

Information Sheet

R Welch family.
391 Correspondence, 1839-1854.
One folder, photocopies.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

These are typescripts of letters to and from members of the Welch family in Pulaski and Dade counties in Missouri, and Scott County, Illinois. Topics include family news, acquaintances, health, crops, and the weather.

Four of the six letters in the collection were written by Hiram and Sarah Welch to Ephraim and Sarah Welch. Hiram and Sarah settled along Brush Creek in Pulaski County (now Laclede County), Missouri, in the late 1830s. They came from Scott County, Illinois, to join friends and relatives who preceded them, including John Welch and his family, and Morgan Davis and his wife Nancy (Welch) Davis. In the earliest letter, dated 20 December 1839, written from Pulaski County, Hiram and Sally Welch complained about sickness and a disagreeable winter in Missouri. The adversity may have persuaded them to return to Illinois, for subsequent letters by them were written from Scott County, Illinois.

The Welch family letters are typical of those by migrating American families in the nineteenth century. The topics include births and deaths of relatives and friends, the prices of food and staples, the availability of land, and family estate matters. Some of the letters have been published in the *Newsletter* of the Laclede County Historical Society, 1988-1989. The family histories of the Davis family, a related line, have been published in Volume I of *Laclede County History* (1979).

r435 31 January 1989 Warren Wallace Gift

Shelf List

These are typescripts of letters to and from members of the Welch family in Pulaski and Dade counties in Missouri, and Scott County, Illinois. Topics include family news, acquaintances, health, crops, and the weather.

20 Dec 1839	Hiram and Sally Welch, Pulaski County, Missouri, to Ephraim and Sally Welch
16 May 1841	William and Della Welch, "State of Missouri," to Ephraim and Sary Welch
21 Oct 1848	Hiram and Sary Welch, Scott County, Illinois, to Ephraim[sic] and Sary Welch
04 Jul 1849	Rubin and John Cantrell, Date[sic] County, Missouri, to Isaac and John Welch
29 Dec 1852	Hiram and Sary Welch, Scott County, Illinois, to Ephraim and Saray[sic] Welch, Coops Creek P. O., Marion County, Tennessee.
12 Jun 1854	Hiram and Sally Welch, Scott County, Illinois, to Ephraim and Sally Welch

r435

31 January 1989

Warren Wallace

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STATE OF ILLINOIS MAY THE 16th 1841

Dear Brother and Sister

I take this opportunity to let you know that we are at present hoping that these lines may find you in the same helth I have nothing particular to rite times is vary hard here arr this time corn is worth from one to two bits per bushel and other prodice a canden to that times is vary helth here at this time. we have had a very wet spring but nice wether now. I can inform you that we had twenty six days on the road. On the way back my waggon broke down three times on the road five dollars Cab Works first mote he is in as good order as wjen I started and Jack is about the same and when you rite let me now how my mare and colt is a doing I want you to take good care of my colt for I want him for a race horse for I espect to come out about the tenth of september I am living on the old mil place_close_at the hickney_grove I have got about ten acres of ground to tend Fielden Turner is well at this time and wishes to be remembered to his wif and children he is a working in Winchester he gits fifteen dollars and a haf per month and he likes this county first rate. tell tim haney that fielden turner wants him to move out hear next fall with him as i am coming out with William Welch we left jam pickett at alton and that was well ane like this county first rate -John Welch sed a few lines to Ephraim and if you want to move out here I have land aplenty to let you have if you wish to by of me. I think you can do better here than you can there and if you have a notion of moving out here rite to me as soon as you get this letter Isaac Haney is well and wishes to be remembered to all of his living friends and he wants to know how Jefferson and Sary is satisfied and how they ar doing. I am going to rite a letter to nicholas owens dotisom says he hant forgot thomas turner yet he says he hant forgot how to git Isaac tobacco yet William and Delila wishes to be remembered to Ephraim and family and all the connection hiram and famly wishes to be remembered to all of our connection I want you to rite me a letter as soon as you git his so nothing more at present but remains your loving brother until death

William Welch and Della to Ephraim and Sary
Nancy has a fine girl and she calls it malinda

State of Illinois, Scott County
 Oct the 21 - 1848

Dear Brouth and Sister, I take this oppertunity riting yo a fue lines to let you no that I and family is well at this time hoping that these few lines may reach yore hand and find you all well me and sary and children and all of our sisters and all of our connection and friends and we would be glad to see you all if we could when you rite to me let me no where our sisters are living and how tha ar doing James Haney and nancy is living in our settlement and tha ar doing tolerbel well at this time and tha wish to be remembered to their sisters and connection i will let you no that som of our connection is dead ephraim long lost his wife she died and left a little babe and it died martin king died with the measels and John Davise he died he tuck the relaps of the mesals griffen is dead the rest of our connection is well at this time

I can let you no that morgan Davis and Nancy and little nancy was out this fall to see us tha was-here when John died tha hav hon baclk to misourie John Wife went to mosorie with them tha had two children the babe was a boy tha call his name John Anderson times here is tolerbal good corn is worth from a bit to fifteen cents per bushel wheat is 60 cents per bushel pork is worth one dollare and seventy five cents per hundred groce Beef is two & three doller per hended the Canell is don and Boats ar runng it it is thought tho it will help this state very much tha have hot the tellagrph from alton to springfield it carries the news by sound on wir it is most as quick as litning tha are going a head with the railrode soon have it finished i will let you now here is more news Brouther William and_Delila have joined the Camelits brouther Reuben lives with hazel saveg sister elizabeth makes hir home at William K Yorks tha ar well at this time John hoats wife has a fine big boy tha call his name David Miller Jeferson wife has a fine girl and tha call it louisa Isaac haney wife has a fine girl tha call it Cindy lew Brother William received a leter from you a few days ago we was glad to hear from you and to herein that you was all well you sent in your letter to no whether inland william has moved or no is moved to misourie and back in a bout six weeks william dident leave illinois mr sandy steelman has got back to illinois he has moved to t.ennessee and back sence he was at your house he got back a bout a weak ago when he first com back he give me my robberts note and he fetch some money that you sed was over paying you i want you to give my be respects to John. mac williams aoris_ticker to John_tunner and famly field turnen famly not forgitting and bety turner tell hir that hanner is a big fine girl but littel nona is a bout to cetch hir She can talk rite smart i give my best respects to all of my connection friends and neighbours two of old brakes surving laws has fast landid her from misourie to live John Welch is sorty puny Miller haney is well at this time and he is doing tolerbel well isaac Haney talks of sending yor money I could rite more but i think this will tire a nuff for this time as soon as you git this letter rite mea one let us no from you all tell richa hatfield and wife that thir popel is well at this time John and Isaac yor braging how stowt you an com out to see and we will all ty yo i think we will give you half of it nothing mo at present but remains you loving brouther untill death Hiram & Sary to Ephriam & Sary-so fairwell
Date County Missouri from Rubin and John Cantrell to Isaac and John Welch.
July 4, 1849

A few lines from Ruben and John to Isaac and John to let them no that we have not forgotten them as yet and to let them no that we are well and well satisfied and we hope these few lines may reach and find them enjoying the same like blessings we received them better which give us greater satisfaction. We didn't know that we had such stout connection and we would be glad to see them and to try their manhood in the way of rasling and scuffling and jumping and soon we think we have had some chance of gaining strength for we have had aplenty to eat and drink and hant worked very hard for we can make corn with half the work that you can in your county and a greater and better corn. Rubin is a cropping with Samuel Carter and if no accident happens it will make corn enough to do me two years. We have the best prospects for a crop I ever saw and Ruben weighs 190 and John is as high as a grain and weighs 160 and John says he is just high enough to beat any of his cousins a jumping. Marene has got a fine son and his name is Samuel and John wants you to tell Surene that if she will keep Jo he will try to come after him this fall if he can and if he can't he will come fall come a year. She says that she was a going to conduct herself in a better way and if she does we will try to fetch him to this county we want you to write and tell us of the deaths and marriages in your county and tell Fielden Turner to come to this

county where he can live and work land of his own. So nothing more at present but remains your cousin til death

Rubin and John Cantrell to Isaac and John Welch and
Connection all so farewell

NOTE: This letter was enclosed with a letter to Ephraim and Sarah from Rubin and Nelly Cantrell.

Ephraim Welch Marion County, Tennessee Coops Creek P. O.
State of Illinois Scott County December 29 -1852

Dear Brother and sister, I take this opportunity of writing a few lines to let you know that we are in tolerbel health at this time. We have had very bad colds, I hope that these lines may reach your hand find you all well. I can let you know that we have had some deaths. Brother John Welch is dead. He started to Texas the last of October and he died about the fifteenth of November. He went up red river and landed at a place called Juanti Co. He went nine nine miles to what is called the nine miles springs in Lousiana on the San Antoine road. John Savage and family was with him and they came back, they said that he died with the Colrey [cholera]. George Long is dead, he died about the first of November, he died with some sort of a fever. George Long mother in law is dead, she died the 28 of December. They have been a heap of sickness in our county for about two year. They are a heap of sickness at this time. James Mayfield is dead, he died in August they are a great many died in Missourie, William King is dead, Old Miss Brak, Linzy Cottons wife and several more. I will let you know something about John Welch his affairs. When he started to Texas the first time he made a will and he willed to me and William forty acres a piece and to John Welch forty acres and to Rueben and Elizabeth forty acres of the old farm where the old hons mill was then he will Solomon five dollars, David Hoots five dollars, William Long five dollars and David Welch is five dollars. The rest of his worth after paying all his just debts was paid it was to be divided equal between you and Nancy and William and me and Isaacs heirs. We five draw equal shares. Solomon, David Hoots, William Long and Polly is going to break the will if they can. Hannah Hoots says that she is satisfied with her five dollars, she says that she won't go to all law the rest talks of it but I don't know what tha will do tho tha are a heap of fuss now shore. John has three hundred and fifty acres land in Texas but they write is no account. I wish you could come out to see us if you could and if you cant come send to me what you would take for your part if you want to sell it. I can't give very much if they go to law for it it will cost more than it is all worth tha an some that will be very troublesome. I think I shall say more about that. Write me when you get this letter you don't write me no more letters. I would be glad to hear from you if I could. I will let you know about our big Boy that he was born September the 3rd, 1852. gramma New names him Hiram then I call him Sampson. Now you know his name is Hiram Sampson. He has a very bad cold at this time and all the rest. I want you to write to me and let me no how you are all doing, the rest of our connection is in tolerbel health at this time. Pork is worth six doll. per hundred. other produce is according. So now more at present but remains your brother until death.

Hiram and Sary to Ephraim and Saray Welch
State of Illinois scott County June the 12 1854

Dear brother and sister I take this opportunity of riting you a few lines to let you no that we are all in tolerable health at this time and i hope when these fu lines com to you hand they ma find you all in good health Wheet is worth \$1.70 per bushel corn is worth 25 cents per bushel good horses is worth 120. Dollars 50 cows is worth 25 dollars 50 hogs is a littel down at this time we have tolerable good prospects for crops this season I received your letter dated may 7, 1854 and I was vary glad to hear from you that land is sold of johns that he willed to us by a order of court and it brought \$1530 one third ca down and the balance on 12 months credit it was sold June 10, 1854 and now if you are a goint to let me have your part as we was talking about in our last letter i will pay you every cent that your part comes to as soon as I can now I have a order for you to sign that I can draw your part and as soon as i git it i will send you my note on the money and let some person have it for you you hear in this county now when sine this order don't you forgit to have it dated you will get some squire to write it for you and as soon as you can I want you to send it to me I bought two fortys the old mill forty and laing joining mine that i had the mill forty sold for \$3.50 the other six dollas thirty five cents acer per acer brother william dident buy any of the land Sollomon Welch Rebeck is marid she is marrid to jessee lewis rite to us soon as you can and dont forgit to rite to us. I have nothing mor at present but remains your brother untill death

Hiram and Sally to Ephraim and Sally

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