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James Perry Drake, son of the Revolutionary soldier, Albrittain and Ruth Collins Drake, was born in Nash Co., N. C. in 1797. He moved with his parents to Muhlenberg Co. Kentucky in 1809, where he lived until he was about 30 years old when he located in Indianapolis, Ind., where for some years he had charge, of sale, of public lands.

At times he would have, as much as \$20,000 or \$30,000, on hand. He would take such amounts in currency from Indianapolis to Cincinnati to deposit. Later, he came, a rather prominent lawyer in Indiana. He saw active service in conducting campaigns, against the Indians, and also, Commanded the Indiana regiment in war with Mexico in 1848.

Sectional feeling ran so high in the years preceding the outbreak, of the Civil War in 1861, that Drake, being a southern-born man, moved with his family to Huntsville, Ala. in the late 1850's.

He died in 1876, and is buried in Huntsville, Alabama.

Many of these, old letters were written by James Perry Drake to his Revolutionary-soldier father, Albrittain Drake.

He was my Great-Uncle.

Signed-

Sallie Drake Isaac

Drakesboro, Kentucky.



Mr. Benj. M. Drake
Greenville, Kentucky

* * * * *

Springfield 2nd, July, 1819

Dear Bejn.

I had the pleasure of Receiving your letter of the 25th May by the last mail, which I was glad to Receive and also was pleased with the contents which Informed that our friend in that County ware injoying the blessing of health. Mathe W. Wilson Esq. has Just come over and I expect to send these on by him he could not tell me any late account of you I have nothing interesting to write to you more than I am still driving on in the old way my business is flush ever since you left hear as much and probably more so than what it was when you were hear, my old friend Samuel C. Heron who opposed me so strong in my Election has left his wife and taken up with the woman that had the suit, in this court about the pepper pod, and bouth of them have gone some where in Kentucky, the Widow Love was married shortly after you left hear to Aaron Bacon the sheriff, and last Thursday I was at Mr. Robbs Weading (the man who stayed with us in Harmone) We are making grate preparations for Independance and I expect will have a prety high time, I am now writing alone in my little office where I have been living near ever since you left hear Mr. Hinch Request that I should name to you his best Respects his family is all well his wife has been mending ever since you ware over, I wishb you to state in your next letter where I shall direct letters to go to Hardy Pitman and also to Dolphin Wheless.

Yours with Respect &c.

James P. Drake

(From James P. Drake to his brother, Benjamin M. Drake. 1819. Woman has law suit about a pepper-pod.

2
Mr. Albright Drake

Luttenberg County

Kentucky

Per

Mr. L. B. Minchloe

Springfield April 2nd 1823.

Dear Father & Mother

About two or three weeks since I wrote to you and nothing very particular has transpired since. I am still in good health. Mr. Lewis B. Minchloe of this Town leaves here on tomorrow for your country he has promised to call on you for my horse and bring him over to me. I have just sold my horse and have many one here. In my last letter to you I stated that I expected John Kirby was drowned in the Steam Boat Tennessee. But have since found that it is a John Kirby of this state. I have no news worth writing. Business is very dull. People from this country have generally got their returns from New Orleans, and produce is scarcely worth any thing either. I have some notion to come and see you this spring.

I am still the same

James F. Drake

Albritten & Ruthy Drake

From J. F. Drake to father
Albritten Drake
(Revolutionary Soldier)
1823

Springfield, Ia.
May 2nd
May 15 1823

Free
J. P. Drake F. M.

Mr. Albrightain Drake

Greenville

Kentucky

Springfield May 2nd 1823

Dear Father

Your letter dated 10th March came to hand by yesterdays mail, making near two months it must have been on the way. But although the intelligence is not very recent yet I can say it affords me much pleasure to see any thing written by your own hand, especially when written as all your communications to me are, for when I read them I can almost imagine myself in your company hearing you talk. I have recd two letters from uncle Michael Collins One of them written in Tennessee and the other ~~sent~~ ^{sent} the hand of Mr. Kinchel. Both too late for me to have come over before his departure as I only recd them the 17th Collins and he expected to leave your country on the 20th I very much regret that I did not receive them sooner. My last letter from Benjamin was written three weeks after he had arrived at his Circuit he was then in good health and from the general purport of his letter I have drawn the conclusion that he is still well pleased with the country. The fourth Monday of this month is our Circuit Court and after that is over I expect to come over and see you I am in good health I got my horse by Mr. Kinchel. I have nothing new, times very dull

The news papers gives an account declaration of war Between France and Spain also an uncertain account of a war Between France & Great Britain From the best accounts affairs are very much unsettled in Mexico. The patriots in South America continue to be successful in all their battles.

Present my respects to all the family

I still remain your affectionate

Son

J. P. Drake

P. S. Mr. C-----ll is really dead.

1823
From J. P. Drake
to his father
Albritten Drake
Revolutionary Soldier

4
Mr. Albright Drake

Luhlenberg Co.

Ky.

Per

Mr. Downen

Downer?

Springfield 10th Sept. 1823.

Dear Father & Mother

Mr. Downen who will be the bearer of this has now started for that cuntry and is weighting a minuit for me to write a few loins. I am in good health and have nothing else berry perticular to communicate I shal look for William & Edmund over hear in one weak from this time, till then to not put it off longer than the 22nd Inst as then is our Court I wrote by the last Mail to Silas and Collins but expect they have not yet recd my letters they will inform you all the perticulars

In grate haste I am ever your
affectionate son untill death

James I. Drake

From James I. Drake
to his father
1823.

5
Springfield Ina
Oct. 9th

Free J. C. Drake J. W.

Mr. William Drake

Greenville

Kentucky

Springfield 9th Oct. 1823

Dear William

Your letter of the 19th Ultimo came to hand the 2nd Instant and I felt myself much gratified to recognise your verry much improved hand writing and learn at the same time that yourself together with my relations (with a few exceptions) were in the enjoymnt of good health, But felt myself somewhat disappointed on learning in it that you had declined comeing over hear this fall. I am yet undetermined whether or not I shal go to see you this fall I have recd a letter from Brother John which informed me that he would start to that Cuntry the first of this month and I fell verry disireous to see him. On which account I shal probably decline visiting the lower cuntry this winter. I have enjoyed tolerable health ever since I left that cuntry though the inhabitance of this counthy are sickly at this time, there has been a number of deaths within a month past. In haste

Creeting

James P. Drake

From James J. Drake to brother
William Drake

Corydon, Ind.
Dec. 6

Free
J. I. Drake Post Master
Springfield Ia.

Mr. Albrittain Drake

Greenville

Kentucky

Corydon Ind. 5th Dec. 1823.

Dear father & mother

My reason for addressing you from this place; is that the mail from here to Greenville is much more direct, than from Springfield, I have been from home, since the 18th of November, and have been at this place for 8 or 10 days but expect to leave here on tomorrow, for Springfield again, my business principally was to get money changed, which I have effected on tolerable advantageous terms, I stopped several days in Louisville Ky. where I had the pleasure of seeing & hearing preach your old friend & Brother John Johnston who is stationed at that place for the present year. A few days previous to my leaving home, I read a letter from William informing me of your return from Tennessee but did not inform me whether or not father had again visited the Alabama, and whether he had determined on moving to that section of the country or not, that is a subject that I am very anxious to learn something of the particulars of, also on the subject of Brother John's contemplated visit to that section of the Country, Probably in my last letter to you I informed you of having read a letter from him; informing me that he would start about the 1st of Oct. next, I have not heard anything further from him on that subject. Since the General assembly of this state met at this place on the 1st instant and are slowly proceeding on the Legislative business; there is a great stir here at present owing to the meeting of the Legislature. My health has been extraordinarily good during the last fall, I have measureably declined descending the Mississippi River this winter with an expectation of coming over to meet John there during the winter. I shall inclose in this letter an account for rather a statement made by General R. A. Evans with regard to the most extraordinary Phenomenon that has ever occurred in modern times (and I think I might even say in ancient times) The-----

through the fire furnis is not much more extraordinary, those facts which Genl. Evans has stated can be also testified by a number of respectable citizens of the neighbourhood where the Girl is living The Girl is a step daughter of old Mr. James Campbell and formerly resided in Springfield. I have seen myself a number of the bones which was taken from his face as large as a grain of Indian Corn. I know that you are well a war of my incredulity, therefore will be much astonished at hearing such an unfeasible phenomenon related by me, But that is a war with common sense; and in opposition to everything that is -----

I am Respectfully
Your obedient Son
J. I. Drake

Albrittain Drake & Ruthy Drake
(Strange Phenomena of Girl sweating blood) 1823

7
Free
J. F. Drake F. F.

Mr. Albrittain Drake

Greenville

Kentucky

Springfield 3rd Match 1824

Dear Father & Mother

I have procrastinated writing you for several weeks. Partly for the want of something interesting to write and partly waiting to receive an answer to my last Communication, but finally have determined to wate no longer for either---
When I last wrote I had it in contemplation to come over there this spring, but have impart declined and concluded to go down the river; if I do go down the river, I shal start about the 25th Instant and shal not calculate on staying verry long, Benjamin is stationed at Hatches which I persume you have learned before this time, Should I go down the river, I will go in a Steem boat and take no produce with me though you shal hear from me again previous to my starting---
I have recd. Two letters from Benjamin Since Conference he enjoys verry good health better he says perhaps than we ever saw him, I have enjoyed verry good health my self, since I last wrote. I want to see you verry much, and also all of my relations in that section of the Cuntry, write to me and let me hear from you at least. I remain as ever your affectionate but un orthy sone

James F. Drake

From James F. Drake to his father
Albrittain Drake. 1824

Springfield, Ia.
May 27th

Free
J. P. Drake P. M.

Albritten Drake

Greenville

Kentucky

Springfield 27th May 1824.

Dear Father & Mother

It has now been several months; since I had the pleasure of hearing from you; consequently, feel anxious on that subject. I have nothing very new, or interesting to communicate; except a continuation of good health, since my last letter, I have just returned home, from an Electioneering campaign, of several days, which is my first trip on that Business (although I have been elected to several offices in the state.) The Election for Clerk and Records of this County comes on, in Aug. next; and I have several warm opponents; and some violent enemies; who are trying by calumny and intrigue, to defeat my Election, though from the pleasant appearance of my prospects, I have nothing to fear. I should have visited Benjamin at Natchez this spring had I not found it necessary to stay at home for the purpose of defeating every improper report that might be circulated against me by my enemies. The rustlers are excessively bad in this section of the country at this time, and people are somewhat unhealthy. The Ohio and Wavash Rivers have been exceeding high. This spring, our neighbours the Germans are removing to Pennsylvania; about 100 of the Society have already gone and the balance is expected will move next fall. It is reported that they have conditionally sold their possessions in this County to a company of English manufacturers, this I presume will make some change in some degree in this County, but whether for the better or the worse I am not able to say. I should be very glad to see you but think it not advisable to go until after the Election-- I am Very Respectfully your affectionate son.

J. P. Drake

J. P. Drake
to father
1824

Springfield Ia
July 7th 1824

Free
J. F. Drake p n

Mrs. Ruthe Drake

Greenville

Kentucky

Springfield, July 7th 1824

Dear Mother

Your letter of the 23rd May came to hand the 23rd ultimo and I can truly say the contents thereof gave me peculiar pleasure, as well because it gave me the pleasing news of the health of my relations, as it having been written by a hand which gave me existence--that affection which you instilled in my breast from my infancy and taught me to bare towards you, never can nor never will be forgotten but on this subject I will stop and commence something that will be more interesting to you and which you have not a good a knowledge of as you have of my afflictions for you. I have enjoyed tolerable health this summer with the exception of 6 or 7 days that I was confined to my bed with my cold kind of sickness but am in tolerable health at present. I should have come over the last spring had it not been that my election comes on in August next for Clerk and I got a verry early and warm opposition and it became necessary that I should not leave home after the election is over; and our Circuit Court which comes on three weeks after I contemplate to visit you again. My prospect of success is very flattering, and I have not many fears; I recd 2 letters from Benjn written in May last he was in good health, and in his last thought that it would be out of his power to come up this summer. You mentioned that father had sum notion of coming over hear this summer do not let him give it out, and come with him your self if you can consistantly with interest I must close as the mail has arrived after presenting my respects to old friends

I am your affectionate son

J. F. Drake

1824

J. F. Drake to his mother
Ruth Collins Drake
(Wife of Albrittain Drake
Revolutionary Soldier)

Mr. Albrightain Drake

Greenville

Kentucky

Mr. Minchelor will leave
this letter at Jas. Weirs.

Springfield, Ia. 3rd Oct. 1824.

Dear Father & Mother

Mr. Minchelor is now saddling his horse to start to Greenville who I expect will be the bearer of this letter, I have therefore no more time to write than nearly inform you that I am in the enjoyment of good health & I arriv home the next day after leaving there and found my affair in a tolerable condition. Nothing particular has occurred in this part, except that my old friend William Prince is dead, he died the day that Edmund and myself started over there, I have sold my horse since my return for 55\$ and Bacon and myself have closed the trade with French about the land, Edmund will recollect the proposition, and we sold on about the same terms that were spoken of- I have recd. a letter from Benj. since my return Dated 22nd Augt. he was then in good health.

In haste

J. I. Drake

My respects to all
Mr. Hendryc to Edmund

From J. I. Drake to his
Father & mother
1824
Albritten & Ruth Collins Drake

Benjamin M. Drake

Uhlenburg Co

Ky.

per
Mr. Paterson

Mountvernon Aug 11th 1826

Dear Benjn.

I have Just written to Father and Edmund and in consequence of the shortness of my time am so much confused that I cannot write anything I here inclose you a news paper which announces the death of our oald presidents Jefferson and Adams. The circumstance of their dying touth on the 4th od July is sumthing verry extraordinary, the inhabitants of this place imediately on receiving the news held a meeting and resolved to ware crape on the left arm for 30 days. The paper will also give you a part of Mr. Owens Declaration of Indipendence as he calls it. on the 4th of July-- which I conceive to be an outrageous Document. Mrs. Wood will be buried in a few hours she died on yesterday at 2 oclock P M

Ferry

1826
Referring to death of Presidents
Jefferson & Adams
Same day.

From Ferry Drake to brother Benjamin

12
Mr. Albrightain Drake

Muhlenburg County

Kentucky

Per

Mr S. Patterson

Mountvernon August 1826--

Dear Father and Mother

I have but a few moments to write as the bearer hereof Mr. Peterson will start within 30 or 40 minuits and I wish to write 2 or three letters in that time. Nothing of importace has transired since I left there. I arrived here on Saturday at one oclock P.M. found all my business tolerable well attended to. I have had verry good health. The Town and country around is sum what sickly, the river has got quite low--

I remain with much respect your sone

J. F. Drake

J. F. Present my respects to all my relations.

1826

From J. F. Drake to father Albrightain Drake
(Revolutionary Soldier)

Mr. William Drake

1826

Greenville

Kentucky

Mt. Vernon Dec. 11th. 1826--

Dear William

By the hands of Mr. Utley I had the pleasure of receiving from you a few lines written in mothers letter, and on Mr. Utley return answered Mothers and thought it would be more interesting to you to defer answering your for a while knowing that you would have an opportunity of a perusal of hers which would be equally satisfactory as if it had been written to you. Since that period I have enjoyed very good health

In a day or two after Mr. Utley left here I took a trip to Shawneetown and found myself intirely able to perform a trip of that distance without expearanceing much inconvenience. The grate busle of business in this place which existed a few days ago from the immense quantity of pork sold and shipped off for market is now over, nothing unuseal is now going on, all is calm and serene; the business of my office I think is curwhat increasing. Mr. Lattell has determined on settling himself at this place, and improvements are going on here brickly, the River is now in a good stage for Steam Boat navigation and they are playing up and down daily this County generally is now suffering considerably with a prevailing influenza or bad cold of which I have taken my part. I am quite anxious to hear from Collins as he was quite sick when you last write. I have recd a letter from Benjn dated at Judge McGees the 28th Oct. he was then in good health, though it is probable you have recd later accounts, the mail leaves here in a few minuits which forces me to a close. My best respects is herewith tendered to all my relatives. Accept Dear Brother for our Self assurance of my most tender regard--

J. F. Drake

From J. F. Drake
to his brother
1826

William Drake

Luhlenberg County

Kentucky

per
Mr. J. Downen

Mt. Vernon Feby 21st 1827

Dear William

I have only about two minuits to write to you Mr. Downen who will be the bearer hereof is now on the verge of starting and cannot wait. I am indebted to you a long apology for my negligence but have not time to make it (though a word to the wise is enough) I am in good health. Wrote to father and mother a few days ago from Henderson Ky. but you will probably receive this before they receive theirs. Our Circuit Court comes on next week and after that is over and my business regulated I shall visit you. I have established a little grocery and put Nelson in it, have just commenced and cannot tell what my prospects are. Just recd a letter from Fenjm. he is well and is stationed in Washington Miss.

J. F. Drake

From J. F. Drake to brother
William Drake
1827

Smiths Mills Ky
14th Febry

1828

Mr. A. B. Drake

Greenville

Ky

Mt Vernon 14th Febry 1828

My Dear father & mother

I have only one minuit to write this Post rider is now waiting on me, this being the only mail that has crossed the river for two or three months I am well and should have been over to see you before now if the water had not been so high, it has been much higher that it was ever known to be by the coldest winters, I had a great deal of trouble with my cattle to save them and lost 8 head at last all 30 or 40 cord of wood, I shall come over immediately after court.

J. P. Drake

1828

From J. P. Drake
to father
Albritten Drake

Mr. Albrightain Drake
Fuhlenberg County
Kentucky

Mr. Anderson

Mt. Vernon March 29th 1828

My Dear Father and Mother

Mr. James Anderson who will be the bearer herof will start over on next Thursday and promises to call on you and deliver this letter, I have but little to communicate as I expect to see your face to face in a few days after the reception of this letter. I have just recd a letter from Benjamin stating that he would leave Natchez on the 25th Inst. and if he does he will be here by the first or 2nd day of next month and after his spending a few days here we shall come over, all is well My respects to all my friends

Yours Truly

J. P. Drake

From J. P. Drake
to father
Albritten Drake
1828

Mr. Albrightain Drake

18/31

Greenville

My.

Indianapolis Oct. 15th 1829

My Dear father & Mother

I have now resided at this place long enough to begin to form a more definite opinion with respect to the propriety of my location here. It gives me pleasure to inform you that I am much better pleased that my most sanguine anticipations had conjectured. The citizens of this place, though opposed to me in politics, have treated me with unusual cordiality and devility they have (contrary to their customs) made two or three parties every week and invited me. Several of them for my special benefit, and the news papers have published very handsome complimentary remarks and with all my business is more profitable than I had anticipated, it is just one month since I took possession of the office and I have already recd 13700\$ out of which my own emoluments are 178\$. I board at a good tavern and have a comfortable office and enjoy good health should I have no misfortune I will have nothing to fear, but you will see from the large sums of money that is confided to my care, the responsibility is very great indeed I keep the money in a large Iron Chest at the head of my bed and at night lock my doore and keep well armed. The citizens of this place are exceedingly moral and religious, there is scarcely a night in the week that there is not preaching there are three churches in town, to wit, a large Brick Methodist church and also a Baptist and large from Iriscpatarian Church and all of them have large congregations. It will not be in my power to come over there before next summer, I hope you will write to me more frequently, I shall return to Mt. Vernon about the 12 of Nov. for the purpose of settling sum of my business there. I expect that Edmund will meet me there, I shall be there about three weeks. Give my respects to all my friends there and accept assurance of my warmest attachment

J. P. Drake

A. D. Drake

Ruthy Drake

1829 J. P. Drake to father & mother
Albritten & Ruth Drake. Describes
his reception to Indianapolis, Ind.

William Drake
Greenville, Kentucky

Indianapolis Sep. 16th, 1830.

Dear William

I have a great many things to write more than I can put on one sheet and all of such minor importance that I am much at a loss what to write, I got home on the 20th of August and found all my business had been conducted pretty well to my satisfaction and my friends generally well, the health of this section of the country is tolerable good at this time and this is the Season of the year that sickness is most booked for my own health has continued entirely good Since my return which makes me almost ready to conclude that I can have my health unblemished here. It is now one year Since I commenced business at this place and I have just made an estimate of my commission and salary it amounts to upwards of \$1700. I think that I have perhaps saved out of that Sum \$1000. I shall start on tomorrow morning to Cincinnati to make a Deposit I have on hand about \$20000. Soon after my return I am going to Sogans port, a town in the upper most Settlement on the Wabash to attend the Sale of the land for the construction of the Canal to connect the Wabash and Lake Erie, I have a notion to venture something on law speculation there, the Sale commences the first Monday in Oct. if I make a purchase it will be on the line of the contemplated canal, and I wish to visit that part of the State at all events, The weather here is growing quite cool already, We were visited by a frost a few mornings ago, the season has been rather unfavourable for crops of corn the growth seems to have prevailed in all parts of the union as fair as I can hear from. The yesterdays eastern mail brought us the intelligence of a late -----

France, King Charles had to make his escape from the King dom and Lafayette is now Commander in General the National guard, there War chief of Blood Shed in th Struggle considerably say about 500 6000. principal account Kings troops, we here are all og at the result. IT is thought that diccing form their new goverment and they will monarchy ----- have nottime -----mistakes-----

My love to father

Your truly

J. P. Drake to bro. William Drake Revolution in France. King Charles escapes Gen.

Lafayette, commander. 1830

J. P. Drake expects to attend sale of lands for construction of Canal to connect Wabash and Lake Erie.

Indianapolis, Ind.
 Sep 5

18 3/4

Mr. Albright Drake

Greenville

Kentucky

Indianapolis Sept. 2d 1833

My Dear Father & Mother

I suppose that you are now looking for us there and we are here in Indianapolis, not yet started. I wish we were there, we went to Cincinnati in the beginning of last month after which we intended to have started to visit you but owing to Iriscillas indisposition we were detained some time at Napolis on our return home, and altho she has measurably recovered we did not think it would be prudent for her to start a journey so soon after her indisposition. We have therefore deferred our trip there untill next month at which time we hope to have the pleasure of again seeing you. Since we last wrote nothing of much importance has transpired, the elections in this state have resulted in a great triumph of the Jackson party, Our whole delegation to Congress with one exception are Jackson men and a decided majority in the Legislature. It will be the first Jackson Legislature that Indiana has ever had, in your state I suppose the scene is reversed, that the opposition have triumphed there, what has been the result in the other States I know not, but it is very certain that Jackson has gained much popularity in the East and will not be in the minority in the next Congress, the consequences will be that the United States Bank cannot be rechartered. Politicians are beginning to speculate on the next presidency, it is now thought that Mr. Clay will not be brought forward again for that office and that the race will be between Martin Van Buren of New York and John McLane of Ohio Col. Johnson of Ky. and Lewis Cap Secretary at War are also spoken of but I am inclined to think that the latter named persons will not be run for the office.

This Section of the country is thought to be more sickly than usual, though we have no disease of a malignant character, except the Cholera, which has not yet reached this place, and we very much hope to escape entirely, as it is now thought that, that disease is subsiding in the eastern country, your State has suffered more within the last three months than any part of the Union I hope it will not visit your neighbourhood. The present Season has been more favourable for the farmers in this section of the country than any I have before witnessed, our crops of wheat and oats were unusually good and the corn is better than I ever saw, and we shall have an abundance of mast.

Our sale of Land in this office continued about as usual it will probably amount to \$200000 the present year which was the amount of the last years sale. We have just read a letter from Benjamin he had recently had an attack of Dispeptia but was then able to preach twice a day, and Susan had just recovered of an attack of the Bilious fever, the balance of his family were well, I had advised him to leave the city during the sickly season of the year

but he will not consent to do so. He thinks that it is his religious duty to stand firm to his post and trust the Almighty for his health. The improvement in this town is not very rapid though it is steady and continues gradual they are now putting up one of the finest state Houses in the Western country, which will add greatly to the town. We have heard nothing from you for a long time consequently we are very anxious to hear from you, we might probably have time to receive an answer to this before we start, provided you write immediately and I hope Am. will do it. Priscilla joins me in presenting our love to all our relations and accept for your selves assurance of our warmest attachment.

Affectionately your Son

J. P. Drake

Albritten Drake &
Ruth Drake

From J. P. Drake to father
Albritten Drake. Presidential
race will probably be between
Martin Van Buren of N. Y.
& John McLane of Ohio.
Indiana Politics
1833

Vincennes I. 183/1
Dec. 19

Mr. William Drake

Greenville

Kentucky

Vincennes Dec. 17th 1834

Dear William

On yesterday I returned from Indianapolis where I had been for near three weeks and on this morning found your kind letter of the 3d Instant in the post office, giving me an account of the affliction of our dear Brother Silas, his affliction is most horrible, and finally if he should not survive we should scarcely know how to bare it, heretofore our family has been fortunate, we have for years enjoyed the pleasure of meeting without the melony thought of a single breach by the hand of death, I awfully fear that, that State of things is about to pass away and that hereafter when we meet, we shall have to mourn the loss of a kind affectionate brother or parent, though I will not suffer myself to think for a moment that he will not recover, I will console myself on your last remark that he was one mite better, I will hope that he has recovered, but fear will mingle with all my hopes and still keep a gloom over my sky. Tell Collins he must have that tooth of his plucked out by the root, it can undoubtedly be done without injury to his jaw or even very grate pain and that is the only method he can be relieved. Mother and Edmund must continue very carefull of their healths lest they should relaps. I am shure that Mother would not be able to stand a nother attack of equal violence (I might say of half the violence), she must be on her guart all the time, untill her health is entirely restored, She cannot be two carefull; I think Edmund understants his constitution and will not again expose himself more than he is able to stand. Sit Ruth's explanation of his affidavit as soon as possible so as to return the papers to Washington before the adjournment of the present Congress which must take place the 4th March next; write me to whome the papers will be sent, and where they will be sent, and whether the intention is to make the application to Congress or to the War Department so that I may be able to write to my friends in Congress to assist in obtaining the claim, I think I wrote to you from Indianapolis and told you that we were keeping house, we are pleasantly situated have a fine house a large lot of ground on the bank of the river and a plenty of fruit trees and are going to commence raising our own pigs and chickens. It is now 3 o'clock in the evening and we are sitting around our own fire side Iriscilla and Luchia are paying with little Ruth who has grown finely since you saw her, we have all enjoyed good health. Iriscilla joins me in love to father and mother and all our relations there

Your affectionate brother
J. F. Drake

Wm. Drake

From J. F. Drake to his brother 1834.

Vincennes Nov 17

Mr. Wm. Drake

183

Greenville, Ky.

Vincennes Nov. 14th, 1836.

Dear Mother & William

I have no doubt you think Strange that I have not written to you for such a length of time, but when I tell you that early in the month of August Friscilla was taken dangerously ill and at the time she became convalescent I was taken with the fever and that Ruth was sick the whole summer and in fact all my family, both clerks, and Servants were sick and not untill within a few days have I been able to attend to business within great fear of bringing on a relaps, and that in the mean time (to wit, on the 19th of October Friscilla was delivered of a daughter you will not think it very strange that I have not written. I now have the pleasure to announce to you that we are again restored to our usual health, and we well know how to appreciate it. The business of the Office continues verry heavy, the sales of the presasant year have amounted to more that 600,000\$ which requires much of my attention. Edmund left here about a month since he only spent two nights with us he was in tolerable good sperrits and Ann was as much so as you could suppose, they were all in good health we have heard nothing from them since they left I feel very anxious indeed to hear from them. Aunt Lillian felt in quite low sperrits, and was rather unhappy, I fear that she will never be very happy. If Edmund should make a good location I hope that you together with Silas, Collins & myself will soon join him at his next abode.

From William, last letter and from what Edmund told me I suppose that Cupid has withdrawn his quaver and that the servises of Women are dispenced with for the present. I hope that It is all for the better, the oald adage that there is luck in leasure is frequently verified, and I hope it will be in this case, I know that you William enjoy as much happiness as most of men do, (either married or single) consequently you should not be too eager to make a change, I know you feel lonesome in your present situation but you should take more time to visit your friends, If I had your oppertunity to visit my relatives I am shure that 12 months should not hap without your seeing me. While I am on the subject of visiting, let me say to you, that next spring as soon as the weather will permit you may look for Friscilla, Ruth, Almeria and myself at your quarters; That contemplated pleasure which has been so long defured cannot be much longer procrastinated and, I now feel that the procrastination would have a tendency to imcrease the felicity when we do meet, for I am confident that I never felt more anxious to see you. When we do come we shall come prepared to bring Mother home with us and I do hope she will come. Dick told me that Lely had some notion of marrying, tell her that I would rather she would not; unill I come over in the spring and then if the young mans master will let me have him I will buy him at a fair price.

Posey is going to schoold, his principal study at present is Arethmatic I think he is learning quite fast, he is improving in every respect.

The Election for President as fare as heard from is in favor of Genl Harrison, he has got this state without much doubt though I think that Van Buren will be the president.

Triscilla joins me in love

Your Son & Brother

J. P. Drake

Ruth Drake &
Wm. Drake

1836

From J. P. Drake to
Mother & Brother
Cupid withdraws quiver--
as to Wm. marriage.
Fine business.

Mrs. Ruth Drake

150

Greenville

Kentucky

Vincennes Nov. 22 1838

My Dear Mother

On the 15th Instant at 8 O'clock P. M. Triscilla presented with a very fine son, his complexion, the colour of his eyes, and hair resemble Ruth, though all of his features much larger than hers, he would undoubtedly compare (without disparagement) with the finest children I have ever seen. Triscilla continued in good health up to the day of his birth, she was then very sick but has been recovering ever since she is now able to sit up and walk over the room, Ruth & Elmeria have improved so much since we left there that you would scarcely know either of them, Ruth is going to school and we hope learning. I am still in hope that she will keep up the character of my favourite name Ruth, the name sounds pleasantly on my ears for the reasons that I have always reminded of so dear, so kind, and so affectionate a mother and also of a father now no more but equally dear who gave her the name.

Of course Brittain can tell you what I thought of Missouri or my letters to Edmund will. While traveling through that country I could not determine whether or not I would remove to it, since my return I daily think better of it, and upon the whole am of the opinion that I will move there. I have written to Governor Boggs of Jefferson City for the purpose of closing a contract, with him for a tract of land adjoining that City. Though I have a strong predilection for Osage on the Osage River and think that we shall locate there. I am well convinced that the Country is healthy and that it will be very easy for me to make a fine farm there, the face of the country is certainly as fine as I ever saw though the products are not good. Next week I will go to Indianapolis and if I can dispose of some of my property there I will do so. Triscilla sends love. May the Lord spare you many years as a living monument (to your family and to the world) of goodness & humility

I am your affectionate Son

Jery

Ruth Drake

From J. R. Drake to his mother Ruth Drake
1838

Jerry loved the name of Ruth (his mother's name)

[1838 n 39]

Dear Edmund

I wish you to ascertain what condition those negroes are in belonging to the estate Groves whether the heirs are all of age and where they live. Write to me the particulars as far as you can ascertain how many negroes are there? What are their ages and what are they worth in cash? What are the names of the heirs Brittain will have told you that we visited the grave of your Dear little William. He found that Aunt Betsey had planted Camomile over his grave and we planted four Rose bushes around it. The more I think of Missouri the better I am pleased with it altho the corn did not look well the soil did and it appears to me that it must produce and at all events I think that I can make money by improving and renting land and occasionally selling. It is reported that a number of the Norrans have been killed by the troops which made no resistance. I hope for the credit of Missouri that the report is false. The New York elections have gone against the Adm. that will countervallance for Ohio and Penn. Irisilla sends love

Yours truly

J. L. Drake

Independence, Mo. Jul. 22.
 Dr. William Drake

25

Greenville

Kentucky

Rives County Mo. July 14, 1840

My Dear Mother & Brother

You see that July is here and I am still in Mo. have not yet made my visit to Indiana nor done myself one of the greatest of earthly pleasures; visited you. It is now more than a year since we located here and I have not been 50 miles from home during the whole time for me this is quite a new state of things, how long it will continue I know not, but think it will not last long, for we thin, of starting to the Platte Country on the day after tomorrow. Our residence here has been but a scene of suspense which would seem to indicate any thing but comforts, but it has not been uncomfortable, we have had good health and spirits the latter will give comfort any where. Our situation is one on which we might make a living with as little labour as any place in the state but it is remote from society and the country can never be densely populated owing to the scarcity of timber for that reason we have come to the conclusion that if we can find a country that will please us better we will change our location. We had a thought of visiting Mississippi before we finally settled, perhaps we may still do so. but if we are well pleased with platte we will probably locate there. The lands there are not yet brought into market, and there is no certainty when it will, but if the country is first rate, that will not deter me from locating there. The idea suggested by your self and by Benjamin of endeavouring to find a situation that would please us all and where all of us would assemble pleases me well and I for one will make almost any pecuniary sacrifice to effect our object so near by heart. I at one time almost come to the conclusion to locate on the Ohio River where a man is not very remote from any part of the Western Country. I could there visit you in 2 or 3 days and Benjn or Sopier almost as soon that would please me in a much more desirable situation with respect to my friends, when I contemplate a state of things so desirable it looks to me like a vision I cannot realise it. for I am almost ready to conclude that I am fated to spend my days remote from all my relatives, for it is now near 2 years since I have had the pleasure to enjoying much of the society of any of my relatives and I now find myself more remote than I have ever been. I think by the next summer we will be permanently located some where and in a situation that will please many or all of my brothers. The present year has been unusually hard for all new comers in this part of the State, Bread stuff cannot be purchased at any price nearer than 40 or 50 miles and then we pay from 25 to 27 1/2 per bbl for corn, Wheat not to be had on any terms. The winter here was said to be very hard but was not harder than the winters about Vincennes, the spring & summer has been very fine the farmers think that corn will be plenty and cheap next fall.

I have put 20 or 30 acres in cultivation, as most of it is what we call sod it gives us but little labour. I hope to realize the truth of the wisce which Mother sent us and enjoy a great communion and an eternal happiness when we meet to part no more. Do write often that we may know how mothers health is

Ruth and Almeria talk frequently of you they recollect you well we think them smart. James is large of his age is begining to talk. Priscilla accompany me to Platte we leave the children and negroes along Priscilla says she wishes to see you very much she joins me in love to all our relatives

Your affectionate some and brother

J. P. Drake

Ruth Drake & W. Drake

From J. P. Drake July 17th 1840
 Rives Co. Mo.
 to brother