

X 4-21-88
TRIP TO ENGLAND

IN 1888

E. K. Hart of Albion, who was a U.S. Con-
sular during the Grant Administration, took a
trip to England in September 1888. The accom-

panying poster advertises the liner he sailed on
out of New York City. He was accompanied by two
children. One was Louise, his daughter, referred
to as "Trot". The other was Pearl Curtis, Trot's
friend. While on board ship, Mr. Hart wrote a letter
to his wife Louise back in Albion. It was mailed via
the pilot boat which escorted the ocean liner out to
sea. Once they arrived in England he posted
another letter, also to his wife.

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LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK
EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY AND FROM
QUEENSTOWN, IRELAND
EVERY WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY,
WITH MAILS, GOODS AND PASSENGERS.

PASSENGERS WILL FIND THESE STEAMERS AMONGST
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EVERY INFORMATION GIVEN BY
WILLIAM INMAN, 22, WATER ST. LIVERPOOL.
OR BY **DAVID JONES, Gas Works, Ruthin.**

For your interest I've selected some of his
descriptions of the ocean liner and some of his
accounts of their trip and landing.

Steamer City of New York
September 19, 1888

"My dear Louise:

....At this moment I am simply
overwhelmed-sort of stunned by the conveni-
ences, beauty, and elegance of this triumph in
naval architecture. I am now in the smoking
room....This is a large room, and has in it twenty-
two marble top tables each having about as much
surface as the table in my room, and there are
easy seats for as many as one hundred....The pier
was crowded and there was a great many on the
great ship.

"Would you believe it! The ubiquitous Sidney
Smith was here. I dodged him several times and
felt an inexpressible sense of relief when I saw the
huge bulk leave the vessel. And I didn't feel one
whit sorry when I saw the back of his black coat
streaked and daubed with white paint. He had
been poking in some place where he had no busi-
ness....Seats were assigned us in the dining
saloon which we will keep during the round trip.
The table is calculated for twelve and....should be
at my disposal for "the party" on our return.

"My dinner agreed with me. I had oxtail soup,
roast duck with nice sauce and green peas, green
corn, apple pudding, crackers and cheese, and
excellent coffee. About half an hour ago I touched
an electric call right at my side and had brought to
me a glass of cold seltzer with a quantity of lemon
juice in it. This room is made very brilliant by eigh-
teen beautiful electric lights. It's very light but
there's nothing glaring or dazzling about it.

"Thursday - the 20th, I am out on the Prome-
nade Deck standing by our port hole and the great
ship has backed out, swung round and at this
stand by me. Now I'm opposite the Tribune's tall
tower - Trinity steeple. The Field building and Pro-
duce Exchange - and now we're passing Castle
Garden. She's getting under fine headway. It is not
raining, but it's quite hazy and only objects quite
near are more than dimly outlined.

"We are getting quite a fresh breeze. We are
just passing the Statue of Liberty, nearer to it than I
have been before and the great light is still burn-
ing. We have passed to the other side to see, if

possible, Coney Island with its high tower and big
elephant.....

Adelphi Hotel
Liverpool, Sept. 30, 1888

"....The coast of Ireland is always greeted with
joy on account of its being the first land seen, but
on its merits alone it is beautiful....Soon after the
slight stop for the tender we entered smoother
water but just after turning into the Irish channel a
heavy fog enveloped us and the disagreeable fog
horn had to be sounded every two or three
minutes. These unnatural noises were con-
tinued a long time and were almost prevention of
sleep or rest.

"Some time during the night we went to anchor
in the Mersey. Breakfast was served at half past
six, and passengers and luggage were off the
steamer at eight. One of the deck hands, whose
duty was on deck attending to the chairs and
sweeping, had been very attentive to the girls -
always addressing either one as "Missy". Trot
spoke of this man and said how nice it would be if
he could help us off. I had thought of the same
thing but was pleased to hear her speak of it. I saw
Capt. Watkins and he said the man could go with
me. So, when the tender came and was ready to
receive the passengers, our valet carried all lug-
gage on board and then carried Trot.

"I could trust his sure feet much more than my
own in going down the inclined and unsteady
gangway with the little, though precious
load....Our valet was a great aid in getting through
the Custom House and in getting a cab to the
hotel. On the way I stopped at the Inman office to
see about our return passage.

"You ought to have seen Trot while we were in
the waiting room at the Custom House. On a
"refreshment counter" she saw a row of glasses of
sweet milk. She could hardly wait for me to get one
and I shall never be able to tell how she managed
to swallow the milk so quickly. I suppose the little
thing was about half starved.

"Our valet did not quit our service until he had
deposited his little bundle of humanity on a bed,
and not quite then for Trot at once called for "more
milk" and he waited until she drank that. Then, with
sailor hat in hand and the bow of a gentleman, he
left us.....

Your Kirke