your Aunt and I hope you will not run the least risk but I have no doubt if you would send for her she would gladly visit you and

sure you in any way she can and if you have
any disposition to make in the way of clothes for the
March examination you had better be in time
about it that you may not be caught as you were
in September. — Should it be so that you
cannot see your Aunt in time for your occupa-
tions why cannot you make a friend of Mrs
Bishop or Miss Lane to advise with and assist
you in such matters. — your Mother and myself
would feel deeply grateful to them and I cannot
but believe it would afford either of them pleasure
themselves to serve you. — There need be no fear that
your bills will not be paid. — I hope you will be
as careful and as economical as possible and
without appearing as you say mean for meanings I
detest but carefulness & economy are entirely different
from meanings. for economy and liberality often go to-
gether. And thus acting you will always find some-
body the Lord being my Helper to settle what-
ever liabilities you may necessarily incur. —
Should you however want money to settle bills before
I come you can let me know. — We are all
as well as usual though under some apprehension
about the small pox as there are some cases in the
County. — Do be careful about it yourself. —
Respectfully to Mrs Bishop and I send
of your Teachers as I became acquainted with her
on last fall. — Our love to you all. — I will call
to Harry I have not received a letter from him yet. —
Yours truly W. B. Bacon

I have been thinking of you a great deal lately
and wondering how you are getting on.
I hope you are well and happy.
I have been very busy lately but I
will try to write to you more often.

I have been thinking of you a great deal lately
and wondering how you are getting on.
I hope you are well and happy.
I have been very busy lately but I
will try to write to you more often.



Mary and B. Waller
Mary Waller
B. Waller

I can give you the best of news.
I am well and happy and hope you are the same.
I have been very busy lately but I
will try to write to you more often.

Walter Hanson Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe

Sotterly January 12th 1846

My Dear Daughter,

For some time back I have wished for a spare moment where in I might sit myself down and answer your two last letters to me but so far have not been able to do so to my satisfaction and I now take up my pen only to relieve your mother (who is sitting by me darning stockings with all her haste (?) by candle light) in the answer she has to make to your request about an undergarment and your inquiry about your bonnet. She bids me tell you that should the opportunity offer which you speak of you should have that article of dress but the opportunity we do not look for and therefore will say to you again as we have hitherto repeatedly done you must look to such things yourselves with the assistance and the advice from your aunt. As to your bonnet your mother can say nothing except whatever is necessary to be done with it ought to be done to enable you to appear in the street and at Church in decency and with satisfaction to yourselves at the same time avoiding all unnecessary expenditure of money. I should think you would at all times find a ready and competent friend and advisor in your Aunt in such matters and being as it were on the spot with you she with yourself must certainly be better able to judge what is necessary for you better than we can at this distance from you. Our desire is that you should at all times appear in all respects genteel and respectable nor should you ever find me wanting in my efforts to render you so as to enable you to appear so as I see a corresponding effort on your part. You ought however to avoid all extravagance for extravagance is by no means necessary to neatness and gentility. Your mother suggests the idea of your getting such a silk bonnet as will ware you through the ballance of the winter and spring and which with care on your part and the necessary attention might answer for next winter at home. She has seen such bought in Baltimore the last fall from three to four dollars. This however is a mere suggestion of hers by no means intended to be a dictation bidding upon your and your Aunt's wishes and judgment. And now I will tell you once more and I hope you will remember it and act upon it that whatever may be necessary for you during the remainder of your stay at Burlington in the way of clothes or other respects you will consult with your aunt about and act upon without delaying to write home. It may not perhaps be prudent or safe for you to go to the city whilst the small pox is so prevalent for the purpose of seeing your Aunt and I hope you will not run the least risk but I have no doubt that if you would send for her she would readily visit you and serve you in any way she can and if you have any preparation to make in the way of clothes for the March examination you have better be in time about it that you may not be caught as you were in September. Should it be so that you cannot see your Aunt in time for your necessities why cannot you make a friend of Mrs. Bishop or Miss. Lane (?) to advise with and assist you in such matters. Your mother and myself would feel deeply gratified to them and I cannot but believe it would afford either of them pleasure thus to serve you. There need be no fear that your bills will not be paid. I hope you will be as careful and as economical as possible without appearing as you say mean for meanness I detest but carefulness and economy are entirely different from meanness. for economy and liberality often go together. And thus acting you will always find me ready, the Lord being my helper, to settle whatever liabilities you may necessarily incur. Should you however need money to settle bills before I come you can let me know.

We are all as well as usually though under some apprehension about the small pox as there are some cases in the County. Do be careful about it yourself. Present me respectfully to Mrs. Bishop and such of your teachers as I become acquainted with when on last fall. Our love to you all. Till Cath. & Nanny. I have not received a letter from them yet.

Yours truly W. H. Briscoe

Envelope: Postmarked: Leonardtown Jan 13 and addressed to Miss Margaret A. Briscoe, St. Mary's Hall, Burlington N. Jersey

Notes:

1. The aunt who is mentioned is living in the "city," probably Philadelphia, rather than Burlington.
2. Mrs. Bishop, living near St. Mary's Hall. Not yet identified.
3. Miss Lane (or Sane), living near St. Mary's Hall. Not yet identified.

Saturday February 17th 1846

My Dear Daughter

Since I last wrote we have received several letters from you, the last of which is dated the 6th of this month, and I will now endeavor to give such of them as it is most necessary to answer, the notice they have to receive. I say such of them as are the most necessary to be answered, because I fear I shall hardly find the time necessary for that before our next meeting, which occupies with, and often calls away to the back side of, the sick. We have of late been sorely tried with sickness in the family. Though the whole fall and winter has for some time or more of the children have been almost constantly sick, though somewhat better the last three weeks than sickness has been comparatively light, but since that time six of them have been down most of the week, and some nearly unto death, indeed one, trusting I need not say last it was thought Chapman caused not properly, but he was attacked one Monday with erysipelas, and was for two days & nights following without the smallest prospect of recovery, suffering the whole time the greatest agony. The good Lord however has seen fit to restore him to health, and will I hope soon place him on his feet again. Jane and Bessie have not had one clothes off for the last week or two days, and Henry and Chapman still lie as before as to us with them at night, little Jerry is also still very feeble, and John very well. Little Dan, Sally, & Addie are the others that were last sick. I hope the Lord will give us strength and patience to bear all our trials with resignation and submission, and so with us and upon us to an unending season. I need not take up the

last item of your last letter, as the subject of the greatest importance
and therefore demanding our first attention; but, your information,
and although I do not know that I can add any thing new to this
instruction given you and the opinions expressed to you before you
left home, yet as you have opened your mind to me and asked
my further advice upon this subject I will endeavor to serve to you
some of the reasons why spiritual matters should not be neglected
or deferred to get them the period at which they are most
urgently and personally responsible, and I am particularly after we
have been made of an responsibility. First then, our ~~contending~~
~~contending~~ is at stake, and as our spiritual interests are
as much alone on temporal, as the Heavens are above
the Earth so right or wrong for that interest, for he
who is in the world is in the world, and as in the midst of life
we are in death, and thus we see wrapped around us every day the
most mortal enemies which we have, and we may be cut off so right
as to look only to the present time of each day, and as
so the only time of preparation for the great change that is to take
us from here to eternity. And how can we prepare for
the afterlife, not by following the commands of our Lord
then what has He commanded us to do that we may be
saved? Has He not commanded us to observe His Sa-
crament, and finally of His displeasure. How then
can we neglect or despise them with safety? Look to
it my dear Daughter, and be early persuaded and sa-
tisfied. I am sure you know our anxiety for
you chiefly in this respect, yet do not let your grief
you out to be influenced in so important a matter
by the few wishes or suggestions of us your earthly friends,
but let the word command you. Here alone we have
right for us in spiritual things, and I am personally
and fully responsible to you. Here only I have for the
disposition and improvement of the time and opportunity
He may grant you here to prepare for the hereafter.
So here and here alone you must stand or fall.
So render you a list subject for the Holy Communion. You
should in the first place be fully persuaded in your
mind of the necessity of obeying the invitation of the Lord in the
Bible, and in the second that you will do much more to Him.

a faithful disciple of the Lord Jesus - you should also
be and believe in your Father's will and in the
sufferings of the disciples of the Lord. Why to assist and assist
you and your Christian friends - you should look at you
and at his sufferings and sufferings for your Father, the
most precious blood of the Lord Jesus - these sufferings - these
of which like fatherly affection - to assist yourself and your
Lord in the future - to assist of the blood of Christ
have life and if you can realize the state of your state
of heart and then I think you will be satisfied. But
you should do your God, then and you will be satisfied. And
continually be in prayer - that assistance for
you support that all who have a conscience in your Father
will be in need of and you will not be disappointed. -
Nothing that I have said and want you to continue into the belief
that I want you to be long and perfect upon the thoughts con-
nection of your own mind of its propriety in your case and from
a conscientious belief that it is your duty and after all should you
feel timid about it in consequence of not having such friends
to counsel you as you can confide in, you had better perhaps
defer it until you return home, should it please the Lord to
spare you so long. I sincerely hope however should you do the
that you will return with you mind fully made up to
believe more carefully and embrace the first opportunity and not
yourself to your God by an open acknowledgment of your
your deceptions - Let them do what they may in the
you should do what you believe and feel to be right and
of this seems and action. - I enclosed I send you letters
and will send you more in my next if you want it. -
Let me know immediately I do not like to send you a
time that it may be lost - you must keep me regularly
advised from this time to the end of your term of each and
my bills you make that I shall have to pay when you have
that I may provide the money to pay them as it do not want you
to have without billing. If you bill me I will again answer
you to have in readiness any thing you will want to buy home
with you in the way of clothes so as I shall (if I can for go-
stake) have but little time to stop. - With regard to your
allowance your Mother and I both think you had better not
have other made in Philadelphia. In the first place I do
not know that I shall have the money to spare at that time for

in the time I may need to be less troublesome and expensive to get home.
 I now for I shall not be able to say for the want of money, as I had
 and intended to say and must therefore defer the balance for another time
 and I think it will be quite possible at my next leaving
 assured I have been in good luck in the first I have written since I moved
 here and I am now finishing this letter in the hour of five and half in
 the morning whilst sitting up with Henry and Chas. I should like
 you to let me know whether Henry wishes to spend his April vacation
 with his friends here. It is almost sure to be necessary for him to come in
 the first of the vacation. If not there will be no need for you and I Cater
 to be in a hurry about it particularly as it may be out of my power
 to meet you any early in April. In your most grateful thanks
 and love to all friends in Phila. when you see them. I am with a
 affectionate salute to the girls & Cousin Richard's family and for me the
 and present my respects to each of you. I am as ever your truly
 devoted friend and I am certain to be in your house for a few months. I
 am your affectionate friend
 Wm. Brewster

Dec 10
 1852
 Miss Margaret W. Brewster
 St. Mary's Hall
 Duckington
 W. Virginia



Walter Hanson Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe

Sotterly February 17th 1846

My dear daughter,

Since I last wrote we have received several letters from you the last of which is dated the 5th of this month and I will now endeavor to give such of them, as it is most necessary to answer, the notice they seem to require. I say such of them as are the most necessary to be answered, because I fear I should hardly find the time necessary for that before our next mail; being much occupied with, and often called away to the bedside of, the sick. We have of late been sorely tried with sickness in the family. Though the whole fall and winter so far, one or more of the children have been almost constantly sick, though until within the last three weeks their sickness has been comparatively light but since that time six of them have been down, most of them ill, and some right unto death; indeed on tuesday and wednesday last it was thought Chapman could not possibly live. He was attacked on Monday with congestive fever, and was for two days & nights following without the smallest prospect of recovery, suffering the whole time the greatest agony. The good Lord however has seen fit to restore him in part, and will I hope soon place him on his feet again. Your aunt and myself have not had our clothes off for the last week or ten days, and Henry and Chapman still still require us to up with them at night. Little Jenny is still very feeble and far from being well. Little Dave, Sally and Addy are the others that were last sick. I hope the Lord will give us strength and patience to bear all our trials with resignation and submission and so work in and upon us to our everlasting good.

I will now take up the last item of your last letter, as the subject of the greatest importance and therefore demanding our first attention; towit, your confirmation, and although I do not know that I can add anything new to the instructions given you and the opinions expressed to you before you left home, yet, as you have opened your mind to me and asked my further advice upon this subject I will endeavor to renew to you some of the reasons why spiritual matters should not be neglected or deferred longer than the period at which our age brings us individually and personally responsible; and more particularly after we become sensible of our responsibility. First then, our everlasting salvation is at stake; and as our spiritual interests are as much above our temporal as the Heavens are above the Earth so ought our care for that interest to be above all other considerations; and as in the midst of life we are in death (and this we see verified around us every day) we know not when, where, or how soon we may be cut off, so ought we to look only to the present time of each day allowed us as the only time of preparation for the great change that is to take us from time to Eternity. And how can this preparation be effected in us but by following the commands of our Lord. Then what has He commanded us to do that we may be saved. Has He not commanded us to observe His Sacraments under penalty of His displeasure. How then can any neglect or discard them with safety. Look to it My Dear Daughter and be easily persuaded and satisfied in your own mind. You know our anxiety for your safety in this respect, yet do not I pray you suffer yourself to be influenced in so important a matter by the fears, wishes, or anxiety of us your best earthly friends, or all the world combined. You are now at an age to know right from wrong in spiritual things, and are consequently alone responsible to your Heavenly Father for the disposition and improvement of the time and opportunity He may grant you here to prepare for the hereafter. To Him and Him alone you must stand or fall. To render you a fit subject for the Holy Communion you should in the first place be fully persuaded in your own mind of the necessity of obeying the injunction of the Lord in relation thereto, and in the second that you really and sincerely desire to become a faith full disciple of the Lord Jesus. You should also feel and believe in your own entire unworthiness; but in the sufficiency and willingness of the Almighty to assist and sustain you in your Christian walk. You should look at your Lord in His humiliation and

sufferings for you with the rest of Mankind and love Him for these sufferings. These and such like feelings & affections towards yourself and your Lord are the fundamental requisites my Dear child of a Christian life, and if you can realize this to be your state of heart and mind I think you need not fear but go boldly to your God, throw yourself upon Him and continually beg in prayer to Him that assistance for your support that all who have a conscience feel themselves in need of and you will not be disappointed. Nothing that I have said do I wish you to construe into the belief that I wish you to be confirmed except upon the thorough conviction of your own mind of its propriety in your case, and from a conscientious belief that it is your duty; and after all should you feel timid about it in consequence of not having such friends to council you as you confide in, you had better perhaps defer it until you return home, should it please the Lord to spare you so long. I sincerely hope however should you do this that you will return with your mind fully made up to examine the subject more carefully and embrace the first opportunity (missing, page torn) yourself to your God by an open acknowledgement & (missing) your discipleship. Let others do what they may in (missing) you should do what you believe and feel to be right irrespective (?) of their views and actions. Inclosed I send you (missing) and will send you more in my next if you want it. let me know immediately. I do not like to send money (?) at a time lest it may be lost. you must keep me regularly advised from this time to the end of your term of each and every bill you make that I shall have to pay when you leave that I may provide the means to pay them as I do not wish you to leave without settling up in full. I will again admonish you to have in readiness every thing you will want to bring home with you in the way of clothes etc. as I shall (if I come for you at all) have but little time to stop. With regard to your ottomons (?) your mother and I both think you had better not have them made in Philadelphia. In the first place I do not know that I shall have the money to spare at that time to pay for them, in the second, they can be done as well in Baltimore, in the third they will be less troublesome and expensive to get home. I now find I shall not be able to say, for the want of room all I had and intended to say and I must therefore defer the ballance for another time and sheet. Tell Cate she must not grumble at my not having answered her letter as yet. This is the first I have written since I received hers and I am now finishing this between the hours of five and six in the morning whilst sitting up with Henry and Chap. I should like you to let me know whether Nanny wishes to spend her April vacation with her friends here. If she does it will be necessary for her to come on the first of the vacation. If not there will be no need for you and Cate to be in a hurry about it, particularly as it may be out of my power to meet you very early in April. Give our most grateful thanks and love to all friends in Phila. when you see them. Remember us affectionately to the girls and the cousins Richard's family when you see them and present my respects to such of your teachers as you may think worthy. Write soon and be certain to let me hear from you upon those matters that I have asked information on.

Yours sincerely W.H.Briscoe

Envelope: Postmarked: February 17th Leonardtown, MD and addressed: Miss Margaret A. Briscoe, St. Mary's Hall, Burlington, N. Jersey

Notes: none

Sotterly
Thursday March 5th 1846

My Dear Daughter

Both your letters upon the subject of Nanny
illness were received, which has caused us much uneasiness,
and not having received any last news from her we still
feel very solicitous about her - your last letter, dated the
20th of the month, did not reach us until last Friday the 27,
just a week after it was written; and consequently there
must have been a considerable change for better or
worse before the letter came to hand. - Since then the
weather has been such as to stop all going out or coming
in; it having snowed; hailed; rained, and blown alter-
nately from the beginning of Friday night until Mond-
-night. - I rather suppose it has stopped all travelling
even to the mail. - At all events we have not been able
to move out as yet except for the most urgent purposes.
I should have written to you by the Tuesday's mail had the
travelling been such as to have enabled me to send to the
post-office, which I was very anxious to do; hoping to hear
from Nanny again. - We hope sincerely however that her
disorder has long since yielded, and that she is now much
better, and will soon be well. - We have felt quite easy
on the score of the attentions and nursing necessary for Nanny
knowing that she was surrounded by her relations, and
fully confident that, independent of that, that she would
receive my handings and attentive nursing. - I would much
rather have liked to be with her had it been possible to
afford her any help or consolation in my power. - It was
the fact of your being near and convenient to kind relations
and friends that induced me, in part, to consent to
place you at the Buntingtown School; and so far on that
score, I have had no cause, so far as I know, to regret.

the choice — I shall embrace the earliest period at which there may be a fair chance (which I hope will be tomorrow) to get a letter to send to the office again when I trust we shall receive better news from you. —

Beckings still follows us at home, and though I do not say it in the way of complaint, yet may I not say we have been pretty well tried since last spring. — Since Henry's spell at Charlott Hall last May, whilst I was away with you, I do think there has been a week passed over us without Beckings among the children in some shape or other. — Chapman is still on his back, his amendment very slow indeed, so severe was his attack. — Henry and Jimmy not yet entirely recovered. — Samuel and Jimmy just out of bed again, and the rest (David Sally and Addy) frequently more or less unwell in some way or other. — This with occasional sickness among the servants, of which we have some at this time, would seem to indicate the impossibility of my ever leaving home for more than a day or two at a time, and yet how we must great cause to praise and thank the Lord for His mercy in granting us, the older ones, health and strength to watch over them and nurse them, and in sparing them from the grave. — May He in His kind mercy continue to watch over all of you for good during the balance of absence from us; and though He has in His wisdom seen fit to afflict one of you with sore sickness, yet that He in His good time will restore her to health again; and finally return you to the bosom of your homes in that health and happiness that will enable you to realize, to the fullest extent, the pleasure and enjoyment you seem so warmly to anticipate, all is the sincere and ardent prayer of your unworthy Father. — You see from this above statement of the continued state of the family what little prospect there is of my being able to come for you; yet it is my wish, and I will endeavour to do so; still, you must if you can be prepared with some else if you can. — I will as far as I can make arrangements

here by writing to Walter Mitchell &c so as to be
upon a certainty from one source or another. - I wish
you to continue to write my week if you can and
keep me apprised of all circumstances in relation
to yourself. - I perhaps may send you some money
in the next letter I write so as to enable you
to settle all your bills at School before you leave
I must know the amt. of Catharine's & Mary's bills
as well as your own, Doctor's and all. -

In your letter of the 20th of November you say you wish
to have a bracelet made of our hair, if it meet with
our approbation, and ask the expression of our opinion
in relation thereto, which is to decide the matter with
you. - the time has been so long since the request was
made that I suppose you have long since thought I did
not intend to reply to it at all, but such is not the
fact, and I will defer it no longer, and had I believed it
a matter of any very great importance I would not have
deferred it so long. - you have asked and no doubt wish
and expect our opinion to be candidly given; and
this effect, that although we highly approve and approve
the feeling of submission love and attachment to your parents
and Aunt Helen portrayed, as giving rise to the request; yet
we cannot in truth and candour give encouragement to
the means by which you propose to exemplify it, and I
cannot but believe, that when you shall have heard our
reasons, they will be perfectly satisfactory to you, and as
I have not space here to give those reasons in full you must
be content to await our meeting to receive them. - I will how-
ever say that our objection to the bracelet may not extend to some
other more appropriate and useful ornament, in which you
may be gratified when we meet, should the gracious Lord
be pleased to grant us that pleasure. -
Do not fail to remember me and all of us most kindly to
our relations & friends, Kate & Mary particularly. -

Farewell for the present. -

Your affectionate

Father

Walter Hanson Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe

Sotterley

Thursday, March 5th 1846

My Dear Daughter

Both your letters upon the subject of Nanny's illness we received, which has caused us much uneasiness, and not having accessed any last news from her we still feel very solicitous about her. Your last letter, dated the 20th of the month, did not reach us until last Friday the 27th just a week after it was written; and consequently there must have been a considerable change for the better or worse before the letter came to hand. Since then the weather has been such as to stop all going out or coming in; it having snowed; hailed; rained, and blowed alternately from the beginning of Friday night until Monday night. I rather suppose it has stoped all traveling even to the mail. At all events, we have not been able to move out as yet except for the most urgent purposes. I should have written to you by the Tuesday's mail had the travelling been such as to have enabled me to send to the post-office, which I was very anxious to do; hoping to hear from Nanny again. We hope sincerely however that her disease has long ere this yielded, and that she is now much better, and will soon be well. We have felt quite easy on the score of the attentions and nursing necessary for Nanny, knowing that she was surrounded by her relations, and feeling confident that, independent of that, that she would receive any kindness and attention necessary. I would nevertheless have liked to be with her had it been possible to afford her any help or consolation in my power. It was the fact of your being near and convenient to kind relations and friends that induced me, in part, to consent to place you at the Burlington school; and so far on that score, I have had no cause, so far as I know, to regret the choice. I shall embrace the earliest period at which there may be a fair chance (which I hope will be tomorrow) to get a letter, to send to the office again when I trust we shall receive better news from you.

Sickness still follows us at home, and though I do not say it in the way of complaint, yet may I not say we have been pretty well tried since last spring. Since Henry's spell at Charlotte Hall last May, whilst I was away with you, I do think there has been a week passed over us without sickness among the children in some shape or other. Chapman is still on his back, his amendment very slow indeed; so severe was his attack. Henry and Jimmy not yet entirely recovered. Samuel and Jimmy just out of bed again; and the rest (David, Sallie and Addy) frequently more or less unwell in some way or other. This with occasional sickness among the servants, of which we have some at this time, would seem to indicate the impossibility of my ever leaving home for more than a day or two at a time; and yet have we not great cause to praise and thank the Lord for His mercy in granting us, the older ones, health and strength to watch over them and nurse them; and in sparing them from the grave. May He in His kind mercy continue to watch over all of you for good during the ballance of absence from us; and though He has in His wisdom seen fit to afflict one of you with some sickness, yet that He in His good time will restore her to health again; and finally return you to the bosom of your home in that health and happiness that will enable you to realize, to the fullest extent, the pleasure and enjoyment you seem so warmly to anticipate is the sincere and ardent prayer of your unworthy father. You see from the above statement of the continued state of the family what little prospect there is of my being able to come for you; yet it is my wish, and I will endeavor to do so; still you must if you can be prepared with some else if you can. I will as far as I can make arrangements here by writing to Walter Mitchell as to be (?) upon a certainty from one source or another. I wish you to continue to write every week if you can and

keep me apprised of all circumstances in relation to yourselves. I perhaps may send you more money in the next letter I write so as to enable you to settle all your bills at school before you leave. I must know the amount of Catherine's and Nanny's bills as well as your own, Doctor's and all.

In your letter of the 20th of November you say you wish to have a bracelet made of our hair, if it meet with our approbation and ask the expression of our opinion in relation thereto, which is to decide the matter with you. The time has been so long since the request was made that I suppose you have long since thought I did not intend to reply to it at all; but such is not the fact and I will defer it no longer; and had I believed it a matter of any very great importance I would not have deferred it so long. You have asked and no doubt wish and expect our opinion to be candidly given and (illegible) this effect, that although we highly approve and appreciate the feeling of submissive love and attachment to your parents and Aunt therein portrayed, as giving rise to the request, yet we cannot in truth and candor give encouragement to the means by which you propose to exemplify it, and I cannot but believe that when you shall have heard our reasons, they will be perfectly satisfactory to you; and as I have not space here to give those reasons in full you must be content to await our meeting to receive them. I will however say that our objection to the bracelet may not extend to some other more appropriate and useful (illegible), in which you maybe be gratified when we meet, should the gracious Lord be pleased to grant us that pleasure.

Do not fail to remember me and all of us most kindly to our relations and friends, Cate and Nan particularly

Farewell for the present.

Your affectionate

Father

Envelope: Postmarked Leonardtown MD, Mar 6 and addressed to Miss Margaret A. Briscoe, St. Mary's Hall, Burlington, N Jersey

Notes:

1. The mention of "servants" appears to be another rare reference to the slaves Walter owned.
2. Walter's mention of paying the bills for Catharine and Nanny underlines his responsibility for them.

Lettery March the 9th 1846

My Dear Daughter

Your letter was received by us with a great deal of pleasure and we were greatly relieved from our anxiety when we heard Nannie was better. Your Father believed she would die and I know you are well aware what he felt untill she received your letter. I did not think for myself and tried to make him think with me. Believing she had every kindness and attention shown her. With youth on her side and many kind friends and relations around her. Still if the family had been in a situation to leave I believe he would have gone on to see her. I begin to fear he will not be able to go on for you. he is very anxious to do so and if he does he will be very much hurried. Chapman moves very slowly. Saturday is the first time he has attempted to get up and then only for a few moments. he has fever every night and pleurs badly and your Father is very much disturbed with him. I never saw your Father stand so much fatigue in my life and keep in such good health. Truly do I thank my Heavenly Father for keeping him in such good health for I have been no use at all to him. Little Addy is so picky that it requires all my care for her at night and the other children take your Aunt's attention for since last May we have not been clear of pickney sometimes three of the children at a time in your Aunt's room. Tell Nannie Little Addy is thought very much like her she is the whitest little creature I ever saw. All the children are up an about at present and sincerely

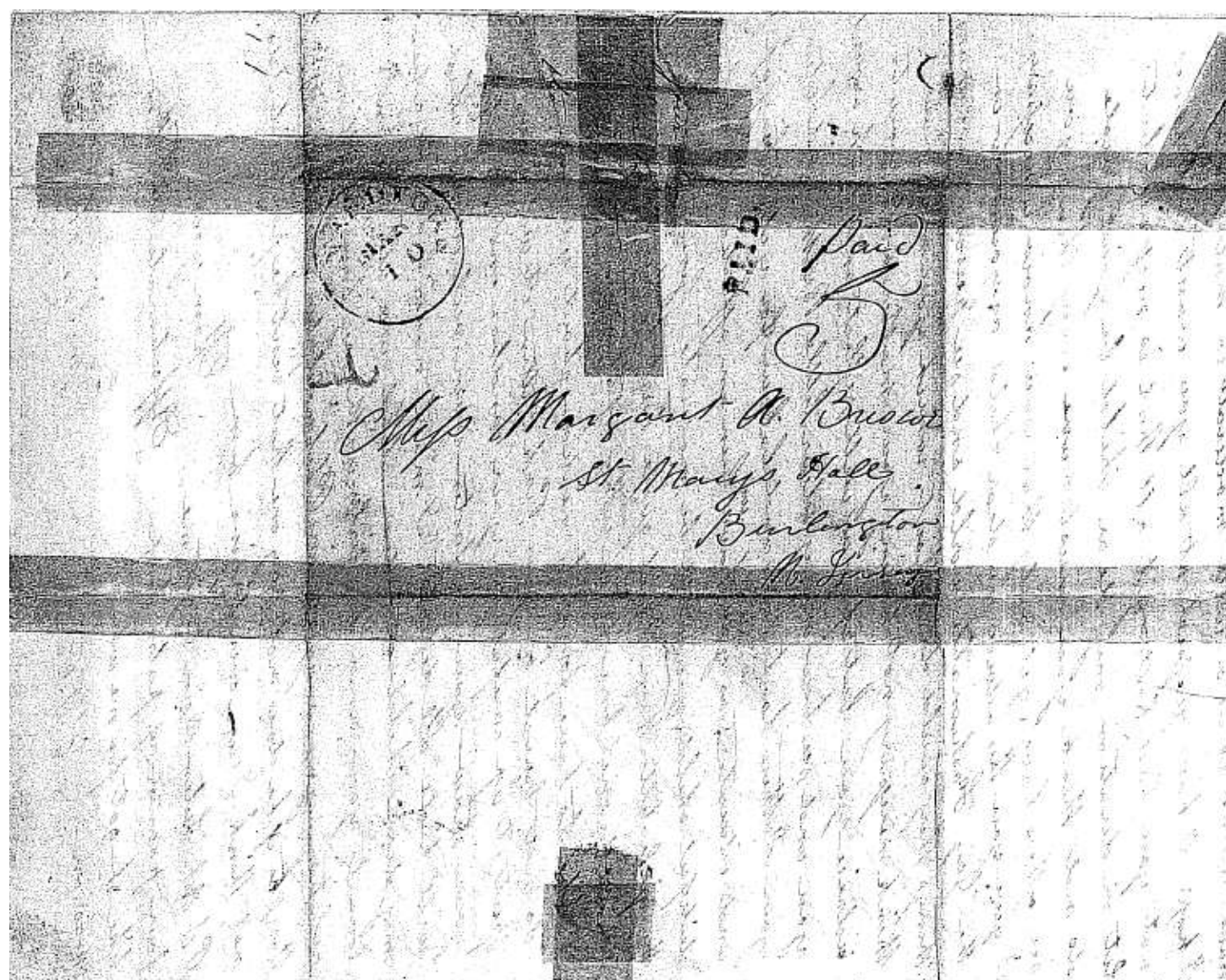
do I hope Our Heavenly Father will grant them to continue
so. Give my love to Sister and tell I am truly ~~sorry~~
sorry for her misfortune but I ^{hope} she has entirely recovered
from this. I hope your cousins will be as good as their promise
and accompanying you home. You ought to give them timely
notice to be ready when school breaks as you will have
but little time to stay in Philadelphia. You wish my
advice about your clothes and as far as I can guess
at what you have got I will do it is too early in
the spring to think of getting any thing nice for the
summer so I would advise you to get a good
serviceable silk that will suit at any time but do
not get any thing gaudy as you ^{know} it will not please
your Father no more than myself you can get your Aunt
Ann to choose one for you in Philadelphia and have
it made in Baltimore as you come on if you do not
stay in B. long enough to have it made leave it
with your Aunt Harriet who will attend to it.
and send it down by Mr. Wheally you must get
all the trimmings when you get your dress as it will
save trouble for if the mantuamaker has to get them
they will charge you double price. I think you had
better get two calicoes for common wear as you
will require something at home that will wash. I expect
you will want for under clothes so you had better
get a piece of fine Bleached Cotton and bring with
you and something to make your corsets out of and
rings for them. you must get a good supply of shoes
as you know you cannot get them here, but I hope you

have learnt to be a little moderate in that line.
I hope I have guessed at all you want. If I have
not you had better get all that is necessary but
let moderation my dear child be your guide
do not think you must have every thing you
see others have, get only that you know is necessary.
I give you the advice my dear child as you ^{are} now in
the Gay Fashionable world and see persons have many
things they could do without, which you may now
think necessary not having your mother with you to
advise you. But if you will reflect and look around
you and see how many ^{poor} little Brothers and Sisters
your Father has to toil and labour for yet to bring up
and educate, as you have ^{been} an affectionate and
dutiful child, you will be moderate. Give my love to
the girls tell them I feel quite hurt to think
I ~~received~~ one line from either of them.

I like to have forgot to mention about your trunk
do not travel in your Pink Sattin it will ruin it.
Put it up carefully in your bandbox and travel in
your straw you can fasten your veil over it which
will hide all defects. I must now bid you adieu
my dear child ~~my dear child~~ we all join in
love to you and the girls with my love to all my
relations you may see in Philadelphia. Little Brother
Joseph if he does not pay me that visit he promised I do
not think I can ever forgive him.

P.S. Ask Sister Ann to get me
four pound of palm soap
like she got for me when I
was on E.W.B.

From your
Affectionate Mother
Emeline W. Briscoe



Emeline W. Briscoe to Margaret A Briscoe

Sotterly, March the 9th 1846

My Dear Daughter

Your letter was received by us with a great deal of pleasure and we were greatly relieved from our anxiety when we heard Nannie was better. Your Father believed she would die and I know you are well aware what he felt until he received your letter. I did not think so myself and tried to make him think with me believing she had every kindness and attention shown her. With youth on her side and many kind friends and relations around her. Still if the family had been in a situation to leave I believe he would have gone on to see her. I begin to fear he will not be able to go on for you he is very anxious to do so and if he does he will be very much hurried. Chapman mends very slowly. Saturday is the first time he has attempted to set up and then only for a few moments he has fever every night and sleeps badly and your Father is very much disturbed with him I never saw your Father stand so much fatigue in my life and keep in such good health. Truly do I thank my Heavenly Father for keeping him in such good health for I have been no use at all to him. little Addy is so sickly that it requires all my care for her at night and the other children take your Aunts attention for since last may we have not been clear of sickness. Sometimes three of the children at a time in your Aunt's room. Tell Nannie Little Addy is thought very much like her she is the whitest little creature I ever saw. All the children are up an about at present and sincerely do I hope Our Heavenly Father will grant them to continue so. Give my love to Sister and tell I am truly sorry for her misfortune but I hope that she has entirely recovered ere this. I hope your Cousins will be as good as their promise and accompany you home. You ought to give them timely notice to be ready when school breaks as you will have but little time to stay in Philadelphia. You wish my advice about your cloathes and as far as I can guess at what you have got I will do so it is too early in the spring to think of getting anything nice for the summer so I would advise you to get a good serviceable silk that will suit at any time but do not get any thing gaudy as you know it will not please your Father no more than myself you can get your Aunt Ann to choose one for you in Philadelphia and have it made in Baltimore as you come on if you do not stay in B. long enough to have it made leave it with your Aunt Harriet who will attend to it. and send it down by Mr. Wheatly. You must get all the trimmings when you get your dress as it will save trouble for if the mantica (?) maker has to get them they will charge you double price I think you had better get two calicoes for common wear as you will require something at home that will wash I expect you will want for under cloathes so you had better get a piece of fine Blanched Cotton and bring with you something to make your corsets out of and rings for them. You must get a good supply of shoes as you know you cannot get them here, but I hope you have learnt to be a little moderate in that line. I hope I have guessed at all you want If I have not you had better get all that is necessary but let moderation my dear child be your guide do not think you must have every thing you see others have, get only that you know is necessary. I give you this advice my dear child as you are now in the Gay Fashionable world and see persons have many things they could do without which you may now think necessary not having your mother with you to advice you but if you will reflect and look around you and see how many dear little Brothers and Sisters your Fathers has to toil and labour for yet to bring up and educate; as you have ever been an affectionate and dutiful child, you will be moderate. Give my love to the girls. Tell them I feel quite hurt to think (missing, torn page) received one line from either of them.

I like to have forgot to mention about your (missing, torn page) do not travel in your Pink Sattin it will ruin it. Put it up carefully in your bandbox and travel in your straw you can fasten your veil over it which will hide all defects. I must now bid you adieu my dear child we all join in

love to you and the girls with my love to all my relations you may see in Philadelphia. Tell Brother Joseph if he does not pay me that visit he promised I do not think I can ever forgive him.

From your Affectionate Mother

Emeline W. Briscoe

P.S. Ask Sister Ann to get me four pound of palm soap like she got for me when I was on.

E W B

Envelope postmark March 10, 1846 Leonardtown Maryland. Addressed to Miss. Margret A. Briscoe, St. Mary's Hall, Burlington New Jersey

Notes:

1. Cousins living in Philadelphia, whom Emeline hopes will come to Sotterley. Not yet identified.
2. "Your Aunt Ann" living Philadelphia. Not yet identified.
3. "Your Aunt Harriet" living in Baltimore. Not yet identified.
4. Mr. Wheatly. Not yet identified.
5. "Brother Joseph" probably living in Philadelphia. It had not been known that Emeline had a brother. Not yet identified.
6. "Sister Ann" gives us the name of Emeline's sister living near St. Mary's Hall, probably in Philadelphia. Not yet identified.

Sabbath March 23rd - 1846

My Dear May,

Your last letters to me and your Mother, dated the 10th and the 16th, we received in due course of mail, and I now set me down to attempt some plan - to get you home; but such is the present state of uncertainty with me about it - that I can say nothing definite. - I will however endeavour to make some suggestions which may be somewhat satisfactory to you, and enable you to determine what course you will pursue under the circumstances that may present themselves. - In the first place then I am as yet unadvised what Mr. Harris or Walter Mitchell intend doing towards getting you all home in the event of my not going on, and am consequently entirely uncertain of help from either of those quarters, and I know not whither to look with any greater certainty. - It is my earnest wish to gratify you by coming for you myself, and began now to hope that I may be able to do so. - yet this is uncertain again. - Chapman is still on his back, slowly recovering from a severe attack of pneumonia, which came on after your Mother wrote to you the second week of this month. - The other children, from Chapman down, are also now just getting the hooping cough as we believe, and what state they may be in a week

hence is impossible to conjecture. I will however
hope for the best, and if all things at home seem to warrant
my leaving then will (the Lord permitting) start for
you about Friday or Saturday next so as to
reach Burlington the Monday or Tuesday following.
But, from the statement I have given above, you must
see the uncertainty of all this again, and should not
be disappointed in this, and you must with no
friend with whom you could feel safe and satisfied
to travel homeward, you must be content to
remain with your relations until I can come or
send for you, which, be assured, I will do at the
earliest possible moment. I enclose I send you
five dollars more to pay any little bills you may have
found it necessary to make in Burlington before you
leave there. Should you not want it for such purposes
it will answer to meet other necessary demands.
If I do not come on myself, and any one goes from here
by whom I can send you money, I will send you
enough to pay all your bills and bring you home.
If I do not meet with any by whom I can send it, and
you meet with an opportunity to get home before
I can for you, you must draw upon Uncle Joseph
for as much as will bear your expenses homeward.
He will furnish you I am sure with pleasure.
Now for a little caution again. — You rather about
short sleeves; well mended, and silk stockings for
your recreation &c. — You should recollect that the
season for plucking is not yet over; may now, it is
just the most likely season for it, for the very fact,
and for the very reason that changes are made in
bird clothing and day clothing because one day happens
to be a little warmer than another or the weather

generally happens to be a little warmer than it is in winter. — Now let me tell you it is more necessary to be particular in matters of clothing and I suppose at this season of the year than in the dead of winter for the reason that the human system is much ^{more} susceptible of such impressions (Cold in the form of plumsy &c) at this season. — If therefore these articles are to be worn you should be careful to supply their deficiency with something under them. — I would also guard you as to the small pox. — I know not how it is in Philadelphia, but in Baltimore it is just as thick as ever. — We have not heard directly from your Aunt Harriet of late, and cannot for certain ^{say} whether it has been in her family or not; but can say for certain that it has been in her immediate neighbourhood, and I may be still, so that should you come on without me you had better be careful in all your movements in Baltimore, and endeavor to know for certain whether there will be any risk in going to see her before your winter there. — Should your girls have not been vaccinated this winter I think you had better have it done before you start home — say as soon as you go to the City — As the time for your return draws near all run more and more anxious; particularly little Sally. — She is more thoughtfully about Sister than any body or any thing else except her eating. — Frequently wants to know when Sister is coming home — She wants to see Sister. —

Forever for the parent — From your affectionate
Father

March 23

PAID
MAR 23 1850

Miss Margaret A. Briggs

St. Mary's Hall

Washington

Ms. A. 9. 2. 10

Walter Hanson Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe

Sotterly March 23rd 1846

My Dear Mag.

Your last letters to me and your mother, dated the 10th and the 16th, were received in due course of mail, and I now sit me down to attempt some plan to get you home; but such is the present state of uncertainty with me about it that I can say nothing definite. I will however endeavor to make some suggestions which may be somewhat satisfactory to you, and enable you to determine what course you will pursue under the circumstances that may present themselves. In the first place then I am as yet unadvised what Mr. Harris or Walter Mitchell intends doing towards getting you all home in the event of my not going on and am consequently entirely uncertain of help from either of those quarters; and know not where else to look with any greater certainty. It is my earnest wish to gratify you by coming for you myself, and begin now to hope that I may be able to do so. Yet this is uncertain again. Chapman is still on his back slowly recovering from a severe attack of pneumonia, which came on after your mother wrote to you the second week of this month. The other children, from Chapman down, are also now also getting the hoopin Cough as we believe, in what state they may be a week hence is impossible to conjecture. I will however hope for the best, and if all things at home seem to warrant my leaving then will (the Lord permitting) start for you about Friday or Saturday next so as to reach Burlington Monday or Tuesday following. But, to the statement that I have given above, you must see the uncertainty of all this again; and should we be disappointed in this, and you meet with no friend with whom you would feel safe and satisfied to travel homeward, you must be content to remain with your relatives until I can come or send for you, which, be assured, I will do at the earliest possible moment. Inclosed I send you five dollars more to pay for any little bills you may have found it necessary to make in Burlington before you leave there. Should you not want for such purposes it will answer to meet other necessary demands. If I do not come on myself, and any one goes from here by whom I can send you money, I will send you enough to pay all your bills and bring you home. If I do not meet with any by whom I can send it, and you meet with an opportunity to get home before I come for you, you must draw upon Uncle Joseph for as much as will bear your expenses homeward. He will furnish you I am sure with pleasure. Now for a little caution again. You talk about short sleeves; mule (?) muslin, and silk stockings for your examination etc. You should recollect that the season for pleurisy is not yet over; nay more, it is just the most likely season for it; from the very fact, and for the very reason that changes are made in bed clothing and day clothing because one day happens to be a little warmer than another or the weather generally happens to be a little warmer than it is in winter. Now let me tell you it is more necessary to be particular in matters of clothing and exposure at this season of the year than in the dead of winter for the reason that the humans system is much more susceptible of such impressions (cold in the form of pleurisy) at this season. If therefore these articles are to be worn you should be careful to supply their deficiency with something under them. I would also guard you agst. the smallpox. I know not how it is in Philadelphia; but in Baltimore it is just as thick as ever. We have not heard directly from your Aunt Harriet of late, and cannot for certain say whether it has been in her family or not; but can say for certain that it has been in her immediate neighborhood, and may be still, so that should you come on without me, you had better be careful in all your movements in Baltimore, and endeavor to know for certain whether there will be any risk in going to see her before you venture there. Should you girls have not been vaccinated this winter I think you had better have it done before you start home – say as soon as you go to the city. As the time for your return draws near all seem more and more anxious; particularly little Sally. She is more thoughtful

about sister than any body or any thing else except her caty. Frequently wants to know when sister is coming home. She wants to see sister.

Farewell for the present. From your affectionate

Father

Envelope Postmarked Leonardtown, MD, March 24 and addressed to Miss Margaret A. Briscoe, St. Mary's Hall, Burlington, N. Jersey

Notes:

1. From the days mentioned, it appears the trip from Sotterley to Burlington typically took three days.
2. The "relatives" with whom Margaret would stay are likely her aunt and uncle in Philadelphia. Not yet identified.
3. Uncle Joseph is probably Emeline's brother.

Saturday Nov. the 27/1854

My Dear Daughter

I received your letter dated the 22nd and
have set down immediately to answer it. Thinking amidst
all of your enjoyments you sometimes give a passing thought
upon your poor old ^{father} as you say in your letter. - D. They
was ~~the~~ last Wednesday one his way to Calvert and paid
his dues you ~~said~~ at Mr. Hornstreet's. I saw Mamma ~~they~~ yesterday
at Church who also informed ^{me} she saw you and that
you looked in fine spirits. You say your time for coming
home is drawing near and I do not think from the tenor
of your letter you must incline to do so. I leave
that to yourself. And I might as well try ^{and} be persuaded
to ~~try and~~ do without you for a time. For who knows
but you may take a notion on your head some day to
do as others have and leave us altogether. Why have you
not been to see your relations. I am afraid you will
give some offence. Sam says ^{do} you think he would ride
forty miles for a party. Your Father says you must
give him ten days notice ~~of the time~~ before you wish to
come home. The Children all have had very bad colds
particularly Ella. Some of the servants have dreadful
coughs and we begin to fear it is the whooping cough
as it is confined to these children who never have had
it. Mr. Carrolls child I think there is doubt about ~~the~~
having it. And if our children have it this winter
we shall have I am afraid a very hard time with them.

Elle is quite a good child she has given me very little trouble
Sally still continues ^{sick} she had a chill to day and remains
well only for a few days at a time. Johnny has the third
day ague and fever but I hope soon to get him well
again. Your Father returned from Balt quite sick
but in a few days recovered his health. But at present
has a very bad cough. Chap was home last week and
said he ^{had} been to see Fannette the week before that they
were both well. I must now stop as I have nothing
but bad news to write. Give my love to your Aunt
whether you see her till her I am afraid her two children
will have the whooping cough in spite of all her care. I
heard Lower's father had better make haste and get her
boarded out and come home and help me to nurse them.
I must now bid you good night as it is past the hour
stopping the letter. We all join in love to you and
all inquiring friends.

P.S. There is a letter here for you from Henry but it is
not worth sending as he writes in a great hurry he is
quite well and very much engaged in his studies.

From your Affectionate Mother

Emeline W. Briscoe

excuse all mistakes

I have no time to write it over

Miss Margaret B. Bruce
Care of
Charles, Et
Miss

at the
new
post
office
at the
new
post
office

Emeline W. Briscoe to Margaret A. Briscoe

Sotterly Nov. the 27 1854

My Dear Daughter,

I received your letter dated the 22nd and have set down immediately to answer it thinking amidst all of your enjoyments you sometimes give a passing thought upon your poor old home as you say in your letter. Dr. Key was here last Wednesday on his way to Calvert and said he saw you at Mr. Stonestreets. I saw Nannie Key yesterday at Church who also informed me she saw you and that you looked in fine spirits. You say your time for coming home is drawing near and I do not think from the tenor of your letter you are much inclined to do so. I leave that to yourself. And I might as well be reconciled to do without you for a time, for who knows but you may take a notion in your head some day to do as others have and leave us altogether. Why have you not been to see your relations, I am afraid you will give some offence. Sam says, do you think he would ride forty miles for a party. Your father says you must give him ten days notice before you wish to come home. The Children all have had very bad colds particularly Ella. Some of the servants have dreadful coughs and we begin to fear it is the whooping cough as it is confined to those children who never have had it. Mr. Carroll's child, I think there is no doubt about having it. And if our Children have it this winter we shall have I am afraid a very hard time with them. Ella is quite a good child she has given me very little trouble. Sally still continues sick she had a chill today and remains well only for a few days at a time. Johnny has the third day ague and fever, but I hope soon to get him well again. Your father returned from Balt. quite sick but in a few days recovered his health. But at present has a very bad cough. Chap was home last week and said he had been to see Jannette the week before that they were both well. I must now stop as I have nothing but bad news to write. Give my love to your Aunt when you see her. Tell her I am afraid her two children will have the whooping cough in spite of all her care on Leonardtown she had better make haste and get her brood out and come home and help me to nurse them. I must now bid you goodnight as it is past the hour to ring the bell. W & all join in love to you and all inquiring friends.
PS There is a letter here for you from Henry but it is not worth sending as he wrote in a great hurry he is quite well and very much engaged in his studies.

From your Affectionate Mother
Emeline W Briscoe

Excuse all mistakes

I have no time to write it over

Envelope addressed to Miss Margaret A Briscoe, Port Tobacco, Charles County, MD

Notes:

1. Dr. Key. Not yet identified.
2. Mr. Stonestreet is Nicholas Stonestreet, the father of Maria Louisa Stonestreet, born 1828, who was a student at St. Mary's Hall where Margaret had attended school. The Stonestreets were the owners of an estate called La Grange, in Port Tobacco, then the county seat of Charles County. Nicholas and his wife, Anne, also had another daughter Ann Guinette Stonestreet, born 1832. Maria married Frederick Stone in 1852. Margaret may have been staying with the Stonestreets.
3. Nannie Key. Not yet identified. Likely related to Dr. Key.
4. "and leave us all together." Emeline seemed worried that Margaret, then 25, might soon marry and move away permanently. It was only seven years later that Margaret married Dr. Robert Wise on June 3, 1861.
5. The Briscoes attended St. Andrews Church.

6. "relations." There were still members of Margaret's fathers family living in Charles County. The relatives Emeline was referring to have not yet been identified.
7. Sam is her son Samuel William Briscoe then age 19.
8. Ella is her daughter Mary Ellen Briscoe then 5.
9. "the servants" Presumably this is a reference to their enslaved domestic workers and their children.
10. Mr. Carroll. Not yet identified.
11. Sally is her daughter Sarah Emeline Briscoe then 12.
12. Johnny is her son John Edgar Briscoe then 7.
13. Chap is her son Chapman Briscoe then 20.
14. Jannette is her daughter Jeanette Eleanor Briscoe then 22. Earlier that year, Jeanette had married James Richard Thomas and was living at the Thomas home, Deep Falls, near Chaptico in St. Mary's County.
15. Your Aunt. Not yet identified.
16. "W" is her husband Walter Hanson Briscoe.
17. Henry is her son Henry Briscoe then 24. As Henry became a doctor, he was probably in Baltimore studying at Maryland University.

Give my love to Dr. & Mrs. Palmer, Miss Samuels, Conner & family & all
the folks - Write me as soon as you get a chance by letter or phone - I

Oakley

Apr. 29th 1855

I really wonder, my dear Routine Paggie, whether you have been thinking an uncommon quantity about me the last few days? If you haven't, I shall adversely attribute it to that mysterious, foul magnetism which attracts spirit to spirit. (The mediums may intervene.) In other words, I mean that I have been thinking, a heap about you during that time, even dreaming about you last night. I could not resist the inclination to write to you to-day, though, most sincerely, I have nothing worth writing to say to you. But you know good conscience must write whether or not, and come if in the course of human events, there occurs such a dearth of ideas, that "how do you do?" and "I'm well, thank you", would be the form of them, the letters must be forthcoming.

What have you been doing with yourself this
Fall, my singular Cousin! Been thinking yourself
very industrious, I dare say - and so I have seen
you have been. You have been to Baltimore, &
enjoyed your visit more than you expected. I hope
you and Cousin Harriet have been carrying
on a good deal of mischief together, haven't you?
I feel very much in the humor for some fun,
and would like to go phreos with you if
you have any one here. Our neighborhood has
been quite pleasant, for several weeks. Alice
Conner left only to-day and Mary Spalding from
Washington has been staying with Cousin M. & Harriet
since the Fair. We spent a very agreeable evening
at Cousin Caroline's on Monday last - one of our
socials. You cannot think how pleasant the
Fair was, or how peculiarly I enjoyed it. The
exhibition itself was decidedly poor, but there
was a much greater crowd both days than at
any preceding Fair. I thought so often of last
year when you were with us, and felt to think
it could not be again. Do you wish to know
why I enjoyed myself so peculiarly, or so much more

than I usually enjoy these Fairs? Now, don't look
incautious when I assure you, 'twas because I
was heart-whole and fancy-free! Don't believe
one, the visit to Washington had nothing to do
with any conscience from that heart-throat
I have just had the courtesy to admit. Oh! I am
so happy now I am free! I have something funny
to tell you if we ever meet again, but at the
not worth writing, don't think it of much consequence.
We have a very amusing time at Emily's meeting.
I wish that I could describe half the odd things
we saw and heard. Tell Miss Samette she ought
to have been there. She wisdom was so amusing
twas positively dangerous for small people like
us. I don't know what they ^(the family) would have done
had not Leucy Butcher been there. I liked
her very much and she did most all that
was done towards arranging and preparing
refreshments etc. I can't refrain from speaking
when I think of the interesting young widow
Doctor, who was there, electro and treating,
and — but to emphatically — the poor fellow has been
terribly disappointed, I am sure, for he seems very

sanguine of success. ^{pleasant}
 Have you any particularly ^{pleasant} plans for Christmas?
 Oh I like wish you would come up. Tell Cousin
 Maria; indeed she ought to be at home by that
 time, and dearest, darling Cousin Mary, comes
 with her - we expect a quiet Christmas, but your
 coming would make it delightful. And we would
 certainly return with you, as I expect our sick
 horse would be well by that time. He has been
 laid up with a bad cut on his knee, so that we
 have been prevented from attending, seeing for
 several weeks, have to bring a hand to take us
 to the Fair. Tell Cousin Maria, I expect she is
 anxious to congratulate a particular friend of
 hers, on his success at the late election and do you
 not feel pleased that the amiable Major, your
 friend has been elected? So you'd better come up.
 Mr. Williams' family is quite well, I believe - Brother
 is spending the winter in Philadelphia - I am to
 spend nearly a week with Bessie soon. Don't
 you envy me the pleasure? I know you wish to
 hear from the spirit & Dr. He looked remarkably
 well the last time I saw him - His face was positively

Lizzie to Margaret A. Briscoe

Oakley, Nov. 29th, 1855

I really wonder, My dear Cousin Maggie, whether you have been thinking an unconscious quantity about me the last few days. If you have, I shall assuredly attribute it to that mysterious soul, magnetism which attracts spirit to spirit, tho' miles may intervene. In other words, I mean that I have been thinking a heap about you. During this time, even dreamed about you last night. I could not resist the inclination to write to you today, though most sincerely, I have nothing worth writing to say to you. But good correspondents must write whether or not, and even if "in the course of human events" there occurs such a dearth of ideas that "how dya do" and "I'm well thank you," would be the sum of them, the letters must be forthcoming. What have you been doing with yourself this fall, my sugar (?) Cousin? Been thinking yourself very industrious, I dare say. And so I am sure you have been. You have been to Baltimore, & enjoyed your visit more than you expected, I hope. You and Cousin Nannie have been carrying on a good deal of mischief together, haven't you? I feel very much in the humor for some fun, and would like to go shares with you if you have any on hand. Our neighborhood has been quite pleasant, for several weeks. Alice Contee left only today and Mary Spalding from Washington has been staying with Cousin M. Hamilton since the Fair. We spent a very agreeable evening at Cousin Caroline's Monday last. one of our sociables. You cannot think how pleasant the Fair was, or how (illegible) I enjoyed it. The exhibition itself was decidedly poor but there was a much greater crowd both days, than at any previous Fair. I thought so often of last year when you were with us and sighed to think it could be again. Do you wish to know why I enjoyed myself so peculiarly, or so much more than I usually enjoy such Fairs? Now don't look incredulous when I assure you it was because I was "heart-whole and fancy free"! And believe me the visit to Washington had nothing to do with my emancipation from that heart-thralldom I have just had the rashness to admit. Oh! I am so happy now I am free! I have something funny to tell you if we ever meet again, but as 'tis not worth writing, don't think if of much consequence. We had a very amusing time at Emily's wedding. I wish that I could describe half the odd things we saw and heard. Tell Miss Jannette she ought to have been there. The widowers were so numerous it was positively dangerous for small people like us. I don't know what they, the family, would have done had not Cornelia Hutchins been there. I liked her very much and she did most all that was done towards arranging and preparing refreshments, etc. I cant refrain from squealing when I think of the interesting young widower

Doctor, who was there, electioneering and treating and --- but n'importe! The poor fellow has been terribly disappointed, I'm sure for he seemed very sanguine of success.

Have you any particularly pleasant plans for Christmas? Oh! I so wish you would come up. Tell Cousin Nannie, indeed she ought to be at home by that time, and dearest darling Cousin Mag, come with her. We expect a quiet Christmas, but your coming would make it delightful. And we would certainly return with you as I expect our sick horse would be well by that time. He has been laid up with a bad cut on his knee so that we have been prevented from attending service, for several weeks, had to borrow a horse to take us to the Fair. Tell Cousin Nannie, I expect she is anxious to congratulate a particular friend of hers, on his success at the late election and do you not feel pleased that the Amiable Judge, your friend has been elected? So you both better come up. Mr.(?) Wilmer's family is quite well, I believe. Mollie is spending the Winter in Philadelphia. I am to spend nearly a week with Brech (?) soon. Dont you envy me the pleasure? I know you wish to hear from the spect'd (?) Dr. He looked remarkably well the last time I saw him. His face was positively radiant. I have heard he intends going to housekeeping next year, but do not know, whether he will keep bachelor's house or get a lady to superintend his establishment. You and Cousin N. had better come up. You may lose a chance, otherwise.

You enquire whether Cousin Mag H. is at home. She really intends spending winter at home, but cousin Jenny is the fortunate girl who with call Baltimore her home for the long, gloomy winter.

Indeed, Cousin Mine, you need not distress yourself and me too by thinking my heart is in a "sad plight". I assure you, it was never better, but I have been seriously ailing, dear Cousin Mag. I have had and still have the Dyspepsia very badly. I did (?) not like to tell you of it because I thought it might make you a little bit sorry and I knew you had troubles enough of your own. But I am better now, I hope, and oh dear me! I do trust I shall soon be well, for tis very bad and tiresome. I don't doubt that Sotterley could effect a cure, if any place could, but it seems as hard to get there, as 'twas for the (illegible) man to crawl into the pool [The subsequent page(s) are missing.]

[The letter has a postscript in the left margin of the first page as follows.]

Give my love to Dr. & Mrs. Briscoe, Miss Jannette, Cousin Nannie and the children. Write soon or answer my letter in person, I would decidedly prefer that.

Notes:

1. 1. Oakley is an area in what is now the seventh district of St. Mary's County. Lizzie likely lived there.
2. The handwriting and frequent use of underlining indicate that this letter was from "Lizzie." The opening reference to my dear cousin Maggie indicate that the letter was addressed to Margaret A. Briscoe.
3. Cousin Nannie may be Sarah Ann Briscoe.
4. Alice Contee and Mary Spalding. Not yet identified.
5. Cousin M. Hamilton. Not yet identified.
6. The fair is likely the annual St. Mary's County fair.
7. Cousin Caroline. Not yet identified.
8. Emily, who just held her wedding. Not yet identified
9. Miss Jannette. Not yet identified. The following mention of widowers indicates the reference was likely not to Margaret's sister Jeanette who was at the time married to Richard Thomas and presumably would not then be interested in widowers.
10. Cornelia Hutchins. Not yet identified.
11. "young widower doctor" Not yet identified.
12. The "amiable Judge" who was elected. Not yet identified.
13. Wilmer family and Mollie. This is probably the family of Rev. Leumel Wilmer, the rector of Port Tobacco Parish in Charles County.
14. Brech (?); the "spect'd doctor" Not yet identified.
- 15 Cousin N. is likely cousin Nannie
16. Cousin Mag H. Not yet identified. Does Lizzie have a sister Margaret ?? Is H for Harris???
17. Cousin Jenny may be Jeanette Briscoe Thomas.
18. The second use of Sotterley spelled with an "e" before the "y" is interesting as it differs from the Sotterly spelling used in the earlier Briscoe's letters.
19. Could E.W.H. be the Elizabeth V. Harris of Leonardtown listed in the St Mary's Hall directory? Is that Lizzie?

Baltimore March 28th 1859.

Dear Cousin

Although, waters divide us, and prevent
our glimpsing at each other for weeks, and even
months, yet, if memory is true to her duty, within
the secret recesses of the heart, it is pleasant to
recall the images of the absent. I have
over and over again intended writing, but put it
off from day to day, only confirming the old
proverb "Delays are dangerous", and now this
Monday morning, as I have a few moments leisure
before school time, will employ it in writing to you.
Spring is with us, again, and I suppose
you in the County rejoice in the anticipation of
calm skies and beautiful flowers, not to say
anything of good roads. The lakes I hear, have

been in a most awful condition this Winter.
Cousin Henry, called to see us last Saturday, and
he was giving me a description of the roads
from what was said. I do not annoy you the Country
in Winter. Nellie Hopkins spent three weeks
with me, during the latter part of February and first
of March, she has a beau (W. Scott) from
Baltimore Co. he was exceedingly attentive
during her stay, and I suppose it will be
a match as all hands seem willing.
I suppose you have heard ere this of Nora
Marburg's marriage; she is still living at
home with her parents, and appears quite
settled. She married W. Zwickova Farmer
and he is in business with her father.
Mary and Emma Dallam were to see us
on Saturday last, they are looking quite pale
and thin. Poor girls! I suspect they miss their
mother very much. Grace appears to improve
in hearing rapidly, but not in talking.
Pella has had quite a suffering time this Winter

She has been sick, off and on, the whole time her
spirits are very good, and she and mother frequently
talk of the visit they intend paying Aunt Jane
this Spring. But I am afraid mother's visit will turn
out like some persons ones only an "air castle",
as it seems almost impossible for her to leave home.
Sophie has been working a skirt ^{this} winter, the pattern
of yours has it nearly completed: but she met
with a most terrible accident a few days ago,
she dropped a shovel of coals on the carpet in the
parlor, burning it in numerous places. We are
afraid it will not do to put down again.
How is little Walter? I hope he has been a good
boy and not caused any trouble. Mother sends her
love to him, and will send him a pair of shoes by Cousin Sam.
Onep is looking well, we see him frequently. Kate's children
are growing finely, she has had Mrs. Roger staying with
her from Philadelphia, and I think she is the prettiest
woman ever looked at. A great many gentlemen
lost their hearts but of course it was no use.
Mother sends her love ^{and} you ^{and} all the family and.

expects soon to see you ^{goods} Spring ^{are} coming, in most
beautiful and you must hurry up, to make a
selection, and I can assure you ^{we} will all be very
glad to see you or any member of the family and do
everything in our power to make you enjoy yourselves.
Affectionate love to you and all the family,
Write soon, and let us know when to expect you up.

Your affectionate cousin
Sarah R. Webster.

Sarah R. Webster to "cousin"

Baltimore March 28 1859

Dear Cousin,

Although waters divide us and prevent our glimpsing at each other for weeks, and even months yet, if memory is true to her duty, within the secret recesses of the heart, it is pleasant to recall the images of the absent. I have over and over again intended writing, but put it off from day to day only confirming the old proverb "Delays are dangerous", and now this Monday morning, as I have a few moments leisure before School time will employ it in writing to you.

Spring is with us again, and I suppose you in the Country rejoice in the anticipation of calm skies and beautiful flowers, not to say anything of good roads, the latter I hear have been in a most awful condition this Winter. Cousin Henry called to see us last Saturday and he was giving me a description of the roads. From what was said I do not envy you the country in Winter. Mollie Hopkins spent three weeks with me during the latter part of February and first of March; she has a beau (Mr. Scott) from Baltimore Co. he was exceedingly attentive during her stay and I suppose it will be a match as all hands seem willing. I suppose you have heard ere this of Nora Marbury's marriage; she is still living at home with her parents and it appears quite settled. She married Mr. Zwissler a German and he is in business with her father.

Mary and Emma Dallam were to see us on Saturday last, they are looking quite pale and thin. Poor girls! I expect they miss their mother very much. Grace appears to be improving in hearing rapidly but not in talking. Ida has had quite a suffering time this Winter. She has been sick off and on the whole time her spirits are very good and she and mother frequently talk of the visit they intend paying Aunt Lina this spring, but I am afraid Mother's visit will turn out like some previous ones only in "air castle" as it seems almost impossible for her to leave home. Sophie has been working a skirt this Winter, the pattern of yours has it nearly completed; but she met with a most terrible accident a few days ago, she dropped a shovel of coals on the carpet in the parlor burning it in numerous places. We are afraid it will not do to put down again.

How is little Walter? I hope he has been a good boy and not caused any trouble. Mother sends her love to him and will send him a pair of shoes by Cousin Sam. Chap is looking well, we see him frequently. Kate's children are growing lonely, she has had Mrs. Rozer staying with her from Philadelphia, and I think she is the prettiest woman I ever looked at. A great many gentlemen lost their hearts but of course, it was no use.

Mother sends her love to you and all the family and expects soon to see you. Spring goods are coming in most beautiful and you must hurry up to make a selection, and I can assure you we will all be very glad to see you or any member of the family and do everything in our power to make you enjoy yourselves. All join me in love to you and all the family, Write soon and let us know when to expect you up.

Your affectionate cousin,
Sarah R. Webster

Notes:

1. Cousin, the addressee, is likely Margaret A. Briscoe as the letter is in the collection of letters to her.
2. Cousin Henry is likely Margaret's brother Henry Briscoe, though this is not the only possibility.
3. Mollie Hopkins and Mr. Scott. Not yet identified.

4. Nora Marbury and Mr. Zwissler. A notice in the Daily Exchange in Baltimore on Oct. 18, 1859 states that Theodore Zwissler withdraws today from the firm of Marbury & Co. by mutual consent. Seems there was trouble between father and husband. Not further identified.
5. Mary and Emma Dallam. Not yet identified. Could they be relatives of Margaret's mother's father, John Dallam of Harford County.
6. Grace is Sarah's sister born February 22, 1854.
7. Ida is Sarah's sister born June 1, 1856.
8. Aunt Lina. Not yet identified.
9. Sophie is possibly another sister. Not yet identified.
10. Little Walter is Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe, born Aug 22, 1851.
11. Kate. Not yet identified.
12. Mrs. Rozer. Not yet identified.
15. It seems likely that Sarah R. Webster is the daughter of Henry and Harriett Webster. Henry Worthington Webster married Harriett Jacobi in 1828. He was vaccine physician living in South Baltimore. Sarah was born Dec. 30, 1938. Sarah, her parents and sisters Grace and Ida are buried in the Friends Cemetery in Baltimore.

German town May 1st 1859

My dear Cousin

You must certainly think I have entirely forgotten you, in not answering your letter of Feb 21st before this, but I have been away from home making a visit to my Friend Mrs. Potters in Bel. Co. Md. I think I spoke of her to you she is a young Widow, and second Cousin to Mother. I spent four very pleasant weeks with her, although the roads must have been almost as bad as with you, still we continued to ride a short distance, nearly every day, the Horses would often sink above their knees in the mud. I think if I lived there I would get stone at any price, and I am sure it, it would ~~would~~ soon pay in the wear and tear of Carriages, and Horses. I have been at home about three weeks, and intending to write you very

day, but could not get an opportunity, as we have been so very busy cleaning houses. I was in the City on Friday last, Uncle John and Aunt Mary, are both well, little Sue our only remaining pet, is quite well, it is just one year since they all moved to D, in such spirits, how little we thought what was before us, it seems to me I miss them more and more every day. Has Uncle John written to you since I heard from you? I expect he had no heart to write to you, for he was out of a situation since last July, until some time in March, and the one he has now, will not last long, you know every change of party affects these public officers, if he had remained in his original business, he would have done better. I was glad to ^{hear} Janet was entirely recovered, and that her little family was all well, as your Aunt Janet with her on your nose! give my love to them both.

Your Denominations have been quite active here for the last few days, they consecrated two churches, and laid the corner stone of a third, and I hear some talk of another, there will then be six Episcopal churches in D, besides three Presbyterian, two Lutheran, two Methodist, one Baptist, one Catholic, and three German of different

denominations, and yet there is so many bad boys
and young men in the Town, I think it is one of
the worst places to bring up Children, I would much rather
have them in the City, or right in the Country.

We expect an addition to our family this month, an Invalid Brother
of Mother's, I do not recollect if I have ever spoken to you of
him, he generally spends the summer with us, and the winter
with his sister in New York.

The thought has just struck me, that perhaps you are now
in Baltimore doing your spring shopping, and I hope in your
next, you will be able to tell me news, of Aunt Harriet
and her family.

my dear Cousin I hope you will excuse this uninteresting, and
wretchedly written letter, I can make no better excuse for
it, than the Spring Fever, which I suppose you have with
you, quite as bad as we do here, this weather is certainly
enough to make the most energetic feel lazy, one day cold
and rainy, the next almost as warm as summer, but I
do hope it is about being settled, as we have had three clear
days together. I suppose you are far ahead of us in your
vegetable Gardens, I was quite surprised when I came home

to see the difference between Cecil's and here, you are
so much farther South, that the difference must be
much greater, we have Peas, Salad, and Onions up, but
the Corn, and Beans, do not yet show themselves, the Trees
are all in Blossom, and there is a very good prospect of Fruit,
which I hope will be realized for I am very fond of all kinds.
I must now close hoping to do better next time.

my best love to Uncle, Aunt, Yourself, and all the family
Your affectionate Cousin
Eliza Maynard

Elisa to "Cousin"

Germantown May 1st 1859

My Dear Cousin,

You must certainly think I have entirely forgotten you in not answering your letter of Feb 21st before this, but I have been away from home making a visit to my friend Mrs. Potter in Cecil Co. MD, I think I spoke of her to you, she is a young widow, and second cousin to Mother; I spent four very pleasant weeks with her, although the roads must have been almost as bad as with you, still we continued to ride a short distance nearly every day, the Horses would often sink above their knees in the mud; I think if I lived there I would get stone at any price, and Turnpike it, it would soon pay in the wear and tear of Carriages, and Horses. I have been at home about three weeks, and intending to write you every day, but could not get an opportunity, as we have been so very busy cleaning house. I was in the city on Friday last, Uncle John and Aunt Mary are both well, little Sue our only remaining pet, is quite well, it is just one year since they all moved to G [German Town], in such spirits, how little we thought what was before us, it seems to me I miss them more and more every day, has Uncle John written to you since I heard from you? I expect he had no heart to write to you for he was out of a situation since last July until some time in March, and the one he has now will not last long, you know any change of party affects these public offices, if he had remained in his original business he would have done better. I was glad to hear Jannet was entirely recovered, and that her little family was all well, is your aunt Jannet with her or you now? Give my love to them both.

Your Denomination have been quite active here for the last few days, they consecrated two Churches, and laid the cornerstone of a third; and I hear some talk of another, there will then be six Episcopal Churches in G, besides three Presbyterian, two Lutheran, two Methodist, one Baptist, one Catholic, and three German of different denominations, and yet there is so many bad boys and young men in the Town, I think it is one of the worst places to bring up children, I would much rather have them in the City or right in the Country.

We expect an addition to our family this month, Invalid Brother of Mother's, I do not recollect if I have ever spoken to you of him, he generally spends the summer with us and the winter with his Sons in New York.

The thought has just struck me, that perhaps you are now in Baltimore doing your spring shopping, and I hope in your next, you will be able to tell me news of Aunt Harriet and her family.

My dear Cousin I hope you will excuse this uninteresting and wretchedly written letter, I can make no better excuse for it than the Spring Fever, which I suppose you have with you quite as bad as we do here, this weather is certainly enough to make the most energetic feel lazy, one day cold and rainy, the next almost as warm as summer but I do hope it is about being settled, as we have had three clear days together. I suppose you are far ahead of us in your vegetable Garden, I was quite surprised when I came home to see the difference between Cecil and here, you are so much farther south, that the difference must be much greater, we have Peas, Salad, and Onions up, but the Corn and Beans, do not yet show themselves, the Trees are all in Blossoms and there is a very good prospect of Fruit which I hope will be realized for I am very fond of all kinds. I must now close hoping to do better next time. My best love to Uncle, Aunt, yourself, and all the family.

Your affectionate Cousin,

Elisa

Notes:

1. Germantown appears to be the Germantown outside Philadelphia.

2. Cousin, the addressee, is likely Margaret A. Briscoe as the letter is in the collection of letters to her.
3. Mrs. Potter in Cecil County. Not yet identified.
4. Uncle John and Aunt Mary and little Sue. Not yet identified.
5. Your Aunt Jannet is likely Jeanette Briscoe, Margaret's father's sister who in the 1840s was living at Sotterley.
6. Aunt Harriet in Baltimore. This may be a reference to Harriet Brewster, the mother of Sarah Brewster who wrote the Mar. 28, 1859 letter.
7. Elisa who appears to be from Cecil County originally. Not yet identified.
8. The name "Wayne" has been penciled in by some later reader after the signature "Elisa." That reader may have thought Wayne was Elisa's family name. Not yet identified.

Oakley -

Dec. 3rd /59.

My dearest Cousin Maggie

I have been intending to write you for several days, and though they have passed away very quietly, I have not found a time exactly suited to that pleasant employment until now - I doubt if you would consider the present time very propitious, as I am seated at a table where the gentlemen members are engaged in playing enche and, being liable to an occasional jog from brother's elbow, is not calculated to improve the appearance at least, of my letter - I hope too, you will excuse any indication of a war - during peace in my style, as I cannot help hearing such expressions as "I pass - I assist - I'll value that up" and other phrases best understood by enche players - But, dearest Cousin, such things cannot distract my thoughts from you long - I have such a quiet trust in you, that the thought of you

in writing, found such close companionship as to
banish everything but you and what we are
talking about - The assurance of your friendship,
always so dear to me, almost assumed bodily form
at such times - and I look round wondering if
you are not hovering near and will not presently
appear - - - The fact is, I think this last idea
rather fanciful; don't you? I imagine I should
be very much shocked at first, if I were to behold
you so unexpectedly by my side - However, I am
sure you understand what I really meant -

I suppose you are staying with Samette, as Chap.
said you would remain some time with her.
Ask Samette what load she means by having
so many responsibilities - Does she expect to
be continue incurring such responsibilities all
her life? Poor dear child - What a fate to look
forward to! But I hope she latest is doing
very ^{well} - all Samette too - Tell her not to feel
depressed in view of her responsibilities - I am
quite sure she will be equal to the task of
managing them - "As our way, so shall our strength
be" - That is a comforting thought under such circumstances.
- - - I saw Cousin Maria Muschell at the Fair, and
she begged me to go with her to Ipswich - I should
be so charmed to do so, but that she is going before

Christmas when I cannot possibly leave home -
I do like Cousin Wannie so much and should have
enjoyed the visit with her extremely - When you
two are having cosy times together, would you
sometimes spare a thought for me, knowing how
I should delight to be with you?

I was so glad, Aunt Cousin May, that you had that
matter explained which troubled you when I saw you last.
I could not help hoping 'twould yet be well, when you
told me about it. Was he left for the fourth yet?

Now, my dear child, I must set you right - My
sympathy for you, which induces me to speak
so warmly of men in general, when they behave
badly and make girls unhappy, has caused
you to misapprehend me. Thanks for your kindness
my darling, but no one has been trifling with
my heart - The best proof you could have had of this
fact, would have been the hearty laugh, which
escaped me at the bare supposition - of course,
'twould have been nothing to laugh at, had it
been so - Don't believe one word about Grant - He comes
up sometimes, but only as a friend - He has never had
one bit of my heart, but a friendly piece, and never
can have I and I will do him the justice to say,
he does not desire more than a friendly share of
interest - This is perfectly true, you do not doubt, I assure

What are you about this winter? something good and profitable I know. I as so truly wish that my life were as useful as yours - But somehow, it seems to me that five women in one family cannot be very usefully employed - Not half their faculties have a chance of development - Do you comprehend? Have you been reading anything interesting? Is your precious friend fond of reading? but of course he is - And as you admire the same author? How pleasant it must be to find out each others tastes and find them congenial! I have just read "What will he do with it?" Have you seen it? It is delightful, indeed - It was really painful to part with some of the characters - the more so, because I never expect to see things in this life. I suppose you have heard about the Fair and how terribly crowded the court-house was and yet how much we enjoyed it - There is really not much of agreeable incident connected with it however - Yet, in scanning the crowd with the memory's eye, I see one noble head quite distinctly that of Cousin Henry Muschett - Now don't let your imagination magnify that simple speech into anything serious - There were so many ladies, but few gentlemen could enter, but I think he must be a fine fellow and I like him quite much - Dear friends, excuse this really badly written letter - Set lamplight and a bad pen place for me - Do write very soon & write best love from me to all - I remain ever truly yours Lizzie -

Lizzie to Margaret A. Briscoe

Oakley, December 6th, 1859

My dearest Cousin Maggie

I have been intending to write you for several days, and though they have passed away very quietly, I have not found a time exactly suited to that pleasant employment until now. I doubt if you would consider the present time very propitious, as I am seated at a table where the gentlemen members are engaged in playing euchre and, being liable to an occasional jog from brother's elbow, is not calculated to improve the appearance at least of my letter. I hope too you will excuse any indication of a wandering mind in my style, as I cannot help having such expressions as "I pass- I assist- I'll order that up" and other phrases best understood by euchre players. But dearest Cousin, such things cannot distract my thoughts from you long. I have such a quiet trust in you that the thought of you in writing seems such close companionship as to banish everything but you and what we are talking about. The assurance of your friendship always so dear to me, almost assumes bodily force at such times - and I look round wondering if you are not hovering near and will not presently appear... the fact is I think this last idea rather fanciful; Don't (?) you? I imagine I should be very much shocked at first if I were to behold you so unexpectedly by my side. However, I am sure you understand what I really meant.

I suppose you are staying with Jannette, as Chap said you would remain some time with her. Ask Jannette what she means by having so many responsibilities. Does she expect to continue increasing such responsibilities all her life? Poor dear child, what a fate to look forward to! But I hope the latest is doing very well. Jannette too. Tell her not to feel depressed in view of her responsibilities. I am quite sure she will be equal to the task of managing them. "As our day, so shall our strength be." That is a comforting text under such circumstances... I saw Cousin Nannie Muschett at the Fair, and she begged me to go with her to Sotterley. I should be so charmed to do so, but that she is going before Christmas when I cannot possibly leave home. I do like cousin Nannie so much and should have enjoyed the visit with her extremely. When you two are having cozy times together, would you sometimes spare a thought for me, knowing how I delight to be with you?

I was so glad, dearest cousin Mag, that you had that matter explained which troubled you when I saw you last. I could not help hoping t'would yet be well when you told me about it. Has he left for the South yet? Now my dear child, I must set you right. My sympathy for you, which induced me to speak so warmly of men in general, when they behave badly and make girls unhappy, and caused you to misapprehend me. Thanks for your kindness my darling, but no one has been trifling with my heart. The best proof you could have had of this fact would have been the hearty laugh which escaped me at the base supposition. Of course, t'would have been nothing to laugh at, had it been so. Don't believe one word about Grant. He comes up sometimes, but only as a friend. He has never had one bit of my heart but a friendly piece, and never can have. And I will do him the justice to say he does not desire more than a friend's share of interest. This is perfectly true, you do not doubt, I am sure.

What are you about this winter? Something good and profitable I know. I do so truly wish that my life were as useful as yours. But somehow, it seems to me that five women in one family cannot be very usefully employed. Not half their faculties have a chance of development. Do you comprehend?

Have you been making anything interesting? Is your precious friend fond of reading? Well of course he is. And do you admire the same authors? how pleasant it must be to find out each others tastes and find them congenial! I have just read "what will he do with it?" Have you seen it?

It is a delightful. Indeed, it was really painful to part with some of the characters. The more so, because I never expect to see them in this life. I suppose you have heard about the Fair and how terribly crowded the court house was and yet how much we enjoyed it. There is really not much of agreeable incident connected with it however. Yet, in scanning the crowd with memory's eye. I see one noble head quite distinctly that of cousin Henry Muschett. Now don't let your imaginaty magnify that simple speech into anything serious. There were so many ladies, but few gentlemen could enter, but I think he must be a fine fellow and I like him quite much. Dear friends excuse this really badly written letter. Set lamplight and a (indistinct) plate for me. Do write very soon and with best love from all to all. I remain ever truly yours,

Lizzie

Notes:

1. Euchre was a trick-taking card game popular in the nineteenth century.
2. Cousin Nannie Muschett. Not yet identified.
3. Grant. Not yet identified.
4. "your precious friend" It seems Margaret has a suitor. Could it be young Dr. Wise?
5. Cousin Henry Muschett. Not yet identified. There was a Henry Muschett living in Charles county in 1861.

radiant: I have heard he intends going to Europe, keeping next year, but do not know, whether he will keep bachelor's house or get a lady to superintend the establishment. You and Cousin W. had better come up - you may lose a chance, otherwise.

You enquire whether Cousin May, H., is at home - She really intends spending the winter at home, but Cousin Jenny is the fortunate girl, who will call Baltimore her home for the long, gloomy winter.

Indeed, Cousin Miss, you need not distress yourself, and me too, by thinking my heart is in a "safe flight." I assure you it was never better, but I have been seriously ailing, dear Cousin May - I have had, and still have the Dyspepsia very badly - I did not like to tell you of it, because I thought it would make you a little bit sorry, and I know you have troubles enough of your own. But I am better now, I hope, and oh dear me! I do trust I shall soon be well for 'tis very bad and tiresome. I don't doubt that Pottery could effect a cure, if any place could, but it seems as hard to get there, as for the cripple man to crawl into the pool.

radiant. I have heard he intends going to house keeping next year but do not know whether he will keep bachelor's house or get a lady to superintend his establishment. Jon and Cousin N had better come up. You may lose a chance otherwise.

You enquire whether Cousin Mag is at house. She really intends spending winter at home the but cousin Jenny is the fortunate girl who with call Baltimore her home for the long, gloomy winter.

Indeed Cousin Briscoe, you need not distress yourself and me too but thinking my heart is in a "sad plight". I assure you, it was never better, but have been seriously ailing, dear Cousin Mag. I have had and still have the Dyspepsia very badly. I did not like to tell you of it because I thought it might make you a little bit sorry and I knew you had troubles enough of your own. But I am better now, I hope, and oh dear me! I do trust I shall soon be well for tis very bad and tiresome I don't doubt that Sotterley could effect a cure if any place could ,but it seems as hard to get there, as 'twas for the _____ man to crawl into the pool.

Notes:

1. The habit of underlining words and the handwriting is similar to Lizzie's letter to Margaret.
Note the references to "Cousin Mag" and "Cousin Briscoe".
2. "Dyspepsia" refers to indigestion.

must confess they are not always of the most agreeable descriptions.

Have you been very busy this summer? I prob-
I hear about you are there, you must be very
much engaged. Did you mean that when you
said in your letter "I must be true enough when
I came down to hear what a fool you had been
making of yourself." If that is what you meant,
I don't consider it at all foolish, but something
very sensible. I hope it may be so. I am sure
you would choose well and will make a
dear, good wife, to a dear good man, as I am
certain he is. I shall be delighted to hear you
are to be married, against Cousin Maggie, and
no one can more truly wish you every happiness
that social life can bring than I, your always
friend. It makes me quite sad to think how
all my dearest friends are leaving me, but
I could not be so selfish as to wish it otherwise,
since, it makes them happier.

Lizzie to Margaret A. Briscoe

Undated, Partial Letter

must confess they are not always of the most agreeable description.

Have you been very busy this summer? If reports I hear about you are true, you must be very much engaged. Did you mean that when you said in your letter "T'would be time enough when I came down to hear what a fool you had been making of yourself." If that is what you meant, I don't consider it at all foolish, but something very sensible. I hope it may be so. I am sure you would choose well and will make a dear good wife to a dear good man, as I am certain he is. I shall be delighted to hear you are to be married, dearest Cousin Maggie, and no one can more truly wish you every happiness that wedded life can bring than I, your always friend. It makes me quite sad to think how all my dearest friends are leaving me, but I could not be so selfish as to wish it otherwise since it makes them happier.

I hope you are all enjoying good health at Sotterley. Please, please write soon and tell me how all are. I see that David is to be orator at Charlotte Hall on the 4th. Tell him I wish him brilliant success and wish I could be there to hear him.

We have well except John & Father. John had Pneumonia but is nearly recovered and Father has missed his chill today for the first time. Sister Jennie sends her love to you and was quite surprised to hear Mr. Lansdale's account of the state of her health. She has only had one cold since last Fall and that she took in (illegible) in March. She is quite well at this time.

All join me in much love to you and all the family. Ask Dr. Briscoe does he never intend to bring Mrs. Briscoe up to Oakley? We would all be delighted to see them. How is Miss Jannette and what has she been doing this long time? I expect Jenny has quite forgotten there ever of Giloam (?) when the angel troubles the waters!

I am very glad to hear that the health of Jannette and her babe is improving. Please give my sincerest love and good wishes to her and tell her I hope she has not forgotten us or thinks not that we have forgotten her. We are still hoping and intending to pay her a visit but, indeed, it is very hard to get from home to go any distance.

Father went to the Trustee meeting at C. [Charlotte] Hall yesterday and I was perfectly charmed to hear on his return that Chapman had been appointed teacher. Was it not very complimentary that he should have been chosen in preference to many competitors? We all were very much gratified indeed as much or more for the honor of the things as for the solid advantages resulting from it.

Mother and sister Nannie give a great deal of love to all, particularly you and Miss Jannette. And say, you must come up in a week or two for Christmas. Oh, please come. Give my real love to Dr. and Mrs. Briscoe and beg them to come or at least send you up. You do not believe what sincere pleasure you would confer, or surely you would come. Excuse this poor letter and don't let anyone see it. Write very soon. Your letters are a great pleasure to me.

Sincerely and affectionately yours,

Lizzie

Notes:

2. David is Margaret's brother, David Stone Briscoe, born in 1841.
3. The reference to David being "orator at Charlotte Hall" indicates that he would soon be graduating from Charlotte Hall School and likely dates the letter to his 16th or 17th year, which would be in 1857 or 1858.
4. "on the fourth": Graduations usually occurred in the late fall in the ante-bellum years. Consequently, this letter was probably written in September or October. This fits with the earlier question about what Margaret had been doing in the summer and with the hope expressed at the end that she would come for Christmas.
5. John is presumably Lizzie's brother. Not yet identified
6. Sister Jennie (latter Jenny). Not yet identified.
7. Jannette is Margaret's sister Jeannette Eleanor Briscoe, who was then married and, as the letter notes, had a child.
8. "Giloam" or "Yiloam" is likely biblical illusion.
9. Lizzie's father was a trustee of the Charlotte Hall School. (Need to check Guyther's book.)
10. Sister Nannie. Not yet identified.

we were in, Philippa & I, on our way to
Maurbury to take the boat last Thursday -
The axletree broke about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from
the wharf and after walking the distance
in the boiling sun, she we found the boat
had left ten minutes before! "Fancy our
fulinks!" Twenty miles from home and the
stage had left too - However, after more
troubles than I can tell you now, all ended
well! A few hours later, Philippa took the
Dr Nicholas and I hired Swann's carriage,
hitched Charley to it, Edison mounted the
other carriage horse and I drove myself and
little Henry all the way home that ^{evening} night
and such driving you never will see - I made
many astonishing escapes from gate-posts,
stumps and gullies, but only came in actual
collision once with a gate-post - You know
I am destined to have adventures, though I

was such a being as myself in existence -
Does he still farm at Detroit?

Now Cousin Mary, do write to me soon - It will
be very kind and forgiving in you, but you
love to be so, don't you? You will see how very
punctually I shall answer your next letter.
Twas not that you were forgotten that I did
not write; far from it; but somehow, I had
got out of the habit of writing and could
not feel ready -

With best love to all and hoping to hear
from you soon, I remain your ever sincere friend,
Lizzy.

How are Sammie & her family? My love to her
when you see her - We have been half
expecting her up -

Lizzie to Margaret A. Briscoe

Undated, Partial Letter

we were in, Philippa & I, on our way to Marbury's to take the boat last Thursday- the axle line broke about 1/4 miles from the wharf and after walking the distance in the boiling sun, ~~the~~ we found the boat had left there ten minutes before. "Fancy our fulinks!" Twenty miles from home and the stage had left too. However, after more mishaps than I can tell you now all ended well! A few hours later Philippa took then St. Nicholas and I hired Swann's carriage, hitched Charley to it. Tolson mounted the other carriage horse and I drove myself and little Henry all the way home that evening and such driving you never did see. I made many astonishing escapes from gate-posts, stumps, and gullies, but only came in actually collision once - with a gate-post, you know I am accustomed to have adventures, though. I was such a being as myself in existence - Does he still farm at Hector's?

Now cousin Mag, do write to me soon - It will be very kind and forgiving in you, but you love to be so, don't you? You will see how very punctually I shall answer your next letter. T'was not that you were forgotten that I did not write; far from it, but somehow I had got out of the habit of writing and could not feel ready.

With best love to all and hoping to hear from you soon, I remain your ever sincere friend,

Lizzie

How are Jannette and her family? My love to her when you see her - we have been half expecting her up.

Notes:

1. Philippa. Not yet identified.
2. Marbury's Not yet identified. This does not seem to relate to the Nora Marbury mentioned in Sarah Webster's letter.
3. "Fancy our fulinks" is presumably a polite curse.
4. Is St. Nicholas the name of a horse?

5. Swann's Carriage. Not yet identified.
6. Charley appears to be Lizzie's horse.
7. Tolson. Not yet identified. This is possibly a mention of a slave.
7. Little Henry. Possibly Lizzie's younger brother. Not yet identified.
2. "Hector's" is a farm that adjoins Sotterley. Hector's was later briefly owned by the Briscoes. Today, Hector's is on Steer Horn Neck Road and hosts the model airplane club.

My Dear Doctor Bathurst 18th January 1862

I often think of you all, and the many acts of kindness which you have so cheerfully done for me, during my unavoidable absence from home, which I assure you will be remembered with everlasting gratitude in this world & doubtless will form your reward in the world to come. I have this morning been more than usually reminded of our close intimacy and abiding friendship in days gone by, and feel more closely as the shadows of ~~this~~ earth's cluster around us, how beautiful that retrospect - and though at times a little ruffled by those infirmities, the lot of man below, yet in the decline of life it has lost none of its vigor, nay freshness - but as brightly and as hopefully runs on as when it first began. Oh it is my morning & evening prayer, that Heaven's choicest blessings may be yours - his protection yours from the sad calamities of this cruel fratricidal war. Oh how beautiful, how inspiring the thought, the hope of that reunion around the family altar, with a restored Country & Constitution, the sweet and dear children as pure in thought, as pure in deed, and uncontaminated by conflict with the world, the sweet incense of prayer and praise shall ascend to the "true God" in one accent for their return. Oh see the tears are falling fast while I write & pray God they may be inspired tears, the earnest of happier days.

With what vividness does memory come back with her record of the past, when we both started upon the grand theatre of life, each to play his part in ~~the~~ with buoyant hopes & the stern will to battle on, whilst every

heart felt proud, that God had decreed, that in the Forest
Home ~~of~~ the Indian Savage, this Land should teem with
freedom to the world, and be handed ^{down} to time, as God's
promised ^{home} of the Captive and oppressed - but alas now how
changed, its beauty blured as by a dismal scroll & freedom
but a name - enough of this.

Now you are aware that at the Extra Session of the Legis-
lature, I introduced into the Senate a series of resolutions look-
ing to the adjustment of our National Difficulties, which
were referred to the Committee upon Federal Relations - it seems
they were a move in the right direction, for from them have
sprung resolutions from Mr Finy the Senator from
Washington County, looking to the same object upon
the basis of the Crittenden Resolutions as originally
reported by him, what favour they will receive I cannot
tell - He is perfectly sincere & honest and a "Union
Man".

I have very little to do, but record my vote in
the Senate, my social relations kind & friendly
with all the Senators, and I shall do nothing to
mar or interrupt it in any particular. I wish this
war ~~war~~ ended upon terms honourable to us all
and it can only be done by kindness conciliation
& compromise - and I will make any sacrifice
consistent with honour & principle to consummate
so great a blessing to my Country.

How are you all, how are all at home, how are they getting
on with winter's work - are there any troops in the neighborhood
Have they done any damage in the neighborhood - is there
any sickness at home, or in the neighborhood - how come
on the Ponies are they fat & fiery - Write very soon & direct
to Annapolis and let me know every thing going on, for
I feel so interested in you all, that any news will be accep-
table - Lydia sends her love to you all Doct & Mrs Neal
Margaret & Miss Garton & will ^{answer} ~~write~~ Sally's kind letter
immediately - she has been sick ever since she came
to Balto with a very bad cold - she has been over
but twice - Good bye - direct your letter to Annapolis
yours Truly
C. Billingsley



Chapman Billingsley to Walter Hanson Briscoe

My Dear Doctor

Baltimore

18th January 1862

I often think of you all, and the many acts of kindness which you have so cheerfully done for me, during my unavoidable absence from home, which I assure you will be remembered with everlasting gratitude in this world & doubtless will form your reward in the world to come. I have this morning been more than usually reminded of our close intimacy and abiding friendship in days gone by, and feel more closely as the shadows of this earth cluster around us, how beautiful that retrospect and though at times a little muffled by those infirmities, the lot of man **below** (?), yet in the decline of life it has lost none of its vigor, nay **freshness**, but as brightly and as hopefully beams on as when it first began. Oh it is my morning and evening prayer that Heaven's **Choicest** blessings may be yours, his protection yours from the sad calamities of this cruel **fratricidal** war. Oh how beautiful, how inspiring the thought, the hope of that reunion around the family altar, with a restored Country & Constitution, the **sweet** and dear children as pure in thought, as pure in deed, and uncontaminated by **conflict** with the world, the sweet incense of prayer and praise shall ascend to the "true God" in one accent for their return. Oh Sir the tears are falling fast while I write & pray God they may be inspired tears, the earnest of happier days.

With what vividness does the memory come back with her **record** of the past, when we both stand upon the grand theatre of life, each to play his part ~~in the~~ with buoyant hopes & the stern will to battle on whilst every heart felt proud, that God had decreed, that in the Forest Home of the Indian Savage, this Land should teem with freedom to the world, and be handed down to **time**, as God's promised home of the Captive and oppressed - but alas now how changed, its beauty blurred as by a dismal scroll & freedom but a name - enough of this.

You are aware that as the **Extra** Session of the Legislature, I introduced into the Senate a series of resolutions, looking to the adjustment of our national Difficulties, which were referred to the Committee upon Federal relations - it seems they were a move in the right direction, for from there have sprung resolutions from **Mr. Fiery** the Senator from Washington County, looking to the same object upon the Crittenden Resolutions as originally reported by him. What favour they will **receive** I cannot tell. He is **perfectly sincere &** honest and a "Union man".

I have very little to do, but record my vote in the Senate, my social relations kind & friendly with all the Senators, and I shall do nothing to man or interrupt **it** in any particular. I wish this war ended upon terms honourable to us all and it can only be done by **kindness**, conciliation & compromise - and I will make any sacrifice consistent with honour & principle to consummate so great a blessing to my Country.

How are you all, how are all at home, how are they getting on with winter's world - are there any troops in the neighbourhood have they done any damage ~~in the neighbourhood~~ - is there any **sickness** at home, or in the neighbourhood - how come on the Ponies are they fat & fiery. Write very soon & direct to Annapolis and let me know everything going on, for I feel so interested in you all, that any news will be acceptable. Lydia sends her love to you all, Doctor & Mrs. Neale, Margaret & Mrs. Garton & will answer Sally's kind letter immediately - she has been sick ever since she came to Balt. with a very bad cold - she has been out but twice. Goodbye - direct your letter to Annapolis.

Yours truly
C Billingsley

Notes:

1. The Crittenden Resolution was passed a few months after the start of the Civil War. It proposed restoring the Union “as it was”, with no mention of slavery. The aim was to return to the status quo ante, which would have left slavery in place.

These letters, written by Kate Dent to her various family members, were obtained from the St. Mary's County Historical Society. They are relevant to this project because they provide us with what was otherwise a missing element in this story. We started this overall chapter with the letters written by Dr. and Mrs. Briscoe but those letters only hinted at the concerns that the child had expressed in her letters back to her parents. We had historical documents from Saint Mary's Hall which gave us an idea about the structure of that girls boarding school. These letters from Kate Dent give us a perspective of a child who is similar in age to Margaret Briscoe. The time frame is within ten years of the Briscoe letters. Both Kate Dent and Margaret Briscoe are attending Episcopal girls boarding schools. The associated documents from Hannah More Academy appear very similar to what we see both in Dr. Briscoe's letters and what we see in the St. Mary's Hall archival material. What follows now are the letters written by Kate Dent in their entirety.

May 19 th , 1857... Kate Dent to "Ma"	226
May 26 th , 1857... Kate Dent to "Brother"	230
June 1 st , 1857... Kate Dent to "Brother"	233
June 9 th , 1857... Kate Dent to "Ma"	236
June 16 th , 1857... Kate Dent to "Pa"	240
June 16 th , 1857... Kate Dent to "Brother"	244
June 20 th , 1857... Kate to "Ma"	248
June 27 th , 1857... Kate to "Pa"	252
July 4 th , 1857... Kate to "Ma"	258
July 18 th , 1857... Kate to "Pa"	262
August 2 nd , 1857... Kate to "Ma"	265
August 15 th , 1857... Kate to "Pa"	268
August 28 th , 1857... Kate to "Pa"	272
October 17 th , 1857... Kate to "Pa"	277
January 20 th , 1859... Kate to "Pa"	280
February 7 th , 1859... Kate to "Pa"	282
Alnwick 1859... Kate to "Ma" & "Pa"	287

Flannan Moor Academy, Meigs^R
1858

My dear Ma,

I know you are anxious to hear from me and to know how I like the school; but I think I told Pa. that I was as well-satisfied here as I could be any where except home. The teachers and girls are all very kind.

I hope I will get a letter from home soon for I am very anxious to hear from you all. I hope Fannie did not catch cold, by going out on the water, last wednesday.

I suppose ^{brother} has commenced going to school again; tell him not to forget the

bet. he made me about his Latin.
Mrs Dunbar and Miss Draper
went to Baltimore this morning.
They will return this evening.

We have a good many amusements.
beside there are many interesting books
in the library, which we can read
in the afternoon, after we know our
lessons.

I forgot to thank Pa for the candy
he sent me and also for the gourd and
flowers. I must ask you, my Ma
to thank him for me.

Give my love to my aunts and
uncles. I think they might honour
me with a letter occasionally.

I wish you would ask Pa to give

Mrs Lumbard a list of the names
he is willing for me to correspond
with. I only wish to write to my
aunts, to Brother and Georgy.

ts. Give my love to every body at home.
kiss my Pa and Brother and also
my darling little sister for me.

and now, Farewell! my own dear
Mama until next saturday when I shall
again write to the loved ones at
home. again Farewell!

Your affectionate daughter. Kate

P.S. Instead of writing home
on saturday I shall write on
tuesday. Kate

Hannah More Academy
May 19th 1857

My dear Ma,

I know you are anxious to hear from me and to know how I like the school; but I think I told Pa that I was as well satisfied here as I could be any where except home. The teachers and girls are all very kind.

I hope I will get a letter from home soon for I am very anxious to hear from you all. I hope Fannie did not catch cold, by going out on the water last Wednesday.

I suppose brother has commenced going to school again, tell him not to forget the bet he made me about his Latin. Mrs. Dunbar and Miss Drapes went to Baltimore this morning, they will return this evening.

We have a good many amusements, beside there are many interesting books in the library, which we can read in the afternoon, after we know our lessons.

I forgot to thank Pa for the candy he sent me and also for the (guard?) and flowers; I must ask you, my Ma to thank him for me.

Give my love to my aunts and uncles. I think they might honour me with a letter occasionally. I wish you would ask Pa to give Mrs. Dunbar a list of the names he is willing for me to correspond with. I only wish to write to my aunts, to Brother, and Georgy.

Give my love to every body at home. Kiss my Pa and Brother and also my darling little sister for me.

And now, Farewell! My own dear Ma until next Saturday when I shall again write to the loved ones at home. Again Farewell!

Your affectionate daughter,

Kate

PS Instead of writing home on Saturday I shall write on Tuesday,

Kate

Hannah Moore Academy May 26th 1857

Dear brother,

Since I wrote home last,

I have had a severe chill. Mrs Dunbar sent for Doctor Dixon. he left me eighteen pills and some powders. but before I took them all I was well again. I have been here three weeks, and have only received one letter from home, ^{that was not from home but from Washington} I think it is very strange! You are either very industrious or you are not willing to deprive yourselves of a few minutes pleasure for the sake of writing to one you know would be very glad to hear from you at any time; but if you are not inclined to write I do not wish it: but the sweetest task I have is to write to someone at home. Sometimes I am jealous of the other girls when I see them reading their letters and I have none to read. I often feel tempted to write oftener than once a week but again I think if it is so very disagreeable to write letters, (for I know it is disagreeable for you to write to me) ^{or you would have written before now,} it must be disagreeable to read them. Give my love to Georgy ask her will she please, to write to me.

Last Thursday being Assention day we did not go in school

There was service at the church half after ten in the morning,
and ~~eight~~ at night.

I am to go over to Doctor A's ten o'clock tomorrow morning
to say my Latin lessons. There is no one in class with me.
Mrs Dunbar talks of giving us a French conversation
party Saturday. Ofcourse there will be no one but the girls invited.
Give my love to the school girls, and my respects to the ~~Servants~~
my love to my aunts and uncles. I wish Cousin Mary
would come out here, I am shure she would like.

Kiss our sweet little sister for me. and give my love and
a dozen kisses to Ma and Pa. But the bell summons
us for something I know not what. so, goodbye!

Your affectionate sister,

Kate,

P.S. Love to Aunts and Uncles. O! I forgot I had
sent my love to them above. If I do not hear
from home befor next Tuesday, I shall ask Mrs Dunbar
to let me write to aunt Annie or Aunt Jess:
for I mus find some one who will write to me and
let me know the cause of my not hearing from home.

K₇

Hannah Moore Academy May 26th 1857

Dear brother,

Since I wrote home last, I have had a severe chill. Mrs. Dunbar sent for Doctor (Liam?) he left me eighteen pills and some powders, but before I took them all I was well again. I have been here three weeks and have only received one letter from home that was not from home but from Washington. I think it is very strange! You all are either very industrious or you are not willing to deprive yourselves of a few minutes pleasure for the sake of writing. To one you know would be very glad to hear from you at any time; but if you are not inclined to write I do not wish it: but to me the sweetest task I have is to write to someone at home, sometimes I am jealous of the other girls when I see them reading their letters and I have none to read. I often feel tempted to write oftener than once a week but again I think if it is so very disagreeable to write letters, (for I know it is disagreeable for you to write to me, or you would have written before now,) it must be disagreeable to read them. Give my love to Georgy ask her will she please, to write to me.

Last Thursday being Assention day we did not go in to school. There was service at the church half after ten in the morning and eight at night.

I am to go over to Doctor (Res?) ten o'clock tomorrow morning to say my Latin lessons. There is no one in class with me. Mrs. Dunbar talks of giving us a French conversation party Saturday. Of course there will be no one but the girls invited. Give my love to the school girls, and my respects to the servants, my love to my aunts and uncles. I wish Cousin Mary would come out here, I am sure she would like.

Kiss our sweet little sister for me, and give my love and a dozen kisses to Ma and Pa. But the bell summons us for something I know not what – so, goodbye!

Your affectionate sister,

Kate,

PS Love to Aunts and Uncles. O! I forgot I had sent my love to them above. If I do not hear from home before next Tuesday, I shall ask Mrs. Dunbar to let me write to aunt Annie or Aunt (Puss?): for I must find some one who will write to me and let me know the cause of my not hearing from home.

K

Heannak Moor Academy

June 1st 1851

Dear brother,

I do not know that I
am doing right in writing to you again
before I receive a letter from you. I am
sure I would not write but I ~~think~~ perhaps
you have been so busy with your studies
trying to make up for the time you lost by
going to Washington that you forgot me.
Have I guessed right? Georgy too promised
to write but she very soon forgets her promises.
I wish to make a bargain with you all,
Ma & Pa are to write once a week, you
once during two weeks and Georgy once
a month and all of you write oftener if
you can find time. I will write once a week.
I hope you will be as well pleased with C Hall
when you go as I am with Heannak Academy.
I am sure there is not a school in the state
that would suit me better than this. I know
you judge from my liking it so much
that I do not have to study much; but
you are mistaken there; for I have to
study a great deal more than I ever did before.

But it is a pleasure to study when you
can understand what you are studying and
it must be a great goose that can't understand
anything when it is explained to them
as fully as all our lessons are to us.

After school we have a delightful time. Mrs
Dunbar does everything in her power to make
us take an interest in and understand our study
during study hours and everything when out
of school to make us happy.

It looks so beautiful out that I could scarcely
stay in my room long enough to write as much as
I have — But Mary Fugitt is waiting for
me to walk on the lawn so good-bye!

your sister Kate

I Marshall Dent

Hannah More Academy
June 1st, 1857

Dear brother,

I do not know what I am doing right now writing to you again before I receive a letter from you. I am sure I would not write but I think perhaps you have been so busy with your studies trying to make up for the time you lost by going to Washington that you forgot me. Have I guessed right? Georgy too promised to write, but she very soon forgets her promises. I wish to make a bargain with you all, Ma & Pa are to write once a week, you once during two weeks, and Georgy once a month and all of you write often if you can find time. I will write once a week. I hope you will be as well pleased with C Hall when you go as I am with H More Academy. I am sure there is not a school in the state that would suit me better than this. I know you judge from my liking it so much that I do not have to study much; but you are mistaken there; for I have to study a great deal more than I ever did before but it is a pleasure to study when you can understand what you are studying and it must be a great goose that can't understand anything when it is explained to them as fully as all our lessons are to us. After school we have a delightful time. Mrs. Dunbar does everything in her power to make us take an interest in and understand our studies during study hours and everything when out of school to make us happy. It looks so beautiful out that I could scarcely stay in my room long enough to write as much as I have- but Mary Turgit (?) is waiting for me to walk on the lawn, so good bye!

Your sister Kate,

J Marshall Dent

Heannah Moore Academy
June 9th 1851.

My dear Ma,

My day for writing home has rolled around again, and I have taken my seat to write a letter without knowing anything to write that I think would be interesting to you; but I am always very anxious for Tuesday morning to come, for I love dearly to write home.

I was very glad to receive Brothers and Georgians letters, but I must confess they were very short.

I expect you will receive my report today. I had no report for Latin.

on account of Doctor Ro's absence,
and none for music. They do not
give report for music the first month.
I have a lesson in Virgil, and an
exercise to write item. October Wednesday
morning at Doctor Ro's house; and a
lesson in Galust, and an exercise
at the same hour Friday morning.

Pa mentioned in his letter that he
wished me to study Greek, Spanish,
and Italian, after a while, but, he
says, I must not be frightened; I
can't find ^{atal} in my dictionary
was not ^{atal} frightened. Indeed I am
very glad that I will have an opportu-
nity to study these languages.

Mrs Dunbar lets us see our reports,
before she sends to our parents. she said

in the presence of the school, that mine
was the best report she made out.

I do not know that I ought to have
told you this, but it is too late now.
Little Harry Dunbar has been begging
his mother for a fishing line. I believe
she gave him one, she went to the brook,
and ^{came} ~~just~~ ^{back} delighted that he had
caught some fish, and when he
let us see them they were only little
Brown minnows with frog's feet.

Give my love to every body at home,
and tell Georgy I thank her for
the good advice she gave me in her
letter. I will try to profit by it I
hope she too "will try to be a good studious
girl" but I should take it for granted

Hannah More, Academy
June 9th, 1857

My dear Ma,

My day for writing home has rolled around again, and I have taken my seat to write a letter without knowing anything to write that I think would be interesting to you but I am always very anxious for Tuesday morning to come, for I love dearly to write home.

I was very glad to receive brother's and Georgia's letters, but I must confess they were very short.

I expect you will receive my report today. I had no report for Latin on account of Doctor R's absences and none for musick. They do not give report for musick the first month. I have a lesson in Virgil, and an exercise to write ten o'clock Wednesday morning at Doctor R's house; and a lesson in Salust, and an exercise at the same hour Friday morning. Pa mentioned in his letter that he wished me to study Greek, Spanish, and Italian, after a while, but, he says, I must not be frightened; I was not atal, (Kate writes: I can't find atal in my dictionary) frightened. Indeed I am very glad that I will have an opportunity to study these languages.

Mrs. Dunbar lets her see our reports, before she sends to our parents, she said in the presence of the school, that mine was the best report she made out. I do not know that I ought to have told you this, but it is too late now. Little Henry Dunbar has been begging his mother for a fishing line I believe she gave him one, he went to the brook and a gust came back delighted, that he had caught some fish, and when he let us see them they were only little brown minnows with frogs feet.

Give my love to everybody at home, and tell Georgy I thank her for the good advice she gave me in her letter. I will try to profit by it I hope she too will try to be a "good studious girl" but I should take it for granted she would not advise me to do anything which she herself she would not advice me to do anything which she herself did not practice. I wrote to aunt Annie last week and shall write to aunt Pus soon. I do not know how to direct a letter to aunt Lucy or aunt Lelie. I shall write to Cousin Mary after a while perhaps I may write sometime next week. I expect a letter from home this morning. Please tell me what day you receive my letters; I nearly always write Tuesday morning, I believe I wrote Monday morning last week because I was afraid I would not have an opportunity to send it to Reisterstown Tuesday, hereafter I shall always write on Tuesday morning.

Give my love and a kiss to my Pa, Brother, Sister, and cousin. I shall write to Pa near time. Goodbye my dear, Ma! And please come out to see me next summer, when Pa comes and bring Brother an baby sister. Again Goodbye!

PS: Do not send my report back.

Kate

Hannah More Academy
June 16th 1857

Dear Pa,

I received your letter
of June 5th Thursday evening, and was
very sorry to hear that Ma was sick.
I think if you would bring her out here
to spend a part of the summer, she
would not have any more chills this
season. There are several boarding
houses, and some cottages near the
Academy which are for rent during the
summer season. Mrs Dunbar went
to see Mrs Conn on Friday afternoon and
let me go with her. Mrs Baldwin, Lizzie
Annie and Bob are there. I believe they

are to spend the summer at Mr. Combs. w
The has also a good many other
boarders from Baltimore. Mrs B enquired
very particularly after you, and Mea.
I have neither changed the number of
nor days for my recitations since I gave
you a list of them. You said I must
tell you something about my progress
in each, but as you have received my report
before this, I suppose it is not necessary.
The Academy teachers and girls spent
Saturday at Mrs. Pores's: she sent
her carriage for us. Miss Draper
did not go. Mrs D said if we did
not know our lessons perfectly we should
not go but nearly all the girls went
Six of us rode at a time and three.

would get out, and walk, and ^{let} another ^{ride} ride. We spent a very pleasant day, and had very nice strawberries. Doctor R catechises us every Wednesday morning at nine o'clock.

Gen Roberson was out to see Mrs Dunbar a few days ago.

I expect aunt Eliza and aunt Lelia are home now: if they are, give my love to them, and to my other aunts uncles and friends.

Give my love to servants and tell Jane she must get well of chills.

Kiss my dear Ma., and baby Frank for me — And now my own dear Pa: farewell!

Kate,

Hannah More Academy
June 16th 1857

Dear Pa,

I received your letters of June 5th Thursday evening, and was very sorry to hear that Ma was sick. I think if you would bring her out here to spend a part of the summer, she would not have any more chills this season. There are several boarding houses, and some cottages near the academy which are for rent during the summer season. Mrs. Dunbar went to see Mrs. Conmony(?) Friday afternoon and let me go with her. Mrs. Baldwin, Lizzie, Annie, and Bob were there. I believe they are to spend the summer at Mr. Conmony(?). She has also a good many other boarders from Baltimore. Mrs. B enquired very particularly after you, and Ma. I have neither changed the number of nor days for my recitations since I gave you a list of them. You said I must tell you something about my progress in each, but as you have received my report before this, I suppose it is not necessary. The Academy teacher and girls spent Saturday at Mrs. Nores's! She sent her carriage for us, Miss Draper did not go. Mrs. D said if we did not know our lessons perfectly we should not go but nearly all the girls went two of us rode at a time and they would get out, and walk, and let another two ride. We spent a very pleasant day, and had very nice strawberries. Doctor R catechises us every Wednesday morning at nine o'clock.

Gen. Robenson was out to see Mrs. Dunbar, a few days ago.

I expect aunt Eliza and aunt Lelie are home now: if they are, give my love to them and to my other aunts uncles and friends.

Give my love to servants and tell Jane she must get well of chills.

Kiss my dear Ma, and babie Frank for me.

And now my own dear Pa: Farewell!

Kate

Hannah Moore Academy,
June 16th 1854,

Dear Brother,

I received yours, and
Georgia's letters in due time, and was
very glad to hear from you. I assure
you. But I think you must have
been in a great hurry to go fishing,
or to do something which was more
pleasant than writing to me, for
your letter certainly was very short.
I know you will finish Latin before
I will, for I only say one lesson in
Virgil, and one in Sallust during a
week, and you say five in each.
But I am far from being jealous.

I hope you will be diligent in the
pursuit of your studies, for I should
like very much for my only brother
to be a scholar. Our motto is, Excelsior.
Suppose you take it for yours too; and
remember now is the time to push
forward, for that is the meaning of
the motto. When you are older, you
may have other duties to perform, then
when it is too late, you will repent that
you did not heed our motto, Excelsior!

What encouragement have our Parents
to afford us an opportunity to acquire
knowledge? when they see it is not
appreciated by us. Be diligent O
my brother and do not let the golden
moments of youth pass unimproved!

But fulfill what you know to be
the desire of your Parents, and all true
friends. Perhaps you think as you
are nearly as old as I, you know as well
what is to your interest as I. But do
you remember you so often used to tell me
"We see the faults of others, and we
vous voyons les fautes d'autrui, et nous
are blind to our own
sommes aveugles sur les nôtres".

And as I suppose I am not unlike
most people, but am blind to my own
faults, I should be very thankful if
you would sometimes remind me of them,
for I know they are very numerous.
Give my love to Georgy and tell her I
shall write to her soon, Goodbye!

Your affectionate sister,
Kate,

Hannah Moore Academy,
June 16th, 1857,

Dear Brother,

I received yours, and Georgia's letters in due time, and was very glad to hear from you I assure you. But I think you must have been in a great hurry to go fishing, or to do something which was more pleasant than writing to me, for your letter certainly was very short. I know you will finish Latin before I will, for I only say one lesson in Virgil, and one in Salust during a week, and you say five in each. But I am far from being jealous. I hope you will be diligent in the pursuit of your studies, for I should like very much for my only brother to be a scholar. Our motto is, Excelsior Suppose(?) you take it for yours too, and remember now is the time, to push forward, for that is the meaning of the motto. When you are older, you may have other duties to perform, then when it is too late, you will repent that you did not heed our motto, Excelsior!

What encouragement have our Parents to afford us an opportunity to acquire Knowledge; when they see it is not appreciated by us. Be diligent O my brother and do not let the golden moments of youth pass unimproved!

But fulfill what you know to be the desire of your Parents, and all true friends. Perhaps you think as you are nearly as old as I you know as well what is to your interest as I. But do you remember you so often used to tell me? "Nous voyous les fautes I, autours, el mores sormmese areugles sur les notres. (translation: We see the faults of others, and we are blind to our own.)

And as I suppose I am not unlike most people, but am blind to my own faults, I should be very thankful if you would sometimes remind me of them, for I know they are very numerous. Give my love to Georgy an tell her I shall write to her soon, Goodbye!

Your affectionate sister,
Kate

J. Marshall Dent
Miles town
St. Mary's Co.
MD

Hannah More Academy
Saturday morning June 20th 57

Dear Ma,

I received Pa's
letter Thursday evening just as I
was going to the piano to practice.
Miss Draper, ^{said} she thought if I
would wait until I had practiced,
I would enjoy it more. But I was
too impatient to wait ^{so long} an hour. I
Mrs. Durbin wishes the girls to write
home on Saturday, I therefore have
changed my day.
As soon as Miss Kendig finishes
practicing, Miss Draper, and Amanda

70
"Waring are going to Reisterstown with
me to get some confectionary, as Luzyie
Baldwin is to spend the afternoon
with me. I have invited all the
girls in my room this evening and
we all anticipate a very pleasant
afternoon. Mrs Baldwin comes out
every Saturday.

I received yours and Brothers letter
that week, and was very glad to
hear that you had missed your
chills. I would have written to
Georgy today, but am in too great
a hurry, as I will take this up to
Reisterstown when I go, which will be
very soon now for I think Miss Gending
has nearly practiced an hour.

7
g
v

(2)

I have written to Cousin Mary.
(you must excuse this very short
letter, please also excuse the mistakes.

for I am in a great hurry.
I hope Leora has not the whooping
cough as Pa seems to fear when
he wrote.

I have the same studies and the
same days for reciting them that
I had when I gave Pa a list
of them. Pa wishes to know my
progress in each. that he must
judge from my report. I do not
think my letter so very short after all,
but I expect it has a great many
big mistakes in it. However I have not
time to rectify them. But we are
going now, goodbye. Your affectionate,
Love to all, Daughter Kate,

Hannah Moore Academy
Saturday morning June 20th, 1857

Dear Ma,

I received Pa's letter Thursday evening just as I was going to the piano to practice. Miss Draper said she thought if I would wait until I had practiced, I would enjoy it more. But I was too impatient to wait so long. If Mrs. Dunbar wishes the girls to write home on Saturday, I therefore have changed my day.

As soon as Miss Hendig finishes practicing, Miss Draper and Amanda Waring are going to Reisterstown with me to get some confectionary, as Lizzie Baldwin is to spend the afternoon with me. I have invited all the girls in my room this evening and we all anticipate a very pleasant afternoon. Mrs. Baldwin comes out every Saturday.

I received yours and Brother's letters this week, and was very glad to hear that you had missed your chills. I would have written to Georgy to day, but am in too great a hurry, as I will take this up to Reisterstown when I go, which will be very soon now for I think Miss Hendig has nearly practiced an hour.

I have written to Cousin Mary. (You must excuse this very short letter, please also excuse the mistakes. For I am in in a great hurry. I hope Georgy has not the whooping cough as Pa seemed to fear when he wrote.)

I have the same studies and the same days for reciting them that I had when I gave Pa a list of them. Pa wishes to know my progress in each. That he must gauge(?) from my report. I do not think my letter so very short after all, but I expect it has a great many mistakes in it however I have not time to rectify them. But we are going now, goodbye.

Love to all,
Your affectionate Daughter,
Kate

Kannah More Academy
June 25th 1854

Dear Pa,

I received your letter in due time, and was very glad to hear that you were all well. I hope none of you will catch the whooping cough. I expect it would go very hard with Fannie, while she is teething.

Now stated in your letter that you had received my first report and enquire why I have no report for Latin, and music. I think I have told ~~you~~ in one of my letters

I had no report in Latin
on account of Doctor Rich's absence.
And none in music, because
Mrs. Dunbar never gives report for
music the first month.

I will now give you a list of my
studies.

Monday. French translation.

French spelling. French dialogue.

French grammar, and I have
some English sentences to translate
in French. Geography. Reading.

United States History. Bible questions.

Writing. Arithmetic. Analysis.

Tuesday. Analysis. Philosophy.

Grammar. History of Greece.

Writing. Arithmetic. Music.

I practiced an hour every day, but only
take music lessons on ^{Tuesday} ~~Wednesday~~ ^{day and Friday} ~~Wednesday~~.

send to the books.

I have received a letter from
 Mother, one from Aunt Leticia, and
 one from Brother. This week. but
 none from you since the one
 dated June 18th.

I was very sorry to hear that
 you had been so unfortunate
 of late with your fence and tobacco
 plants. It must be very provoking
 to have the same work to do over twice.

There are about twenty girls here now
 some are day scholars. a great
 many day scholars have applied
 but Mrs Dunbar refuses to take
 any more. she expects some ladies
 from South Carolina soon
 also some from Baltimore and
 Prince George. The day scholars and
 boarders are in separate departments.

Brother mentioned in his
 letter that Georgey knew her
 catechism very well, and Mr Levin
 complimented her. I was glad to learn
 that she knew her catechism, but
 was very sorry that she did not
 speak loud enough to be heard by
 the congregation. We have prayers
 every Wednesday morning at six
 and Catechism at nine at church
^{morning service} Wednesday
 We have prayers Monday, Friday
 mornings at nine. and evening
 service Tuesday Thursday Saturday
 evening at eight. A sermon half
 past ten on Sunday morning
 and evening service at four in
 the afternoon. and Sunday school
 from eight to ten Sunday morning.

I have written to Aunt Annie
and Cousin Mary. I but neither
of them have answered my letter.
I shall write to aunt Lellie next
Saturday and also to aunt Puss.
I hope they will not treat me
like aunt Annie and Cousin Mary.
Please tell me how to direct a letter
to Aunt Lucy.

We have very nice swings here but
Mrs I will not let us swing high.
We have also an elegant bath house.
^{I hope} When I see my sweet little sister
again she will know how to walk
and talk. Please teach her to say
Sister Kate before next October.

Give my love to all at home and
to all of my relations and friends. And
believe me your devoted Daughter,
Kate

Hannah More Academy
June 27th, 1857

Dear Pa,

I received your letter in due time and was very glad to hear that you were all well. I hope none of you will catch the whooping cough. I object it would go very hard with Fannie while she is teething.

Now stated in your letter that you had received my first report and enquire why I have no report for Latin and music. I think I have told Ma in one of my letters I have no report in Latin in accounts of Doctor Rich's absence and missing in music because Mrs. Dunbar never give report for music the first month.

I will now give you a list of my studies.

Monday, French translation, French spelling, French dialogue, French grammar, and I have some English sentences to translate in French. Geography, Reading, United States history. Bible questions, Writing, Arithmetic, Philosophy, Grammar, History of Greece. Writing Arithmetic, Music.

I practiced an hour every day, but only take music lessons on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Wednesday, the same French studies that I have on Mondays. Analysis, Virgil syntax, Latin grammar. United states history, Writing, Arithmetic, Music. Thursday Analysis, Philosophy, Grammar, History of Greece, Writing, Arithmetic.

Friday French, Lallust Syntax, Latin grammar, General review, music, Bible questions, Dictation Mythology. I forgot to mention that we have a composition on Monday in which we have to relate something of each of our studies during the week but it must be expressed in our own words. I have been very unfortunate in blotting this letters, but hope you will occur if I would write in order, but it is nearly time to send to the office. I have received a letter from Ma, one from Aunt Lelie, and one from Brother this week, but none from you since the one dated June 18th.

I was very sorry to hear that you have been so unfortunate of late with your fence and tobacco plants. It must be very provoking to have the same work to do over twice.

There are about twenty girls here now. Some are day scholars, a great many day scholars have applied but Mrs. Dunbar refuses to take any more, she expects some ladies from South Carolina soon also some from Baltimore and Prince Georg. The day scholars and boarders are in separate departments.

Brother mentioned in his letter that Georgy knew his catechist very well, and Mr. Livingston(?) compliment also. I was glad to hear what she knew her catechism, but was very sorry that she did not speak loud enough to be heard by the congregation.

We have prayers every Wednesday morning at six and Catechism at nine at church. We have morning service Wednesday morning at nine, and evening service Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday evening at eight. A sermon half past ten on Sunday morning and evening service at four in the afternoon and Sunday school from eight to ten Sunday morning.

I have written to Aunt Annie and Cousin Mary G but neither, of them have answered my letter. I shall write to aunt Lelie Saturday and also to aunt Puss. I hope they will not treat me like aunt Annie and cousin Mary. Please tell me how to direct a letter to aunt Lucy.

We have very nice swings here but Mrs. D will not let me swing high we have also an elegant bathe house. I hope when I see my sweet little sister again she will know how to walk and talk, please teach her to say sister Kate before next October.

Give my love to all at home and to all of my relations and friends. And believe me your devoted Daughter ,

Kate

Hannah More Academy
 July 7th 1854

Dear Ma,

I have not received any letters from home this week except P.s. but hope to hear from you to day. Pa mentioned in his letter that brother had a ^{ble} on his foot so that he could not go to school. I was very sorry to hear it but I expect it is quite well before this. I expect you are wondering before this why I do not write with ink. the reason is (I am sorry to tell you) because I hurt my foot last Wednesday and cannot go to the school room and it is against the rules to have ink in our rooms. Doctor Dixon said my foot was strained.

pretty severely. but it would be
well in a week. it is much better
now than it has been. but I
am still unable to walk.

Today is the fourth of July.
I expect you will enjoy yourself
very much.

I intended to write to Aunt L
and P but as I am afraid
of their straining their weak
eyes to read these pale lead
lines. I shall not write until
I can do it with ink, which will
be not extra day. as Mrs. L does not
like the girls to write on any other
day, unless it is necessary.

Give my love to all at home and
all my relations. Aunt L and
Cousin Mary have not answered
my letter yet.

As I know it will give you some
trouble to read this very pale mark.
I will not write a long letter.

but will now bid you good
bye.

Your affectionate daughter
Kate

Hannah More Academy
July 4th, 1857

Dear Ma,

I have not received any letters from home this week except Pa's. but hope to hear from you today. Pa mentioned in his letter that brother had a (?) on his foot so that he could not go to school. I was very sorry to hear it, but I expect that it was quite well before this. I expect you are wondering before this why I do not write with ink. The reason is (I am sorry to tell you this) because I hurt my foot last Wednesday and cannot go to the school room and it is against the rules to have ink in our rooms. Dr. Dixon said my foot was strained pretty severely, but it would be well in a week. It is much better now than it has been, but I am still unable to walk. As today is the fourth of July, I expect you will enjoy yourself very much.

I intended to write to aunt F and P but as I am afraid of their straining their weak eyes to read these pale lead lines, I shall not write until I can do it with ink, which will be next Saturday as Mrs. D does not like the girls to write on any other day, while it is necessary.

Give my love to all at home and all my relations, Aunt L and Cousin Mary have not answered my letters yet.

As I know it will give you some trouble to read these pale marks, I will not write a long letter, but will now bid you goodbye.

Your affectionate daughter,
Kate

Heannab More Academy

July 18th 1854

My dear Bro.

I have just received your letter dated July 14th. And ~~was~~ very sorry I wrote the kind of letter I did to Brother. I have felt very unhappy since I read your letter and therefore hasten to answer it.

You say I must read your letter again, and I have read it again, and you do not accuse me of ingratitude^{de} but only say, "We have had lately a great deal of rainy weather, which is very favourable to tobacco planting, and has filled the corn crops with grass. So you can see at a glance, if you feel interest enough, which I must be permitted to doubt) that I have before me a host of troubles in my farming operations, which I shall have great difficulties in overcoming. These difficulties you can not appreciate, I fear, as they have never heretofore given you any concern." &c.

Dear Bro forgive me. I know I was ~~wrong~~, and I am very sorry. You did not accuse me of ingratitude, but I thought if I had not interest in things that concern you so much I must be ungrateful, but ~~I am~~ very sorry indeed I am. please do not be angry with me.

I know I have many faults, and it seems I can
never cure them. I am sure I have tried but all
my attempts have been unsuccessful. Please help me
to be better, I am sure I can not do it by myself.
Your affectionate daughter,
Kate.

P.S.
My foot is much
better, it is nearly
well. Kate,
Let Brother to burn
the two last letters
I wrote to him,
for I am ashamed
of both of them.

Hannah More Academy
July 18th, 1857

My dear Pa,

I have just received your letter dated July 14th And (?) am very sorry I wrote the kind of letter I did to Brother. I have felt very unhappy since I read your letter and therefore hasten to answer it.

You say I must read your letter again, and I have read it again. and you do not accuse me of ingratitude but only say "We have had lately a great deal of rainy weather, which is very unfavourable to tobacco planting, and has filled the corn crops with grass; So you can see at a glance, if you feel interest enough, (which I must be permitted to doubt) that I have before me a host of troubles in my farming operations, which I shall have great difficulties in overcoming. These difficulties you cannot appreciate, I fear, as they have never heretofore given you any concern."

Dear Pa forgive me. I was wrong, and I am very sorry. You did not accuse me of ingratitude, but I thought if I had no interest in things that concern you so much I must be ungrateful, but I am very sorry indeed I am; please do not be angry with me.

I know I have many faults, and it seems I can never cure them. I am shure I have tried but all my attempts have been unsuccessful. Please help me to be better, I am shure I can not do it by myself.

Your affectionate daughter,
Kate

Samuel More Academy,

August 2nd 1854,

My dear Ma.

I have not received

a letter from you for nearly four weeks. Pa's letter reached me on Saturday. I was very glad to hear from home.

I received a letter from Miss Eliza Barnwell, one of the girls who was here when I first came, today.

Brother does not go to school now, and I think he might write to me often.

Edwanda, the girl whom I mentioned in my letter to Pa as having swallowed a pin, has recovered from her fright; but is ^{poor} debilitated, on any sick, and will be for a month.

4 1/2

There have been camp meetings out here ever since B left
a great many ministers, and carriages are
passing at all times of day and night, and I think
I have heard more singing within the last month
than I ever heard before.

Excuse the bad spellings I am in a hurry, and
can not now look to see the correct way.

Today is not my day for writing home, but I don't
know why, I felt like it. I have nothing of importance
to say.

Give my love to every body. Please write if you can
find time.

Although I would be very glad to hear from home at
any time. indeed there is no pleasure so great now,
as to hear from you all frequently, yet I would
not like you or B to neglect other things, or when
you are wearied by the performance of your duties.

I would not like you write, for I know when any one
is tired they do not feel like writing. When I am
tired I try the never failing remedy, sleep, if I can
get the time, but I do not sleep so much as when at home.
As this is only the half of a sheet I must stop.

Love by, my dear Mom,
Your ^Water,

Hannah More Academy,
August 2, 1875

My Dear Ma,

I have not received a letter from you for nearly four weeks. Pa's letter reached me on Saturday, I was very glad to hear from home.

I received a letter from Miss Ellie Harriett one of the girls who was here when I first came (?). Brother does not go to school now and I think he might write to me often.

Gertrude, the girl whom I mentioned in my letter to Pa as having swallowed a pin, has recovered from her fright; but is (?) from fruit, or any acid, and will be for a month.

There have been (?) meetings here ever since Pa left to great many (?), and carriages are arriving at all times of day and night and I think I have heard, more singing within the first month than I ever heard before.

Excuse the bad spelling, I am in a hurry and can not now look to see the correct way. Today is not my day for writing home, but I (?) know why I felt like it, I have nothing of importance to say.

Give my love to every body, please write if you can find time.

Although I would be very glad to hear from home at any time, indeed there is no pleasure so great now as to hear from you all frequently, yet I would not like you or Pa to neglect other things, or when you are wearied by the performance of your duties, I would not like you to write, for I know when any one is tired they do not feel like writing. When I am tired I try the never failing remedy, sleep, if I can get the time, but I do not sleep so much as when at home. So this is only the half of a sheet, I must stop.

Goodbye, my dear Ma

Your Kate

Wheat. Moore Academy.

August 15th 1851.

My dear Pa,

I received the letter which you wrote before you came to see me, last Thursday.

I received a letter from Ma this week saying she feared the wheat crops were injured by the last rain. I was very sorry to hear it.

I have had five letters this week; for the first time since I have been here.

32
I received the basket of fruit. The water melons
were very nice. I did not get them until
Sunday morning as the omnibus came up
later than usual. I cut one of the melons
Sunday evening all of us enjoyed them very much,
Miss Fannie gave me the pine apples for me.
I think the jam very pretty.

I have written to Cousin Mary to-day, also a
little note to uncle I to beg him to send Cousin
Mary to the Harward Moore.

Three Miss Calms from Baltimore are coming
out to school the first of next month.

Miss Pitt, who used to be teacher here,
when Mrs Lion had charge of the school,
is spending a week with Miss Soaper.

My studies are the same except I have
Botany on Monday and Wednesday. Astronomy on
Friday. I also have a lesson in the seasons,
a poem by James Thompson, on Friday.
Miss Soaper talks of giving us French lessons

every day. Give my love to Mom, Brother
Little Sister and Georgy.

Goodbye my dear Pa,

Your affectionate daughter,

Kate.

Hannah More Academy
August 15th, 1857

My dear Pa,

I received the letter which you wrote before you came to see me, last Thursday. I received a letter from Ma this week saying she feared the wheat crops were injured by the last rain. I was very sorry to hear it. I have had five letters this week; for the first time since I have been here. I received the basket of fruit, the watermelon were very nice. I did not get them until Sunday morning as the omnibus came up later than usual. I cut one of the melons Sunday evening all of us enjoyed them very much. Miss Fannie sliced the pineapples for me. I think the farm very pretty.

I have written to Cousin Mary today, also a little note to uncle (?). D to beg him to send Cousin Mary to the Hannah More.

Three Miss Calvert from Baltimore are coming out to school the first of next month. (It?) (is?) (Pott?) who used to be teacher here, when Mrs. Liam has charge of the school, spending a week with Miss Draper. My studies are the same except I have, Botany on Monday and Wednesday. Astronomy on Friday, I also have a lesson in The seasons, a poem by James Thompson on Friday. Miss Draper talks of giving us French lessons every day. Give my love to Ma, Brother, Little Sister, and Georgy.

Goodbye my dear Pa,
Your affectionate daughter,
Kate

Wassah Mass. Academy,
August 28th 1878.

My dear Sir,

I received your letter in due time and was very glad to hear from my home. I hope all the sick have recovered by this time. The summer has been so cool. I can hardly realize that it has passed. You did not have a very pleasant day for the commencement it rained nearly all day. We all went to Travelers dam to fish a few days ago, and had a very pleasant time, but only caught

our fish, and Harry Dunbar let that go.
I received a letter from Aunt Lelia today
the only one I have had this week. But I expect
one tomorrow.

Mrs Dunbar and Miss Draper will go to Baltimore,
with us, will go down on Wednesday, the 30th Sept.
Are we to go through Washington?

I expect Mrs Dunbar will have a good many
girls next session, she has heard of many
who think of coming, and knows of 4 or 5 who
are coming. I think if the school was better
known it could not fail to be patronized.
Aunt Lelia will be home soon, she told
me to direct my next letters to Milletown.
Have Uncle P. and Blackstone recovered.

Miss Draper has changed the days for us to say
our French to Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.
I expect we shall say French every day next
session.

Will Brother continue to go to the same school
after the Vacation?

(16)

Give my love to all at home, I suppose
Cousin Bob is at home now, and attends
most of the balls.

I hope I shall have Fannie's *Angewandte*
next session.

I must now bid my dear Co. good bye
until the morning when I shall perhaps
cover the white sheet again a rarity.

Take me up.

I am up early this morning for the purpose
of finishing my letter.

Gertrude Holliday swallowed a pin yesterday
evening, and complains of its hurting her
this morning. Mrs. Dunbar has sent for
Dr. Dixon. We are going to take a long
walk this morning before it is too warm;
and I shall not be able to fill my sheet
You asked in your letter if the fruit which
you sent me was worth the trouble and expense.
It was delicious, and I enjoyed it very much,
and do not think I am the only one who did.

Barth and Georgia are behind hand in
writing to me. They have no excuse for not writing
now. they do not go to school.

Hoping this may find you all enjoying
good health. I must bid you good bye.

Your affectionate,

Kate.

Hannah More Academy
August 28, 1857

My dear Pa,

I received your letter in due time and was very glad to hear from my home. I hope all the sick have recovered by this time. The summer had been so cool. I can hardly realize that it has passed. You did not have a very pleasant day for the convenient(?) must it rained nearly all day.

We all went to (Travelers?) to fish a few days ago and had a very pleasant time; but only caught fish and Harry Dunbar let that go. I received a letter from aunt Lelie today only one I have had this week, but I expect tomorrow.

Mrs. Dunbar and Miss Draper will go to Baltimore with us, we will go down on Wednesday, the 30th. Are we to go through Washington?

I expect Mrs. Dunbar will have a good many girls next session she had heard of many think of coming and knows of 7 or 8 who are coming. I think if the school was better known it could not fail to be patronized. Aunt Lelie will be home soon, the bold and to direct my next letter to Milestown. Have uncle R and Blachistone recovered?

Miss Draper has changed the days for us to say French to Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, which we shall, say French every day next session.

Brother continues to go to the same school after the vacation?

Give my love to all at home. I see cousin Bob is at home now and attends most of the balls.

I hope I shall have Fannie (?) next session.

I must now bid my dear Pa, goodbye until the morning when I shall perhaps cover the whole sheet, which is a rarity.

(?) morning.

I am up early this morning for the purpose of finishing my letter.

Gertrude Holliday swallowed a pin yesterday evening and complains of its hurting her this morning. Mrs. Dunbar has went for Dr. Discom(?). We are going to take a slow walk this morning before it is too warm and I shall not be able to fill my sheet. You asked in your letter if the fruit which you sent me was worth the trouble and expense. It was delicious, and I enjoyed it very much and do not think I am the only one who did.

Brother and Georgia are behind on writing to me, they have no excuse for not writing now they do not go to school. Hoping this may find you all enjoying good health, I must bid you good bye.

Your affectionate, Kate

Albion, Larnum, Oct 17th

My dear Pa,

Your letter of the 9th was duly received & appreciated, although it contained some unpleasant intelligence. I hope however that before this reaches you, you all will have entirely recovered. I have so far enjoyed perfect health. but I am sorry to say that even in this healthy place all are not equally favoured. Mr. Lyson is quite sick & Miss Mary is not so well as when you were here.

I have received the Beacon & was much interested in the account of the town meeting. Who is the writer of it?

I wrote to cousin Mary last week, I hope she will be punctual in answering it. if you see her tell her for sure, that I will not excuse her if she is the least dilatory, & that as I

wrote to her so soon after reaching school
I consider that I have a strong claim on
her for an answer immediately — that is if
she will not come & answer my questions
verbally — which I would much prefer.

The next time I write, I will give you
a list of my studies &c. Say to Aunt D.
she must not forget the promise she
made me in the dining room at home
& also give her my address. Tell Carrie I
that Laura received a letter from her
Mother yesterday saying that Bessie was
so ill as to require visits from her physician
five times a day.

You said in your letter that you had not
heard from me: I wrote to Ma. the first
Saturday after reaching school. The letter
was I suppose delayed on its way. With much
love to all, & hoping that when this reaches
you, you may be enjoying perfect health,
I am your affectionate daughter
Kate.

Alnwick Seminary October 17th

My dear Pa,

Your letter of the 9th was duly received & appreciated, although it contained some unpleasant intelligence. I hope however that before this reaches you, you all will have entirely recovered. I have so far enjoyed perfect health. But I am sorry to say that even in this healthy place all are not equally favoured. Mrs. Tyson is quite sick & Miss Mary is not so well as when you were here. I have received the Beacon & was much interested in the account of the town. Who is the writer of it?

I wrote to cousin Mary last week, I hope she will be punctual in answering it. If you see her tell her for me, that I will not excuse her if she is the least dilatory. & that as I wrote it to her so soon after reaching school I consider what I have a strong claim on her for an answer immediately – that is if she will not see me & answer my questions verbally – which I would much prefer.

The next time I write I will give you a list of my studies & Say to the (?) D she must not forget the promise she made me in the dining room at home & also give her my address. Tell Carrie J that Laura received a letter from her Mother yesterday saying that Bernie was so ill as to require visits from his physician five times a day.

You said in your letter that you had not heard from me: I wrote to Ma the first Saturday after reaching school the letter was I suppose delayed ob its way. With much love to all, & hoping that when this reaches you, you may be enjoying perfect health.

I am your affectionate daughter,
Kate

Jan. 25th '59

My dear Pa,

My last letter I being a little provoked about what I had heard, which I afterwards found to be exaggerated, expressed a desire to discontinue my music. Miss Garrison told me today that I was just over the worst part of music and might by perseverance overcome all obstacles. Her perseverance necessary shall be expected for I must learn something about music and wish to continue it.

God think and fides. youth and experience must be my reward. May I in mature years, be able to boast of as much stability as my dear Pa. Miss Mary has employed Mr. Espino to give music lessons and Mr. Zepher to teach the languages. Good bye with much love to all. Love
 P. S. send me some stamps. Love

Jan 20th '59

My dear Pa,

In my last letter I (?) a little provoked about what I had heard, which I afterwards found to be exaggerated, expressed a desire to discontinue my music. Miss Fannie told me today that I was just over the worst part of music and might by perseverance overcome all obstacles. The perseverance necessary shall be expected for I must know something about music and wish to continue it.

You think me fickle youth and unexperienced (?) be (?). May I in another year, be able to boast of as much stability as my dear Pa. Miss Mary has employed Mr. Espento (?) to give music lessons and Mr. Zepone (?) to teach the languages. Good bye with much love to all,

Kate

Please send me some stamps.

Winick, Sam.
Feb 4th 1859.

My dear Pa,

Your letter of
the 31st reached me yes-
terday morning. You
made before this received
my last letter in which
I made a little ex-
planation to the one
previous. You desired
that if I could not deter-
mine for myself, I should
advice with my teachers

respecting the continuation
of music and French
and the propriety of com-
mencing Spanish with
my present list of studies
on hand. I consider
myself inadequate to the
responsibility placed
upon me. Took advantage
of your suggestion and
Miss Kearney & Miss
Luns so arranged it that
I think I can pursue
them all profitably.
We shall continue
music & French & take my
first Spanish lesson

and Tuesday, I have
taken up algebra and com-
menced painting in
water colours. The latter
is much more congeni-
al to my taste than the
former. This half
session ~~add~~ over now, and
I expect you will receive
my statement ~~and~~ this
by the same post. I hope
it will prove satisfactory
to you and Ma.
It is raining & snowing
and I hope we shall soon
have cold weather at least
cold enough for ice.

Do cousin Mary and I
have vacation at the same
time? or does she have
hers in April? I expect
Aunt Letitia is home
before this if she is giving my
love to her and tell her not
to run away before next
July. I hope you & Ma
will be perfectly well when
this reaches you. I am to say
I have enquired for the
pattern & spoke of & can
not find one suitable.

With love to all affectionately
Kate,

Excuse writing.

Alnwick Sem.
Feb 7th 1859

My dear Pa,

Your letter of the 31st reached me yesterday morning. You have before this received my last letter in which I made a little explanation to the one (?) ones. You desired that if I could not determine for myself I should advise with my teachers respecting the continuation of music and French and the (propriety?) of (convincing?). I (?) with my present (best?) of studies on hand. I (?) myself (?) to the responsibility placed (?) took (?) of your suggestions and Miss Mary and Miss Jane have so arranged it that I think I can (?) (?) profitably. It all shall continue (?) (?) take my first (?) lesson next Tuesday. I have taken up algebra and (?) painting in water colors. The latter is much more congenial to my taste than the former. This half session (?) and I expect you will receive my statement and this by the (?). I hope it will prove satisfactory to you and Ma.

(?) is (?) & snowing and I hope we shall soon have cold weather at least cold enough for ice.

Do cousin Mary and I have vacation (at the same time?) or does she have hers in April? I expect Aunt Lelie is home before this if she is give my love to her and tell her not to (wear?) away before next July. I hope you & Ma will be (?) well when this reaches you. Say to Ma I have enquired for the pattern he spoke of & can not find one suitable. (?) love to all affectionately,

Kate

Excuse writing

St. Louis, Mo.

1859

My dear Mr. & Pa,

Miss Mary has
given me permission
to write a private letter
and although I have
nothing of importance
dared to say I will
avail myself of the
opportunity, when
I asked permission
to write Miss Mary,
desired me to present
her highest compli-

41
wrote to you and say
that if she had
anything to say to
you it was in my
favour. I do not know
what Miss May think
about my graduation,
and I do not like to
ask her, she told
May Harris that she
thought it likely
she would have four
graduates accept fully
but that two of them
would have to study
very hard, if it was not
for geography I would

have some hopes.
(Please write to Miss M.
and ask her opinion
and do not hope too
much. one of the
graduates has been
with the Misses for
eight years, another
about the Mrs. ^{up} Gingsford
about six years and
has been here two years
the other went to Haver
for some time and
has been here three
years. I am in every
class except geography
and shall be just

I will give you an idea
of the manner in
which they are made
out. after each recitation
we give in the number
of answers missed
and are marked accord-
ingly if we missed
none we get a perfect
mark if we missed
one a good mark or x
if we missed two a
bad mark or o. we
are marked separately in
each branch, at the
end of the half
session the perfect

good and bad are counted
separately and put
separately on the state-
ment if we have one
bad mark it decreases
our report in that
branch one if two,
we are no. 3 if 3 or 4 &c
in that branch.

For omitting any of
our duties & much for
want of punctuality
occurs. For doing
any thing of which
the Miss Lyons
disapprove we receive
a mark of disappro-

461
A Station, if for some
purpose nicely not
leaving desks, benches
or wash stands ~~scum~~ order
bringing in and on
feet leaving books
shawls or bonnets &c
out of place not leaving
seats clean and if
whole appearance is
not neat we get a mark
for want of neatness
and order.

Mr. and Mrs. Luckey
are here to see their
daughters this morning
and have brought

showed their children
the girls are delighted
with them and they
to see me from
hence I am not at
all surprised that
you should be so
kindly disposed to
me that I should
have had no
difficulty in
going to Baltimore and
Washington
I passed direct the letter
to you and to your
address
I am very kind to all

ever
yours
as it may be

My dear Ma & Pa,

Miss Mary has given us (?) to write a (?) letter and although I have nothing of importance to say I will (?) myself of the opportunity when I asked (?) to write Miss Mary desired us to present her high (?) to you and say that if she had anything to say to you it was in very favours (?). I do not know what Miss Mary think a (?) (?) and I do not like to ask her, she told Mrs. Harris that she thought it likely she would have four graduates (?) July but that two of them would have to study very hard, if it was not for geography I would have some hope.

Please write to Miss M. and ask her opinion and do not hope too much, one of the graduates has been with (?) Miss Tyson eight years another (?) (?) Mrs. (?) about (?) years and has been here two years the other went to (Archer's?) for (?) years and has been here (?) years. I am in every class except geography and shall expect or hope soon be in that. I would like (?) to know some thing about (?) but indeed I do not think it (possible?) to it now, for I will be obliged to take up (?) those (?) studies (?) half session. Book keeping, Algebra and Roman history (?) taken up (?) on the globes. His (?) time to make (?) (?) (?) (?)

I will give you an idea of the (?) in which they are read out after each recitation are give in the number of (?) we (received?) and are (?) accordingly if we (?) (?) we get a (perfection?) (?) if we (?) (?) good (?) or x if we (?) two a had (?) as o. we are marked separately in each at as the end of the half session the perfect good and bad are corrected separately and put separately on the state must if we have one bad mark if decreases our report in that (?) one if two, we are no, B if 3 not (?) in that (?) for something any of our duties as (?) for want of punctuality excuses. For doing anything of which the Miss Tyson disapproves (?) (?) mark of disapprobation, for not sweeping nicely not having desks (?) wash stands (?) order bringing in (?) on feet tearing books shawls or bonnets & out of place not having teeth clean and if whole appearance is (?) we get a (?) for want of neatness and order.

Mr. and Mrs. (?) are here to see their daughter this morning and have brought(?) of their (?) the girls are delighted.