

Accession No. M1981-1010
Bruce Collection
Box 6, Folder 204

[COPY of a Letter from Henry Bruce, Jr. to his favorite sister, Ann Bruce Morgan, 1885]

[Note that his wife was his cousin – the daughter of George Bruce, of Sparta, Georgia]

“Brevoort House”, K.C. [Kansas City]
January 29, 1885.

My dear darling sister:

Your kind, affectionate and very interesting letter of the 25th inst. is at hand, for which please accept my most cordial thanks and a kiss. Would that I could fold you in my arms and press you to my sorrowing heart. Yes, after a long protracted and complicated affliction, my first born darling child, Pauline, is gone; stricken down in the meridian and prime of her life, when she will be so keenly missed by her dear, devoted children.

Mamie is now a young lady, just out in society – highly accomplished – fine looking – very attractive – and many admirers. She will miss her mother’s company and counsel more than the boys.

Pauline’s oldest son, James, is in Kentucky with his Grandmother Duke – a spoiled boy. Bruce is now seventeen years old, and is a natural and wonderful artist. Also very intelligent, energetic and fine looking. He is engaged in sketching and lithographing for a large publishing house here, at \$16. per week. He promises to make a good man and a big success.

Dick, Pauline’s youngest child, is indeed a noble and finely developed boy. He idolized his mother, and I am very proud of him.

The last sentence Pauline ever uttered, was spoken to me. She said, in slow, soft and sweet tones: “Goodbye, pa.” There words are constantly ringing in my ears, and I shall never cease to remember and treasure them.

For some years Pauline lived an exclusive life – her great merit, worth and loveliness was known only to our family and a few well chosen friends. I am sorry you never knew her in her womanly loveliness. Her place can never be filled in our hearts.

Nannie, the wife of L.C. Alexander, our next oldest daughter, and the namesake of her grandmother, is one of the most conscientious and best little Christians I ever

knew. She has two handsome and bright children – a boy and a girl.

Henrietta, our next daughter, is a widow, with one child – a bright and lovely daughter.

Lillie, our youngest, is the wife of A.W. Horne. She has one child – a fine boy. She thinks he is perfection – that the sun rises and sets in him. He is liable to be badly spoiled.

All of our children and grandchildren, with the exception of Henrietta Green, are healthy, hearty, good-looking and strong. They all inherit much of their good qualities from my sainted wife, whom you will remember as one of the purest, best and most lovely women that ever lived.

As you say, I have indeed been greatly blessed and favored by having all of my children near me. I am surprised to learn that your dear children are so widely scattered and separated from you. I hope they are all happy and doing well, and I am very glad to know, my dear sister, that you are so fat and well preserved, and also that your good husband is fat and healthy. I am sorry to hear that our kind, dear sister, Ellen Morgan, is so feeble. I am astonished to learn that our once fat and plump sister, Lucinda Bell, is such a skeleton. What is the cause? Is she in bad health, or doesn't Doct [Doctor] Bell feed her well?

I am truly sorry I have but one photograph left of my angel wife, and not one of myself to send you. If you have any of yourself and Mr. Morgan, I shall truly be very glad to have one.

Considering the many severe spells of sickness I have had, I am now in good health and flesh. The ladies all say that I am one of the most handsome Old Gentlemen they ever saw. And I am proud to say that I am kindly received, and highly respected, by all. Excuse egotism.

I have just this moment received a nice long letter of sympathy from our cousin, Henry Bruce, of Nashville, Tenn. [Tennessee].

In conclusion let me ask you to write me often.

With the kindest regards to Mr. Morgan, and love to yourself, I am,

H. [Henry] Bruce