

## THOMAS CHALMERS (1828–31)

Letters to Thomas Chalmers from Mary Kinnear (excerpts, 1828–31) and Mitchell King (1831), British Library of Political and Economic Science, Emigrant Letters 3/74.

A number of letters assembled here were written to Dr Thomas Chalmers, of Edinburgh. The first in the series are excerpts of letters of Mary Kinnear, a Scottish immigrant in Brownsville, Pennsylvania, who is sending more information to Chalmers. The next is from Mitchell King, President of the Presbyterian Church in Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina, in which King expresses his wish to recruit a new minister from Scotland. King defends the region's health and climate, admitting that those features have discouraged prospective immigrants in the past, and may be a concern for a Scotsman. Two more letters from 1843 appear later in this volume.

### LETTERS TO THOMAS CHALMERS FROM MARY KINNEAR

'I am a native by Birth of your country but left. In Infancy, my Speach was formed in this Land of Liberty ...'

Mary Kinnear

Brownsville, Fayette/County, Pennsylvania

Jan. 12, 1828

'the accounts from New Orleans is painful the Imorality of the People is great, especially the French & Spanish population.

'I have to request the favour of you to present my compliments to Sir Wallter Scott & others that you think can render this attemp [campaign to raise funds for a University] any service.

'P.S. all donations of every description given for the university will be deposited with the President & vice President of the U States soe that thare will be no rom to fear Defrauds.'

Mary C. Kinnear

Brownsville, July 29, 1829

[She says that there is a great need for Sunday Schools and that she has offered land and coal for a building and a 'Steam Pour press ... to print Tracks & books for the Sunday School union.']

'A great change has taken place In Europe last summer you have the Burbons with you your present Sovering is poplar In America & should you And France be attacked the Government & people will Fly to your aid but God forbid more wars.

'we have had a sever cold winter with a remarkably Deep Snow the est side of the mountain it drifted In some Places twenty feet, fifty, horses, could not drag the Mail coach a number of Persons & cattle perished I the snow

'Thus you see calamity's are everywhere.'

Mary C. Kinnear

Browns Ville, March [?], 1831

LETTER FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHARLESTON,  
S.C. TO T. CHS.

14 May, 1831

The supposed unhealthiness of Charleston has sometimes we believe had a tendency to prevent strangers from coming here – we are deeply persuaded that this has been exceedingly exaggerated – Charleston is very far from being unhealthy – Indeed it is one of the healthiest cities on this Continent – It has been occasionally, generally at intervals of several years visited by Yellow Fever and then it is certainly dangerous for strangers – for those not accustomed to our climate to remain in the city: but there are places, in its immediate vicinity, in which this fever has never been known to originate, and to which a stranger may retreat with the assurance of safety from it, even when it prevails in the city; and it would be our care and duty to see that our clergyman, if at all a subject for it, should be placed beyond its influence. The natives of the northern and middle parts of the Union are as liable to this fever, as the natives of Europe – and its occasional existence among us, presents no obstacle or restraint in the way of their settling among us – indeed several Clergymen from the North have deliberately preferred this climate – and it is a matter of universal observation that a native of the North of Europe when once acclimated here generally enjoys excellent health and lives to a good old age. We do not believe that a Clergyman coming from Scotland to be with us would run more risk, than if he were removed from a healthy country Parish to the city of London – indeed on the score of health we think that the removal to this place would be preferable.

Mitchell King

President of the Presbyterian

Church of the City of Charleston

## MACFARLANE FAMILY (1828–32)

University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, C3127.

The Macfarlane letters were written from Stewarton, in Ayrshire, Scotland, to Missouri and provide a rare look at how British immigrants were viewed from the land of their birth. The poverty and unemployment in Scotland, with references to people being thrown out of their houses, are good clues for the motives behind the emigration. References to the Great Reform Bill of 1832 and the cholera epidemic are also good indications of the kind of issues that people paid attention to on both sides of the Atlantic. The development of Stewarton, with its modern gas lines and roads, gives some sense of the contrast that was experienced in Missouri.

Some later annotations to these letters have been retained as footnotes.

Stewarton 23d Sept. 1828

Dear George:

Your letter of July 12th. last was received by Mr. Rees [?] on Saturday the 30th. of Aug. and forwarded to me by Orr on the following Wednesday. I know not how it happens but so it is that when preparing to answer your letter I am confounded and can scarcely call on my thoughts at all. When I wrote last all the necessary vouchers accompanied the letters in a very large packett and were forwarded to Thomas Kerr, N.O. along with some shirts and neck cloths. He died soon after and from your silence on the subject it is obvious you have not gotten any of the articles. The truth is there has been no balancing of matters with Mr. Deans who still retains all in his hands. R. Hison succeeded you and is making money with even less allowance than you had and Mrs. Wintrop exposed your effects at The Cross in about a year after your departure with out even washing the wearings, your shirts most shamefully dirty they were. She married some years back a Mr. Galterman builder of Recordan Church. The packet above alluded to was carried down to Irvine by Wm. Gray who died three years ago most unexpectedly on a Tuesday morning having adjoined a Mrs. Wallon the Saturday previously to the great disappointment of the Stewartonins as he left a brother, Wm. Gray, Irvine was his heir or the only burden of one pound equally divided between a Mrs. J. Mitchell and his Tar Bottom cousins. Tho the Laird spoke only twice to

the Baillie at Furr, his ancestors had been the possessors of Blacklae and came by a trick on a female into the hands of Wm. Gray's family. It was in Jan. that he died and in April following Mr. Douglas died whose family now lives in Glasgow. Geo. Douglas is in very poor health and circumstances having been in discussion [?] – for many a month. William is in Jamacia. Robert in St. Viencent or Tabago. Mrs. Torrence, now a widow with two children and Liliass assigned to a Monteith of Pallockshaws. A son of Dr. Stevens then living succeeded Douglas and through a relative of Lambarton's Mother have gone such a length that the latter preaches to a crowded audience in the courthouse and has worked into a handsome seated Independent Chapel.

Nothing here but devisive courses as the order of the day and another called Original Burgher House has been used but how to be filled and the / Clergyman maintained is to me unknown. Mr. Stevens is popular and clever not at all contributing to the divisions that have taken place owing I think to the increase of population, now 600 at least more then in 1821. Mr. M. Thomas was literally driven away and is now teaching in Glasgow. He is succeeded by a Mr. Caisons a most prudent and useful clergyman. This is written in Frederick Lane on my way from annual meeting in Edinburgh. Our Fund is increasing rapidly being £30,000 and upwards having about 900 members nearly the whole of the Brethrens compiled with at least 90 [Ninety] widows and 9 [nine] orphan families among whom upwards of 120 pounds was divided at the meeting. We have not arrived at the maximum of Burdens which we may reckon and may amount to 200 more. This can not take place in my day. John Macfarlane, Jr. returned from Demerara in March last – about eight weeks, five of them with us and sailed in March last to Trinidad on 16th. of May, arrived there on the 15th. of June. On the last day of July Mr. Deans, your old Master, died of a broken heart owing to the envolved [involved] situation of his affairs. His debts amounting to 14,000 pounds at least. Many a good advise I had from him and in him I have lost a worthy friend. Among the last verses he wrote the following:

O Gold thou art the World's God  
 Dissolving every tender tie  
 Yea for thy golden smiles great God  
 Love friendship and religion vie  
 When I was blessed with Fortune's Smiles  
 Few men for judgment could surpass  
 But Fortune Fickle Lady passed by  
 And I good heavens became an ass  
 But yet in spite of all thy frowns  
 A selfish world bitter scorn  
 One grievous heart shall spurn thy chains  
 Tho it should live and die forlorn.

Our Agnes has spent two winters in town with the good Old Folks learning to play the piano. Duncan has been nearly two years in Latin, altho only seven [7] years of age. Our next is named Margaret Caskens Crooks just five [5] and an excellent reader of the New Testament. The next is called John now eleven [11] months old. My wife is rather weakly and I'm afraid will not be a long liver. Mr. Kerr has only two [2] children. A. Malcom is in very / bad health and is now returned from the Continent where he has been upwards of two [2] years. While there he entertained the public with the sketches which were inserted in the Glasgow Scots Times edited by John Kerr by far the most literary newspaper in Scotland as asserted by Mr. Jno Spany, Wine Merchant who is the greatest contributor and critic in it etc.

I am today happy to observe that you have more comforts then you even did at home. Had you not entertained too ambitious projects you most likely would not have left it. In answer to this be pleased to remember the pledge of letting us know what you have been doing, what you are doing, and what you mean to do with whatever else you think proper.

I am, dear George, yours faithfully

D. Macfarlane

P.S. All friends join in best wishes and in the number John Blackwood, C. Macfarlane, still unmarried, begs to be remembered particularly.

Letter folded and addressed

Mr. George Macfarlane

Callaway County U.S.A.

Missouri

c/o Ship Mars /

Stewarton, 9th May 1832

Dear George:

I have often thought of writing you but I have always been so much engaged with multiplicity of business that I could never command time. I very seldom write any one, Fredrick Lane folks excepted. I believe I have not ommitted to writing them every Tuesday night and often on a Friday night. I have not missed it twice since I came here.

Being determined to give my children a good education, what ever use they may make of it or whether any one approved of my resolution or not. Seeing that exertion on my part would be required to get my intentions fulfilled I set to teaching in Sept. 1823 tho I have less encouragement than might be expected in a place like this, yet I have succeeded so far as to put them in the way of a liberal and useful education. I think they are farther behind in writing then any other

branch, they are wishful to affix a few lines to you, however indifferent they are of it. I am happy to hear that you are married. I wish you all the joys of life and that your own words may be verified that you will prove a good husband and make your wife happy and fond of you which I have no doubt will be the case and I hope she is in every respect worthy of your affection. I have to announce the melancholy news of my worthy parents death. My mother died on the 13th. of last Dec. and my father on the 25th. of the same month after a long illness. He had been unable to attend the Counting House from Sept. preceeding his death. My mother's death was unexpected to every one but herself who always predicted she would be first. She took to her bed on Thursday night and died on Tuesday night with a struggle, she even sat up that day and ordered the dinner. Their death is generally lamented and it is a particular loss to us all who are concerned. Christina is well. She had a little boy a fortnight old who died three days before my mother. My brother Duncan is well and still continues in the employe of Messrs. J.V.W. Campbell. My brother John is in no body's employment I am sorry to say he made his appearance in Glasgoe on 3rd. of Feb last in a miserable condition in regard to clothing worse then he had been before and as it was my mother and father's wish that we were to disown him as a brother, Duncan ordered him out of the house. Your father happened to be in Glasgow and was present at the time of this most trying event. In consequence of the sad disease of Cholera no vagrants were allowed to go about so he was picked up and kept in Bridwell where he was confined for three weeks. Duncan, Christiana and I sent a suit of sailor clothes for him and did not say who sent / them. When he got out he came and paid us a visit. Your father was at Kilmaarock that night. I kept him all night and sent him off before day light appeared as I could do nothing else in a small village like this. What has become of him since we do not know and I do not wish to know as we much fear he will never do any good. As your father writes at this time also I will refer the rest of the news to him. It would do you good to see him, so healthy and stout and we have a very comfortable dwelling now. Little Jon is beginning to read and promises well tho he is longer commencing then any of the rest was. The four are all stout children. I must stop to indulge them to write to you. I conclude with best wishes to you and Mrs. Macfarlane. I am dear Geo

Yours Sincerely

E. Macfarlane.

Dear George:

It is not expected that I can have much to say or to any purpose when writing of myself and for the first time especially since it is to report progress to a brother after having spent the usual time in reading writing and sewing of white and colored work. I spent three winters in Glasgow under Mr. Tomson learning to play the piano forte, one which my mother purchased for us. I have been some time at tinting and drawing at Kelmarrock House. My mother says I promise best in the last. Margaret plays very well on the piano, she is likely to excell me. We will be glad to hear from you at all times. I am, dear George, your affectionate sister

Agnes M. Macfarlane.

Dear George:

I beg leave to state for information that I am at present reading Ovid and Man's Introduction, which is to me, what father says was once to you, going through a cloud. Whether light will ever be thrown on the subject is as yet unknown to me. I fear if ever a good figure shall be made of me in time not withstanding the pains bestowed on me, I am dear George

Your affectionate brother

D. M. Macfarlane /

Dear George:

Although I have only got half test in the school yet I am anxious to try and write to you. This is the first time I have attempted to write in a letter. By the next time I hope I may be able to do it better. Remember us all kindly to sister Catherine from whom we shall be glad to hear. I am, dear George,

Your affectionate sister

M.C.C. Macfarlane or M.E.C.

P.S. I should have told you that my father handed his gold watch as a present to our little John saying it was the only preference that he was making along with his largest gold seals E.M.\*

Envelope address:

Date 9th May 1832

Mr. George Macfarlane

Callaway County Fulton P. O.

Missouri†

Remark by R. H. R. /

\* This is the step mother of Geo. Macfarlane, Callaway County Mo and mother of the four children who added their letters here. The watch spoken of belonged to this woman's father. This remark made by J. H. H. copying these letters to make clear the above.

† NOTE: E. Macfarlane has not given us her full name, nor the name of her parents. The 'old folks' seem to have been people of substance – a great loss to their children and to the society of their time.

Stewarton, May 10, 1832

Dear George:

Your letter of Nov. 30th. came to hand in Feb. following, when I was engaged in Melitson business, after a non employment thes cin [? illeg.] of two years, and which just now has brought me 18 Guineas, a considerable addition to one's income in these trying times. Nothing of the kind is expected this year. The dreadful note of Reform then and at this moment sounds not very agreeable in my ears, being fearful of the consequences. Should the session be assumed by the mad hands of the nobility as the other years in France mournfully displayed. The cholera, a new disease here, has been another melancholy damper since Nov. last to thousands of families in the United Kingdom.<sup>1</sup> In June last for the 4th. time I took the census of the Parish which has greatly increased by the introduction of wool spinning and carpet factories by Messrs. J. N. Dunlap, Wright and Mr. Muir, Robert Land, John and Thos. Dears. The enclosed will some what amuse you and Catherine, especially calling to mind Town of Boinets which, where on, your house is thickest as we say in Scotland. I need not say that I wish you all happiness with her and God Bless you both. Your choice is mine. The chief thing I suspect that I shall never have the pleasure of meeting with her. Please give me an account of her father's family and remember me kindly to them.

In consequence of an attempt of the Deputy Cashier of our fund to swindle us of 400 pounds especially though not appointed by the Bretherson, I in common with others was obliged to appear at the annual meeting held in the 'Auld Rockie' where we turned the tables on him so far as votes could go but he threatens a prosecution before the Supreme Court. Our stock then amounted to 34,905 pounds 6 ' 6. The allowance to the widows and orphans was upwards of 1,500 pounds in 1831. I forgot to state that the allowance for taking the census tendered 5 pounds, which being refused was after a correspondence with the Sheriff was raised to 6 pounds-10. The same as in 1821 tho attended with more trouble then before, owing to the numerous classifications required by the Govt.

It will be in your recollection that a Mr. Cockburn now Solicitor General employed me to abridge the painted Rothburn of the School-masters of Scotland of 1825 of which he made his own proper use In Edin. Review. I am now requested to make another statistical account of our own / Parish enbrassing Ist Geog. and National History 2nd Civil History 3rd Population 4th Industry 5th Parochial Economy with miscellaneous observations. The Heads of Inquiry extend to fifteen closely printed to 800 papers, no small labor if undertaken and done well. All this at the insistance of the Principal Board. Dr. Chalmers, now Prof. of Divinity Edin., Inglis Thomson, now dead. Fordon and Bassarton, Sir J. S. Wm. Moncireff now Lord Moncireff [?] Sir H. Iredine and Messrs. F. Jeffery, now Land Advocate, John Hope now Dean of Faculty, Andrew Tawse.

Still at work with Great Folks you will say to the neglect of Less including your own Family. True. But the whole is not told as the real reason of delay in answering your letter once and again I have written but owing to the strict arrangement of the Post Office all letters sent by ship were prohibited under a penalty unless sent by the mail which is another expense on this side of the water and of which you in part lost sight when you said so little in your last which arrived on the 6th. current. Were you to give us some account of your State as above stated as to Stewarton I could get John Kerr to insert it in the 'Scot's Times'. He is greater then ever having the Duke of Sussex, one of the Royal Family, as member of the MacAland Club, founded by him a number of years. Last year I spent some days with him and inspected his correspondence with the Great on the Ancient Literature and History of Scotland. A 'feast of reason and flow of soul,' at least to me.

This goes by mail. Neil Gray of Overlockbridge one of four elders who with his family set off this week for the New World. And would have taken place whether your last had come to hand or not. Numerous and great have been the trials which have befallen us since I last wrote you. Christina had a son who died on the 8th of Dec. last, only 11 days old. Grandmother died on the Tuesday following, being the 13th. and Grandfather died on the 25th of the same month. She had been ailing from Aug. by exposure to rain in a steamer from Rothsay. I was not surprised to be in so dangerous situation, she was complaining longer – supposed to be water on the chest but upon being opened it turned out to be enlargement of the heart. Had they been spared until Feb. 13th. following, their hearts would have been rent by the appalling and unexpected appearance of their son, John. I happened to be in town on that day when it would have been fatal to me if I had not gotten relief by tears, so heart breaking meeting to both of us, an event more trying then the death of both father and mother whose favorite you know she, / my wife was. I have still my fears of her health and life. The loss of such a home in Glasgow to my young ones is most seriously felt and will be more so as they grow up. I must not omit to state by the cash and moveables more has been got then was from Wm. Gray. Some of the family of my sister has been unfortunately connected in marriage. Two have been compelled to separate and my brother in law has been for some time under mental dearrangement attended of course with great trouble and anxety [anxiety] to my sister.

What with macadamised streets and pavement and the introduction of gas is just now is preparing, you would not know your native town and little would you expect Robert Miller to become the Rector and Prof. of Braehead which he bought for £600 nearly £900 minus what it cost your old master, Mr. Dean with one whose protocol receeds. I shall conclude in hopes that you will according to your pledge in your last complete account of your present situation and future prospects.

There is a love which is so pure  
As pure as snow on mountains wild  
There is a love which is so chaste  
It is the heart of infant child  
There is a friendship kind and true  
As river to its native bed  
A lovely flower whose beautiful form  
Is fairest when its bloom hath fled  
Oh! Those are moments doubly blessed  
When two love hearts entwine together  
But dark and dismal is the hour  
When willed hearts are doomed to sever

Submit this last to my dear Catherine I call her mine since she is yours and may she remember me on my personality.

I am, Dear George  
Affectionately yours  
D. Macfarlane.

P.S. In your answer make no illusion to John.

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## JONAS BOOTH (1829)

British Library of Political and Economic Science, Emigrant Letters 1/10.

Jonas Booth wrote this letter from New Hartford, New York, to his brother, Joseph Booth, in Bradford, Yorkshire, one year after his emigration in 1828. Booth was working in New Hartford's cotton mills and he describes his journey and early impressions of America, including the weather, the American textiles industry, the independence of American farmers and the low quality of American whiskey and brandy.

New Hartford,  
Onida County,  
New York State.

Dear Brother & Sister,

I send you these few lines hoping that you are all well as this leaves me at present thank God, but I have been lame of a burn of my leg which has been very bad, three months under the Drs. hands. I got the frost into it which made it worse, but I am better. I set sail on the 27th of April 1828 and landed on the 29th May at New York. When we was at the Banks of Newfoundland I saw a Mountain of Ice 100 yds. out of the water and a great deal of Whales or Crampus. We got safe to New York I had not a sixpence in my pocket I stopt three days and set sail up the North river to Albany, a very large city 170 miles and then up the canal 100 miles to a town called Utica as large as Bradford, thence to New Hartford Village. I met with a deal of English, Irish and Scotch there is 10 Mills within 6 miles Nearly all cotton. Mr. Marshall's 2 mills is as large as Mr. John Woods of Bradford. As for America it is a very fine country all that I have seen. the trade is very brisk in Bed-ticking and Callico but the Farmer is the most independant they grow all that they want, they spin their own Yarn and Weave their own cloth and make their own soap and candles and makes their own shugar and malesses from a tree they call shugar maple. Flour is 8 dollars per barrel 196 lbs. Beef 3 to 5 cents per lb. that is from 1 1/2d to 2 1/2d Mutton 1 1/2d to 2d Butter 6d Chesse 3d Pork is 4d Tea 3/- Tobacco 6d Apples 1/- per bushel. But at time of the year when they are ripe I could have had as many as I had a mind to get for nothing. There is Cowcombers and Pumpkins grows here without any

glass to force them the summer is very hot and the winter is cold there has been sleigh riding four months which the women takes great pleasure for it heaven for women Purgatory for men and Hell for horses for they drive Jehu like. I can buy a goose for 1/- a fowl 9d A good Hog for 1 Dollar. /

A cow for 15 Dollars a Horse from 20 Dollars to 50 Dollars. Men Servants 100 Dollars per Year. They eat with their Master all at one time if they be iver so rich, which they call him their Boss and they are called Mr. and the women servants is called waiting maids: if their Mrs. bids them do anything its be so good as to do such a thing. There is no such a thing as scoulding them; their dress is very gay and rich they never go out without Veils from the highest to the lowest. The girls that works in the Mill is dresst as fine as any of the others and is thought of with much respect with the rich they are different from England for they are all workers for the farmers daughters spin their own Carpet Yarn which there is not many houses without, these is built of wood and some of Brick all painted. This village has two churches, the one Presbyterian the other Church of England. A chapel of the Universalist and a great many Methodist. They are nothing thought of if they do not attend a place of worship on a Sunday. There are about 300 houses in the village. I can buy anything very cheap except wearing apparel and that is very high. The land about here is very good and the price is from 20 to 30 dollars per acre. They grow wheat, buck wheat, peas, beans, rye, oats and Indian corn. They plant in April and reap their grain, and hay all at a time in July, except Indian Corn which is in Sept. Their apples fall off in their orchards – cart loads which rots on the ground. They pick apart to make cider which is their common drink. They only have three meals of a day. Breakfast there is coffee and tea, roast beef or ham, apple pie and tarts of preserves and the other meals is the same excepting tea. They are very polite. In this country a man may live with a family better than in England. A man that has got 1 to 300 Pounds and buys a piece of land, he will do well. There is not many but has risen from their own hard labour that can live very well. I wish my children and wife was over, but I have / wrote to them but I have got no answer back. I suppose it is that infernal crew that has stopped her from sending, which has been the cause of all my trouble. They wished me a thousand miles off but I got four thousand miles from them. I am in latitude 42 degrees north. When it is 7o'clock in the morning here it is 12 noon in England. The days is not so short in the winter nor so long in the summer. A servant man works from sun rise to sun set. which is a long day. A weaver will earn about 5 dollars, a cotton spinner will earn 8 to 10 dollars. A labouring man will have 1 dollar per day but there is a great deal of weaving by power looms which 1 weaver will turn off 700 yards per week. All Mr. Marshall's works is by power. A blue dyer can earn 5 to 6 dollars per week; a tailor can earn from 8 to 10 dollars but most of the work is done by women, they work for less wages. Servant women's wages is from 1 1/2 to 2 dollars per week, they have

great privileges besides. They burn all wood here which is 2 dollars per load, some of the woods is very extensive but all within 20 miles is pretty much cultivated and the inhabitants have very gentile houses but they do not farm well. Some will remove their barns before they will lead their manure on the land.

I want you to write and let me know how you are and how my family is and how the trade is and how brother Thomas is and both your families and how Mr. Brown is getting along. Stuffs sell very high, there is a great deal of damlet worn here, all the men wear them for cloaks. I have not seen one in a top coat, and the women wear Scotch plaids in the winter, all from England. They do not go into black as in England for mourning. They bury the dead the day after they die. To-day there is a child died this morning and is buried this afternoon, they all attend a funeral in the village, there is nothing given and all go without inviting and when they are going to be married they invite the Parson or Magistrate to their house in the evening and he does it for nothing, there / is no licence nor asking in church. There is a small licence for them that keeps a tavern and all stores sell spirits. If I go into a store and want a drink of braddy they will reach the bottle and glass and invite me to help myself, I take as much as I can drink for three cents that is 1 1/2d. I can buy a gallon of strong whiskey for 10d Stirling money and a gallon of brandy for 2/-, ale is 3d per pot, but not so good as in England, they cannot brew well. I have had a spell of mowing, there is no American man could come near me for fair and fast but the summer has been hot. The thermometer stood at 96 degrees many weeks and we have a deal of snow at present, it has been 6 feet thick.

from yours sincerely

JONAS BOOTH.

Please to let Wm. A. Booth, my son look at this letter but do not shew it to every person because it is badly written and worse spelled.

Direct New Hartford, Onida County, New York State, U.S.N. America.

March 20th 1829.

To. Mr. Joseph Booth, Stuff Manufacturer.

To be left at. Mrs. Lupton's, Fleece Inn, Bradford,  
Yorkshire, England.

## JAMES ROBERTSON (1830)

British Library of Political and Economic Science, Emigrant Letters 3/77.

James Robertson wrote this letter from Still Water Village, Easton, Washington County, New York, to Patrick Kirkaldy in Scotland. He proudly describes his brewing operation, but especially his farm along the banks of the Hudson River. Details about his farming operations and hired labour make this letter especially important, as do his descriptions of his neighbours and his fishing and hunting experiences. He is surprised that some British immigrants choose Canada or Australia over the United States as their new home.

JAMES ROBERTSON

REGISTER HOUSE

MR. JAMES ROBERTSON TO MR. PATRICK KIRKALDY

Euaston County of Washington

Still Water Village

January 17th, 1830

My Dear Sir,

[Usual opening sentences, hoping he is well, apologizing for not having written sooner, &c.]

... I am now comparatively at leisure our establishment for Brewing being just about finished and my operations requiring little attention. I shall in as few words as possible tell you how things are in this land of peace and plenty I bless God every day that I followed your advice not to farm at home and that I had discrimination enough to decide upon the United States as my place of rest. By a singular combination of circumstances I was induced to swap my old farm of 150 Acres for this princely establishment of 300 giving a borts [about?] of 100 dollars the erections are worth all I paid for the farm and independant of wood hill land &c. which produces excellent wheat and water privilege.

I have immediately on the Banks of the Hudson 128 Acres of flat land as good as any in the How of the Strath and I flatter myself under as good cultivation I cut on an average 2 tons of hay to the Acre and had for two years

back upwards of 40 bushels of oats to the acre, barley I have not yet tried and our wheat varies according to the state of the land 10 to 30 bushels by way of experiment raised 2 Acres of Swedes last season and tho' not a great crop in consequence of the drought I shall try them on a larger next year. With respect to servant the best men can be had and any number for 1/6. Sterling a day and you find them in food and bedding & things go on otherwise as at home with this difference that you can always trust to have your work done with herding your hands and as near as I can make out average from £1.10 Stg. to £2 – acre my farm as I came upon it cost me fourteen dollars an acre and I have laid out independant of the Brewery hereafter to be spoken of about 2000 dollars but this was a chance bargain much inferior farms in the neighbourhood having sold lately as high as 25 & 30 \$ per acre. My house is a large frame house built in with brick [long description of the house which has room to accommodate an army] in fact it is one of the best houses in this County having been built by the celebrated General Schuyler<sup>1</sup> for his son who spent all his wifes money and was obliged to sell the concern [describes barn, house for overseer, granaries, carriage house &c.] There are in my immediate neighbourhood farmed exactly of the description of my land that might be bought at the following prices 1st one of 270 Acres for 18 dollars p Acre 2nd one of 130 with an excellent house &c. &c. for 25/ next to it one of 300 with a new house but poor outhouses. I believe for something about 20 \$ and others back from the river fro nearly the same prices those that have good wood lots selling at a higher price Fuel being the dearest article in the old settlements the titles of many of these farms I know to be good and the terms of payment to be 4, 5, or 6 years the interest in this state being 7 per Cent my taxes for that year amounts to 18 dollars and this is all laid out in the cost [?] for bridges roads poors houses County house &c. &c. / We have a ready market for all our farm produce and the canal is only 1/2 mile from us and the great turnpike to Whitehall from Troy passes through my farm this we expect to be finished some miles beyond us this season. Now my dear friend I have often thought of my worthy friends in Strathmore when we heard of the agricultural distress and wished they had only the courage to come and see how we get on in this part of the world any man with £1000 can purchase a good farm stock it &c. and call himself an independant man with common industry. I lately met with an acquaintance of yours a Mr. Wilkie cousin to the Auchlochie family. I am happy to say he is conducting himself with great prudence and in my opinion he will make money he has been peculiarly fortunate but let me impress upon you the necessity of any of your acquaintances who may come here bringing money with them as Clerks are only paid at the same rate as a day labourer and not generally half a dozen of families could now sit down beside me literally in a land flowing with milk whisky pork beef mutton poultry honey and in a fortnight with Beer and leave all their care behind them –

[Description of his projected brewery business; he has recently gone into partnership with an experienced brewer, William Comlie. He thinks he has discovered a process by which the beer can be made to withstand the heat of the Southern markets. He can brew up to 80 barrels a week and make a profit of \$6 a barrel plus residue for fattening the hogs. He aims at making 1,000 barrels a year.]

McCulloch & Boyd 2 of our Countrymen who commenced in Albany as Brewers have retired lately with £25,000 a piece and from I have met with assistance they sold us their barrels at the rate of 1/9 a piece. Mr. Dunlop another Scotchman and Brewer is said to be worth the enormous sum of Twenty thousand pounds sterling a year they are all very friendly to us as we are comparatively out of their bounds. If things roll as we have every reason to expect my wife and I intend seeing you in Strathmore some time next year my man with capital and skill can do here where he would starve at home. It is surprising that people are so blind as still to emigrate to Australia or over Canada during the summer there is not an hour that a boat load of people who have emigrated to Canada does not pass down the N. Canal Albany is almost a city of French and Greek.

We have no field sports as at home no game but a few Pheasants and though good fishing it is not to be compared with out fly fishing at home I amuse myself when at leisure with a pleasure sail boat out of doors and all the publications we get for a mere song as early as you at home do not allow us to weary within doors. Wines we buy very cheap good enough claret for 1/ a bottle Whisky 2/ a gallon & brandy 4/ &c. excellent for 3/ a bottle clothing in the country very cheap In fact it a country good enough for any man who cannot live at home and if I had a few of my Strathmore friends settled as comfortably as I am I would not call the King my cousin. My neighbours are very friendly but they have no idea of parties among themselves but they seem to enjoy being with me they are all comfortable independant and peceable willing at all times to assist one another at all times talking but never fighting unless at love. James desires to be kindly remembered to his old friend the Laird of Drumkilbo<sup>2</sup> and to inform him that having got from the State an island in Lake George as fishing and shooting quarter where there is plenty of deer Bear and thousands of Pass 6 lb. wieght and trout 20 & 30 lb. he thinks the Laird might honour him with his company a season that is from July till September when he engages to devote his whole attention and time to afford him as much amusement as possible. I can assure Drumkilbo from experience there / are few places in the world more likely to afford amusement to a Sportsman than Lac Sacrament as French call it. I and a friend in 2 days killed 123 bass not one under 3 lb. and had variety of Sport besides. This winter is passing very mildly we have been sitting all this morning with scarcely any fire and the snow has never been 1/2 inch deep this winter last winter we had on the 11 day of January the Thermometer as low as 20° below Zero and the year before

19° most damnably cold The greatest this season in the morning of the 11th at 20° below Zephyr yet during all these cold days I have had lambs coming in the world to be sure they froze but we clapped them into cold water thawed them and then turned them out to take their chance. My flock is saxony and the is best to come in January if they come in April and May they seem to make a stand the second year the wool is worth 1/8 Stg. a pound and the ewes are worth about £2 – and scarce common sheep 1/2 Bakewell and the other half God knows what sell 4/6 a piece and their wool is worth 11 a pound good mutton sells for 3 bawbies a pound beef 16/ cwt poultry 8 cents a lb. a good pair of matched horses for £40 and a pair of working oxen for £20 cows £3 to 4, excellent plougs £1.15. elegant family carriages from £30 to £60 I have more horses and carriages than I know what to do with Boots from 12/ to 20/ shoes 8/ I bought 2 pairs of Casimer Trousers in Albany made by London Taylor for the sum of £4.8/ Stg.

I must now conclude this long epistle by begging of you and your family to accept of our united good wishes and when I forget you my worthy friend may my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth to Mr. Hays family Mr. Smiths Mr. Nairnes Mr. Inches and all our good friends remember us in the kindest manner but in particular to our respected friend Joshua Kidd tell him I often drink his health and that of his family and if you ever see Peter Reid the Blacksmith at Balharry remember us to him.

May God preserve and make you as happy as we all wish you is the servent prayer of your friend

James Robertson

Maggy wants to know if she is still to consider herself as your lass or if she is at liberty.

## BIOGRAPHIES

In some ways the British immigrants of the Age of Jackson were similar to those who had preceded them: land acquisition was the most common goal and their skills were a key to success. But the biographies in this volume show some differences that reflect the times. Those arriving in the 1830s and 40s, for example, were susceptible to the California 'gold fever'. Also, during this period we see the British entering Iowa. The Erie Canal, which was completed in 1825, is mentioned in some of the biographies in this volume, and for good reason: it was the easiest gateway to the American Midwest. Mining is also more frequently the feature of the biographies in this volume. Cornish immigrants are especially common; they headed for the upper Mississippi River Valley in large numbers. The combination of farming and mining both in Britain and in America is a common feature of immigrants of this period and is a key to their extraordinary success and their contributions to American economic development. That combination was also effective for immigrants of later years, as recorded in the biographies of the subsequent volumes.

## WILLIAM CRICHTON (1833)

N. W. Evans, *History of Scioto County, Ohio*, 2 vols (Portsmouth, OH: Higginson, 1903).

Scottish immigrant William Crichton's main claim to posterity was developing early wheat production in Ohio with the help of the new McCormick reaper.

WILLIAM CRICHTON was a native of Perthshire, Scotland, where he was born February 10, 1821. His father was David Crichton and his mother's maiden name was Elizabeth MacFarland. The father with one daughter came to Porter Township in 1832, leaving the family to settle up affairs at home and come over the following season. When the mother and children arrived, they found that the father and daughter had lately died, and they were thus thrown among strangers to wage life's battle, as best they could.

The children were: John, who early emigrated to the Pacific coast where he lived, unmarried, though in prosperous circumstances; Andrew, a notice of whom appears in this volume; James who became partner in Buckhorn Furnace with Seeley, Willard & Company, married Ruby Whitcomb and left two children; Ernest and James, the former a partner, Secretary and Treasurer of a navigation company in Portland, Oregon and Amelia who married a Presbyterian minister, Rev. Gamaliel Beaman and lived in Croton, Iowa, whose only son David C. Beaman is a practicing attorney in Denver, Colorado; Elizabeth who married Doctor Josiah Haines, a practicing physician in Keokuk, Iowa; Janet now living in Wheelersburg; Ohio, unmarried, and William, the subject of this sketch, who died unmarried at the old home, in October, 1894.

When the gold fever broke out in 1849 Mr. Crichton caught it and became an Argonaut. He went overland to California with the party made up at Wheelersburg and a full account of his trip will be found under the article 'Forty-niners.' While in California Mr. Crichton turned to the carpenter's trade and worked in the erection of buildings in San Francisco. He soon tired of California and returned, by the Panama route. He concluded Scioto County was good enough for him and settled down to the life of a farmer. This occupation was to him a study, a pleasure, an esthetic recreation, as well as a source of profit. The first reaper

introduced in Porter township, if not in the county, was one of the old, heavy McCormick reapers which he bought soon after it began to be manufactured. His tastes ran to wheat culture. It was he who first demonstrated, even before the days of commercial fertilizers, that there was money in, wheat, raising. His wheat yields ran up to twenty, twenty-five and sometimes thirty bushels an acre, in favorable seasons. So his neighbors began to take observations. And largely through Crichton's pioneer work in this direction, this section has become one of the famous wheat producing districts of the State. /

As a man he was far above the average in culture and intelligence. His reading was varied and extensive and few subjects came up that he was not competent to discuss intelligently. In 1869, he revisited relatives in Scotland and made a tour on the continent. He began keeping a diary at that time, in which he made entries daily thereafter up to the time of his death, so that on referring to this he could tell in a moment about the weather and seasons and all the occurrences of any importance on any day referred to. He was a good talker and a charming companion. A complete file of Harper's Magazine from the first number issued down to the time of his death had a place in his library. Flowers of many kinds, gorgeous beds of them in season, adorned his yard, kept fresh by a perennial spring in their midst, and in the cultivation of these, he took great pleasure and spent a large part of his later years. And withal, he wielded a facile pen and, on occasion, could write an idyllic sketch, or an ironic, biting screed. Not many knew that an occasional editorial from his pen would sometimes appear unsigned in the local press. A fine sense of honor, to those who knew him, formed the ineradicable substratum of his character. In matters of principle he was uncompromising. A trust of any kind was absolutely safe in his keeping. When abolitionism was a reproach he was one of two in his township who voted his principles. And he permitted no questions of expediency to dim or blur his perceptions of what was honorable and right. He was a fair type of the Old World country gentleman transplanted to the New.

## THOMAS WATTERS (1836)

*Portrait and Biographical Record of Dubuque, Jones and Clay Counties, Iowa, Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens of the Counties, Together with Biographies and Portraits of all the Presidents of the United States* (Chicago, IL: Chapman Publishing Co., 1894).

During the period covered by this volume, we see the British entering Iowa, where the Yorkshire immigrant Thomas Watters became a leading early businessman in Dubuque.

THOMAS WATTERS, a well known business man of Dubuque, and a member of the firm of Watters & Dennis, wholesale dealers in flour and feed, was born in this city on the 20th of October, 1842. His family located here in an early day and its representatives have long been prominently identified with the growth and development of the community. His father, Thomas Watters, was a native of Yorkshire, England, and in 1836 emigrated to America, locating first in Medina County, Ohio, where he spent one year. He then resumed his westward journey and in 1837 became a resident of Dubuque, then a small town in the territory of Iowa. For some years he was engaged in farming and milling. He bought a small corn-cracker at Rockdale and thus began his career as a miller and also engaged in mining at Galena. But as the years passed he increased his business facilities and became one of the substantial citizens of the community. In public affairs he took quite a prominent part and was a progressive citizen. He married Ann Sunter, a native of Yorkshire, England, who is now living at Center Grove, at the age of eighty-eight. Mr. Watters died at the age of sixty-two, since which time his widow has looked after the farm, comprising one hundred and twenty acres, and although now well advanced in years still manages her business interests.

Thomas Watters is the fourth in order of birth in the family of five children. He was reared under the parental roof and was early inured to the arduous labors of the farm. When he entered upon his business career it was as a farmer and miller of Rockdale. In 1878 he built a new mill at that place and conducted the same successfully until 1885, when he sold out and embarked in the wholesale flour and feed business. The firm now enjoys a large trade, making extensive shipments.

In 1870 Mr. Watters was joined in wedlock with Miss Mary Case, daughter of Hiram Case, one of the early settlers of Dubuque. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812, and died in the autumn of 1888, at the advanced age of ninety-two years. Our subject and his wife have a pleasant home at the corner of Fifth and Broad Streets, and are numbered among the highly respected people of this community. In his political views Mr. Watters is a Republican and warmly advocates the principles of that party.

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## COLONEL THOMAS STEPHENS (1840)

*Commemorative Biographical Record of the Counties of Rock, Green, Grant, Iowa and Lafayette, Wisconsin* (Chicago, IL: J. H. Beers, 1901).

The amazing story of Colonel Thomas Stephens captures the period nicely: a member of the Queen's Life Guards at Windsor Castle and an accomplished swordsman, he emigrated in 1840, did some mining, taught swordsmanship and then served heroically in the Civil War.

COL. THOMAS STEPHENS. The mere mention of the name of this late distinguished citizen of Wisconsin, who passed from earth nearly thirty years ago, awakens memories of affectionate esteem in the hearts of many of the older residents of the southern portion of the State, who recall with pleasant thoughts his manly bearing, his dauntless courage, and his sterling worth.

Col. Stephens was the eldest of the four sons of Charles and Elizabeth Stephens, and was born in the borough of Tavistock, Devonshire, England, May 13, 1815. His father was a miner, and Thomas and his brothers were bred to the same occupation. Naturally of a robust physique, the hard, manly toil involved in this laborious pursuit tended greatly to develop his native strength, and on reaching his majority he presented a magnificent specimen of physical manhood. He was of remarkable stature, standing six feet, two inches, and his well knit frame was in perfect proportion to his great height. Of so striking appearance was he as to attract the notice of some high officials of the royal court, through whose influence he was made a member of the Queen's Life Guards, then famed as the finest body of troops in the British army. None of the members were less than six feet tall, and perfect physical proportions and a high order of intelligence were absolutely essential requisites for admission to the corps. Young Stephens was at once sent to Windsor Castle, where he entered upon his new life with the utmost enthusiasm. He was duly / instructed in those branches of knowledge, a familiarity with which was deemed indispensable to the proper discharge of his duties as a soldier, chief among these being the arts of fencing, broadsword exercise and 'self-defense.' He found that exercise with the sword possessed for him a positive fascination, and to perfecting himself therein he devoted a very consid-

erable portion of the time allotted to the men for recreation. In consequence he attained such a degree of proficiency that he won the reputation of being one of the best swordsmen, if not the very best of all, in the English army.

The life of a guardsman, however, with its restrictions and monotonous inactivity, presenting, as it did, but few chances of promotion, after a time began to grow irksome to him. His eyes turned toward the United States, where he thought opportunities for advancement were far better than in the service of the Queen. Accordingly, having secured a substitute to complete his term of military service, he bade adieu to the shores of the land of his birth, and accompanied by a younger brother, Richard, set sail for the New World in 1840. Upon landing in America they proceeded at once to the mining region lying around Pottsville, Penn. There his skill as a swordsman soon became bruited abroad, and he found his time fully occupied in giving exhibitions and imparting instruction to pupils. Believing that better success would attend him in a wider field, he went to Philadelphia, where he taught sword practice for many years. During his residence in that city he repeatedly attested his well-nigh matchless skill, meeting and defeating such past masters of the art of fencing as Profs. Newton, of the University of Norwich, Morris, of the Pennsylvania Military Institutions, and Davis, sword-master and military instructor for the State of Virginia. He was constantly in receipt of encomiums and testimonials from high authorities, among the most valued of these being those received from Gov. Porter, of Pennsylvania, and Gen. Johnson, the reputed slayer of the famous Indian chief, Tecumseh. After leaving Philadelphia he taught at various points in Pennsylvania, as well as at New York.

Early associations, however, are not easily forgotten, and he still cherished a strong desire to inspect the mining districts of the Northwest. In 1845 he visited the lead mines around Galena, and soon afterward went to Lake Superior, where he spent two years as agent of the North American Copper Mine. Not long after reaching this country he met, at Williams-port, Penn., Miss Jane Hageman, a resident of that place. At that time he was teaching fencing there, and the young couple plighted their troth. In 1847 Mr. Stephens returned to claim his promised bride, and on Aug. 5, of that year, they were united in wedlock. They at once removed to Dodgeville, Iowa Co., Wis., which place was their home until Col. Stephens' death, and his widow yet resides there. In 1851 he visited California, returning in 1852. In 1857 he was commissioned inspector general of the Wisconsin State militia, a post for which he was admirably qualified, by reason of his previous soldierly training and military experience. His business was dealing in real estate, and making and handling loans thereupon, in the conduct of which he was eminently successful.

The Colonel was a true patriot, loyal to the core of his being, to his adopted country, and the first gun of the Rebellion fired in the harbor of Charleston stirred his patriotic soul. In connection with C. C. Washburne he recruited and

organized the 2d Wisconsin Cavalry, of which he was commissioned lieutenant colonel, Col. Washburne being first in command. Later – on the elevation of Col. Washburne to a brigadier generalship – he was promoted to the colonelcy. He led his men throughout the war with distinguished gallantry, and, while an admirable disciplinarian, succeeded in gaining not only their respect but their affection as well. His service, however, was not without its unpleasant experiences. Being compelled to return home on sick leave, he employed the period of his convalescence in securing recruits for his regiment at the front. On rejoining his command, he discovered that one of his subordinate officers had taken advantage of his absence to disseminate scandalous and baseless reports concerning him. By permission of his superiors he at once proceeded to Washington, where he demanded a prompt and thorough investigation. His request was granted, and the inquiry resulted in his complete and triumphant vindication. For self-seekers within the service, and for traitors without, Col. Stephens had a hearty detestation. That a man of such high sense, rugged integrity and resolute purpose / should make enemies is no cause for surprise. Yet the Colonel's firmness, no less than his distinguished military skill and undaunted heroism, won him alike the hearty respect of his superior officers and the unfaltering devotion of his men, none of the many gallant officers of the Wisconsin volunteer regiments who served with courage and fidelity during that great conflict returning with more honor than Col. Thomas Stephens, or with a more enviable record. In testimony of their appreciation and love the men of the 2d Cavalry, on being mustered out, presented him with a costly sword, belt, sash, and other equipments of a cavalry commander, which his family will ever regard with love akin to reverence, as they recall the husband and father who has gone to his reward.

The Colonel, in addition to knowledge, skill and courage, did not lack literary ability, and his treatise on 'Broad and Short Sword Exercise,' which appeared in 1861, won a high eulogium from Gen. Winfield Scott, and commanded the unstinted admiration of all competent military critics, being officially recommended for study by officers of the United States army.

While Col. Stephens returned home with high honor, he brought back from his country's service a shattered constitution, his magnificent physique being broken beyond repair. In a vain hope of regaining his lost health he visited England in 1869. His return to his native land was most gratifying to the old member of the Queen's Guards, the former toiler in the tin mines of Cornwall being received with marked honor at Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace and the House of Parliament. The trip, however, proved of little benefit as a restorative to his ruined health, and not long after his return to his home at Dodgeville he passed away, July 22, 1873. Few deaths in Southwestern Wisconsin within a decade were as deeply mourned. In no relation of life had he been tried and found wanting. An ardent patriot and a fearless soldier, he was also a tender hus-

band and an indulgent father. Benevolent in heart, and with impulses generous to a fault, no worthy charity appealed to him in vain, and after the lapse of nearly thirty years his memory remains still green.

Col. Stephens' long experience with the world had taught him sound business sense, and his judgment was rarely at fault. He was fortunate in his investments, particularly in real estate; and it is probable that when called from earth in middle life (before reaching the age of fifty-nine) he remembered with pleasure that he would leave his family in moderate affluence. He left a widow and three children, two daughters and one son. Harriet, the firstborn, is the wife of Solomon Osborne, of Dodgeville. Thomas Charles, the only son, resides in Chicago. Elizabeth, the youngest, is the wife of Dr. Henry Carson, of Milwaukee.

Mrs. Stephens was born in the township of Lycoming, Lycoming Co., Penn., in 1820, daughter of Isaiah and Rebecca Hageman. Her father was of Holland descent, and one of the most prominent pioneers of Lycoming county. Both her parents died full of years and good works in the county of their residence, highly esteemed by their neighbors and mourned by their friends.

This necessarily abridged tale of Col. Stephens' honored life may be best concluded by a brief reference to the other members of his father's family. As has been said, he was the eldest son. His brother Richard, the next in order of birth, accompanied him to America. The other brothers were named James and Elijah. The father and mother, with the two younger sons, crossed the ocean two years after Thomas, and the family was reunited at Danville, Penn. Not long afterward they removed to Ralston, near Williamsport, same State. Richard went from Pennsylvania to Galena, and thither his father and James followed him in 1844, leaving the mother and Elijah, who were to join them later, should the outlook prove favorable. Six weeks after reaching Galena, however, the father died. The widow joined her children, and received their tender love and gentle care until her death, in 1853, at Dodgeville, Iowa Co., Wis. Richard twice visited the California gold fields, and served for a time in the army of the Union; he removed to Kansas, and there died. James, the third and only living brother, resides at Dodgeville. Elijah, while yet a very young man, went to California, and from there to Chile, South America, where he died.

## ALEXANDER PANLUNA (1841)

*Portrait and Biographical Album of Jo Davies and Carroll Counties, Illinois, Containing Full-Page Portraits and Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens of the County* (Chicago, IL: Chapman Brothers, 1889).

Mining is frequently the main feature of the biographies in this volume, and Cornish immigrants are especially common. Alexander Panluna was in many ways typical: he left Cornwall, mined coal in Pennsylvania, and then lead in Jo Davies County, where he hired a man to clear his farm while he continued to mine, after which he turned his full attention to farming.

ALEXANDER PANLUNA. Council Hill Township has no more enterprising citizen than he with whose name we introduce this sketch. Through the exercise of industry and good judgment he has accumulated a competence, being the owner of a fine farm. He is now practically retired from active labor and spends most of his time amidst the comforts of a pleasant home on section 25, where he has 147 1/2 acres of land with good buildings, fruit and shade trees, live-stock, and all the appliances of the modern country estate. As a farmer and miner he has been more than ordinarily successful, while as a member of the community his course has been such as to gain him the highest regard of his fellow citizens. His was the first brick residence in this Township, and erected in 1848. He cleared his farm of the forest; and its condition to-day is the result of years of labor and the outlay of considerable hard cash.

There settled along the northern line of this county during the period of its early history numbers of 'Cornishmen,' who brought with them across the Atlantic those sturdy and reliable elements which were so necessary in the successful development of a new region. Among them was the subject of this sketch who was born in Crowan Parish, Cornwall Co., England, Oct. 8, 1816, and reared among its mining regions. His father, Alexander Panluna, Sr., was a native of the same county; and married Miss Mary Richards, who was born and reared not far from the home of her husband. The paternal grandfather, also named Alexander, was likewise a miner, although he owned and operated a small farm. He, as well as the father of our subject, spent his entire life in his native England. On the

maternal side grandfather John Richards was a man of considerable note in his community and the overseer of a mine. He also farmed considerably, and died in England.

The father of our subject followed mining all his life and died in England, in 1838, when forty-five years old. The mother survived the husband, dying also in her native County in 1870, at the advanced age of eighty years. They were the parents of eight children, of whom our subject was the eldest. Catherine, Mary, Grace, Elizabeth, and James are deceased. Richard is a resident of California; John remains in his native England. The educational advantages given to Alexander were extremely limited, and he began working in the mines when a lad of nine years. At the age of nineteen he performed a man's labor. When twenty-five years of age he decided upon a change in his condition; and there seemed nothing better than to emigrate to America. He accordingly left Falmouth on the 20th of July, 1841, embarking on the sailing vessel 'England' which after a four weeks' voyage landed him safely in New York City.

From the metropolis Mr. Panluna made his way to Danville, Pa., and resumed coal-mining until the spring of 1842. He then came by boat to Galena and went up to Hazel Green, Wis., where he engaged in prospecting; and was thus occupied until 1817. His next removal was to the land which constitutes his present homestead where he had secured 147 1/2 acres. Upon it there were no improvements; and much of the land was covered with timber. He hired a man to do the work of clearing while he continued mining in the Council Hill diggings; and followed this until 1881. He then abandoned the mine for the farm. Later he purchased additional land and has now in all 147 1/2 acres. Subsequently he became considerably interested in stock-raising.

Miss Lavinia Haskins became the wife of our subject, February, 1846, the wedding taking place at the bride's home in Galena. This lady was also a native of Cornwall County, England. She became the mother of seven children, and departed this life at her home in Council Hill Township, Feb. 28, 1884.

## MARY HARRISON (1842)

*Album of Genealogy and Biography, Cook County, Illinois* (Chicago, IL: Calumet Book and Engraving, 1895).

Completed in 1825, the Erie Canal became an important gateway for immigrants heading to the American Midwest. In 1842 Mary Harrison's family took the Canal to Buffalo, from which they took a steamer around Michigan to Chicago, and from there settled as pioneers in northern Illinois.

### MRS. MARY HARRISON.

Mrs. Mary Harrison, who is living a quiet and retired life in Park Ridge, is numbered among the pioneer settlers of Northeastern Illinois. For half a century she has been a resident of Cook County, and has seen the wonderful growth and development of this region. She was born on the 9th of September, 1825, in England, where her early girlhood days were passed. Her father was John Henley, and his family numbered eight children: John, now a resident of Iowa; Mary, whose name heads this record; Frederick, who is living in Northfield; Thomas, whose home is in California; Albert, a resident of Chicago; Charles, a farmer of Iroquois County, Ill.; Clara, who is living in Watseka, Ill.; and Robert, who lives at Northfield.

In 1842, the father with his family started for the New World. At Liverpool they boarded the sailing-vessel 'Lincoln,' commanded by Capt. Lincoln, and for seven weeks and four days were upon the broad Atlantic. Mrs. Harrison says she was sorry to see land, for she had learned to love the sea and did not wish to leave it. They landed at New York City, and soon after, by way of the Hudson River and Erie Canal, proceeded to Buffalo, where they took a steamer on the Lakes for Chicago. When they reached their destination, they found nothing but a few sheds where the piers are now located. Mrs. Harrison has seen Chicago in all its phases: first as a mere village; then as a mighty city; again as a vast ruin under the devastating power of fire; and now as the metropolis of the West.

Six years before the arrival of the Henley family, Robert Dewes had emigrated from Martin, Yorkshire, England, to America, and located in Chicago. He formed the acquaintance of Miss Henley, and in January, 1845, they were

married. Three sons and four daughters were born unto them: John D. and William, who follow farming; Robert, a retired farmer, who since 1892 has made his home in Irving Park; Elizabeth Ann, wife of Alfred Oldfield; Jennie, widow of Mr. Reynolds, who was killed on their wedding tour; Amelia, wife of William Tinen, who is living in Chicago; and Nina, widow of Joseph Ohlinger. The father of this family was called to his final rest in 1866.

On the 24th of May, 1874, Mrs. Dewes became the wife of John Harrison, a farmer and early settler of this community. His brother, Thomas Harrison, aided in building the Erie Canal. John located near Elk Grove in 1843, and continued a resident of northeastern Illinois until called to the home beyond. He died in March, 1890, at the advanced age of seventy-nine years, and was buried on Easter Sunday by the river side.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES

### CORRESPONDENCE

#### Macfarlane Family (1828–32)

1. *The cholera ... in the United Kingdom*: The cholera epidemic in Britain during 1831–2 caused widespread panic, riots and thousands of deaths.

#### James Robertson (1830)

1. *General Schuyler*: Philip John Schuyler, general in the American Revolution and senator from New York, who built his mansion in Albany.
2. *Drumkilbo*: in Perthshire.

#### John Rose (1830)

1. *in this manner*: Here the original letter has a diagram indicating the criss-cross pattern of American fences.
2. *this is a pattern*: Here the original letter has a diagram depicting the shape of a sledge.
3. *after this fashion*: Here the original letter has a diagram depicting an American-style harrow, a farm implement for ploughing.

#### Peter McKellar (1830–1)

1. *Corfu*: Corfu was taken from French possession with the Treaty of Paris in 1815, and became a British protectorate. The British maintained a strong naval base and presence there, and appointed British governors to the 1870s.

#### John Ingle (1830–6)

1. *Saundersville Ia*: Ingle means Indiana, where Saundersville is located, but uses an abbreviation later designated for Iowa. See the headnote to the Ingle letters in Volume 1 for the establishment of Saundersville.
2. *JJ*: probably John Ingle.
3. *Chatteris*: a market town in the fen districts of Cambridgeshire.

4. *Bassingbourne*: probably Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire.
5. [*illeg. word due to damage*]: In this set of the Ingle letters, there were apparently pages with tears that made some words illegible, which are marked [illeg.]. It seems that only one or two words were affected by the damage.
6. *O to Grace ... courts above*: These lines are excerpts from the hymn, 'Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing'.
7. *Somersha*: probably Somersham, Cambridgeshire.
8. *Willingham*: a village in Cambridgeshire.
9. *Bluntisham*: Bluntisham was a village in Huntingdonshire at this time, but now has been absorbed by Cambridgeshire.
10. '*England, with all thy faults, I love thee, still!*': a reference to the poem by Lord Byron.

### Charles Johnston (1833)

1. *PERTH AMBOY, NEW JERSEY*: Perth Amboy is in Middlesex County, New Jersey, and close to New York City, particularly Staten Island.

### Jane Crowley (1838–46)

1. *Furze*: Furze is another word for gorse, or the wild, thick evergreen shrubs that grow in various places.

### James Douglas (1840–3)

1. *the Canal was opened ... this month*: This is the Genesee Valley Canal, which was opened for the 36-mile stretch between Rochester and Mount Morris on 1 September 1840.
2. *the ship Garrick*: This is the ship *Garrick*, which began its transatlantic sailings in 1837.

### William and Margaret Irving (1841)

1. *Burnside Nursery*: in Kirkcudbright, though the place-name no longer exists.

### Clarke Family (1842–51)

1. *Man-Catchers*: also known as 'runners'; criminal types who attempted to rob departing emigrants of their savings.
2. *the Patric Henry*: The American emigrant ship *Patrick Henry*, which was built in New York in 1839. It was registered at 880 tons and measured 159' x 34' 10" x 21' 10" (length x beam x depth of hold). From 1839 to 1852 her sailings between New York and Liverpool averaged 34 days. Her shortest passage took 22 days, her longest 46 days. For more information, see <http://www.geocities.com/mppraetorius/com-pa.htm>.
3. *Mr. Miller's theory ... sin will be revealed*: This refers to William Miller and his premillennial sect, the 'Millerites'. He predicted the second coming of Jesus Christ in 1843 through his reading of the book of Revelations. Millerism became popular in the United States and gained some followers in Britain as well. The Millerites eventually evolved into the Seventh Day Adventists.

**Robert Shedden (1842–5)**

1. *Udina*: probably Edina.

**Thomas Chalmers (1843)**

1. *Stoinaway*: i.e., Stornoway, on the island of Lewis, in the Western Isles off Scotland.

**Darnley Family (1843)**

1. *Knutsford jail*: a jail in Cheshire.

**Joseph Cree (1844–6)**

1. *posset*: Posset is a hot drink of milk with wine or ale.

**John Hodgson (1845)**

1. *Reevesville*: possibly the village of Reeve, in western Wisconsin, or Reeseville, near Madison, though he asks his parents to send their next letter to Iowa County.
2. *Galena*: Galena, Illinois, a major centre of the lead-mining region being developed largely by Cornish and other English immigrants.

**Owen Family (1847)**

1. *Baraboo Near Fortwinibego*: Baraboo, near Fort Winnebago, north of Madison, Sauk County, in central Wisconsin.

## BIOGRAPHIES

**William Broadhead (1843)**

1. *snath*: a tool to hold up grass or brush for cutting.

## OTHER MATERIALS

**Scrope, *Extracts of Letters from Poor Persons* (1832)**

1. *N.B. The spelling is corrected. The wording left as in the originals*: This is stated in the original publication.

**Crosfield, 'Letters from an American Journey' (1845)**

1. *James Tuke*: Crosfield sailed with his friend, James Hack Tuke, a descendant of William Tuke, a founder of institutions for the treatment of mentally ill people.