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Bruce Collection  
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[Photocopied Letter from Ann Bruce Morgan to Henry Bruce, Jr., May 1868]

At home. May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1868 [May 24, 1868].

Mr. Henry Bruce,  
Southern Hotel (1),  
New York City.

My dear Brother:

I have been thinking this long while I would write to you and see if I could draw from you a letter, that we might hear how all of you are getting along. How shameful it is to think that brothers and sisters will become so negligent about writing to each other. I wrote you a letter some year or so ago, but failed to send it to the office, so you did not get it, of course.

I so often think of you all and would be so glad to see you. Sister Lucinda (2) wrote me you were sick the last time she heard from you, but I trust you are well before this.

We are all well at present and are living two miles North of Tolono (Illinois) (3) on the Illinois Central R.R. [Railroad], on a rented farm. It is a large, well-improved farm of 320 acres, belonging to a Kentuckian (4). We have had it three years.

We manage it with our own sons. Garrard is cropping with us and Henry will be twenty-one this Fall. Woodie (5) is as large as they are and Billy (6) plows too. Millard (7) rides on the planter and drops the corn.

(1) Henry Bruce, Jr. was at the time proprietor of the Southern hotel in New York City. In the following year, giving up the Southern, he took charge of the Maltby House, at 23 Great Jones Street, New York City. Two or three years later, he took over the Merchants hotel in Cincinnati.

(2) Lucinda Bell.

(3) Seven years earlier the voice of Lincoln was heard for the last time in Illinois, at Tolono.

It should be recalled that nearly all of those named in this letter were of Southern birth and while living in the South has recently passed through the Civil War, sustaining financial losses therein.

(4) James Scott. Thus the farm was called the Scott farm.

(5) Aged nineteen; (6) aged fifteen; (7) aged ten.

I believe they are putting in two hundred acres of corn and thirty acres of small grain. Mr. Morgan has engaged to break one hundred acres of prairie on this farm, for which he gets 23  $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per acre. We have all had to work pretty hard since we have been here, to make a good living and buy all kinds of machinery, cultivators, and so on. They are running five teams. One is a breaking team of four oxen. We have had a very wet Spring and the farmers are backward about planting. We have to have white help here. when we get it, but I often have to do without any help save my children, and it goes very hard with me now, as I am almost fifty years old.

Our baby boy is six years old, going to school with Lizzie and Annie. He can read in the third reader. We call him Jimmie. I have now named them all to you by Lou (1) and Amelia. Mr. Green has the care of the church in Belleville [Illinois], this state, near St. Louis [Missouri]. They are well. He gets \$1,000. salary and lays up some money. He owns a farm near here that rents for \$200. and has purchased four or five lots in Odin, on the Central. He has baptized forty or fifty persons since he went to Belleville [Illinois].

Amelia and Mr. Richards live in Tolono. They are well and are getting along nicely, and are well fixed in their new home. He is a druggist and grocery man, doing a good business, and is a good citizen. He is as fixy as Dr. Lowry about setting out things in his yard and garden. They have only three in family, themselves and a hired girl. There are but

three in Mr. Green's family, themselves and his youngest sister that he took when his parents died five years ago. She is about thirteen years old.

I have had several letters from brother James (2) since I came here, but none lately. I don't think he is contented there and writes like he was poor, but I guess he has plenty. I expect he had better have stayed at the old homestead. It makes my heart ache to think of it going into the hands of strangers, and going to rack so much.

How is Mary (3) pleased there? Tell her she might write to me. I suppose your children are all about grown. How is Pauline (4) and family getting along? How many children? Love to all of them.

I suppose Lucy Ford (5) is living with her mother and father since the death of her husband.

(1) Lucinda Bruce Morgan Green.

(2) James Bruce, living near Lowndesville, S.C. [South Carolina]

(3) Mary Bruce, of Sparta, Georgia, married to Henry Bruce, Jr., was an own cousin of the writer of the letter; also her sister-in-law.

(4) Pauline Bruce, eldest daughter of Henry Bruce, Jr. had married James K. Duke.

(5) Lucy Porter, born May 28, 1838, had married Sherman A. Ford.

Sister Ellen's (1) family is living in Covington [Kentucky] and they tell me at a high rate. Sister Harriet (2) is living in Flemingburg [Kentucky].

Mr. Morgan and myself went to Bloomington [Indiana] to attend the Baptist convention last Fall and went out twenty miles from there to visit our cousins Teal and Bell (3). Found them all well, nicely fixed, and extremely glad to see us. They said they would visit us this Fall, yet in one month's time Roly Bell was dead. Tell Mary she would enjoy a visit to see them so much, and then she could come and us, too. I wish you could also come to see your poor, country kinfolks.

Woodson's (4) family is well. Has raised nine sturdy boys. Will (5) is living in Tolono; in the grain business. John (6) is in Cincinnati; Bruce (7) in Pennsylvania, in the express business. Mat (8) is farming and Roe (9) is a great trader, and is yet working for his father. Ellen is in Kentucky on a visit. Ann is married and living near Tolono. Her husband is named Mr. Denman. Some talk of Ellen and Jim Knight marrying (10).

(1) Ellen Bruce Morgan.

(2) Harriet Bruce Dudley.

(3) Fanny Bruce and Eleanor Bruce, sisters of Mary Bruce (see Note 40 3 on pg. 2) had married R.P. Bell and Benjamin Teal. Living first in Fleming county, Kentucky, they had moved to McLean county, Illinois.

(4) Woodson Morgan had married Elizabeth Bruce, the latter a sister of the writer; the former a brother of her husband.

(5) Married to his cousin, Lute Lowry, daughter of Dr. George Lowry.

(6) Married to his double first cousin, Ellen Morgan.

(7) In 1872 married his cousin, Frankie Waller.

(8) Madison Morgan.

(9) Monroe Morgan married Emeline McMurtry.

(10) After doing so, Ellen Morgan later married Dr. John Fleming.

Lucinda Bell has trouble to get a cook to suit her since Eliza left her.

Now, dear brother, I hope you will write to us and tell us how you are doing; how you are pleased, and when you can visit us (1). Love to Mary and the children. Tell her I hear that Cousin Nancy (2) and Bellville [Belleville, Illinois] are very loving. She wrote to me the day before she married and signed her name the day after, saying she was marrying a man who would endeavour to make her spend her remaining days more pleasantly than to sit pining over past troubles. Lizzie Wells and Lute do not go to see her at all.

Direct your letter to Tolono [Illinois].

Your devoted sister,

A.T. Morgan [Ann Bruce Morgan].

(1) Henry Bruce, Jr. answered his sister's letter on June 11, 1868.

(2) Daughter of Dr. Lowry.