



STIRLINGS OF ARDOCH AND GRAHAMS OF AIRTH FAMILY

LETTERS: A PERSONAL VIEW OF THE VALUE OF KINSHIP

Transcribed and Edited by Sarah Harrison

Introduction

This book is about the search for the man in the photograph on a carte de visite taken in Exeter, date unknown. His name was Thomas Stirling and the little I knew about him came from a biography of his son, Waite Stirling, Bishop of the Falkland Islands¹. The author, Frederick Macdonald, hinted at some reticence on Waite's part to reveal very much : "The story of his life, so far as he allowed it to be known..." but that his father, "Captain Thomas Stirling, belonged to the family of Sir Henry Stirling, created a Baronet in 1666..." From his granddaughter, Minnie's, Birthday Book I found that Thomas was born 6th October 1792, but that was all.

One of the great joys of living in the age of the Internet is that it has become possible to do research without having to travel to archives or to spend weeks on fruitless hunches. Using online resources, I discovered from the 1851 census that Thomas was born in Jamaica . I traced the Stirling Baronetcy to that of Ardoch but could find no mention of any Thomas born in 1792. I had found that the Stirlings of Keir and Kippendavie had estates in St James Jamaica so searched for Thomas there. Then, by chance, I found the burial of Charles Stirling Esquire 18 January 1795 in St Catherine's Cathedral, Spanish Town. Through the Jamaican almanacs I traced him to Ardoch Penn in St Ann's. From the St Ann's register I found a baptism of Charles Stirling, son of Charles, 22nd October 1791. Unusually for this register no mother's name was given. I found another son, William, "son of Charles Sterling by Rebecca Ash was born on the 5th of June last and baptized on the 22nd of October 1794". However, there was no mention of a son Thomas in that register or in any other Jamaican registers around the given birth date. The breakthrough came in December 2010 when I found a reference in the Graham of Airth papers in the National Library of Scotland to "letters from Charles, William and Thomas Stirling, natural sons of Charles Stirling of Ardoch Penn, Jamaica, mostly relating to their naval careers, 1808-1835". It is as a result of transcribing these and other related documents and letters that I can now give a fuller account of the background to the life of Thomas Stirling.

[A link to the ancestry of the Stirling and Graham families
www.alanmacfarlane.com/wstirling/index]

The Letters

What follows is a largely unedited selection of letters, given in chronological order rather than by writer, from people tightly or loosely connected with the Stirling family of Ardoch and the Graham family of Airth living in the Lowlands of Scotland, over a period of some eighty years. The writers tell their own stories, with a little background information by the editor in the form of endnotes, so that the reader is left with the pleasure of a researcher trying to make his or her own assessment of the historical past, and how different or similar our lives are to theirs.

Letter from Thomas Stirling² to his brother Sir William Stirling³ of Ardoch

GD24/1/458/1

Camp at Montreall 9th Sept 1760

Dear Willie

I had the pleasure of your Letter of the 14th Aprill, Yesterday morning acquainting me of your intention, and near approach to marraige I will not use many words to assure you how very agreeable it is to me, your good choice in one who is endowed with so many good Qualifications &

so much sweetness of temper, convinces me that you will enjoy all the happiness that you can wish for or the state will admit of, which is the only objection I ever could have had against your entering into it. As I make no doubt at our having thoroughly studied your affairs I very much approve of your following the dictates of a well grown deep assion, on which the happiness of your future Life depended that sacrificing that, for money which would only have increased your Misery wt your fortune by not being able to enjoy it. With regard to Mally⁴ and Annies⁵ marriages all that a womans friends has to say in that is to take care that she does not marry below herself nor to one who cannot maintain her, as neither I believe is the case wt them, I am very well pleased, they are the only judges on regard to happiness in that affair and therefore ought to be allowed to make their own choice. may you all three be happy, May you enjoy every Satisfaction & pleasure that can be wished for, from the Company of an agreeable friend or the conversation of a Sensible Companion, and may your familys encrease wt your happiness and that as long your lives, is the sincere and ardent prayer of one who desires nothing so much as the Prosperity and Welfare of his Brothers and Sisters

I wrote you from Oswego⁶, I hope it came to hand as in it was enclosed a draught on the agent Mr Henry Drummond⁷ for 159£ 15sh in case you have not got it you should write immediately to Mr Drummond to stop payment, as I have now got out of the break I have set myself to follow the Soldier trade and at same time I have as much money ready that I may purchase when an opportunity offers wtout being an burthen to my friends that is my only reason for having saved and as soon as I can command that of my own than I propose to live up to every shilling of my income

I wrote you from Oswego of my just setting out wt the advanced of the army, I was luckily detained two days after them by being on a Genll Court Martiall, for of three boats that my Comp. was in two of them was overwhelmed by [unclear] the waves and Dashed to pieces against the rocks in crossing the Lake the boat I should have been in was one of them, in it I lost my field stores, wine, biscuit, smoke beef &c. which we are obliged to carry wt us, as we sometimes cannot be supplied wt any kind of necessary otherwise the Army left Oswego the 10th the 17 came before [c.o. Oswe] La Gallotte took one of their Vessells, by the 25th we took their fort after battering four days at it, Christened it Fort William Augustus, the 1st Sept left it and proceeded down the river St Lawrence but I believe we are the first that attempted to go down so loaded, for the Current is prodigious & the falls high, I lost one of my boats being dashed again the banks to pieces, then carried by the Current out to the middle of the stream that was foaming wt the fall, there was Lt Mackay & 16 men in her, McKay & 13 were providentially saved the other 3 were never seen in short to recapitulate the horrors of that voyage would shock you too much, to see your fellow Creatures floating on the wrecks and you passing then wtout being able to assist would pierce the most obdurate heart, however after all we lost only 86 men drowned in that way & indeed we were more surprised that we had not lost 2 or 300 than at the loss of 86 on the 6th landed on this Island wtout opposition marched wtin a Mile of the town & encamped, the 7th had a Cessation till 12 oClock & on the 8 the whole Country surrendred & the remains of 8 French Battns and 20 Compys of the Troupe de Colonie laid down their Arms wtout firing a shot thus ends the war in North America and long may Peace reign here for sure god never intended any war should be carried on, by any other beside the natives for the soldiers are wrought like horses and the officers can acquire no honour in a Country where as the New England people says, every Tree is a fort and every man a Genll so much do they despise our regular method of acting, I hope to god we will be sent for home & then for Germany for I am heartily tired of this Country as is every officer in it, this comes by Francis Mclean⁸ who is appointed Governor of Mary Galante & major in America he has some hopes of seing you, Seton & all your acquaintances are well & congratulate you Im very sorry for poor George⁹, I wrot him from La Gallette and shall be glad to hear from him. Remember me kindly to all my Friends and in particular manner to my new Sister I dont despair of standing Godfather to her first Child, as they must call home some Regts. be that as it will, I shall be happy to hear of her

being in a fair way I am your most Affect Brother
Thos Stirling

Letters from Thomas Stirling to William Graham¹⁰ at Airth House

MS.10943, ff.26-27

Ballyshannon¹¹ Aprill 9th 1769

Dear Airth

I received yours of 22d Janry which gave me great pleasure as I learned by it of Annies being quite well and the Bairns which I hope will always be the Case, as for my own health it is far from being reestablished & I am afraid will never be as my Complaint has stuck to long to me, I intend to try what native air & a Strict regimen will do, but I have great doubts of my getting leave we are to be quartered in Dublin, and expect to march for that about Middle of next Month If I come over I have got a most excellent bitch, & a number of fine dressed Flies, did you receive some hooks from Jock Hamilton¹² last year I sent him a parcell & bid him share them wt you in the account you sent me you forgot one years Interest as the bond commences Martinmas 1763 to Martis: 1768 makes 5 years, I sent you some time ago a Letter to receive from Davie Erskine¹³ £25-6-9 both of mine in his hand and to give him a receipt if he required it tho there is no occasion as I have nothing under his hand for it

now what I propose if agreeable to you is throw the whole into one Sum as below & to give me a bond for it to bear interest from Whitsunday 1769, and to make it square sum the bond shall be for £400, as it is wt in £3-8-3 which I should give in to you at Meeting at which time I can receive the bond from you and give the discharged for the Interest & your bill up. if you have any objection to this Method it shall be as you Settled it, and I can receive or draw upon you for the years interest wt the Costs you have received from Mr Erskine -

I recollect your telling me when last in Scotland that it was in 1764 the bond commenced but if you will recollect the money was paid you the Martinmass before I left Scotland & that was in Sept 1764 & I know in Sir Willms¹⁴ acct wt me he charges me wt £1000 pd Mr Mckenzie at Martins. 1763 the other £300 I know I gave myself in Summer 1763 however if you have still any doubts, it must be cleared up at meeting My kind Love to Annie & all the Infantry & believe me ever to be yours & their most affect welwisher and Servt. Thos Stirling

By 5 Years interest of 1300£ from Marts; 1763 to Marts: 1768 £325-0-0

By your bill 2d Aprill 1768 20-0-0

By Cash from Lady Stirling on my acct: 26-5-0

By Do from Mr Davd Erskine on Do 25-6-9

By Do which I shall pay you at meeting or sooner 3-8-3

Totall sum for which you are to give bond to commence Inter} £400-0-0
on Whitsunday 1769 }

PS. I think it better for us both to have two bonds & different terms then to throw the money into one

22d May 67

Due Capt Stirling by Mr Graham of Airth Copy sent

To 5^{1/2} years Int of £1300 Stg from Marts 1763 to Whitsy 1769 pr Bond £357^{"10"}0

To Bill 2d Aprile 1768 on Demand 20"- "-

To Cash from Lady Stirling on your Acct.	26" 5 "
To Do from Mr Davd Erskine pr Mr John Wordies ¹⁵ Rect for me	<u>25" 6 "9</u>
Sum Total for which I am to Grant Bond from Whity	£429 "1 "9
for £400 Sterg the Ballance of £29 "1 "9 Sterg to be paid	
Capt Stirling on Demand when Discharges are grantd me for the above Bond	
W Graham	

MS.10943, f.28

Lochlane¹⁶ - Novr 8th 1769

Dear Airth

I have by this post wrote Mr Wordie to honor your draught or bill for £200 Sterg, & that you are to do it on the 11th Inst, I wish you had wrote a post or two sooner as he may think the warning rather short, you may write Mr Wordie when you draw that it is of the Cash he has of mine, in case my Letter to him should miscarry
the Old Lady¹⁷ & the Widow joins me in best wishes for the welfare of you, Annie, & the bairns my fattie has been Complaining a little but they are all three pretty well now I am

Dear Airth

Yours most Sincerly

Thos Stirling

PS Anthony of Crieff¹⁸ has got another Daughter called Francis....

MS.10943, ff.32-33

Dowglas¹⁹ Feby 6th 1771

I received yours, Dear Airth, of 27th Jany and thank you for your congratulation on my preferment²⁰ it has had no violent effects upon me hitherto, either as to joy, or changing my disposition in playing the command:g Officer, nor I hope will not the next step when I get it, in short I took it, as Yorick says, every fine Lady takes a Compliment, as a matter of right
[blot] a little uneasy about the money not being remitted as [blot]ed, having promised Mr Drummond to that day and made the bills payable then, but he wrote me last post the money came in time Mr Wordie has not sent me a particular acct how the money was raised or how much you paid him, but he wrote me he would soon, which whenever I know, I shall send you a proper acknowledgement until we meet to settle matters, as for want of more money that I shall not be in the way of for some time unless Lady Stirling should call upon me soon for what she has been so friendly as to lend me
as for my health I want not restoratives but Purifiers

I am sorry for your Limbago, you must [unclear] prune the trees and see work about the Doors done, till it goes of, which I hope may be soon,

I should be much obliged to you if you would send for my young Mare at Lochlane, this spring, and let Archie give her some Education, & as there is a man at St Ninians²¹ that nicks, I would have her tail set up which might be done when she is at Airth, I have wrote to Mrs Campbell to this effect, & if it is not inconvenient for you, settle wt her about her coming over, I suppose she will find a carefull person for that purpose

If your have a mind for a jaunt we have fine trouting and Sea fishing, plenty of Partridges some

Growss, with Claret at 15d pr Bottle, I can promise you no more, as you have got a Limbago, besides a man must have three Legs to please the Manks Lasses, wt quocunque jeceris Stabit²² a Divilish lucky fellow that can Stand which ever way he is thrown

I am sorry to hear the Evidence against poor Mrs Nicholson²³ is so strong, if she is guilty, I shall never forgive her for throwing herself away on a Footman

PS. Pray did you pay the Doctor my Medicine bill

my kind love to all at Airth I ever am

Dear Graham

yours most Sincerely

Thos. Stirling

I embrace, My Dearest Annie, most affectionately for the kind wishes she sends me, be assured my joy & happiness will be in proportion to that of you & yours, & as far as I can contribute you may depend on your Sincerely affectionate Brother

Thos. Stirling

[Note in another hand: Major Stirling 6 Feby 1771 about Wordies Remitting money to Mr Drummond]

MS.10943, ff.34-35

Dear Airth

Dowglas March 22d 1771

Yours of 3d Inst. wt one from Mrs Campbell came duly to hand, I likewise got Mr Wordies with his acct of the 11th Feby in which he debits me to you wt £200-12-11 on that day, being the Ballance I owed him, and likewise with £600 by your draught on Sir Willm of 21st Decr 60 days date discounted at the Bank, all which is exceeding right and which sum of £800-12-11 I acknowledge myself indebted to you for, at the above dates, only you will observe, that as Mr Wordie charges me wt £4-18-7 being 60 days interest for the bill of £600 discounted at the Bank, that that sum must be deducted of the principal, or else the term I must pay interest to you for, must commence at the expiration of 60 days from its date (the 21st Decr) which will bring it to the 18th or 19th Feby, this I only hint at for out mutual Satisfaction, as I have no doubt but that we shall settle our accts most amicably when we meet

as I chose rather to have more than too little at London I find after settling every thing I have a surplus there I have therefore inclosed you a bill on Jas: Meyrick Esqr.²⁴ for £100, of 40 days date from the 18th Inst, the second I keep by me in case of accidents, if you have use for it, as I suppose your may, you may apply it as you think proper, as I shall make your my Banker in place of Mr Wordie for this sum & charge you half a years Interest to Martinmass next at 4 pr cent, at which time we may perhaps meet or at least settle our accts then; but if your have no good use for it, put it into Mr Wordies hands for my account. I shall expect to hear from you in Course of post of the receipt of this with the bill so much for money matters.

I am much obliged to you for the care you promise to take of the young mare She is very gentle and will not require much breaking however I would have her fit to carry me in case I should come home this summer tho' there is no great probability

of it as I am afraid we shall not be able to bring about the next affair so soon as we expected or I wish, and unless my health oblidges me, you will not see me untill that is settled

My health is far from being well & tho perhaps imagination may make me think it worse, as some

of my friends think me fanciful, I have too good cause to complain, and two hard & large reasons
for it at present, I am to be bled tomorrow &c
Make my kind Love to Annie & all at Airth
most Sincerely yours and Theirs
Thos. Stirling

[Note in another hand: Major Stirling 22d March 1771 Recd for £800"12"11 Sterg.]

Letters from Sir William Stirling to William Graham at Airth by Falkirk

MS.10943, ff.1-2

Dear Sir Ardoch 13th April 1771

I received your letter yesterday by Willm. Mackintyre Inclosing your Bills upon me for £100 which I have this day Accepted and sent it away by the Nights Post to Mr John Wordie. -
I am sorry to hear that you are likely to be a Sufferer by Wm. Watt²⁵ though from what you mention about the Tack I think his Creditors will certainly get it reduced. I heard of poor little Toms²⁶ distress but I hope his had now got quite the better of it. We have got General Graemes²⁷ in our Neighbourhood since Tuesday. He proposes staying four or five Weeks only. He is in very good health at present. Tibby is at Braes with him.

I return you thanks for minding the Ropes and Saughs²⁸ Lady Stirling joins in kind Complements to you, Mrs Graham and Family I always am

My Dear Sir

Very Affectionately yours

W Stirling

P:S: you would hear Charles Erskine²⁹ has got out of the Infirmary

MS.10943, ff.3-4

Dear Sir

I was favoured with your letter some time ago informing me of your having retired your Bills and my Acceptances for £100 to the Bank - since that time Mrs Graham wrote my Wife encase I was going to Perth soon to Choose some Port Wine for you if I could get it good, a few days ago I got a letter from Mr Wm Alison Mercht in Perth telling me that he has just now got home a Cargo of Port some of Vintage 67 & 68 and as to the prices he is Selling the Vintages 67 at £33 pr Pipe and the Vintage 68 at £32 pr Pipe which is really Cheap, and as to the quality he will answer for it. I think this is a Good opportunity to provide yourself with a Stock so you may write me your opinion soon. Mr Alison is to be here next Week. I forgot to tell Mrs Graham at Glorat³⁰ that Swordie has bought

the Cards She desired me to Commission for her and his Brother was to bring them to Scotland with him, and by some Accident the Post brought them here from Stirling upon Tuesday with some brown Paper wrapt about them directed for me. you'll let me know if they shall remain here till you come to this Country. I go this Evening to Lady Monzies³¹ Burial who died upon thursday I had a letter from Tom thursday he is at Belfast. Lady Stirling joins in kind Compts to Mrs Graham

yourself and the young folks as does their Cousins³² I ever am
My Dear Sir
Your Affect humble Servt
W Stirling

Ardoch 13th July 1771

MS.10943, f.5

Dear Sir

Edin 10th Febr'y 1772

I was favoured with your letter this day and return you many thanks for the enquiry you made about the pipes and from what you write me I believe the Lead pipes will be more adviseable. I shall enquire about them and let you know the different prices - upon your sending in the Fiddle into Town I Sent it to Mr Ross³³ to be mended. he told me none of the Bows were worth the Mending and therefor advised that you should take a new one, which I agreed to at 18 pence price, the Fiddle is now mended so you may cause your Carrier Call for it - you will acquaint my Mother that the Ship for Jamaica is to Sail soon so She may send in her letter when she pleases³⁴ - Mrs Erskine³⁵ and Son arrived from Cardross upon Friday. he is to be with you the beginning of next Week and shall send by him my Mothers Watch - Lady Stirling³⁶ has made up Matters

with Sir Alexander³⁷ and I believe will very soon be Married to Ld Po---y³⁸, if is is not already done, which some people say is the Case. She was a Glorat last Week and he went with her. She returned here on friday. I here of no other Marriages in Town except Harry Erskines³⁹ with Comptroler Fullertons daughter at Lieth by whom he will get Ten thousand Pd. Christy wrote Mrs Graham a long letter about a fortnight ago to which She has had no answer I heard this day that Anthony Murray⁴⁰ has got a Son to whose Christening I have an Invitation I suppose you will be reading this with a head ache after Sir Hughs Birthday.

I am just going to the Mourning Brides⁴¹

All here offers kind Compliments to Mrs Graham My Mother and yourself I ever am

My Dear Sir

very Affectionately your

W Stirling

David⁴² received your letter but says it is not worth an answer

Letters from Thomas Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, f.36

Edinr Tuesday night [24th March 1772]

Dear Airth

I have the pleasure of yours, and tho have very little to say, yet cannot deny myself the satisfaction of acknowledging it⁴³

I have got a very bad Cold & could I find time for eating and drinking, would certainly take a little blood & keep my room for a few days, but life is too short to waste any of it in the Capital wt being sick, I propose leaving it end of the week & go to Bo-ness for a few days after which I [c.o.

propose] intend saluting at my Friends under your roof for eight days

Sir William & Lady Stirling are in town, you will have our Cousin with you who will communicate

all the news of the Town I will therefore conclude by offering my kindest Love to you, Annie & the Babes I ever am

yours most Sincerely Thos. Stirling

MS.10943, ff.38-39

London July 1st 1772

Dear Airth

I find there is bad accounts of the bankers in Cakes⁴⁴ owing to the breaks & stops happened here, I hope therefore you have little ballance in their hands, that you may not be a sufferer in the General desolation, and I likewise hope our Friend J Wordie has escaped but as he may be in some shape concerned, I think it proper to write about my affairs wt him; I gave a bill when in Scotland to Stevenson Manufacturer in Stirling upon Mr Wordie for £97-6 payable 1st or 2d July to pay which I sent M W a bill for £60 1st of May & had a ballance in his hands of £18 odds so that I shall owe him about £19 if he honors my bill for £97-6 to Stevenson, and as perhaps he may wish to have all his ballances paid him in these hard times I should be glad you could pay him for me that ballance or settle it wt him, but always provided he has paid Stevenson my draught for £97-6 be so good therefore as write him to know if he wants that ballance & should Charles⁴⁵ Bill come to honor it & I shall take care it be paid when due

I have been here these 12 Days but what my motions hereafter we cannot say, if there is anything You & Annie wants that I can get for you let me know, but write soon as perhaps I may leave this in ten or twelve days

Kind Love to Her & the young folks I am

Dear Airth

Yours Sincerely

Thos: Stirling

Direct British Coffee house

Letters from Sir William Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, f.6

My Dear Sir

Ardoch 7th Novr 1772

Mrs Grahams safe Delivery of a Son⁴⁶ was very agreeable to us all and Lady Stirling and all here Congratulate you upon the happy Event I hope Mrs Graham Continues to recover well I shall be glad to hear so from yourself and that you and the rest of the Family are in good health. Jamie Erskine and Lady Christy⁴⁷ comes here next week from Keir to whom I shall import your letter. Sir Harry Seton⁴⁸ and David Erskine left us yesterday - the great floods we have had here of late has Carried away one of the Arches betwixt the Quaiys and Dunblane which has render'd part of the Road impassable Carriages and Horses are obliged to go a Mile about All here joins in kind Compliments to you Mrs Graham My Mother and Mrs Campbell I ever am

Dear Sir

Your Affectionate Brother
and humble Servt.

W Stirling

MS.10943, f.8

Dear Sir

Ardoch 24th May 1773

I received your letter by yesterdays post Inclosing a Bill drawn by you upon me for £550 Str on the Bank of Scotland which I have this day Accepted and forwarded to Mr John Wordie by this Nights post -

I have heard of no money to lend in this part of the Country since I saw you except 100 Marks which a Man Offered me this day if you Chuse to take that small Sum write me directly as I must give the Man an Answer soon

our Candidates are Chacing [sic] one another very hard I had them both here upon friday Col Murray⁴⁹ to Dinner & Balgowan⁵⁰ to Supper. Kippenross⁵¹ who has just left me Votes for Col Murray as does Sheriff Duthie pray how does your Neighbour Cambuswallace⁵² go. All here joins in best Wishes to Mrs Graham Mrs Campbell and the Bairns I always Am

Dear Sir

Sincerely Yours

W Stirling

Letters from Thomas Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff.40-41

Dear Airth

Above is a bill which you will send to Mr Wordie and use the money if you have occasion for it, I shall give an order to Stevenson at Stirling for what I owe him which amounts to £137, on you, payable 2d of Novr, if you do not keep this £36-10-6, I shall before that time send you an order on Mr Wordie for it and about £18 more he has of mine in his hands to assist you in paying that sum, I left of note of hand wt Stevenson for the £137 which you will be so good as take up when you pay him along wt my order and if Charles's bill for £90 should arrive on Mr Wordie you will take care it is honored

I have very little to say about myself only we are preparing for a review on the 3d next month before Genl. Dilkes⁵³ and one on the 13th before the Lord Lt, this gives me no time to think either of my health or to say any more to you at present but to offer my kindest Love to Annie and the Babes & to assure you I am

Dear Airth

Yours most sincerely

Thos. Stirling

Dublin 13th July 1773

[In another hand: £36"10"6 B: Sterg

Bill Colll Stirling on Mr Patrick Duncan Senr Writer in Perth to acct of James Robertson Lude⁵⁴ payble to Jo: Wordie at 5/ Ds Sights sent 24 July 1773 pr WG

Commission 5 postage to Mr Wordie Correspondent 2/1 reduces the Bill to £36"8"5]

Letter from Sir William Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, f.10

Dear Sir

Ardoch 31st July 1773

I was sorry to hear lately that your Son Charlie⁵⁵ was not well. I shall be glad to hear that he is better. I wrote you to Castlesemp⁵⁶ about Mr Haggins [unclear] Memorial I hope you got it. I had a letter last post from Captain Middleton⁵⁷ wanting a Puppy from me you know I promised one of mine to you so have wrote him to speak to you about him, it is for young Sir Laurence he is to be at Kersie⁵⁸ in a few days so you will probably see him and let me know the result. Mr Seton of Touch⁵⁹ to be hear on friday from Appin⁶⁰ I wish you would come and meet him, and give us all your west Country news -

Mrs Erskine and Christy joins me in best Wishes to my Sister yourself and Family I ever am

My Dear Sir

yours most Affectionately

W Stirling

Letters from Thomas Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff.42-43

Dear Airth

Dublin Augst 24th 1773

I wrote you last month wt a bill inclosed to Mr Wordie for £36-10 on Mr Duncan writer in Perth which I suppose came safe to your hand as I have heard from Mrs Campbell in answer to me I then wrote and inclosed, I bid you up that money if you had occasion for it, and I then mentioned I should give an order to Stevenson which you would pay on first Novr: for £137-11 I am now to inform you I have this day sent Stevenson bills to the amount of what I owe him, so that I shall have no occasion for any of the Cash in your hands, except My Brother Charles should draw for £90 on Mr Wordie which you will take care to honored [sic] when it appears by paying Mr Wordie what may be due to him, for it, over & above the Cash in his hands of mine. I have directed Stevenson to enclose my note to him for £137-11 to you & likewise a discharged acct of Ens: Stewart for £1-14-4 having this day sent him Bills to the amount of £139-5-4 being all that is due to him by me You will please enquire of Mr Wordie if he ever recovered the bill of John McLean late Soldier in 42d Regt to Rodk: M Crimmen for £2.6.3, which I inclosed to him & wrote him of sometime in may or june 1772

now business being over, how does my Dear Annie and the Babes? Mrs Campbell wrote me you were to be there soon and I suppose this will still find you in Perthshire shooting or fishing, better diversion than ours here, tho it be shooting, for it is killing people, God knows they do not deserve to be regreted, but still they are our own Species; you must know the manufacturers will allow no Muslins or Nankeens⁶¹ to be wore, & have hired a mob to attack every one wearing them, & no woman dares appear in the pretty painted Muslin gowns nor the men in Nankeen, a young man & Lady in a Coach were met by the mob, unfortunately he had Nankeen britches, there was no help for it, they must be sacrificed, & all the favor he could obtain was to get out & retire behind the Coach while he was throwing them off, they then put him sans Coulot wt the Lady & ordered the Coachman to drive away, wherever they meet wt any one with these on them, should they fortunately get into a house still they insists on having them thrown out of the Window to be cut in

pieces, Yesterday they dressed up two images, called Sir John Nankeen & Lady Betty Muslin, Hanging on a Gallows carried on a Cart, & paraded throw the streets to the number of Thousands, attacking every one they met that had the obnoxious Manufactures on, & even threatned the Woolen drapers because the Cloth was not Made in Ireland, The Magistrates called for a party of the troops, & after being pelted for some time wt brick bats &c in a struggle for the Images

They grew frightened, lost temper, & ordered the men to fire, four people were killed & several wounded, some too that were there only through curiosity, this only serves to exasperate them against the troops & will occasion, Houghing⁶² maiming &c for the winter, in short they are a villanous set, more barbarous than the untutored Savage in the Wilds of America, The Lord relieve me from among such a Crew ---

We have had a most uncommon track of fair Weather, more than has been known here, I am afraid the Widows parks look very Brown, and it will break you Country Gents, as no price will be given for the Bear & Meal you will had such a great Crop remember me kindly to all Friends, particularly to Marg[torn] & the young folks I am

Dear Airth

most Sincerely yours

TS

MS.10943, ff.30-31

Dear Airth

Dublin Oct 8 1773

I received both yours of 15th & 24th Ult. I am heartily sorry for poor Lady Stirlings health and should any thing ail her Sir Willm will be much to be pitied, as they have always Lived since they came together in that harmony & affection which is not always to be found in that State but I hope & sincerely wish her jaunt may do her good --

I condole wt you, & My Dear Annie for the loss of your little man Charlie⁶³, had he lived we should have disposed of him some way for his advantage, but God, who disposes better than any of us, has taken him out of a miserable World & from the pains attending the getting though it, let us not therefore repine, or afflict ourselves' whatever is is best

I have sometimes heard of Mr Bruce⁶⁴ in the Papers, I am Glad he stays this winter in Italy

for the recovery of his Health,

I inclose a Letter for Mr Wordie with a Bill for £83 that and what He has will do more than pay Charles's Bill for £90, has he wrote any of his Friends & how does he in his Health,! Poor Edmonstone I am sorry for him

I find by yours that the Muir fowl were not plenty but I suppose you are Lazy

we are pretty quiet at present our Parliament sits done the 12th publick diversions begin now, I was at Levee to day, & at night to be at the Drawing room, Sunday a Levee and Tuesday a Ball at this Castle, besides Plays routs drums &c – Adieu till tomorrow

Well I was at the Drawing room last night which was not crowded, the Fair Barb was then with her Mother & Sister & looked charmingly but I think the Mother almost as good

a piece as either of the Daughters I sported a little at Pharoh⁶⁵, lost my heavy Guineas & brought back light however the quantity made up for the quality, that Damned Queen of Clubs, a quinze Leva', & she came up again me well I'll trust none of the Sex for the future even on paper Adieu make my kind Love to Annie and the Bairns & I am

faithfully yours

T.S.

P.S. have you seen Young Carronhall⁶⁶ he seems a good sort of young man let not the sins of father come upon the Children
remember me to M C⁶⁷ & bid her give me all the Perthshire Politicks

Letter from Sir William Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff.12-13

My Dear Sir

Dover 13th Nov 1773

[X 7 March 1774]

You will no doubt have heard from Mrs Campbell sometimes of our health and progress since we left the Land of Cackes, and that Lady Stirling was then better of her jaunt, we were detained from proceeding Southward waiting for our Daughter Annie⁶⁸ who arrived safe at London upon Wednesday, we left that place upon Friday and came here this day at two O'clock if the Wind continues fair we Sail tomorrow morning for Calais I could not leave this Island without wishing my Sister a happy Hour and a good recovery⁶⁹ I make no doubt but my Mother & Mrs Campbell will be with you by the time this letter reaches you. I wrote her the day before I left London Inclosing one for Mr Russell - by this time I fancy you will be busy shooting Woodcocks in the Torwood⁷⁰

tho' in this part of the Island there has been no frost yet, and the Country has a fine Verdure. I was not at Harrow on the Hill⁷¹ but it seems to be a fine Situation but London is much Changed since you was at it. I have met with many Civilitys there and so have no Reason to forget. I saw our Cousine Mrs Hampden⁷² on Thursday who is really looking handsome and very kind she was. I shall Conclude with our best wishes to you my Sister and Family and I ever am

Dear Sir

very Sincerely yours

Willm Stirling

Calais Sunday 14th 2 O'clock afternoon

your letter not being Seild I have just time to let you know that we arrived here after a Passage of five hours a fine day but Christy & Annie were very sick but having made a good french Dinner are now both very well. God bless you all

Letters from Thomas Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff.44-45

Dear Airth

Dublin Decr 4th 1773

I inclose a packet for Lt Chisholm which be so good as forward I find matters running high in your County which you did not mention a word of in your last, I had Letter lately from Sr H.S. pressing me to get a vote from you in favor of his Friend, which I excused my self from for several reasons which I shall give you, I know not if I was right in the first, That you had been much obliged to the other party in your disputes wt your Neighbour as they were unconnected wt & not terrified wt the Magnitude of his connections and has acted independently, while the others were afraid to stir in the common dutys as justices, or had joined C-H- and therefore I was sure it be grating to you to give your property to be used against those who had assisted you in protecting

your self from a Litigious over bearing neighbour - this I told him was confidential & not to be spoke of, & indeed part guesswork in me, as I had never heard you express yourself wt resentment against S.L., but that I knew you had a great esteem for him ---

my own reasons were, I was sick of Politicks as I had (not intentionally) disobliged more than obliged, that I thought accepting of a vote from my brother in my own County a very different thing fm intruding into another County to serve a job, that I had many friends in it, that might

be in opposite side whose esteem I might forfeit as an intruder & fictitious voter to serve a purpose that I had once thought of getting a vote but it was by buying as much Superiority fm you as might entitle me

and lastly that tho I was to get a vote I could not essentially serve any one as I could not be inrolled but at the day of Election after the Praefis & Clerk were chose, these were some of my reasons, & I had others which needless to communicate. I write you this that you may be prepared in case you should be spoke to and as I suppose Mrs Campbell is wt you communicate it to her to save writing - Tell her I received her Letter of 17th Novr wt Campbells discharge for £1.17 I am still confined but intend going out soon I have lost much Drinking & eating, Dancing, & Gaming by my Strain; Mrs Campbell will receive a packet from Doctor Finlay⁷³ for me which she will keep by her our Parliament has almost finished the supplys & then they may bellow as they like I have heard nothing of Sir Willm I think Mrs C. says they are Sailed. My kind Love to Mary, Annie, & all your Infantry I am

Dear Airth
yours Sincerely
T.S.

Pray give me some Politicks in your next.

MS.10943, ff.46-47

Dublin 7th April 1774

Dear Airth

Yours of 27th Jany came safe & gave me pleasure as does every Letter that informs me of you & your familys welfare, I should have liked to have heard the two Misses observations at their first Play, & to have seen their surprise at the Sight of a black Gentm in the Pitt. -

I was not surprised at hearing of B- Ords⁷⁴ demand, as all the Accts we have here from your side talk of the great demand for, & Scarcity of Cash; as for Nabobs, Jesuits, or Jews in this country lending their Money at 4½ there is no such thing I can assure you, you know little of the Country if you suppose they are flush, in no Country under heaven do they live more dissipated than in this from the first Peer to the lowest Peasant or Blackguard; of course most are wanting it, few to lend, besides that interest is here at 6 pr Cent & paid to a day, Land is cheap, & annuities may be got very cheap, but I confess I should not much chuse to have any transaction wt them

I wrote you in my last if you had occasion for 3 or 400£ to pay off any of your Principals you might have it at Whitsunday but as you have not said you wanted it I concluded you have

had no demands, which I am glad of as I mean to dispose of it in another way, I do not desire to have any hand in accumulating your debts but wish rather to see it decrease and would be glad you could get a good price for Inchbelly⁷⁵ for that purpose, nay if a Nabob look a fancy for Airth itself, bony as it is, I would be for letting it go, Kippinross⁷⁶ is not an ugly place & you have fine fishing there, one must sacrifice a little for their Childn..

I enclose you a letter for J Wordie

There is talk of our Ld Lt⁷⁷ going to be Govr: to the Prince of W & that Ld Shelburn is coming here in his room Coll Barre to be his Secretary, our Military Comr in chief is vacant by the resignation of Genl Dilkes & Genl Elliot is talked of We march for Waterford about the middle or end of May which I am told is an agreeable quarter Poor Archie Erskine⁷⁸ has been ill these five weeks wt the Reumatism & still complains, I hope the warm weather will remove his complaints as for myself I am in tolerable health but my Leg is very weak & some of the Surgeons tells me there is a chance of the Sinews not knitting by wh means I shall never recover the former use of it, I believe I used it too soon, I am Glad to hear such favorable accts of Lady Stirling I find they propose being home this year

I have this moment seen a scots news paper in which Mr Hamiltons Marriage wt Christy Graeme⁷⁹ is anounced to the World, happy choice; I pity his poor Children, but enough of that
My Kindest Love to Annie and the Infantry & believe me to be yours & theirs most Sincerely T.S.

Letter from Sir William Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, f.14

Dear Sir

Ardoch 25th July 1774

My Wife gave me a Commission by your desire to speak to William Anderson about buying two Cows for you I had an opportunity of Seeing him this day who tells me he can Supply you with two Cows at fifty five Shillings price or if you would have them at a higher price you may get them, as I suppose you would choose to have them put upon your Grass directly you may send for them when you please as you spoke to me about Sheep when I saw you at Airth I enquired at Wm Anderson⁸⁰ but he has none this year - Lady Stirling Annie and Christy join in best wishes to Mrs Graham you and family I ever am

Dear Sir

Your Affectionate Brother
and Servt.
W Stirling

Letters from Thomas Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff.48-49

Lochlane 27th june 1774

Dear Airth

Yours wtout a date inclosing copy of Messrs: Coutts Letter about the Tontine⁸¹ Scheme I received last night, the acct. they give is nothing to the purpose as we knew all they have told us except what they are Selling for, which is a heresay story, that they are told Sr Wm Desse⁸² a new Banker Sold them Irish for English money however if that should be the Case I think 8 pr Cent too high a praemium, there is to be sure the 6 months interest due upon it since Decr last which is 3 pr Cent & reduces it of Course to 5, which I suppose will be allowed but their acct is so vague that one cannot form any judgment of it, I see by the Scots Magasine the names are to be given in & the last Moiety paid upon the 24th of July, had I thought when at Airth it was not till then

I would have wrote to Ireland but it is now too late

I am Glad to hear James⁸³ is getting better

We have heard nothing from Sr Willm but heard of him that he was arrived at London, expected end of last Week in Edinr:, & a report this mornng that he is to be at Keir this night. I suppose Mr Bruce will be soon down

kind Compliments to all at Airth I am

yours Sincerely

Thos: Stirling

PS. I think your best way to come at bottom of the Tontine Scheme is to write Sr: Willm Desse & Co Bankers London (Post paid) for the Scheme & their terms in the minutest manner wt the forms of the Certificate, when it is to be transmitted &c &c & they will send you an account of every thing by giving your direction

MS.10943, ff.50-51

Lochlane 29th jun 1774

Dear Airth

I wrote you in answer to your former Letter & yesterday got yours, wt Copy of Messrs Coutts wherein they say a friend of theirs has shares at £98 British; which is £106.3.4 Irish that is £6.3.4 pr Cent praemium which I think is too much unless they credit you wt the half years Interest which commenced in Decr or Jany & becomes due now which is £3, otherwise they make £9-3-4 of each share this I think you should have explained, and if you get it on these terms I think it worth while as for the Cash you may have £300 as soon as you will by draing for it on Mr Wordie or cause him to remitt it to London if for the above purpose, & charge it to my acct & after you determine how much you want write

and I shall write him

I have this day wrote to Ireland if you chuse to wait I may have an answer in 14 or 15 days but this you may do as you like, you can at any rate inform yourself if you are not to receive the 6 months annuity due about this time, kind Compts to Annie & the Bairns I am Dear Airth

Yours

Thos Stirling

MS.10943, ff.52-53

Lochlane Saturday

Dear Airth

I wrote you in answer to your last wt the Copys of Affidavit & gave you my sentiments upon it & what money you might have from me for that purpose I likewise mentioned I had wrote to Ireland & that if you chose it you might wait for the answer which might arrive in 14 or 15 Days but upon recollection I find I cannot have a return time enough to take measures in consequence of it as Letters are always 10 days at soonest & sometimes 15 days coming here, you must therefore determine & conclude wt the People in London, I suppose you are informing yourself about the 6 months interest due about this

time as I think that would be too great profit in the Sellers to take that & the 6 pr Cent praemium

likewise

I went to Ardoch & met Sir Willm & He has been three nights in the Country I know not Lady Stirlings motions yet. -

Mrs. Campbell sends love to you and was uneasy at not hearing from Annie last post I am glad to hear such good Accts of Mr Bruce as Sir Willm gives but from them I imagine he will not reside in Scotland -

there is uncomfortable weather, Adieu

Accept of my wishes in the warmest manner for all yours I ever am &c T.S.

P.S. you will let me know when & how much Cash you will want

[Noted in another hand: Lochlane 9th July 1774. Coll Stirling]

MS.10943, ff.54-55

Loch july 18th 1774

Dear Airth

I have by this Post wrote Mr Wordie to credit you with £200, Sterg which you may draw for when you please

last night I had an answer from Ireland they sell them at 5 pr Cent praemium but the purchaser gets the ½ years Intr due the 24th june so in fact it is only 2 pr Cent, this I suppose you will likening get in London so that the praemium is not high

I rejoice at Lady Stirling's being so well, I have been labouring hard at the Salmon fishing 3 4 times a day have hooked several but your line is too short, your rod bad and of course lost my Salmon, Hooks, lines & all, there is a great many in the river but it begins to be too little

Kind Love to Annie & the Infantry I am

Dear Airth

Yours Sincerely

Thos. Stirling

MS.10943, ff.56-57

Lochlane July 27th 1774

Dear Airth,

I mentioned to you in my last that I had wrote to Mr Wordie to honor your draught for £200 Sterg and to charge it to me, in answer from him he says 'I have pleasure of your letter of 18th Inst - before it came to hand I had given orders to my Friends at London to purchase £200 in the Irish Tontine for Mr Graham., & agreed to acomodate him with the Money till such time as his funds answered to repay it, so it will therefore be needless to transfer that sum from your to his account', - by this it would appear that he is to advance you that sum untill are able to repay it, let me know therefore whether you understand it in that light, and if you have occasion for £200 from me, as I must look out to dispose of it in some other manner by Martinmass if you are not in want of it

All here are in good health, except My Man who has been ill but is on the mending hand

The Old Lady⁸⁴ & Mrs Campbell joins me in offering you & yours our kindest & best wishes. I am,

Dear Airth,

yours most Sincerely
Thos: Stirling

MS.10943, ff.58-59

Dear Airth

Wensday

I was in hopes of seeing Annie and you here by this time, Mrs Campbell tells me Annie writes that Mr Bruce's arrival in Scotland will prevent you, but as he is to reside at Kinnaird untill he settles his Business I think you might come for a little time and take a Straik of the Muirs⁸⁵ besides I suppose He will stay in Edinr for some time after the Races as little business can be done then till they are over

Do therefore come up was it but for eight days, I shall be able to stroll for a Couple of hours on Sir Willms Muirs wt you, and

the Jaunt will do Annie good, if She thinks she cannot possible come, you may at least put your Leg on Paddie for a few days I need not say how happy all here will be to see you both or either of you, you know our affection for you all, Sir Willm is set out wt Christie⁸⁶ & the Keir folks on a tour they are to be for three weeks on it

All here joins me in best Wishes to Annie and the Infantry I am

Dear Airth

Yours Sincerely

T.S.

If you will not come up, and that Coazy will lead send him in to Stirling Sunday Mornng early to come up wt the Post if you think there is no danger of his being lost but I Would rather see you bring him

[In another hand: Lochlane 10 Augt 1774 Coll: Stirling]

MS.10943, ff.60-61

Dear Airth,

Lochlane Augst 15th 1774

I am sorry you are detained from coming up, no doubt your connection wt Mr Bruce makes it necessary you show some attention to him after so long an absence, especially as he does honor to his Friends by the figure he makes among the learned, and the painfull search he has made for Knowledge. I should be very Glad to see you at Airth and be acquainted with him as his conversation must be very entertaining & relation of his travells curious & instructing, but my Servt is not quite strong & my Mare is lame

The Rascall Bain let the Dog slip out of his hand at Dumblane & says he ran straight back the Road to Stirling if he is not returned to Airth I beg you will immediately write to somebody in Stirling to cry him I have enjoyned J Bain to make the strickest enquiry upon the Road & at Bridge

of Stirling about him, he went of wt the Cord about his Neck, if he is returned do not send him again, but write me at any rate, to relieve my anxiety for I would not for a good deal he was lost - I am sorry you are disappointed in your Tontines for the Misses as it appears to be a good plan for those who can but afford small Tochers,⁸⁷ the Mill⁸⁸ I hope will repay you for the Expence & trouble

you have been at

Mrs Campbell has got her Hay in & thatched, the Lint⁸⁹ is pulled, & the Corn is to be roused on Friday. I accept of Miss Mastertons⁹⁰ Love, (tho I suppose you only Slumpt it in wt the rest) and return mine wt my tres humble baisemains to her, and my best wishes to Annie & the Infantry. I am,

Dear Airth,

yours Sincerely

Thos: Stirling's

Tell Annie Mrs C: will see about the Linnen

Letter from Charles Stirling of Ardoch Penn, St Ann, Jamaica to William Graham

MS.10943, f.110

Dr Brother

Ardoch Jany 2d 1775

Your kind favour I received, & was extreamly glad to find you and family were well, & I assure you I hold myself obliged to you in a very high degree for becoming Security for the goods I commissiond to be sent me by Mr Colquhoun, and shall always have a very gratefull sense thereof. I have now remitted him the balance in full by a Bill of Exchange upon London which I hope will be Satisfactory and have at same time Shipt a Punsheon of Rum for you on board the Issabella Capn. McLennan qt. 113 Galls. and Consign'd to Mr Walter Colquhoun Mert. in Glasgow the Rum is a twelve Months old now, & I dare say you'l find it good: I observ'd what you said relative to shipg. it to Leith but my distance from the Leith Ship and the rum being made at a particular place where I could depend upon justice being done in the Making, prevented my sending it by Leith. I am much oblig'd to you for your good wishes for the welfare of my property, it is thriving tolerable well & I have added considerably to it since John Stirling⁹¹ left this County who I apprehend was the person who gave you any tolerable Idea of it; Your Rum cost 2/9d this Curry. pr Galln. & the Puns. 30/ amounting to £12:14 Stirling which you will please transmit to Mr Colquhoun whom I have desir'd to [c.o. Commission] transmit some business in Money Matters between me and Dr. Finlay, youl please to offer my kind Compts. to my Dear Sister Ann and tell her I would have wrote her & also my kind Cousin Mrs Kid⁹² whom I received a few Spellings from, but the Ship is just going to sail Which prevents me from doing myself that pleasure which I hope will be excused tell her I am in high health, & in good Spirits & hopes to spend many happy day wt you & her & I remain Dr William

Your affect. Brother & oblig'd Hum Sert. Chas: Stirling

Part of a letter from Mary Campbell of Lochlane to William Graham

MS.10943, f.157

Dear Mr Graham

Lochlane Octr 11th [no date]

...the Lady⁹³ Sends a 27 Shill peice to Sandie Clark⁹⁴ which he had best keep till he goes to Jamaica as it may pass for value their which it will not do here its in within Some Linnen I have Sent him for two jackets & I inclose a Card to him telling him to receive them. I shall expect to hear from you when you are at home - with best wishies believe me

Your affect Sister

Mary Campbell

Letter from Thomas Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff.62-63

Dear Airth

Glasgow 23d Oct 1775

I received both yours Sandy Clerk is to look out for a copy of Indentures here and have them drawn out which as his stay here is short cannot be settled you will therefore be so good as see them executed, or bid Mr Wordie or Mr Bell to get it done at Edinr whatever Cash is laid out let me know and I shall repay you immediately I hope you found Annie better My kind Love to her when you write and believe me her & yours Most affecte Friend and Servt

Thos: Stirling

P.S. I have not yet been able to make out my visit to Castle Semple but hope soon to do it Since writing we have got the Indentures drawn out and signed I send them to you to peruse and I suppose it is necessary to send them to Charles, as I have already wrote him, inclose you them to him and let him know what money has been

advanced to Sandy Clerk both to rig him out and likewise what has been paid for his passage.

Apprenticeship indenture for Alexander Clark

MS.10925, ff.71-72

These are to Certify That the Within designed Alexander Clark Came before me Duncan Nivien ...one of the Baillies of the City of Glasgow north Britain upon the twenty fourth day of october In the year one thousand Seven Hundred and seventy five, and declared Himself to be of the age of Twenty one years and no Covenanted, or Contracted Servant to any other person or Persons than the within named Charles Stirling Esqe. And that he voluntarily (sic) Subscribed the within Indenture and was no ways Compelled thereto

Duncan Nivien

This Indenture Made att the City of Glasgow North Britain the Twenty fourth day of october In the year one thousand seven Hundred and seventy five, and of the fifteenth year of his Majesties Reign. Betwixt lieutenant Colonel Thomas Stirling of the forty second Regiament of foot or Royal Scots Highlanders for and on account of Charles Stirling Esqr of Ardoch of the Island of Jamaica merchant and the said Colonel Thomas Stirling for himself, and as takeing full Burden on him for the said Charles Stirling on the one part, and Alexander Clark Son of the Deceest James Clark⁹⁵ at Grangepans near Borroustounness on the other part. Witnesseth that the said Alexander Clark doth hereby put himself Apprentice and Servant to the said Charles Stirling Esqr. To serve him or his Assigns from the date of these Presents to his first and next Arrival in the Island of Jamaica aforesaid. And thereafter dureing & until the full end and term of Three years from thence next Ensueing fully to be Completed in such Service and Employment as he the said Charles Stirling Esq or his foresaids shall Employ him in according to the Laws and Customs of the Country. And doth further declare and Covenant that the said Alexander Clark at the time of Subscribing hereof is of the age of twenty one years And no Covenanted or Contracted Servant to any other person or Persons. In Consideration Whereof the said Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Stirling as takeing Burden

upon him for the said Charles Stirling Esqr. doth hereby Covenant, and promise to the said Alexander Clark That he the said Charles Stirling Esqr or his Assigns Shall and will at his or their own proper Cost and Charges with what Covenanted speed they may Carry and Convey or Cause to be carried and Conveyed over into the said Island of Jamaica aforesaid the said Alexander Clark, and dureing the said Voyage and also dureing the said terms and to the end thereof shall and will at the like Cost and Charge Provide for and allow the said Alexander Clark all Necessary meat Drink Washing and lodgeing according to the Custom of the Island of Jamaica aforesaid, And further the said Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Stirling Bends and obliges himself. That the said Charles Stirling Esqr. Shall and will make payment to the said Alexander Clark of the sum of Thirty Pounds British Sterling money yearly and Each year of the foresaid term of Three years Beginning the first years payment at the Expiration of the first year after the said Alexander Clark is landed in the Island of Jamaica aforesaid, and so to Continue yearly in the good and thankfull payment of the foresaid sum yearly thereafter at the foresaid time dureing the Whole three years aforesaid. With a fifth part further of each of the foresaid payments of liquidate penalty in Case of faillie. And both Parties do hereby oblige themselves to the performance of the Engagement aforesaid under the penalty of Ten pounds British sterling money payable by the party failling to the party observeing or Willing to observe. In Testimony of which these Presents are Wrote on stamp paper by David Williamson Clerk to George Riddoch Writer in Glasgow aforesaid And subscribed by the said Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Stirling and Alexander Clark All Place Day month, year of God and of his Majesties Reign aforesaid In the Presence of the said George Riddock and David Williamson

Thos. Stirling
Alexr. Clark

Signed Sealed and delivered (being first duly stampd)
In Presence of George Riddock
David Williamson

Indentures Betwixt Charles Stirling Esqr. and Alexander Clark 1775

Letter from William Graham to Charles Stirling, Jamaica

MS.10943, ff.113-114

Dear Charles

I have now seen Alexr Clark on Board the Champion Capt Spears and Inclosd his Indentures for Three Years for your Behoof you will Observe that there is no mention of Doctors Accounts which are always paid by the master which I Expect you will do for him if wanted I have paid his passage out as a Steerage passenger to you Account £7-7- and have Advanced to Alexr Clark, to be allowd you out of his wages £22 Sterg at same I wrote to Mr Archd Montgomery⁹⁶ in Kingstone to Recommend to his Care and give Money to forward him to you if the same be wanted I am hopefull this Lad will answer your purpose having always behavd well with me I have Likewise paid for his bed sheets & Blankets £2,-11 Sterg, which you shoud pay and they belong to you which I shall Charge you with

Mr Colquehoun woud advise you that I had paid the Last Rum sent me £12,,14 Sterg and find by his Letter that you had remitted him money or Goods to me as the Obligation for Goods sent to you

I Referr you to Annies Letter about Rum wanted and the Health of the Family th're all well at present Alexr Clark has many Letters for you which I hope will be Deliverd safe Accept of Annies the Childrens and My Love and Best Wishes and I Continue

Dear Charles

Your Affectionate Brother
W: Graham

1st Nov 1775 Dr Charles Stirling to Wm Graham Airth
By paid Alexr Clark on his accot pr Receipt
By Do as his passage r Capt Spears
By Do for a Bed &c pr Rct

£22 " "
7 "7 "
2 " "11
£31 "7 "11

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Sir William Stirling

GD24/1/458/ 3

Philadelphia Apl 13th 1776

I am to acknowledge, My Dear Sir Willm, yours of the 7th Janry. and 28th, the first informed me of what was in embryo for my advantage the Latter of my disapointment, Lord Barringtons⁹⁷ reason was a bad one, if they mean to encourage Officers to distinguish themselves, as the greatest Dolt among us has as good a chance as the most enterprizing if mere seniority is only to be attended to, I have endeavoured to exert my self upon every occasion, nay courted to be employed, the Commander in Chief has rendered me justice and to you I can venture to tell that the army in General does the same, I confess I am chagrined not a little and my friends must not be surprised if they hear of my quitting a profession I once honoured but now no longer dear to me from the little prospect I see of ever being conspicuous in it and nothing but that sum could bribe me to undergo two such years as I have done, the profitable part of it can be no object for in that light I shall be better when out, I can get 5000 Guineas if not more when ever I please my pay does not exceed £300 per an. there is no comparison, and by Lord Barringtons rule I shall be lucky if I have pretensions to ask a Regt. these 10 or 12 years, and during that time shot at, starved, Cold hot, wet, and dry, it is a sad prospect I'll look no more at it

however let me not forget the Obligations I lay under to you, My Dear Brother, for your attention to my interest, and the many respectable & kind friends that showed themselves in the West for my advantage, it is highly honourable to me that in the short time I staid at Glasgow my publick & private character gained me so many friends in the City, and it is no less so and flattering to the greatest degree to see my Lovely Patroness & excellent Friend⁹⁸ foremost in so respectable a list to forward my interest, I wish not to be ungrateful and therefore must request you will take the trouble to assure those of your acquaintance either verbally or by Letter, in my name of the very high sense I have of their friendly efforts in my behalf

15th I had left this space to fill up before I closed it and this moment Genl. Lesly⁹⁹ is come to tell me he will not accept of the Regt. one effort more in my favour may do yet I have wrote Ld Barrington my services and praying for to lay them before the King & that I may have the Regt wt rank as Coll, if that will not be granted that I may have it as L.C. Commander & be allowed to keep my L.C. of 42d I have wrote likewise to Mr Hopkirk¹⁰⁰ at Glasgow to renew their solicitation on my behalf, I shall write to H Drummond, Ld Adm Gordon¹⁰¹ & Mr Lewis¹⁰² Depy Secretary at War but we have now received such heartbreaking news of the ruall [?] of Genl Howe¹⁰³ & the submissive terms you offer the Americans that unhinges every body here. one great exertion this Campaign would have settled it but now the British empire is at an end the Congress I am sure will receive no terms but acknowledgement of Independency Adam....[end]

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Anne Graham of Airth

ACC 12290-1-3

addressed: Mrs Graham of Airth
Colledge Wynd
Edinr

an opportunity by Ninian Lowis¹⁰⁴ offering of writing My Dear Annie wtout costing her postage makes me embrace it of assuring her & hers of my best wishes I have wrote Mrs Campbell & Sir Willm since my arrival and nothing new has happened since, we are waiting impatiently for the arrival of the Battalion Guard & 1st division of Hessians a few of whose ships are come in, to proceed on our operations -

what a difference to me from ten years ago at New York, cursed ambition of a set of restless demagogues in this country that has destroyed so much happiness ease and content, if there is a double portion of Liquid fire in t'other World they deserve it, for it will never return -

Sir Willm Erskine¹⁰⁵ has appointed Archie¹⁰⁶ Brigade Major which is ten Shilg: a day to him, our Batt'n is formed into two of which I am chief Major Murray¹⁰⁷ commands the first and Major Grant¹⁰⁸ the 2d we are joined to the Grenadiers of the whole army and the 33d Regt, which forms the Corps de Reserve under the Command of Lt Genl Earl Cornwallis this is posting us as honorably as Genl Howe could do, and the same for my self

All your acquaintances are well Majors Bruce, Dundass, Maitland, Murray, Grant, Erskine &c &c &c I have been very well except a cramp in my stomach for two days but now pretty well, remember me kindly to all in Argyle¹⁰⁹ & Browns Square and to all my friends in Cakes and to none more warmly than to Airth and the Bairns whose welfare and happiness I have much at heart Let me hear from you often Packets will always be sailing Adieu My Dear Annie

and believe me most affectaly yours

T S

Staten Island Aug 9th 1776

Rollo¹¹⁰ & Jock Graeme Parliament Cross are well

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Sir William Stirling

GD24/1/458/13

Camp near Bloomingdal Island of N York¹¹¹

Sept 22d 1776

My Dear Sir Willm

I wrote you since my arrival here; the 22d of Augst the army landed on Long Island after having been reinforced by Genl Clinton from Southward wt 7 Regt after an unsuccessful expedition, Genl Heister wt first divisions of the Hessians 8500 men, the Light dragoons from Halifax & the remainder of ours & Frasers except about 600 that were taken by Rebel privateers of which we lost 4 Offrs and 85 men, in short our strength by the Rebel accts is 21000 which is not wide of the mark

we met wt no opposition on landing from that to 26th we were preparing to attack them and during that time I had an uncomfortable post wt half Regt where we had constant pickeering wt the Enemy however we came off wt five wounded, the night of 26 & 27th the whole army marched in four Columns towards the Enemy who were posted wtin their lines at Brockland, & Bedford which is the road that leads to New York Ferry, early in the Mornng. the 4th & 6th Brigades which marched by the water side and which poor Sir A.M.¹¹² was came to their ground earlier than the rest of the Army by which means they met wt an opposition which gave them a check, I came up on their right about nine in the Mornng being the next Column having marched through the woods wtout road or Guide and a pleasant sight we were to them as they confess themselves it might have gone hard wt them had

we not come up, about ten the other Columns got engaged but the surprise was so great upon the Rebels that they made not great resistance, our Regt at last marched in to the Woods where the riffle men were and after receiving a Scattered fire we got in among them & had little more to do than take prisoners of which we made 160 having only 3 men wounded, Lord Stirling a Genl Sullivan a Genl Woodal wt many field Officers & about 1100 Rebels were taken and I suppose about half that number killed or drowned as they passed a Creek to get in to their works which they did very precipitately & in great panick & I believe had we pushed their works they might have been taken and all in them which they themselves said were 40 Battns on the Island that day, our loss was triffling except in Sir A Murray who is universally regretted he received a Cannon shot in the thigh & two Grape in his body he lived half an hour sensible and resigned desired all he had should be given to his Sisters except his watch & purse which his gave his Servt his baggage has not been looked in to but when it is it shall be taken care of I am averse to putting his things to publick auction & have advised disposing of Regt; things privately to the Officers that are good, any lumber of Old things given to his Servt and what is not disposed of that way sent home, I hope this will be approved of I saw him buried as decently as time & circumstances would allow

the 31st the Rebels abandoned all their works about Brockland on long Island, the army than moved to the Right along the East River to a place called Hell Gate where it was proposed we should pass over to New York Island some of our ships of War having got that length through the sound at last it was resolved to attempt it as a place called Keps bay three mile above new york for which purpose five frigates came up past New York wt all our Flat bottomed boats & 6 Transport and on the 15th the army landed under Cover of these ships fire wt out any oposition and got possession of the Heights of Inkle being on this Island 3 Mile from New York, part of army than or[torn] to New York & works about it which they found abandoned [torn] rest followed the Enemy towards Kingsbridge, our Regt. was ordered on the left of all where we fell in wt the rear of Enemy killed a few and took 40 prisoners & had we been supported might have cut off 1500 of them they nailed up a Cannon on our approach & left 5 waggons wt stores in them & we took Genl: Putnams own Waggon after his own people had plundered it, we got a union flag of the Colonys and the Colours of his Regt wt Appeal to Heaven for a Motto next day the Light Infantry brought themselves in to a scrap & us and had we not marched up to their support 6 or 700 of them would have been cut to pieces or taken, in this affair our Regt had 2 Cpts 1 Sub 2 Sergt 2 Drumrs & 46 Wounded & 2 men killed one of the Offrs Ensn Mckenzie died of this wounds this day. I have since that been very ill wt a bloody Flux and tho something better to day far from being well, we are upon an advanced post so that even common comforts are not to be had I therefore think of going

to Newyork for a few days if not soon better, the Rebels sent some incendiarys which set that town on fire in several places yesterday and about 50 houses are burnt - Archie & all your acquaintances are well, remember me in the kindest to all my Friends I even am affect yours

[addressed: Sir William Stirling of Ardoch Bart. by Stirling
stamped: 6 NO]

GD24/1/458/5

Camp at English Neighbourhood in the Jersies near Fort Constitution [no date. 1776]

I could not miss the opportunity of Kippendavies going home to write your, as this may reach you before him, as no doubt your may be uneasy about your friends here as we have had a very smart affair which may appear in the papers in which we had a severe & great change after chasing the Rebels from place to place we came up wt them at an encampment they had on the white plains, 30 miles from N York, our troops attacked them on very disadvantageous Ground and 'tho there were above 3000 of them two Regt. that were only engaged drove them from it, however this served no Great purpose only making them abandon lines which they thought not tenable, but which would have cost us much trouble & Blood to have forced, and retire to the tops of hills not accessible, there we left them and after crossing the Country to Hudsons river & lying there a few days the army marched down to about Kings bridge which the Rebels had abandoned upon the approach of a body of Hessians under the Command of Genr Kniphausin retiring to a very strong post they had made farther in the Island of York called fort Washington, there they expected to have

withstood all our efforts as the ground was remarkably strong and they had 3000 men to occupy it & to winter there having a communication with the Jerseys from whom they could at all times have supplys of every kind, this post was of importance for us to force as we could not be masters of York Island or indeed secure at New York while they had it, on the 16th therefore it was determined to attack it, Lord Percy wt 2 Brigades of British & two of Hessians marched from N york side, where they had very strong lines, Genr Kniphausen wt two Columns of Hessians, about 2500 men, attacked them from towards Kingsbridg; the L. Infantry & Guards were to attack them across Harleum river, & the 42d was intended to make a sham attack lower down on same river to facilitate Ld Percy approach, Kniphausens troops behaved Gallantly and carried their point over the most rugged Ground troops could march, the L Infantry Guards met wt no opposition except a few Grape at Ln I. while in their boats Ld Peircy was stoped by their lines which were strongly manned, the 42d instead of a sham was ordered to make a real attack, and as that was not designed little was prepared to assist us, neither troops

to second us nor a sufficiency of Artillery to cover our landing which for the shortness of the space was as steep a precipice as you can conceive in the face of an Enemy who lined the top of it and killed our men in the Boats as they approached, and so smart was their fire that the sailors abandoned their oars & hid themselves in the bottom of the Boats, notwithstanding all this, we accomplished our point drove them from the Hill & chased them into the Fort and over to the North River, which immediately opened a Door for Ld Peircys troops the Rebels having abandoned their lines upon our getting behind them & giving a cheer on gaining the top of the bank, never did men behave more gallantly than ours did, which all the army acknowledges, or were in a more desperate situation, we had 3 Officers Wounded & 79 men Killed & wounded, next day the Regt & I got the Particular thanks of the Genr for our behaviour along wt the others that were engaged, that Eveng the Fort surrendered in to which we had drove all the Rebels to the amount of 2500, beside 150 [c.o. we] our Regt took on the engagement, this secures all York Island to us we took a number of Cannon & stores of all kinds wt two Months provisions & likewise broke the heart of the Rebels

on the 20th [Nov. 1776] we were detached under Lord Cornwallis Command wt 4000 men to this

side to scramble up a path worse than the Cran road when fifty men might have prevented us, luckily we surprised them & got up without opposition marched on & so frightened were they that 8000 of them run off leaving Forts Constitution & Lee with all their guns store & to a great amount behind them and was not this season so far advanced I make no doubt but we might march to Philadelphia without little opposition, that two last blows are of the utmost consequence to us and the first dawn of hope I have had of ever bringing them to reason, they are madly enthusiastic and nothing but the distraction this occasions in their councils could ever bring them to their duty for 'tho they never have fought us like men yet they have made such excellent use of their axes spades & shovels with the natural strength of the Country that had they obstinacy, & method among themselves we never could subdue them, what the operations for rest of the season may be I know not but I suppose our success will keep us taller in the Field - an Expedition under Genl Clinton is going on, 15000 ton of shipping is prepared, but where I know not, we are not to go - Sir Willm Erskine has distinguished himself in a most remarkable manner in getting intelligence planning our operation &c and I know not what the Genl could have done without him I shall now conclude by offering my kindest love to Christy & the Bairns & all our Friends and to assure you I am yours most affectionately

GD24/1/458/6

New York Jany 10th 1777

I received your Letter of 28th Sept. a few days ago giving me the the accounts of our Mothers death¹¹³, She has had poor Woman her full share of Life, and barring one great Misfortune, without many of the severe trials that Parents undergo who has had so many Children

I wrote you a Letter intended to be sent by Kippendavie but he missed his passage & I find it went by the Packet, this goes by him and he is determined to take first opportunity. Our Regt has had a severe time of it [c.o.] as we have been in the field ever since, our Rapidity in going through the Jerseys has only been the means of our losing it almost as rapidly, we dispersed our Enemys too much and drew a Line of Containment in that province that extended near a hundred miles, never dreaming the Rebels would have courage to attempt any thing against us, the consequences has shewn us our mistake, the Rebels crossed the Delaware River a few Miles above Trentown in considerable force attacked a Brigade of Hessians in that town commanded by a Colonel Raalle consisting of 3 Regts (1200 men) on the 26th Decr, surprised them killed about 20 men & took 900 Prisoners

this obliged another Brigade of Hessians and our Regt which the Genl had attached to these Foriegners to retire for fear of being cut off to Prince town where Genl Lesly commanded, this threw all west Jersey in to their Power and Washington threatened attacking us then, this occasioned Genl Grant who was at Brunswick 17 Mile from us to march with a body of men to support us and enable us to act offensively against them which we did next day and drove them before us out of Trentown, but in the night they marched round us, attacked Prince town & drove 3 Regts there quite out of the place, who went to Brunswick, and the first notice we had of that affair was the Cannon & Small arms, off we set to their succour but it was all over before we got up and we were obliged to make a forced march to prevent Brunswick falling in to their hands likewise, which would have been the case had the Rebels pursued their success, but they contented themselves with what they had done at Prince town, and turned off to the left, however this forced us to abandon Prince town and we have now nothing on west side of Rariton river but Brunswick, and since that we have abandoned successively all our Cantonments in East Jerseys likewise, and have

nothing left us in all that Province but Brunswick and Amboy such is the Consequence of [c.o. our] the bad disposition of our Troops at first, and the success of the Rebels at Trentown which has raised their drooping spirits and of course brought great numbers to join them, so that we are now on the defensive, and army is likewise talked of to attack this Island composed of the Militia of the Province of New York Connecticut & New England, and they have been daring enough even to send some troops in to Staten Island so that our communications from this place to the Jerseys is cut off but by water to Amboy, what the result of all this will be God knows but I never have had a flattering opinion of this War and much less now. I was ordered from the Regt to Elisabeth town to take the command of six Battns that was to be there & bring them off to Amboy as Washington was expected to make an attack upon them, but two days after Genl Vaughan was ordered there so that I had nothing to do & took that opportunity of coming back here to settle some business for two days and return tomorrow to join my Regt which lyes at a straggling village called Piscataqua¹¹⁴ 3 miles on this side Rariton River from Brunswick, and must make a dash to get at them

as the Road is infested with Rebels unless I happen to get an Escort going that way. never has a Regt been so hardly use as ours first in attaching us with Foriegners on the Frontiers and then campaigning so late without Clothing, shoes, Hose or any necessarys, lying out all nights and repeated night marches, our Waggon are constantly loaded and the Regt under arms every morning two hours before day break to prevent our being attacked or cut off in other scattered cantonments, I am really quite wore out but must go through with it tho there is no appearance of any relaxation to our fatigues till the end of next Campaign I write you as if you had a map of Jersies before you but if you have not Mr Stirling¹¹⁵ will explain to you

I am sorry to inform you of the death of Capt Lesly¹¹⁶ Lord Levens son he was killed in the attack of Princetown when his Regt behaved very well, never was a young man more regreted & indeed none deserved it more that Regt has lost two Officers this Campaign that had not thier fellows for every amiable quality that can adorn Men

GD24/1/458/7

Amboy¹¹⁷ june 25th 1777

My Dear Sir Willm.

I had the pleasure of receiving your Letter of 31st janry, and two days ago that of 4th March, I wrote a few weeks ago an answer to L Stirlings Letter, & as I would upon every occasion write to some one of my friends to give them acct of us I delayed answering your former Letter till now, we have had a most trying winter quarter but happily overcame all difficultys & danger, repeated were the attacks the Rebels made upon us some acct of which I wrote, but the last was the most serious which happened on 10th of last month; 2000 of them under two Gen:ls attacked our Piquets in the wood where most of our former attacks had been, our men supported themselves Gallantly (not one sentry being drove in) untill they were forced by a Guard and these by two Comp:ys which I ordered up while I marched myself wt two Comp:ys out upon their right flank & attacked them, those in their front pushing them[c.o. selves] at same time, this put them in confusion, not believing we would be the aggressors, which I took the advantage of & pushed on wt the two Compys before the Rebels had time to recollect themselves, or know our numbers, and after a sharp contest of 3/4 of an hour when they were five to one they began to give way & run towards their Left where they attempted to form and come round our right but about 100 of the Light Infy coming up in their front began firing, & we pressing them on their right they broke & run we pursuing them for 3 miles to their Camp which they began and

struck in a great hurry, night coming on we were ordered back to our quarters by Lord Cornwallis who had come up on the firing, it was with great difficulty I could get our men to stop from the pursuit & was forced to send Officers and ride myself in to the front of the firing to stop them as I write to you only it will not be ostentatious to say never men behaved with greater spirit or determined resolution than ours did upon this occasion, or indeed through all the several affairs we have had & it is a doubt wt me if any 500 of his Majestys troops would have maintained themselves in an open scattered cantonment 2 Mile from any other troops for 5 months wtout allowing the Enemy ever to gain an advantage, except this Corps, we had 3 Serjts & 6 Privats: killed, 2 Off. (Majr McPherson & Lt Stewart) 2 Serjts & 15 wounded, we took a Rebel Capt & 36 prisoners, how many we killed I cannot say but the Rebels acknowledged wt near 200 killed, wounded, & missing. we got the Genls thanks on this occasion as we have three time in particular before, since that the rebels never have once looked at us, we encamped soon after & on the 12th Inst marched to Brunswick where the army was assembled, the 13th the Army marched to Hillsborough, or Somerset Court house, 9 miles, there we remained till 19th when the Army returned to brunswick, Mr Washington having kept wtin his mountains 7 or 6 miles from us where he was posted so strongly it was not thought prudent to try to force him nor was it prudent to march to the Delaware wt him in our rear, it was therefore resolved on to embark & carry on an expedition some where else transports having been prepared for that purpose we left Brunswick the 23d & came here same day 6 or 700 of the Riffle men popping at our rear

Staten Island July 3d thus far had I wrote when an order came to strike tents & prepare to march, on 26th we marched towards Washington who we had learned had left the mountains & approached us wt an intention of falling on our rear as we embarked, we were in two Columns the right hand Column fell in wt Lord Stirling who was their advanced party wt 3000 men & five pieces of Cannon the Rebels made no stand, but a running fight of it untill they got

to their strong holds, however we took 3 piece of brass Cannon 70 Prisoners & killed a good many wt little loss on our side, except some who died wt fatigue by drinking Cold & bad water, some marauders who were taken, we did not lose 20 men, a Capt Fynch of the Guards was killed, our Regt happened to be in the left Column which had not a shot fired at it except one at myself by my going to an eminence beyond our flankers to reconoitre but it missed me, we returned the 29th, & 1st of july, the whole left Amboy & crossed to this Island wtout a Rebel shewing himself in our rear, & here we are, where next God knows but it is much the same we cannot miss of our Enemys, nor need we Military men be afraid the Rebellion will be ended too soon it is a war for fifty years the Rebel Officers said to one of ours on a flag of truce, it is a war for fifty years say I too if we do not adopt severer measures, Mr Washington & Congress declared every one that was not their friend to be an enemy why [blotted] we adopt their maxim their should be no neutrality & very soon there [blotted] no rebellion, in place of that, simple John Bull is terrible angry if any severitys are used while he is bleeding to death by these ungratefull rebellious Rascals, [c.o. while they] who would sacrifice him & the Country they are sprung from to death & ruin to carry their republican plan, for my own part I hate cruelty and commiserate the unhappy wretches who has been deluded by their demagogues, but I am so much convinced of the necessity for the good of my Country, that I have not a doubt about it, & every house where the males were absent wt out a good cause or reason assigned I would destroy wt the plantation, after giving them my proclamation more, as we are fond of them, this would soon finish it, but while their familys lived quiet at home & when they can at all times come to when they tire of the service or their time is out, it is only a frolick to them to turn out and fight against the bloody backd Butchers, as they politely call us; for my share I am heartily tired of it as I can see no end in the manner we go on - All your Acquaintances are well, Archie is Bd. Major to G. Lesly. I hope Jamie Graham¹¹⁸ will get out to India by Mr Seton or Graham's means you mention nothing of the Bill on Agents for £300 I sent you in Janry. remember me in the kindest

manner to L Stirling & the young folks, my Lovely excellent Friend at Castlemilk¹¹⁹, & to all at Locklane Airth Keir Edin etc.

The safest way of sending Letters is by the Packet write always by that conveyance I am sorry to hear of poor Mr Russels death you have lost a faithful factor. Miss Murray has taken a prudent way of preventing a law plea but tho she may not have taken him for his Midding I would not say so much for him, Mum Cock has chose one of Brokes's beautys for a wife, Monzie has made a proper choice I wish he may disapoint Fennal. Adieu. our destination is a secret some say South some North we will embark as many thousands as then in marked on the Mile stone at the R Camp¹²⁰ I go again in the Brilliant Transport

Letter from James Graham to his mother, Ann Graham

ACC 12290 f. 6

Dear Mother

Your kind letter ought to have been answered sooner but my spare time is so little that it was impossible, I have had the Ferule¹²¹ for this long time also but have passed it just now - The dancing Master has just finished so that my hand trembles very much - Tell Mary Betty and Christy I should be happy to hear from them and want to know how poor canary is and whether he has got any young ones - Pray are the russians and Mr Rolifson returned to town tell Rachinsky to write me and Mr Bilyfe that Russian Gentleman has left Mr Bland's and that if he sends a letter I dont [sic] where he is gone. Though to answer

Mr Webster's letter would give me the greatest pleasure yet I must defere it till next Post when I shall write my Father also Besses picture of Davy McDowall is very like him - Have you got the Pictures of the whole family and are they pretty like? - My best comps. to all Friends companions and Masters especially Mr. Swanson and Mr Thomson I am very much obliged to Mr Houston for inclosing my letter to his friend. Pray send me some franks directed for you my Father of sisters I have begun drawing and fencing which between them cost £2.6s P Qr - You say my writing is changed and hope you think it is for the better. The coppies have not ben placed since the Hollydays so I sit the fourth at Table my eyes are quite strong

again so that it is no trouble to read write or to do any thing. The Smallpoks are gote into school so that two or three of the Boys are gone home it is lucky they are past over me - My Best compliments to my Brothers, Sisters, Lady Christy Erskine Mr Erskin and the Alva family and believe me

Dear Mother
Your Dutifull & affecte Son
James Graham

Bromley July 24th
1777

addressed: To
Mrs Graham

GD24/1/458/9

Camp near Philadelphia Novr 29th 1777
which I believe is to be our W quarter

My Dear Sir William,

I wrote Mrs Campbell lately 'tho I have had no late Letters from either of you, I was in hopes you would have acknowledged a Letter I wrote you from Pescataway¹²² in which was an order on Craighbarnet¹²³ from his son James for £200 Sterg being the price of an Ensigncy I purchased for him in our Regt, I then mentioned that his giving you a bond for that sum bearing Interest at 5 pr cent pr annum from Whitsunday 76 would be sufficient and that I should take care the young man should pay me the interest regularly, and in case he could save out of his pay it should be taken care off in case he thought £200 was too much to advance him, he is a very deserving Lad and merits to be countenanced besides Mr Stirling told me he would go what lengths I thought proper for his advancement as did his son John at Glasgow. I likewise wrote you by Kippendavie in Janry last and inclosed you a bill on our Agents Messrs Anderson and Richardson Lothbury London for £300 which you have never acknowledged the receipt of 'tho I have mentioned to you in every Letter and the last I received from them they told me they were ready to pay it 'tho it had not then appeared, this must be to the neglect of Kippendavie who either did not forward my Letter or has lost it you will therefore be so good as inquire after it if not come to hand and if so I have desired the Agents to honour your bill for that sum & your writing them at same time, that mine in janry shall not appear afterwards & if it should stop it, I beg therefore you will lose no time in doing so or advise me of your having received & drawn it and likewise about James Stirlings bill on his father Craighbarnet

I had a Letter from Annie telling the difficulty there was in getting her son James to the East Indies, I wrote her if she could think of letting him come in to the Army which was the only line I could be of any assistance to her in that there was an Ensigncy in our Regt. I could get just now for £200 which is one half what they sell for & as we had additional Compys in Scotland he might be kept there wt them and if she chose that to let me know and I should fix it if she did not for him to know if she had any objection to Henrys¹²⁴ name being put in if I got Lord Johns¹²⁵ to consent to his following his study's and employing a proper person to recruit for him this Contest cannot last much longer either Brittain must tire of the vast expence & wtdraw her troops or the Americans be subdued by a splendid exertion next Campaign in either case one year more must end it, if he is reduced on half pay he has still a good annuity for his money & follow any other business, I beg therefore no time may be lost in acquainting me her determination as I will keep it open till I hear from one of you if she declines it let me know if there is any young Gentn of our conection or acquaintance you would wish to serve your recommendation will go as far wt me as any ones, I am in hopes of getting Archie¹²⁶ a purchase of a Majority soon wt Sir Willm Erskines¹²⁷ assistance they are both in perfect health; I am almost afraid of writing you news for fear my Letter on that acct may not reach you but I hope after they have satisfied their curiosity they will be kind enough to seal it up and forward it you will have heard of Burgoynes Misfortune it appears to have been owing to his making such large detachments from his army & the moment he heard of the defeat at Benington¹²⁸ he ought to have returned to Ticonderoga or at least maintained himself on east of the river

untill he knew whether any assistance was coming up to him I know that country well & prognosticated if he crossed Hudsons river it was all over with him, some here thinks it will occasion a change of Ministry & of course a change of Measures but the evil is not so great but may be rectified and the [c.o. only] hurt it has done is the disgrace to the Bh arms & the Spirits it gives

the rebels for had Burgoyne got back wt his troops he must have lost his Cannon Stores &c & they could not have operated so early next year as the same number of men sent out from England who they will replace can do if they come early, [illeg.] since we did not push our operations up the river to make a junction wt him which we ought to have done & I always loudly said so, I do not feel it as many do, one more Spirited Campaign may do yet but we must change our method lenity has been tried wtout effect & I am sure had we burnt & destroyed Rebel property as we moved on the Rebellion would have been over, many [torn] are now sick of it & this would have kept the Militia at ho[torn] who are the support of Washingtons army as they keep comfortable at home till he is pushed than the alarm is given & every man turns out, but we must at least have 15000 men here by May from Europe for we are disabled by keeping Rhode Island New York & Philadelphia the two latter requiring an army to keep them thus much for Politicks - I have now the regret to inform you of poor Major Murrays¹²⁹ death who just after getting a Lt Col:cy was carried off by a fever I wrote Antony Murray¹³⁰ to acquaint his brother of it in case my Letter does not arrive pray write him I shall write Lintrose¹³¹ by next packet, I enclose you a bill for £50 for Mr D Erskine which be so good as send him I wrote you if you had no occasion for the £300 to put it into his into his hands . Remember me in the kindest manner to Lady Stirling & the young folks & to all my friends and believe me to be My Dear Sir Willm

Yours most affectionately

PS we talk of making a move yet Washington is wtin 16 miles of us

I forgot to mention a Scheme of purchasing for Pat Graham¹³² which I wish you would sound Inchbrakie upon there is Capt Jas Mcpherson¹³³ of ours at home who is ill in his health I have advised him to sell, there is none of the Lts above Pat Graham who can purchase & as he is low among our Lts it would be a very advantageous thing for him to get a Compy, this he can get for regulation (£1500) & if his father could be prevailed on to advance £700 I should be answerable the interest shall be paid him regularly & even some of the principal from time to time the remainder of the purchase money I shall find, if he agrees let him write Capt Mcpherson upon it & if Capt Mcpherson closes wt him for regulation let him write Lord John for his concurrence & to forward it in which no time should be lost as by its being speedily concluded Peter may soon get out of the break and for that £700 have

an addition of £110 per an: to his income & if he wished & thought Peter would be better or safer at home he will be ordered to Scotland in Mcphersons place I am anxious to have this carried through as Pat is deserving and so much for his advantage & therefore strongly advise it & I am sure his brother George would have no objections to advance that sum to his younger brother pray do not delay writing or seeing Inchbrakie upon this & let me know his final answer, if he agrees & settles with Mcpherson he must give his bond for £1500 payable on Pat's appointment but his present Commission will fetch £550, I will procure the £250 & he will only have £700 to pay & that at his leisure as Mcpherson will not call for the whole at once T S

Letter from Alexander Clark to William Graham, Airth House

MS 10924, f.1-2

Sirs

Jamaica St Anns – Ardoch 23d April 1778

I ws favoured with your Oblidging Letter of the 16th Novr 1776 and 20th Augt. last. The first I received only the 12th Octr. The other came to hand the 9th Febry last..by which I was happy to learn that all the good family were then well and again Settled at Airth House

Please to offer my grateful thanks to Mrs Graham and all the Family for their good wishes and the Many Other marks of their goodness I have unmeritedly experienced in But of which I shall ever retain a Gratefull sence..And accept of the same yourself for these repetitions of your friendship. I am Sorry this does not Accompany the few things you mentioned - As I could not attend at the time the Scotch Vessels were loading I gave a note of Articles mentioned, with some Others the Produce of this Country - to a Gentleman in the neighbourhood of Kingston who promised to Ship them for me ..But as he has not Advised me of his having done so, I imagine he has forgot - Hope you will not Ascribe it to Neglect or a forgetfulness of the many obligat. your goodness has laid me under. I hope to be able to Ship them myself on board some of the June Fleet bound for Glasgow or Leith - Mr Stirling writes you by the Vessel that carry's this for which I beg to deferr for Intelligence concerning the Rum Mrs Graham

wrote for..He enjoys perfect Health at present – And is improving this Property Very fast - The last Accounts from the Collonell was by a Gentleman from America to this Island, who left him well in december last.- There is no news Current at Present or worth Mentioning, the Prices of every Commodity has been very high here for Some time past - Mess Beeff was Selling in Kingston for £7-10 & in the out Posts for £10 P Barrel - But the great Quantity imported in the last Cork Fleet with a large monopoly (said to amount to 30,000 Barrels) in the Merchants of Kingstons Hands - has So filled the Market that the same Quality of Beef sells now for less than one half of the former price Which I am inform'd is 16 P Cent less than the Prime Cost in Ireland - The Monopolizers have made Application, for a repeal of an Act Pass'd some time ago prohibiting the Exploitation of Provision, but have not Succeeded

- Every other Article of provision was proportionably high and has undergone the like Change - Tho' I am Affraid it wont last notwithstanding the great Quantitys of Cattle that are sent to Market by the Penns Which are daily increasing - Virginia Cutt & dry Tobacco, sells at present for 6/3 Currency Ptds which is almost 5/- £St tho' there is a great deal of this Countrys produce carried to Market and used by way of Aeconomy by most People - Mixt with the Virginia

which answers the purpose of Smoaking very well and that is in general the way that Tobacco is used in the Country - Sterling is to the Currency of this Country as £100 to 140 - or 40 P Cent Exchange

The exports from here to Britain are Sugar, Rum, Molasses, Cotton, Pimento or Codpepper, Tobacco, Indigo, Logwood & other Dye Stuffs, Fruits of different kinds &c &c

- The Imports are Household Furniture of all kinds - Every kind of wearing Apparell, for Man & Woman &c- Provisions of All kinds - such as Beeff, Pork, Fish, Butter, Cheese, Herrings, Potatoes, Flour, Barley, Oatmeal &c - All kinds of Course Cloths such as Printed Linnen, Osnaburghs, Blank[torn] Handkerchiefs &c And all kinds of Tools for Negroes [torn] kinds of Malt Liquor & other Liquors Wines & Spirits -

- There were formerly great Quantitys of Salt Fish, Flour Rice and other Provisions imported from America - but that is now Stopt except what is taken as prizes which is some times very considerable - I am afraid I have trespassed upon your patience - Therefore shall only add that I am happy in the enjoyment of good Health - Which I hope this will find you Mrs Graham and all the Family enjoying

- My Business is become Familier & agreeable to me having an employer equally averse to Idleness & Oppression And affords every thing for my Comfort & welfare - I have Settled with him & paid the Money I had in advance -

Please Remember me to Mr Graham and all the Family - And to Mrs Campbell and allow me to remain with respect and Esteem - Sir

Your very Hble. & oblided Servt.
Alex Clark

North Britain

[Noted in another hand: Alexr Clarke, 23d April 1778 Jamaica]

Letter from Charles Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, f.116

Dr Sir

Ardoch April 24th 1778

[in another hand: answered 9 Novr 1778]

Your favour to Mr Clerk gave me infinite pleasure by conveying so agreeable news the welfare of yourself and so fine a Family your unwearied attention to enquire after my health demands a most gratefull return. Mr. McLaughlan¹³⁴ who arrived here safe and who stay'd with me till I provided him with a good birth entertain'd me very agreeably with a general Acct. of all my friends and you in particular. I observe your kind enough to invite me to a Correspondence nothing could be more agreeable than such a proposal I take this opportunity of breaking the Ice and tho my Letter may not be so long as I could wish I will make up that difficiency in my next. I cannot help thanking you for recommending Mr. Clerk to me I assure you he fullfills every part of his recommendation and gives me great Satisfaction, his Apprentiship will end with this year

when I intend giving him a very Considerable Augmentation of Sallary at least Double his present one as there is due you £22 Sterg. which is £30 16 this Cury. for his Expences I purpose sending you two punsheons of Rum in our June fleet which I suppose will nearly discharge that debt if any Ballance remains it shall be sent.

My property no doubt you have heard consists in Negroes, Stock and lands in Geany grass I fatten a number of Cattle for the Butchers breed Steers, Horses, and Mules for the Planters the Negroes here behave remarkably well I have had no absentees but one negro for 7 years, & My Increase has exceeded my decr[blot] which is rarely the Case. I shall be happy to have return to this, with all the news your Country afords, please offer my most affectt Compts. to my Dear Sister and the young folks and believe me to be with true regard and esteem

Dr Sir

Your affectt. Brother & Hum Servt
Chas. Stirling

Letter from Alexander Clark to William Graham

MS 10924, ff.3-4

Dear Sir

Being at present here on Some Business, I have Ship'd by Mr Stirlings desire, on board the Isabella Capt Mason for Glasgow, a puncheon of Rum containing 108 Gallons at 2/4 this Currency, which Amounts in Stirling to £9 Stg derected to the care of Campbell & Thomson Greenock - Which I hope will come safe - I had derections to buy & Ship a Bag of Cotton for Mrs Campbell but could not get the Capt. to put it anywhere but on the Ships Quarter & in that case would not be answerable for Any Accidents - Therefore deferr'd Sending it, till it can be conveyed with more

safty

I have Sent by the same opportunity a Jarr of Tamerands & a Jarr of Pine Jamm, which I beg Mrs Graham will please to accept of from me - It is not yet in my power to send any yams or Pummelnosses (here cal'd Shaddocks) nor the Rose wood - the last I have bespoke at Northside (none being to be got on this side of the Island) which will be Ship't on board the first ship for Glasgow or Leith - Mr Stirling had a Slight touch of the Fever About a week ago but I hope is now got clear of it. I left him well yesterday Afternoon. I suppose he will write you by this opportunity

I have the Happiness to Acquaint you that I am in good Health, Hoping you & all the good Family are enjoying the same Blessing - Mr Stirlings Penn is going on very well Will be happy to hear by first Opportunity that all is Prospering with you - I have not received Any Letters Since Mr McLauchlanes Arrival - I have wrote since, - Please Remember Me to Mrs Graham Mrs Campbell And all the good Family at Airth - To Miss Hewit - Mr & Mrs Ure¹³⁵ - And Please accept of my best wishes yourself And Allow me to remain -

Dear Sir

Your Most Hble. & obliged Sert.

Alex Clark

Kingston in Jamaica

23d July 1778

PS. Please direct for me at Ardoch near Mount Diablo – care of the Post Master Spanish Town Jamaica

Addressed to: William Graham of Airth...

P the Isabella Capt. Mason Q D C

stamped: 31 OC

[in another hand: Alexr Clark 23 July 1778 Answered 9 Nov]

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Sir William Stirling

GD24/1/458/10

Bedford Camp Long Island Augst 20th 1778

I am very sorry My Dear Sir William to have given my friends so much trouble to no manner of purpose the very warm & kind manner Mrs Stewart¹³⁶ has bestird herself deserves my strongest acknowledgements, I did not know who to write to at Glasgow, but as I had received great civility from Mr Hopkirk, & you mentioning him as one who had been my friend I wrote him, not knowing the footing it was on, I am infinitely obliged to Mr Houston & Mr Rae¹³⁷ for their good Offices and shall take an opportunity of letting them know it, I had a letter from Ld Barrington that he had laid mine before the King, & one from Mr Lewis Depy: Secretary giving me no hopes, I have reconciled my mind to it and got into a pleasing kind of Apathy which suits well with the inactive part we are taking now and have no more stomach for fighting than the most peaceable of your Minsters, I tormented and wore myself out wt thinking & scheming what was for our advantage & always foremost in offering myself when any thing appeared to be done, I now see the folly of it as it was not my business & Brittain will last as long as I will do

Mr D Estaigne¹³⁸ after riding triumphant ten or twelve days went off & attacked Rhode Island where

we have 7000 troops they were obliged to burn five of our Frigates & about 20 sail of other vessels to prevent them falling into the Enemy's hands, Lord Howe after mustering everything he could and being reinforced by one 74 Gun ship of Byrons fleet that was separated from him (the rest not having appeared yet) sailed after D'Estaigne to Rhode Island who immediately upon his appearance came out to attack him L.H. slipped his Cables & put to sea & but for a storm that came on an engagement would probably have ensued but it lasted for three days which scattered both fleets & dismasted one of the french Lord Howe came back two days ago, one of his 50, the Isis Capt Rayner behaved most Gallantly having met with the F. rear Admiral of 74 attacked her for 3 Glasses & probably would have taken her if his rigging had not been totally demolished, the F. manoeuvring fairly off, it is expected L H will soon go in quest of them they being seen off the Delaware 8 of them two days ago D'Estaigne left 2 or 3 frigates at Rhode Island by whose assistance we hear the Rebels have landed on the Island to the amount of 12000, what the fate of this may be time will show, what we are to do I cannot say as I never enquire about it, The Commissars have no more success than at first

tell Lady Stirling I got her Letter & will answer it soon I am Glad you are reconciled to Annie¹³⁹ since it could not be prevented, I hope the Capt will make a good husband and take himself up since he has commenced Mr of a family I am sorry you have reason to complain of Charles he wrote me he had sold Batchelors hall¹⁴⁰ merely to pay Doctor Finlay and I suppose it must be owing to a failure in the payment; as I advised you to let him have that credit I am very willing to bear a part in the risk and you may call on Mr David Erskine for £300 more on my account as I shall send him bills to the amount on my Agent immediately I just now learnt D'Estaigne is got back to R Island 17000 yankies landed & I think that place lost

We have had great promotion in our Regt but the New Levys and have got them to go all in the Regt, Pat Graham has now two Capts below him, Jas: Stirling I have got a Ltcy for, & Jas Young's son¹⁴¹ who is as loyal, as his father is opposite tho I believe thro' necessity, I have brought in as Ensign, Mr Callender¹⁴² Graigforth's son Vol:r in 71st has got an Ensigncy likewise in ours, & I have yet three Ensigns to recommend, if you have any one you wish to get in send me his name per first Packet Major Grant¹⁴³ is selling, C C Graham¹⁴⁴ buys & Lt Dalrymple¹⁴⁵ the Compy we can get no Majority for Archie, but what he loses in rank he gains in his Pocket, as he is now better than £100 pr ann: than if he was Major beside interest of purchase Money, he and Sir W. E. are in perfect health Genl. Lesly has not been well since our march through the Jerseys nor do I think he is on mending hand, my kindest Compts. to L S & the young folks, to my Amiable Patroness & all my friends & believe me ever to be most affectely yours T.S.

[in another hand: Answered Octr 24th 78]

Letter from Thomas Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, f.64

English Neighbourhood in Jersey [America]

Dear Airth

Oct 3 1778

[in another hand: 31 Decr & 25 Janry 30th March 1779]

I wrote Mrs Campbell in August desiring you would pay Willm: McDonald Writer in Edinr the price of Commission for Henry¹⁴⁶ £210 and that I had sent a bill for £100 to Mr D Erskine which he was to apply for your use to enable you to make that paymt: - since that a different arrangement is made and I have given bills here upon my Agent for £150 Sterg of that sum, so that you need not

pay it to Mr McDonald but as I mentioned it was to be paid at Martinmass I am afraid this may not arrive in time, however I suppose [c.o. it] the £150 may be got back, leaving the £60 in his hands - I enclose you the second of bill for £100 which I sent Mr D Erskine for above purpose which please send him least the first may have miscarried, it went by Capt Pat Graham -
I have had an excursion on the Coast of New England under Genl. Grey¹⁴⁷ wt one Battn: L. Infy one Grenadier & nine of foot we went first to the relief of Rhode Island then besieged by the Rebels who went off than to a place called Bedford where we landed burnt 50 or 60 vessels & as many small craft a number of Store houses full of good rum Casked

without any Loss we then went to Marthas vineyard where we took off 10,000 Sheep & 300 bullocks on our return met wt a violent gale & was wtin 3 feet of perdition happily we clawed off the shore & two days after landed safe after a 4 week trip but there is no rest for the wicked next day we got orders to march & crossed Hudson river for this province at Nous y voila our chief business is foraging, tho we have since our coming here cut up Washingtons Regt of life Guards Dragoons they were all asleep in barns when our Light Infy, dashed in among them & only 3 escaped of 128, upwards of 80 were bayoneted the rest taken wt their Horses &c what more we are to do or how long to stay I know not nor do I give myself much trouble about it, it is all in our days work... Adieu My Dear Airth kindest Love to Annie & the Bairns & remember me to all my other friends and believe me

Yours Sincerely
Thos Stirling

Letter from Sir William Stirling to Thomas Stirling

ACC 12290 f.17

Ardoch 24th Octr 1778

I would not delay one Moment my Dear Tom in acknowledging your letter of the 20th of August from Bedford Camp and assuring you of the pleasure it gives me to hear from you often and of your being in good health. by the same post Lady Stirling had a letter from Lady Christian Erskine telling her of Mr Erskines having a letter from Archie dated the 6th of Septr mentioning your having gone to Rhode Island with Sr H Clinton to the relieff of that place I hope upon the appearence of your reinforcement the Rebels would go off and that you are by this time in Winter Quarters safe at New York -

I am heartily sorry that Lord Howe had not an opportunity of trying his Strength with Mr DEstaigne as I entertained the Greatest hopes his Lordship would have destroyed his whole Fleet which is the first thing that would probably give our Affairs a favourable turn in America as I have not the least hopes from our Commissioner We have had in the News Papers Mr Johnstons Correspondence with some Members of the Congress which if genuine is most Extraordinary and little is to be expected from such Commissioners -

I am sorry to find that Lord Barrington has given you so little satisfaction in his Answer to your letter this life is made up of Dissapointments and we must endeavour to reconcile ourselves to them in the easiest Manner possible -

I wrote you in my former letter that I was to make a Settlement of my Affairs Sorry I am that it is out of my Power not to make them more favourable for you which was much my Inclination but the

Old Investitures of the Estate by which my Contract of Marriage was wrote has tied up my hands and I can leave you nothing except the Lands of Wester Fedall which I purchased since my Marriage and can dispose of as I please but as these Lands lay Contiguous to the Lands of Ardoch I consulted Mr Isla Campbell¹⁴⁸ whether I could not leave you Pendreech in their room as they are nearly equal Rent and he has given it as his Opinion that I may - Accordingly I have made a Strict Entail of my Estate wherein all the Succession is Named according to Order and Failing of Heirs Male of my Body I leave you the Estate of Pendreech I wish my Dear Brother I could have left you my whole Estate as I think wherever there is a Title the Fortune should go with it - you will easily guess my Reason for Entailing

I regrete that Drumdrouls did not fall in my hands as it would have made Pendreeche very Compleat perhaps it may be got yet, one Mr Wright in Stirling Bought it - Soon after I wrote you I has a letter from Charles telling me that the Person who had Purchased Batchelors Hall could not make good his payment from the Scarcity of Money at Home upon my telling this to John Stirling he Informs me that Charles could have sold it to a Gentleman who would have given him good Bills upon London for his Money but he rather Chose to Sell it to a man who gave him £200 more and who was not to be depended upon and probably may lose his Money - I wrote Dr Finlay that I hoped he would not push me for the Money till we saw whet[torn] Charles would make a remittance if he still insis[torn] upon it I shall Borrow the £300 from D Erskine and give him my security for it - I thank you for the offer of the Ensigncy you mention[torn] but as I have nobody to recommend you may dispose of it - Pat Graeme would inform you of his Sisters Marriage with Rothearns, we expect to hear of Orchills Death every Day - Capt Moray and his Spouse are with us he has Sold out - Mrs Campbell is just now at Airth they are all very well - Lady Stirling and all here join me in kind Compts and best Wishes to you remember me to Archie and all Friends. I hear Sir W Erskine comes home. I wish you was to Succeed him as Q.M. General and follow his example every way I ever am most affectionately yours W. Stirling

[addressed: Lt Colonel Stirling 42d or Royal Highland Regt
New York
North America

Letters from Thomas Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff.65-66

Dear Airth

New Town 28th Feby 1779

I wrote you 3d of Oct to pay Mr Mcdonald writer for Major Mcdonald¹⁴⁹ £60 Sterg in place of £210 which I had in a former Letter desired to be paid having made another arrangement by giving Major Mcdonald bills for £150 here, and for that £60 I gave him a bill on Mr D Erskine as your doer, this I hope is all settled, I am now to acquaint you that your Son Henrys name is given in and out in orders as Ensn. on the 42d Regt. his commission bears date 11th Novr 77¹⁵⁰ there was a necessity for it as it is now the Eldest of that rank in the Regt, and could be no long delayed I shall stave off his joining till next spring and than endeavour to put him to the Additionals where the chief of his duty will be recruiting which you know is done by Sergrts, I would not have him know any thing of his appointment as it may make him Idle nor should it be spoke of to any body particular attention must be paid to those branches of education proper for a Military man his pay will afford all those, I have ordered the Agents to credit wt the bygones which amounts to £59.10 to 24th Aprill 79 after paying interest &c to Majr

Mcdonald this I shall retain which will reduce the sum paid by me including every thing to £100 which we shall settle afterwards, his pay after the 24th April I shall regularly acct to you for, you will observe I have only mentioned his Subn: which is 3 Shg P diem, his arrears which amounts to £6 or 7 pr Anm will be paid him when Issued which is generally 2 year behind hand - I hope this arrangement will be agreeable to you & Annie if you dislike it or he should He can sell it for £400 having purchased or if he continues in the profession it was worth £165 to be at the Head of the Ensigns at once by which means he may be a Lt for nothing in a few months, if he comes to be reduced his half pay as Lt is £40 a good anuity for £160, and he may then try some other trade by Annies last Letter she desired to know if I wanted the Interest fm you for what is in you hands of mine as it was convenient for you to pay it, as so, you will pay it into Mr D Erskine hands up to Martinmass 78 who will give you a full discharge and as I am sending some bills to Mr Erskine I would wish the whole of it to be in one sum & laid out at Interest at Whitsunday which be so good as acquaint him of, Inclose the first of two bills one for £200 - endorsed by H Fraser¹⁵¹, the other for £300 from our Pay Mr on Agents both Payable to David Erskine which be so good as forward to him, you must not think all this my own severall

in the Regt have beged of me to take their money & lay it out for them which I could not refuse I have wrote Sir Willm by this same Packet kind Compliments to all at Airth Bowness &c &c &c and believe me to be

yours most affectily
Thos Stirling

MS.10943, ff.67-68

Newtown April 26th 1779

Your Letters of 31st Decr & 25th Jany: came all in one Packet on the 24th Int; no Jany CHECK having been sent, we expected great publick news by then not having heard from Brittain since Decr, but find the same thing over again Minoritys battling hard for a Slice of the Pudding, while your Majority looks like a Glutton who has overeate himself till he is sick & then falls into a kind of stupor that nothing can rouse him out of, reinforcements are said will be sent in the spring they had better send a head for what we have already & a regular system of operation otherwise they may send troops of Warley Common & Cox Heath Camps¹⁵² too & not be one bit the better for them it will not do; America may fall by its internal divisions, back to its former Master, but we will never do it, at any rate we will never receive any good from this Country, but enough of politics I wrote you 27th Febry that Henry is out in orders as it could no longer be delayed, that I had ordered the Agent to credit me wt the Sub:n. to 24th April 79 amounting to £59.10 as part of the price paid by me & interest to Majr. Mcdonald untill be was paid up, that after that there remained £100 advanced by me & the £60 I had given a bill on D Erskine for which I find he has paid, I enclosed two bills endorsed to D Erskine one of £200 of Gordon & Crowder to Hugh Fraser the other of £300 of Jn McIntosh Pay Mr on Agents, to be sent him and requested you would pay up the Interest of the money in your hands up to Martinmass last which wt the bills sent home I meant

should be laid out at Whitsunday, as you had desired Mrs Graham to tell me it was convenient to do it, you will see by this that Henrys Commission has only cost £160 which was well worth giving to be at top of Ensns¹⁵³ at once as he is now & hope soon he will be Lt, I shall put him on the strengthth [sic] of the Addn Compoys when it is necessary he joins which I think will not be till next spring however I think it ought to be concealed from his as long as possible that it may not divert his studys which ought chiefly to be Mathematicks, drawing, Arithmetick French Fencing dancing &

riding, the Games My Dear Airth are absolutely necessary he must not want them, I would not have the Latin thrown quite aside only so far as to make room for the others, the use of Maps & the Globe wt a Little of astronomy will not be amiss, his pay will go some length to assist you which shall be regularly accounted to you from the 25th Ap: at 3sh 6d p Dm you desired me to send state of Accts betwixt us I know none but the last bill fm Mars: 74 to 78 which I requested you would pay to Mr Erskine & the £60 he has paid Mr Mcdonald by my order as for the £100. I do not mean you should pay me untill Henry is Lt. & then not till I call for it. -

I am heartily sorry for your complaint & sincerely wish you better but as you acknowledge you are subject to be hipped¹⁵⁴ I hope it is nothing but an indigestion, want of usual exercise or some such cause there can be no harm in making your will or Settling your affairs I think it must rather make ones spirits much lighter that so necessary & serious an affair is finished, I am happy you find your affairs in winding them up in such tolerable order and that you

have throve on Matrimony I believe your partner well disposed to assist in saving a fortune if she did not bring one I wish wt all my heart Jamie was disposed of he is losing time & it is very doubtfull if he can be got out I hope he has got the better of his dislocation, I sincerely condole wt Jamie Mcdowal¹⁵⁵ on the loss of his Wife, I have heard from Young Castle semple¹⁵⁶ & shall write him but I am afraid my intentions are frustrated as Archie Erskine has got preferment in Decr last & the other Capt in our Regt. who was determined to quit has now changed his mind however I think Compys in other Corps can be got if Mr Mcdowal agrees to that --- I am sorry to hear the distress the Country is in since the Air Bank¹⁵⁷ it will be a severe lesson to country Gent not to meddle wt business they know nothing of - Since you ha[blot] a communication which was justly broke off by you there is [torn] no help for it but I hope you will never let it become so familiar as to lay yourself under the pride vanity and Caprice of that Person again, his fortune would have been dearly carried at the price of 20 years servitude to him whims liking or dislikes Tell My Dear Annie I received her postscript on the twins Birthday¹⁵⁸ in very kind part and sincerely approve of her sentiments that Man & Wife is one flesh & wish heartily all married Ladies were of same way of thinking for if they did having a great deal of self love they would like their own flesh better than other peoples but I would not have the Husbands think so as some inconvenience might arise from not knowing the difference joking apart tell her I love her & all conected wt her & that you, She & the bairns will have always the warmest corner of Affection & regard in the Heart of yours & hers affecte. T S

Letter from Sir William Stirling to Thomas Stirling

ACC 12290 f. 16

Ardoch 26th April 1779

I congratulate you very Sincerely my Dear Tom upon your being appointed one of His Majestys Aides de Camp which was Notified to me from London by our Member Colonel Murray befor it appeared in the Gazette - he at the same time wrote me that you probably would get a letter of Service to Serve in America as Brigadier General, this I have heard nothing of but I suppose in case you do not get such a letter you will come home - I am now to acknowledge your letter of the 27th Febry from Long Island Inclosing a Bill of £400, payable to Mr David Erskine which I immediately forwarded him and got an Answer last post of his having received it - I am heartily sorry you did not Surprise Maxwell¹⁵⁹ and his Brigade I believe he is the Gentleman who attacked your Quarters in Winter 77 at Night and who you beat off the Circumstances of your Boats being aground was rather perilous but these Rascalls will never fight but under the greatest Advantage - you mention having got Ludes¹⁶⁰ Son Wm a Ltcy in Frasers by purchase but I suppose you mean

John as I observe in the Gazette his Name from 82d Regt appointed at Lt in 71 vice Charles Mais - I wrote you in Janry and mentioned my having a letter from Lude Acknowledging how much he was Obligated to you for this Step to his Son John - I wish after all you have done for Henry Graham he may take a turn for the Army I suppose in case he should not, you will have no difficulty in getting his Commission Sold - I thank you for remembring William Edmondstone he will be ready to join so soon as ever you order him. I have desired Pat Graham to enter him as Volunteer and in

his return to Lord John to acquaint him that his father Cambuswallace is a Freeholder in the County of Perth - I wrote you in Janry of my having purchased Drumdrails in order to make Pendrieck as Complete and Comfortable a Situation as was in my power and I think if the Proprietor Lived upon the Spot it may easily be made an Estate of £300 per Annum. I have often regretting since I came to understand that my Contract would not Allow me to Alter my Settlements that I had put it out of my Power to Leave the Estate of Ardoch to you as my Heirs Male failing of my own - No Man has a greater Value for the Standing of a Family than I have and it was my Ignorance in Settlement and its have been done so by my Grandfather that was the cause of it and I have no other way of Testifying my Regard for you but in the way and Manner I wrote you formerly - if ever we meet I shall try if it is possible to Sell Ardoch to you without Involving you in a Law Plea in case of my Death - the disparity in our Ages is surely not much and though your Proffession has given your Constitution some Rubs and may expose you to Danger, yet the Battle is not to the Strong nor the Race to the Swift our Life is not in our own hands and therefor I wish to be prepared for whatever Events may happen - I hope you have not given up thoughts of Matrimony and suppose I have no Sons yet you may. you once thought of it not long ago and mentioned it to me but a Preliminary to it by the Ladys Friends of your quitting the Army at that time I own I did not approve of tho I believe I did not say so to you

I applaud your Motives for Oeconomy greatly, as they agree entirely with my own Sentiments - I had but a hundred Pds a year at my Fathers Death free out of my Estate to live upon I may say I have had a Struggle to get through Life and I think it is Likely to be so Still, After I thought I had got my Head Above Water Charles¹⁶¹ is likely to be a Miln Stone about my Neck, I have £500 to pay for him at Whitsunday to Dr Finlay and I make no doubt I shall have the other £500 to pay soon. I am affraid with this demand I shall not be able to pay David Erskine your Interest at this Term my Bill to you for the principles is perfectly good - what you mention concerning your Will in my Favour I look upon it in the Light you Intend it. Tho not literally as a Pepper Corn and if any unforeseen Event should put that in my power you may assure yourself it shall go as you desire - it is my wish to live with you in the Strictest and Warmest Friendship and to Conceal nothing from you - I should be happy if your Situation would permit you to Settle in Scotland your present Promotion perhaps may bring that soon About - I have Settled £200 a year upon Lady Stirling £500 of Portion upon each of my younger Children with Double Interest While they are unmarried and as each of them have a Tontine Annuity they are to enjoy that also and if any of them are Married the Unmarried ones to get the Benefit of it and if they shall all be married then my Heir Male is to draw the Tontine Annuity during the Survivors Lives - I leave you also the Order of Nova Scotia it is about a hundred Guineas Value and I think the handsomest I have seen

Honest Orchill is at last Dead and was Buried this day Senight I dont know if Lady Orchill is to remain at Orchill or not - Our Worthy Friend Sir Henry Seton has had a Severe Illness it was Called a Slow Fever Doctor Stirling Attended him. Lady Stirling who is in Edinburgh Attending her Mother wrote me he and Lady Seton had been in Town and that he was Seized with a Violent pain in his Side which Alarmed his Friends as you know how much depends upon his Life he is ordered to Jaunt about for his health and he had gone to Edin to ask leave of the Commissioner - Mrs Erskine is in a very precarious Situation just now - I am sorry Archie did not get an Exchange made

with Major Graham by his going to Rhode Island we wont hear so frequently of you as he never missed an Opportunity

I believe I never mentioned to you when the new Levys were going on last year General Graeme told me he had applied to Lord Barrington to Raise a Regt for you but was refused. I thought I would let you know this - you will no doubt have heard that Harry Graemes Daughter is married to Sir Andrew Hammond who Pat Graham tells me is your acquaintance - John Stirling has bought Kippenross pays £12700 for it Mr Pearson desires it may be kept private for what reason I do not know, he Moves against Martinmass all friends are in goo Health I saw Mrs Campbell at Muthill yesterday. I see by the Paper Colonel Campbell is arrived from Carrolina with great news of a Victory but no particulars as yet my best Wishes ever Attend you and believe to be

Most Affectionately yours W Stirling

Letter from Alexander Clark to William Graham

MS. 10924, ff. 5-6

Sir [in another hand: 22d Nov 79/7th Decr 79]

I was favoured with your indulging letter of 9th. Novr. last a few weeks ago, by which I was happy to hear that you Mrs Graham and all the good Family were then well, and that your affairs were going so agreeably - I had not the pleasure of any letters before that since your favour of the 29th. Augt. 1777 - by Mr Maclachlane, tho, considering the times, I think I have been very lucky - I thank you for your kind enquiry after my Health Finances &c. - I have enjoyed (upon the whole) a very good state of Health ever since I arrived here, to which, I believe the exercise, my Business requires me to take, has not a little contributed - Mr Stirlings Business requires all my attention I have at the rate of £80 Currey P ann: since January last, before that period (by the provision afforded me by your and Mrs Grahams goodness) my Salary Satisfied all my demands, besides paying what I had in Advance and purchasing a Horse &c of about £35 value

Mr Stirling enjoys good health at present and the penn here is doing very well – there is a great demand for Cattle & Stock of all kinds & consequently they Sell well. -

I am much obliged to you for the news of the Country, but can make no return in kind. My Attention being now chiefly confined to the Penn business, prevents my hearing of anything that

would be entertaining to you, the news occassioned by the war I presume you have sooner than we.

I am much obliged to you and Mrs Graham for your kind remembrance of me in sending the Shoes and Stockings As you did not mention by whom they were sent, I have been at some loss where to enquire for them - However I am in hopes of finding them, first time I go to Kingston myself - and the people there, that I desired to enquire for them, I believe has not been at due pains - In your next please to mention by whom then were sent as the owner in these cases are seldom look't for, by the Merchts.

- I have Ship'd a Bag of Cotton on board the General Dalling Captain Speirs for Glasgow, for Mrs Graham - And Mr Stirling one for Mrs Campbell - As I could not get to Kingston myself, Instructions were sent a [c.o. Gentleman] a Mercht. there, for doing it; and at some time, to desire his Correspondent to Advise you, for soon as the Ship arrived, in case that this should not come to hand - I have not yet got an amount of the exact price - Will let you know it in my next -

I am happy to hear your good Accounts of Messrs James, Henry & Thomas, beg to be remember'd to them, first time you See or write them, likewise to Mrs Graham & the young Ladies; thank them for thier [sic] good wishes, & that every thing good and agreeable may attend you and them is the sincere wish of

Sir -
Your much Obliged Hubl. Servt.
Alex Clark

Jamaica Ardoch St Anne
22d. July 1779

P.S. I beg you will acquaint Miss Hewit that I was favoured with her kind letter for which I thank her - As the Express is just now going off to Kingston by which this goes, prevents me writing but will Next Opportunity that Offers - Please to remember me kindly to her -

Letter from Charles Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff.117-118

My Dear Brother
Ardoch July 22d 1779
[in another hand: 22d Novr 1799]

Your Affectionate Letter came safe to hand of date Novr. 78, & believe me, it afforded me much pleasure, to find your family were well, your kind wishes for the Success of my [c.o. thrift] property I heartily thank you for. And please Accept the same from me to you & yours -

I understand ye have been Anxious about the fate of Jamaica, I believe more than we have been, the Martial law has been in force some time last year which I assure you is very troublesome & Expensive generally being posted near or rather at Taverns which costs Officers on Acct. of their Men a good deal of Money.

I happen (perhaps Misfortunately) to be a Capn. of the Militia therefor most [sic] bear a part. While Britain will keep a good fleet in the W. Ind. I think there is little fear, besides from my Interior Situation I am not afraid of my property being almost in the Centre of the Island.

I caught in Agust Last a very Severe cold from night Watching which brought on Tertian fever & Ague which lasted almost 3 Months but thank God I am quite well again As to news we have had little from America

I had a Letter from Tom of date Feby. wherein he mentions General Grants escape from D. Estange and the repulse of his Attack, also General Prevorts success in Georgia which I daresay you have heard long ago as to the News here we have had in general fine seasons this Spring which has made out pastures flush of grass and consequently have fatt Stock, Beef is sold for Sevenpence half penny pr pound but the generality of Grassiers of St Ann's Parish had enter'd into an Assotiation not to sell any fatt Cattle under 18 in the Skin and that the Butcher should ask [c.o.] 19 for it in the Market; but the Kingston Merchants hath oposd it Strenously, I am not certain, but I think if we will be unanimous we will carry our point.

this is done to make our Commodity bear some proportion to the great rise of price of every kind of Merchantdize which we are obliged to consume, which you'll allow is but equitable; if it takes place it will put a Thousand Gueanys in my pocket; in deed Stock of all kinds particularly Horses, are Scarce and very dear, I have sold Horses none under £50, 70, 100, & one at £100 Sterling since I wrote you last, & I have one that is only 3 years old which will bring the letter [sic] Sum, but I misfortunately lost my English Stallion last Autumn which has oblig'd me to cover most of my Mares with the Jack Asses, I have 3 worth £100 Sterling pr head all of which I rais'd with in my self Messrs. James & John Allans my present Corespondents in Kingston wrote me last night that they have ship'd 2 Bayls of Cotton on board the General Dalling

for Glasgow directed to you with a Letter of advice. One of which is for Mrs Campbell, the other is sent by Mr. Clerk to Mrs Graham. As to the £9 enquire if I am indebted to Mrs Campbell for a Gold watch which was to be sent me (but not yet come) if I am, please pay it or as much as may be due to her, the [c.o.] Ballances in Glasgow Herrings I allow my Negs. 12 Barrells pr Annum but they could eat 20. The Captains of Ships at present are so saucy that they will not take any thing aboard of small value otherwise might have sent some of those Artickles you mentioned to Mr. Clerk to whom I shall leave you for the rest of the news. I made him my Overseer 1st of Janry. last, and with a little more Experience I dare say he'll answer every purpose he buy in all the lean Cattle for me, he has pu[torn] near a hunder since April last. Mr. Clerk tells m[torn] just now the Punsheon with the rum Amounts to £10:18:01 Sterling. My Dr. Sister Ann must excuse my not writing her this time as I am realy hurry'd. I wish I could jump over the Atlantick and see ye all, but it will not do yet.

Wishing every thing that is good to attend ye I remain

My Dear Brother

Your affectt. Hum Sert.

Chas: Stirling

Letters from Thomas Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, f.70

Strong point 45 Miles fr NYk: on West side Hudson river

Augt 6th 1779

[in another hand: answered 28 Oter 25 Novr]

I received yours, Dear Airth, of 29th Apr: but being up at this post the Packet sailed before I got them, I am sorry to find Henrys choice is not for the Army as He is now the Eldest Ensn: & every day I expect him appointed Lt however let there be no compulsion used 'tho I wished he had been so inclined as he he would be sure of half pay when this War is over & if his inclination led him to follow any other profession £40 pr an: would always assist him, he may study when an Offcr as I had no intention to call him over, at least for a couple of years if there is no Spanish War, I think this wt France & America must be soon ended – however I shall defer disposing of the Commission until I hear finally from you therefore write me immediately so soon as you & he have determined, & repeat your answer the succeeding Packet -----

I only desired you would pay up the Intr due as Annie had said it was convenient, I am sorry Jamie

is still hanging on. I shall try to get a Letter fm this side if I know where to send it - I was disappointed in the purchase for H. Mcdowal¹⁶² by the Letter coming to late, I am still looking out for him will not forget him yours by Mr Chas Buchan I received but we Military have little in our power to be of use to any young adventurer if I had should attend to yr Recomn: I only saw him once I shall write Sr Wm & Mrs Campbell soon remember me to them kindly & to all yours I ever am

Dr Airth

yours faithfully

Thos. Stirling

MS.10943, ff.71-72

Dear Airth

Staten Island Feby 24th 1780

[in another hand: 28 May]

I am to acknowledge your Letters of 30th Sept 28th Oct. and 25th Novr. all which came in one Packet which arrived the 20th Inst: being the first accts we have had from your side since Sept.; it ever gives me pleasure to hear of your Welfare but after so long a period it was doubled I am happy to find James has got appointed at last, he has poor man been kept long in suspension I hope no accident will intervene to baulk him, and that he will thrive -

Henrys Commission is not disposed of & you would learn by some of my Letters in Octr & Decr that he is appointed Lieut in the Regt, bearing date Feby last, every attention must be paid to his Education as a Military man, drawing in particular wt Engineering may be of great use to him in Short every branch of Education except the dead Languages however he should not absolutely forget his Latin since he has got it, Should Ld John¹⁶³ find him out which I hope he wont as he would be troublesome, He should be let know that Henry belongs to the 1st Battn: in America and that he has leave of Absence from hence and is to join when his leave expires – you would likewise learn of Hay Mcdowals¹⁶⁴ having got a Compy in the 42d by purchase fm Capt McIntosh¹⁶⁵

I hope long eir now My Dear Annie has been safely eased of her burthen & both well, it must be a boy¹⁶⁶; Miss Annes Letter I have received. Coln. Dundass¹⁶⁷ has been appointed to command a Battn: of Light Infantry and is gone to the Southward wt Sir H Clinton¹⁶⁸ he is quite recovered Col: Bruce¹⁶⁹ is in S.H. Clintons family he has not declared his Marriage tho those from Rhode Island seem to make no doubt of it

I have had the Command here since end of Decr, Lord Stirling¹⁷⁰ with 3000 men paid me a visit staid a night & so went back again, it was infernally cold, as has been the whole winter lasted three months complete & kept us confounded alert this being no longer an Island & all Washingtons force not 18 miles of me Archy Erskine is here wt his Regt we compared our Reumatick complaints every Morning. -

I find by a Letter from Mr David Erskine that you are not clear about how our accts stand, I have not my papers wt me, but I think it stands thus Bond for £1300 Interest paid up to Martinmass 1774 Bond for £400 Interest due from Martinmass 1774 so there is Six years interest due on £1700 at Martinmass 1780, besides the £60 Mr Erskine paid to Lt Mcdonald my draught for part of the price of Henry's Commission, his pay I took credit for to 24th Apr.

last, after that I shall settle wt Agent & credit you, the remainder of price £100 I do not mean at present to call upon you for if you settle wt Mr D Erskine for me you will credit yourself with Henrys Subn as Lieut from 25 April 79 at 3sh-6d per diem as I have ordered the Agent to credit you with it

PS March 18th 1780 I find that Pat Graham is likely to be Major to the 2d Battn if so & that there is not a likelihood of going abroad immediately, I am not sure but it will be better to put Henry in to it as he will be high among them and now that I am appointed Brigr Gener I am separated from the 42d and have nothing to say to them espe[torn] as Majr Grahm.¹⁷¹ & I are on no good terms however I would have you consult among yourselves and if you chuse that, it is only writing a civil letter to Lord John & mentioning your wish to have him in 2d Battn & I make no doubt he will agree, if you would rather not, let him remain as he is and I shall take care of him and if he comes out will keep him near myself for some time until he is seasond to his business I have mentioned it to P Graham who you may consult. Adieu My Dear Airth

Kind Love to Annie and your family & believe me yours & theirs

most affectionately

Thos Stirling

[in another hand: Genl. Stirling 24 Feby & 18 March 1780]

Letter from James Graham to his mother, Ann Graham

ACC 12290 f. 5

London May 7th 1780

My Dear Mother

will without doubt be glad to hear of our safe Arrival here without any sinister Accident in travelling except that I have got a very bad sore throat and Headach which had continued for three days without intermission [and] but is now much better and is followed by my particular Favourite of a sore mouth so that my Lips are one whole clear Blister which is painful to night and I am afraid will appear very ugly tomorrow.

I am to undergo a Trial in the India House tomorrow forenoon and hope to answer to the Satisfaction of my Examiners, - it is an Awful thing I send a List of our Expences upon the Road which you may peruse

and afterwards burn as I believe there is some Mistake & therefore beg you will shew to Nobody - Mr A Seton¹⁷² managed the Purse till you see the Cross stroke when I took it in Hand

Best wishes to all the Family and believe me Dear Mother

Your most affect & dutiful Son

James Graham

Monday 10 Clock

I am just now return'd from the India House where I have performed the Operation of signing my Contract with the Company for my performance of which Mr. Seton¹⁷³ has sign'd a Bond. The Seal with our Coat of Arms and Crest will cost me near Three Guineas but I am determin'd to have it done -

My Throat Still Continues a little sore but I hope it will soon get better. My best Wishes attend my Father, You, and Sisters and believe me

Dear Mother

Your most dutiful & affectionate Son

James Graham

P.S. write immediately to Mr Cardonnal

addressed: Mrs Graham

[on side] Licester Square

Letter from Charles Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff.119-120

Dr. Brother

Ardoch May 12th 1780

[in another hand: 19 Octr 1780. 28 July 81]

your favour Nov. 22nd '79 lyes now before me, and I ashure you it afforded me a deal of

pleasure to find you Mrs Graham & Young folks were all well, I hope in God Mrs Graham being ere now, has been safely delivered of her burthen, and consequently must afford ye all great joy, as it will sincerely yield me how soon I have the pleasure of hearing it.

Soon after I wrote you last year we were highly alarm'd on Acct. of Comte de Estaing's coming in to our neighbour hood, with a Considerable Armament of Ships &c &c and by every Intelligence we could receive, he intended to Invade our Island: even to a particular day was appointed to Breakfast in Spr. Town. Our Governour wt. the Assistance of a Council of War proclaim'd Martial law Instantly, which was done the 9th Agust. and orders given for large detachments from all the Parishes in the Island to march to head Quarters From that moment every man laid aside all Business & turned his thoughts to arms, and I assure you unless you had seen it you would hardly believe that a Sett of Militia of all sorts of Men would have behaved with that orderly, regular, zealous disposition, that they did Anxious to meet the Enemy, arms never out of their hands, we had a Months light duty, Officers and men regularly

Disciplined three hours in the hottest month in the Year, every morning, & 3 hours every afternoon: till many were ready to faint. As to myself I never was better in my life Betwixt Kingston, Spa Town, & Old Harbour were 8000 Men Collected some say 10, Our parish sent 150 Men, besides keeping a Strong guard upon the Sea Coast: we were orderd to Quarters between Spa Town and Old Harbour divided upon 3 Estates, 50 Men under the Command of the Coll. 50 under a Capn. and I had 50 more, but we were but 4 days in Quarters when the Alarm Guns were fired, tho very few had Horses such was our Expedition that we were in Spa Town every Man in three hours, and we had to March 9 Miles with our Baggage. when we came there we found the Alarm was false, but it was remark'd that all the Militia showed the greatest ardour imaginable to come to Action that day, and I do believe had he, D'Estaing, landed he would have met with a warm reception. however I believe he certainly had information of our preparations which deter'd him from attempting an Invasion without 20,000 Men which he had not.

I was sorry to hear the Cotton was taken, As to the rum you mention, it cannot be bought here as old Rum under 5/- Cury. pr Gallon, if you choose it at that price you may have enough. the Two Bags Cotton cost £25 this Cury. which is about £18 Sterling for wh., when you have settled every thing about it may send me a few herrings, being very dear here at present. Mr. Clerk never got his Box from Capn. Spiers, of which I suppose he will acquaint you.

I wrote you last year of an attempt we Graziers made to raise the price of Beef but Martial Law intervening put a Stop to our plan, and we were oblig'd to deliver our Quota of fatt Cattle to the Commissarys at $7\frac{1}{2}$ as usually; but we have again resume'd our plan & have at length [sic] carried it to /10 for which I sold some last week, and intend continuing. I expect to have one hundred Calves dropt this year & 36 Mares this Spanish War is much to the Graziers advantage Mules are Selling 3 years old for £35 Cash & Young Steers 3 Years old – 18 Do Horses from £40 to £140 We have had fine Seasons thro the whole Island consequently great Crops, & plenty of Grass. John Stirling¹⁷⁴ will make a Crop that will gross this year £10,000 Cury. Mr. Stirling Keir also will make more than ever he did.

I had a Letter from Tom of date Agust last all well, but have heard of him since and well.

I have heard nothing of my Watch I suppose it is gone to pay Salvage. As I have given you no [c.o.] Blank Paper in this I hope in your next you'll not spare your hand. Please offer my Love to your Spouse & Children & tell them I am happy to hear of their Wellfare that as I have wrote you so long a Letter [c.o.] She will excuse me writing her till next opportunity & till then I remain

Dr. Willm. & Dr. Ann
your affectt. Brother & Hum: Sert. Chas. Stirling

[Addressed to WG Airth “Londo. 27 July 1780 forwardd. by Sir Your most Obt Servt. Sam

Stothert"]

Letter from Thomas Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff.73-74

Dear Airth

Staten Island May 29th 1780

[in another hand: 24 Novr pr Wilson]

I have by the April packet received two of your Letters one wtout date the other of 30th March in which you mention Henry being placed at Mr Amous & that you have very good accts of him, which I am happy to hear, if he shows any genius for drawing let him apply Closely to it nothing is of greater advantage to a young man in his profession, in my last letters to you & Mrs Campbell I mentioned if you chose you might put him to 2d Battn as he would be among the Oldest Lieuts there and would be much attended to by Pat Graham whereas my appointment of Brig Genr has divested me of the command of the 42d nor are we now together, however I left it intirely to yourselves to determine if Henry continues in the first Battn: he will have longer time for his studys & if he come here I should continue to have him near myself for some time at any rate if the 2d Battn goes to West Indies I would not have him go on there if you have not determined on it before this comes to hand in consequence of my former letters & mentioned him to Ld John, the Agents credits me wt his pay, you will therefore charge me with it from

25th Apr: 79 at 3sh-6d pr day, as I wrote you in a Letter of 27th Feby 79 that after settling this acct & crediting myself wt his Subscription to 24th Ap '79 there remained £160 which I had paid - £60 of which I had drawn on David Erskine to be charged you the £100 remaining was to lay by till we should settle it at a future day, his pay for a year to 24th Apr 80 will repay you the £60 and after that his pay & interest of his patrimony may carry him on wtout any further burthen to you unless a purchase offered & than we must all contribute as no opportunity should be lost to forward him - I wrote Mr D Erskine & you how affairs stood betwixt us, I did not mean to pinch you but as its Six years against Marts: next since we settled I wish to have it done, I sincerely regret the disapointmt you all must have felt at James's not going out so early & that it is even yet doubtful, I intended last year getting some recommendations from here but thought he must be gone before they arrived, I hope still he is provided by this time and gone, I received his two Letters & would have wrote him more did I not believe it would [c.o.] be too late Hay Mcdowal need not be forced in to 2d Battn he purchased into the 1st and an application to the Commander in Chief or Secretary at War will settle that - I suppose the Young Laird is very tired of subord-

-nation & Parade duty, remember me to all that family

We have just got accts of the capture of Charles town the Gazzette acct you will have before us, if you keep off a French fleet from anoying us this summer we Jonathan¹⁷⁵ will be very sick, but we hear there is one coming, however all our efforts here are vain, it is the fleet now that must decide the contest, beat the French & Spaniards & the Rebels fall wt them

I have been here all this winter nor do I know if I shall not [blot] here this summer we expect S H Clinton from the South ward[torn] will decide our operations here

Adieu My Dear Airth I embrace you, My Dear Annie and the Children with the most cordial affection & ever will be yours & theirs.

faithful Friend & Servt

Thos Stirling

Letter from Alexander Clark to William Graham

MS. 10924, ff. 7-8

Sir [in another hand: 19 Oct 80 pr Jas Graham 28 July 81]

I should certainly have acknowledged the receipt of your Obliging letter of 22d Novr. last, long before now, had not some circumstances occurred to prevent me. At the time when I intended writing you (Vizt. by the May fleet) there happen'd a difference between Mr Stirling & me which caused our parting for some time, but by the mediation of a Friend matters are now settled, and I hope to our mutual Satisfaction - I am truly sorry for the fate of Cotton on account of Mrs Grahams disappointment, would willingly have replaced it this fleet but times are as troublesome, and the Accounts of our Situation as little to be relied on as ever, so I thought it needless to run a second risk till more probability of Safty - Whenever it can be done with propriety it will give me pleasure to have Mrs Graham & your Orders; Which shall be comply'd with to the utmost of my power - The price of the 2 Baggs of Cotton with Shipping Charges Amounted to £24.4.4 Currency or £17.15.11 Stg which Mr Stirling tells me he has desired may be laid out for Herrings to be sent him - I enquired at Capt. Spears about the Box & things you was so good as send, he said that he know nothing of them, having left all the papers relative to that Voyage at home - however in case he comes here again, if I had the Bill of lading I believe that

that I can still make him accountable for it - I am greatly Obliged to you for the the news, and account of my Friends & Acquaintancies, - The account of D'Estaigues intended descent on this Island last year, put every body in motion; it is said that upwards of 10,000 troops were drawn [c.o.] to the neighbourhood of Kingston & Spanish town in the course of a week after the alarm - I was in the croud & had one month of Marshall duty, during which time every body seem'd in high spirits & all Anxious that D'Estaigne would come: -

Mr Stirling is well desires his kind compliments & to Acquaint you, that he wrote you in May last, and will write again by next Fleet - The Pen is doing very well, Stock like other things are very high this year - Mules £35 & Steers £18 to 20£ a head Beeff now sells at 10d P lib which has so rais'd the Character of Pens, that a great many are Settling in this neighbourhood: so that its supposed in a few years, this Island will be supplied within itself with Beeff, Horses, Mules & Steers - A Horse that could have been purchased, since I came to the Country for £25 to £30 cannot now for less than £40 to 60£ - Every kind of Produce is exceeding high. -

After thinking my health established & Season'd to the Country - I had a severe fit of sickness the end of last & beginning of this year, & a fresh Attack about a Month ago which has

kept me in a weakly state for these eight months past I am now in good health & recovering strength fast -

I was happy to hear by your kind letter that you Mrs Graham and all the good Family were in health hope you & them continue to enjoy that Blessing

Please remember me to Miss Hewit - And to Mrs Graham & Family - with best wishes to you & them - I respectfully am -

Sir

Your Obliged & very Hble Serv.

Alex Clark

Jamaica - Ardoch

2 Augt. 1780

Letter from Archibald Erskine to Sir William Stirling

GD24/1/458/11

N. York 9th Octr: 1780

My Dr. Sir William

The Packet has been so long under sailing orders that the letter I have wrote to Ly Stirling will be of an old date before she receives it; however as the Mail will not be shut till Eveng I think it highly incumbent on me to take the latest moment of informing you with the worthy Generals situation¹⁷⁶; & it is with infinite concern I must acquaint you that the appearances of his recovery are rather unpromising & unfavourable - From my own feelings I can easily judge those of a Brother on this information; but it would be exceedingly improper & culpable in me to buoy you up with the uncertain hopes of his recovery, by endeavouring to conceal his real danger -

The truth is that the inflammation is getting higher, & the Surgeons told me yesterday that they think his cure almost impracticable unless he suffers amputation, & that he still has strength sufficient to undergo it, & therefore beg's of Majr. Small¹⁷⁷ & me to speak to him on this head - It was a necessary but trying office, & impossible to be told him in direct terms - We therefore just slightly mentioned to him some surprizing instances of recoveries effected by amputation, & beg'd of him as his cure of so tedious to ask the opinions of the Surgeons who attended

-ded him on his own case; but this he would by no means consent to & gave us to understand that nothing could alter the determined resolution he has taken from the first, of never suffering an operation to be performed on him, let the Surgeons opinion be what it would; - from several other things he said, we found his resolution too firm to be altered by any persuasions of ours, & therefore could not possibly urge the request farther - Altho he never lets fall the least desponding word, yet I can see how ardently he wishes a short duration to the pain & misery he is in, & which he has all along bore with astonishing fortitude - I have always looked upon it as a most fortunate event, tho a painful task, that it has been in my power to attend him during his whole illness, & it adds to the pain I feel on his account, that I should so often be the person thro' whom such unwelcome news is conveyed to my friends - I beg my kindest Compts. to Ly Stirling & the young Ladies, & you may depend on it that I shall omit no opportunity of writing to you - Remember me to Mrs Campbell &c &c, & believe me to be

Your most afft. humble Servt.
Arch. Erskine

Letters from Sir William Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff.16-17

Ardoch 25 Nov1780

My Dear Sir

My Sister: Having a letter wrote by my Brother you may believe is a great Comfort it is no wonder than he dreads some splinters coming from the Bone these Symptoms must be Alarming as in that Event a great deal of Incisions will be necessary when he must be attended with pain and god knows he has Suffer'd much to save his Leg which I wish he had agreed to have had Amputated and might have been well before now - Mr Stirling of Keir had a letter from Archie Erskine from New

York dated 9th Octbr wherein he says my Brother was greatly reduced with his Sufferings, and Mrs Stuart had a letter from Archie dated the 13th of Octobr he tells her he had just left my Brother to let her know about him that he was much Emaciated but his Spirits were good tho his Leg was much Inflamed God grant us favourable Accounts of him -

I hope you will [unclear] the young Man to go over to Jamaica upon the Terms Lady Stirling Mentioned which is £20 Steg the first year £25 the second and £30 the 3d he must enter Indentures and his

Passage will be paid his Tools and Seeds will be bought to him, Abercrombies friends say they will pay for them incase the Seed Mercht does not Advance them till the Money is remitted from Jamaica.. Lady Stirling and young folks join in kind Love to my Sister you and yours I ever Am

My Dear Sir

Most Affectionately yours

Willm Stirling

P:S: I had Wrote the Above before I got your notes by Mrs Campbells Servant I sent immediately for John Abercrombies Brother in in Law who says he will advance Seven Pounds to Buy John Seventine Cloaths as you say he had a good Character as they are to depend upon his going to Jamaica

MS.10943, ff.18

My Dear Sir

Mrs Campbells having Informed me that you had advanced Ten Pounds for me to be forwarded to England I have sent you Above a Draught on Mr Banks for the same if your will always let me know then the Money is to be remitted you shall always have a Draught for it directly I hope you will have the Gardener fixed to go to Jamaica by the Mary Capt Wilkenshaw who Sails by the middle of this Month as I wrote you formerly the people would advance him Seven Pounds to buy Cloaths our best Wishes Attend you all and believe me Always

Most Sincerely yours

Willm Stirling

6th Decr 1780

Drawen Sr Wm Stirling order £10 of 4th

Letter from Charles Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff.121-122

Dr Brother

Ardoch Jany 24th 1781

By the Anna of Glasgow have shiped you a Puncheon of Excellent Rum markd [c.o. W 6] C S No 1, Rum is at present in great demand, and sells very high, this sent you cost 3/ pr Galn. this Cury: but it being what we call particular Rum, and being 10 pr Ct above proof, I think is very Cheap. I suppose long ere now you have heard of a terrible Storm we had the 3d of Octr. which did an immense damadge tho, thank God I suffer'd nothing myself nor indeed either of the Mr Stirlings lost any thing considerable about 2000 lives of different Colours were lost every person who left

their house and took to the fields in general were sav'd tho in great danger from the limbs of trees and Roofs of houses flying in the Air like feathers, and a most dismal dark night I rode with the greatest difficulty upwards of half Mile at 12 Clock at night, but met with no Accident.

Now my friend I must complain of you for not writing me oftener, as it would give me the highest Satisfaction to hear of your's & family's welfare. I was glad to find by the last Acct. that all friends were well but it is long ago. I was sorry to hear (but not from himself) that the General had met with such a terrible wound, pray what is become of him, I have heard such confus'd Accts. of him that makes me dread the worst. I should be truly sorry if any thing happened him that was bad

I suppose ye all dread our Situation in the west Indies, but I can assure you we think very little about it; purchases and Settlements goes on Chearfully, and Our Staple Commodities promises to sell very high, I mean Sugar & Rum. Indeed every thing we can raise sells very high.

Crop time commences in general from this date and unless it be the two parishes which were totally destroyed by the Storm the others in general has a favourable appearance of making good Crops. These days news papers affords us a disagreeable Acct. of Seven Ships homeward bound of the last fleet from here which are lost.

As I meant this to go with the Ship that carries the Rum and as I am going to Port Maria where she is have wrote there as above, but I mean to write you by another Ship which will sail with the same fleet, and send you another Bill of lading but should you not get any other.

Please offer my Love to your family and all friends & tell them I am very well & hopes to see them soon but when I cannot say & believe me to be

Dr. Willm

your affect. Brother

Chas: Stirling

PS If you can spare Sr Willm some of this rum he'll thank you for I believe you'll find it good

[in another hand: sent Bogle McDowall & Cy Invoice No 1 Marked C S 26 June]

pr the Anna

Capn. Paterson

2 D C

wt a Punsh: Rum

C S No 1

Letter from James Graham to his mother, Ann Graham

ACC 12290 f. 7

Fort St George Madras

Feby 7th 1781

Dear Mother

Contrary to my Expectation I again address you from this Place where I have passed as agreeable a Month as it was possible to expect in a Country which has been for some time the Seat of War. A few Days since

We were all thrown into a great Surprise by the sudden appearance of a French fleet in the roads, of six sail of the Line and three Frigates, which after having hovered about the Shipping for three days returned as it is reported to Pondicherry- Our Friend Admiral Hughes¹⁷⁸ still remains at Bombay where from his Indolence if it is imagined he has been chewing Opium

We had Accts of our successes in Europe & America three or four days ago in Consequence of

which the Guns of the Fort were discharged three or four different Times and a General Salute was return'd by the five Indiamen

Mr Archd Seton went for Bengal some days ago, whither I would gladly have accompany'd him if five hundred Rupees [above: 2/6] had not appear'd to me to be rather too much for a Passage that Generally costs nothing; but indeed every thing costs thrice what it used to do as Money and Provisions are rather scarce. The Company are six Months in Arrears to their civil Servants-

Soon after my arrival here I had the happiness of meeting my Cousin Charles Hamilton¹⁷⁹ who is an Ensign here in the Seapoys - he is grown an amazing fine fellow and retains that warm Heart to all his Acquaintance for which he was ever remarkable - Arche Hope¹⁸⁰ is now a Prisoner with Hyder; upon his first arrival in this Country, he told Hamilton that he had an unlimited Credit upon a Mr Ramsay here, and begged that Hamilton woud advance him a few Pagodas which he did - in short - Hope found the way to his Box and borrow'd thirty Pounds of which he is not likely to pay a farthing

I have been with Charles pretty often and he enquir'd after all his Mother's Connexions, and most particularly for Col: Stirling & Aunt Campbell in speaking of his Mother he melted into Tears and said, that when he was in England he looked up to every Woman's face in the hopes of meeting her and added that if he can ever find her when he returns she shall be the same Mother to him as ever -

There are a vast number of [c.o. Acq] Young Men of my Acquaintance here, as Sandy Brown, little Princy Robisson, and Tom Cockburn Mr Cockburn the Writer's Son, I believe that Annie & Mary are acquainted his [sic] Sisters. Mr Halliburton¹⁸¹ the Dallau's Relation has shown me much attention which I beg that you will take Notice of [c.o. to say] in my Name.

Mr Thomas Graham¹⁸² was here at my first arrival in the Capacity of private secretary to Sir Eyre Coote and gave me a most gracious Reception; he desir'd me to Call upon him next day at Camp and said that he wou'd give me some Letters to Bengal which might have more attention paid

than Europe ones. I went out to Camp accordingly and was so unfortunate as to miss him twice that I called upon him at the Generals.

Thank Mr M Bruce for his Letter which he wrote to Mr Brodie as it has procur'd me two dinners but none of the promised good advices. John Erskine¹⁸³ sees this and tells me he is a knowing hand.

I have lived with John¹⁸⁴ and Oliver Colt all the Time I have been on Shore. Colt is Lord Blantyre's Nephew.¹⁸⁵

From what I can see here the Civilians have very little to do and at Bengal nothing.

It is reported that the Indiamen are to sail on Sunday in which Case I shall attend them.

With best respects to all Friends & Love to my Father and Sisters

I remain

Dear Mother

Your dutiful & affecte Son

James Graham

Letter from Alexander Clark to William Graham

MS. 10924, ff. 9-10

Sir,

I wrote you by last July Fleet when I acquainted you with the reason of my delay in Acknowledging the receipt of your much esteemed letter of 22d. Novr. 1779 which is the last that I

have received.

I have now the happiness to Acquaint you that the difference therein mentioned that happen'd between Mr Stirling and me is perfectly settled and our good understanding at present promisses a lasting Agreement which I sincerely wish – As it is past the time that I commonly receive your Annual favor – I hope nothing has been represented to you of my conduct in that matter that has made you think me unworthy of that place in your friendship in which your goodness at first placed me I should be ungrateful indeed and heartily sorry was that the case, the cause of our difference was a Missunderstanding About the management of the negroes – however, when matters were properly represented, a reconciliation took place, which the reflection on Your indulgent goodness made me ardently wish for – And I hope, that will always have a proper effect on my

conduct – I with pleasure acquaint you that Mr Stirling enjoys perfect health and that the Penn is in a Thriving way. Stock sell high, and we had a gratefull dropping last year – Mules has sold from £35 to £40 a head, Steers at £20, and Horses according to their quality from £40 to £100; Beeff sells at 10d. P lib, which has raised the price of fatt Cattle /3 of their former Value. There has been remarkable fine seasons which makes grass plenty.

I presume you have heard of the terrible havock made here by the late Hurricane, the three parishes of Hanover Westmorland and St Elizabeth suffer'd greatly the Towns of Savannah La Mar and Lucea were almost totally demolished and a great Number of the Inhabitants lost their lives, the Swell of the Sea was so great, as to carry a Ship over the fort at Savannah la Mar which was 15 feet Above the water – A great number of Ships were lost, with Cargoes & Crews – Scarce a house of any kind left standing in two parishes, nor a green leaf, or blade to be seen, the canes and plantain walks tore up by the roots – the further to windward the Storm was less felt, and little or no damage was Sustained here – The Accounts from the windward Islands were Still more dismal – We were sorry to hear of the fate of some of the

homeward bound fleet - tho' it was lucky that so few suffered There is just now advice recd. of war being declared against the Duch, [sic] in consequence of which a number of their Vessels were Siezed in Kingston Harbour - I just now heard that 2,200 Americans has come in; if that report be true, I hope an end will soon be put to the war in that quarter - We seem to be free from all Apprehension of danger here just now, from our Superior Strength in the west Indies everybody is busy electioneering the Assembly being dissolved - Mr Stirling has Shipt a puncheon Rum for you by this fleet, and has at same time [torn] he is uneasy, at not having heard from the General [torn] he was wounded, we had Accounts in the papers of his being in a fair way of recovery; which I hope you have been Assured of from himself. I have the Happiness to inform you that I have quite recovered my health, after a long fit of Sickness - Please to remember me to Mrs Graham and all the good family, That every Blessing may attend you and them is the Sincere wish of -

Sir

Your much obliged and very Hble Serv

Alex Clark

PS Please remember me to Miss Hewit & all friends at Airth House

Jamaica St Anns Ardoch 10th Feby 1781.

Letter from Charles Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, f 123

Dr. Brother

I wrote you a letter inclosing [c.o. you] a Bill of lading from Port Maria for a Punshean of Rum which I hope you find good it measures 117 Gals: at 13/ pr Galn. and 50/ for the Punsheon in all amounting to £20 this Cury. I must beg you'll send in return some good fresh Glasgow Herrings which with their Costs may amount to that sum.

We have just now heard of a Dutch War.

Please offer my Love to Mrs Graham & Children and believe me to be

Dr. Brother

Your's sincerely

Chas: Stirling

Feby. 12th 1781

PS The fleet is just sailing wh. oblidges me to be short.

Letter from Thomas Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff. 75-76

My Dear Airth,

[in another hand: 1st June 81]

New York March 21st 1781

I am to acknowledge the receipt of yours of 29th Aug, 1st 24th 24th & 29th Novr, and my Niece Ann's¹⁸⁶ by the Alloa ship, the kind and oblidging regret you express for my situation is very consolotary, & likewise that of all my acquaintance I must make an apology for answering all your Letters in one, the low state I am in not permitting me to write to each of you, nor should I at this time wrote [sic] at all had I not feared my friends might have heard of my late illness & not hearing from my self might have been alarmed I was seized beginning of this month wt a shivering which after lasting some hours was succeeded by a fever which lasted ten days attended wt a violent pain in my leg & inflammation at my Ankle this was straped & poulticed which brought on an abscess and the knife again employed to lay it open this gave some relief & the fever abating, I am now much easier but it has left behind a languor, which I have not experienced since my first getting the Wound, in short there was a total inanity of thought & every thing else and I was convinced myself nature was exhausted & a very few days would put a period to my sufferings, but it has pleased god to prolong my stay, I hope for some good purpose, but I wish my friends not to allow their anxiety for me to bear too heavy upon them, they ought to have been

accustomed to look upon me as lost to them & indeed if it was natural to wish the death of one they love they ought rather to wish one out of this World than in it, for miserable are my days & little better will the remainder be

in settling my affairs I was too ill to attend to particulars, 'tho my attorney said I was of sound disposing mind, by that means you was omitted as an executor which I fully intended & told him but is of little consequence as the Compliment is the same as my affairs will be easily executed, and if I live I may probably make a new one or add a Codicil to put you in

as to Henrys affairs they are now quite settled in the following manr. I have received his pay up to 24th Decr 1780 and his arrears up to 24th Decr 1778 these make nearly the sum which I paid for the Commission, but the ballce I mean not to charge you but make him a present of it, which I hereby do discharging you & him of any Claim on that acct – so that his Subsistence as Lieut (3-6 pr day) will be credited you from 25th Decr 1780 for the purpose of paying for his board, education &c & his arrears which is paid generally 2 years behind hand amounting as Lt to about £16, will probably answer all, however if a little more is wanted the Intt: of the Patrimony you mean to give him will fully do you see I mean you should pay for his education &c to the 24th Decr 80 wt out breaking in

on his patrimony which we must keep entire till a favourable purchase offers if Mr Davd Erskine has charged you wt the £60 I drew on him favour of Majr Mcdonald I desired him might be done, you will apply to him

to be recredited that sum I observe by a letter from him our accts agree as to the debt & Intr. due me & I see you intended payg. up the latter as I desired to Martinmass 1780 which I was glad of as I found Mr Erskine was in advance for me by paying off my bond to Lady Alva¹⁸⁷. you will keep Henry close at his Studys till I come over, you hear from me, or of my poor man he suffers in my misfortune as much as any body, as I had formed sound schemes for his advantage, but he must do the best he can

Willm Edmonstone¹⁸⁸ has got a commission in 42d dated 31st Decr 80 and I hope will do well, I have recommended him to some of the staid brother Subalterns to look after him, and I gave him a very severe lecture this day about oeconomy as I suspect him a little thoughtless that way & let him know he is not to expect a Shillg from [torn] father but must live on his pay, I have given him £12 o[torn] the 20 his Father allowed him till he got a commi[torn] which I shall send you an order for, I wrote you Callender¹⁸⁹ was released & has joined the 80th Regt as volr:, I advanced him two Guineas which you may get from his father, I saw Mr Mcdowal¹⁹⁰ of the Navy a genteel young man, and Capt Middletons son has paid me several visits a fine smart boy, I am sorry to see the bear and Meal so cheap, however as two of your boys are off your hand your outgoings will be a little easier, you must see & dispose of two of your Misses, but not too cheap for I hold them valuable and when things come to the worst they will always be welcome to keep my house for me when I come home & settle, let them therefore keep up a proper dignity & value of themselves, Adieu it has cost me two bumpers of Madeira to get through this, Love to M Dr Annie & Bairns God bless you all

T. Stirling

Pray write to Ardoch & Lochlane on receipt of this as I write to none but you T S
[in another hand: 1st June 81]

Letter from Charles Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff.125-126

My Dear Brother

[in another hand: 8 / Decr 1781]

Your favour of the 28th Feby. 81 lys now before me, be ashur'd, it gave me particular pleasure to hear of your's, & family's wellfare. I observe you request I should give you an Acct. of the Storm. The Day the storm commenc'd was 3d of Octr.. a Day fixd for a general review of our regimt. at St Anns Bay Accordingly being 20 Miles from the Bay I went there to be on readiness on the 2d. in the Even. When in the morning of the 3d it began to rain, & blow &, increas all day, about noon [c.o.] the Houses began to Shake the Ships in the harbour began to drive, we thought towards Eveng that the Houses & Ships which Originally were not above a hundred Yards distant, would soon meet, the Sea arose very high & the Breeze still increasing being a Number of us in the Tavern we got playing of Cards & some Punch &c &c by which we kept up as good Spirits as possible, now & then Doors & Windows bursting open, that it required at least a Dozen of the ablest of us, to make an Attempt to Shut them a few of the shingles flying of the roof. [c.o.] now being 12 o'Clock night, & so many of us in the Tavern I wanted to get to a Neighbouring Estate where my Baggadges were and Accordingly I made the Attempt, & with Difficulty got my Sert. to bring my horse to the Door, where I mounted in a Most horrid Darkness & road $\frac{3}{4}$ of a Mile in great Danger, yet no hurt, only well soak'd wt. rain, the house I got into by this time was roking like a Craddle, but received no

damadge till Day. Being then sensible that the Storm vented its wrath more to Leeward, than Wind.d.

I did not return home, but instantly with what few Cloaths I had, sett out for Keirs, & Kippendavies Estates, but was soon Stopt for the sea had Arose so high that it cover'd the runaway Bay road and there was no passage till the 5th, when I set out again, when I arrived at Rio Bueno, one Ship was on shore, and another by meer acct. escaped; there being a large river I was obliged to Sweem my Horses, which I did and very near lost one being carryd out to Sea but luckily swam Ashore. I now began to Enter the Parish of Trelawny & the news was become dreadfull from the Leward, the Trees now began to appear in a most languid State, some haveing lost a few Branches others without Heads. the farther I advanc'd the Schene appear'd more dreadfull, & the news more dismal. I am now almost at Martha Brae, when I beheld Trees blown out by the root, Cains Without Tops, and twisted twenty differt, ways, Houses Blown down, & the general Acct. here that a famine must ensue, and the Planting¹⁹¹ trees upon which the negroes subsist, were totally demolish'd. I still pusht on, but with great difficulty as there was a vast deal of Trees lying across the Roads, which were blown down, however I at last arrived at Hampton upon the 6th (Kiers Estate) Good God what a Shoke 340 Blacks, & ten Whites, all to be fed, every thing destroy'd, the only Comfort was the Works did not receive much damage, & no lives lost, but the Cains much hurted.

Mr. J. Stirlings Estate wt 250 found in the same situation. now the news from Montague Bay & Sevannah Lemar was Truly Shoking, All the Ships at both places (not one Escapd) all lost, all the houses blown down and hundreds were found dead, every day aforded fresh accts of additional distress. the whole Vegetable Creation now began to appear is they had, had a fever, every thing look's wither'd & continued so for a long time, and ever since we are obliged to feed those

two setts of negroes with flour, which I Wrote for imme[torn] to England, but to add to the distress of that part of [torn] Island, an Inflexible drought set in which has alm[torn] completed what the Storm left undone, many poor [torn] who's master, either from his loss's in the storm or otherw[torn] cannot buy provisions, are dying for want, and it cannot be remedied for 3 months to come, God knows how it will end, thank God I did not lose a Shilling & I am and have been all along in plenty of provisions.

Mr James Graham¹⁹² arived safe, and I immediately got him Bussiness, indeed if you send a Dozen such, I'll give them all Employment. I am glad to find you'll lose nothing by the Cotton. I wrote you twice this year, inclosing a Bill of lading for a Punn. of Excellent Rum sent you by the Ship Anna Capt. Paterson bound to Glasgow amounting to £14:14 Sterling. If this should reach you before you Ship any thing for me, if you get 12 or 15 Barls. Herrings send the remainder on in Port Wine & Ale; dry goods are to be purchased here at present at the Sterling Cost. I received my W[atc? torn] safe. Our Stock sells pretty well, I wish your Crop sel[torn] as well. Should you want any thing from hence I beg you'll make free to command any little Services I can render you. I am sure you cannot complain of a Short Letter but now must Conclude with offering my Love to my Dear Sister, yourself, and all your pretty Bairns, may every thing good attend ye all is the Sincere wish of

Dr Wilm.

your affectt. Brother & Hum: Sert. Chas: Sterling

Ardoch July 2d. 1781

Letter from John Wilson to William Graham

MS 10925, ff.1-2

New York ye 15th: May 1781

Sir/

I wrote you from London of Sailing for New:York and that I should deliver the letters you sent to my charge. Immediately on my arrivall called at Generall Stirling's House and left the letters; but he was then much distressed with an inflammation in his thigh, (where he received the wound) and not in a situation to see any person -

In two days after he gott better and sent his Servant desireing [c.o. desireing] I would call and inform him the news from Britain; (as we were the only vessell that had arrived for severall weeks) I accordingly waited on him and took a Parcell of the latest news papers, with me and gave what other information had occurred on our passage of seeing a French Fleet and after falling in with the British: to the Admirall of which we gave information of the other: at that period it was news of importance in this place. -

The Generall treated me with the greatest Civility (though totally unaquainted and had no other Bussiness or introduction than being the bearer of your Letters) and desired me to call upon him from time to time at my conveniency. - This I occassionally did and was glad to see hopes of recovering though at times he had relapsed, oweing to inflammations that arose from the Shattered Bones looping: and to make way for discharging them, large and deep Orifices were obliged to be kept open, which occassiond violent pain as well as inflammations.

However I have now the pleasure to inform you that the only troublesome is taken out and he is getting better fast:

- so

so much, that with the help of his Servants and sticks he moves round the room -

My best thanks is due to you for the opportunity I had of waiteing on Generall Stirling, and I not only experienced Civility but Friendship. - Freights for Vessells being dull here, and danger of an imbargo, made me anxious to get the Vessell imploy'd by Government and hearing one was wanted for the Ordnance service called on the Commanding officer of that department, to treat for freight but did not gett settled, and at that time others were offering, which made it doubtfull, if I should gett the imploy. - Haveing that day waited on Generall Stirling, and told him what was passing: amongst the rest my wishing to gett the Vessell imploy'd by Government and the application I had made -

The Generall readilly offered to recommend me to the commanding officer in the way I should point out; on which I beg'd the favour he would signifie his wish that I had a preference in case the Vessell answered their purpose: which was immediately granted and a line given me to Colln. Martin in terms that had the desired effect; as I very soon after gott the Ship engaged in that Service, which am hopefull will turn out to advantage -

I hope by next pacquett you will hear of the Generall being gott so much better as to move about with a little assistance by which he will soon recover his strength. For all the pain & Torture he has undergone by probing and extracting the shattered Bones. he still retains a Chearfull, Healthy & sound look a proof that he has been blessed with a strong Constitution and good spirits -

No

No meteriall news in this place but what you will see in the publick prints, or should communicate it -

Our Troops in the Carolina's and Virginia are making rapid conquests, and if more troops come out as are expected, its to be hoped, more will be done this season than any hithertoo. Excuse this freedom of writeing you and if any thing is wanted in this quarter that I can be of the least service in should be happy to receive your commands,

I am with the greatest Respect
Sir/ your most obednt. & very Humbl. Servt.

John Wilson

26th May 1781

PS. Since writing the above have at diffit times called on the Generall and [c.o.] have the pleasure to inform you he is now moveing about with Crutches & going to his garden without Assistance
JW

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Anne Graham

ACC 12290-1-3/2

addressed: Mrs Graham of Airth
by Falkirk
N B

New York june 6th 1781
this fatal day 12 Month I got my wound

It is always with great pleasure I receive any account of my Dear Sisters welfare and her family, which your Letter of 2d Feby gave me, I rejoice with you in hearing from Jamie and that he had bore the sea voyage so well, and happy with his chum, I wish most sincerely he may keep his health & do well, and return crowned with fortune (which is more substantial than Lawrels) to make you happy and easy in you Old days, to repay you for the cares and anxietys you have undergone in struggling through Life hitherto wt a circumscribed fortune; you will always have the testimony of your own mind in having done your duty for your family as you have that of all who know you, and after that you must rest satisfied & leave the rest to Providence.

your prayers & good wishes for my recovery have been heard, as I am now quite well in my health and my wounds closed without any appearance of more bones coming away, and was it not for the pain in my knee when it is the least improperly moved which prevents my bearing the fatigue of a sea Voyage and the jolting of a carriage, I should I believe have been tempted to have gone home in a fleet now under orders for sailing, I hop about on my Crutches in the house & back yard but have not ventured on the Street yet

the Misses I hope had a pleasant trip of it at Edinr under the wing of their good Chaperon Lady Christian Erskine¹⁹³ I wrote Airth last packet that as James & Henry were in a way of doing for themselves, the next thing was to get off some of his daughters, but not to let them go too

cheap as I would rather take one or two of them myself as House keepers than to see them thrown away - I mentioned to him how Henrys affairs stood relative to the money transaction of his commission and pay - viz that his pay at 25th Decr 80 & his arrears from 25th Decr 78, will go to paying his board & education and which he must learn to live here after on, his pay & arrears prior to those dates I have credited my self wt which will nearly pay the purchase money, what it does not I make a present of it to him, there was £60 which I desired Mr D Erskine to charge Mr Graham with, if he had I bid him get it back, or I should pay him when we meet if Henry is improving at his studys let him continue if not you may take him home, he will probably be obliged to join the Regt next spring - William Edmonstone is well but I am afraid he is Idly inclined, I gave him some reprimands for which he has not been near me these three weeks, I got him in to a Sober & Oeconomical Mess where he may live upon his pay but I fear he goes too much to punch houses at Night - I have wrote Charles severall Letters lately but I have not heard from him of a long while, he too I suppose if offended at some advice I gave him about Sir Willms money, in which affair

Charles acts very improperly, I am glad to hear the hurricane did him no damage nor the rest of the Clan Kippendavies fortune is great there, if my Niece gets him she must make him open his purse strings as he is

very narrow I am told - I congratulate Miss Seton¹⁹⁴ on her Marriage - I hope it will prove fortunate - I wrote all my friends by archy Erskine who I suppose is on his way back by this time I am afraid our March packet fm England is taken by which means all our Letters are lost the Feby packet only arrived a fortnight ago however we daily look for the April one - Tell Mrs Campbell I shall write her by the Packet in answer to hers of 31st Jany: I have no news to write you as no operations are carried on from this place, Lord Cornwallis is our active General and his manoeuvres you will know as soon as we as his dispatches go straight home Col: Bruce¹⁹⁵ is well tho h[torn] honored me with a call, Col Dundass Majr Gordon¹⁹⁶ & all [torn] [illeg] are well, Poor Col Stewarts¹⁹⁷ death would aff[torn] friends much - Adieu, My Dear Annie, affectionate Love to Airth & the young folks, & kindest Compliments to all at Lochlane, Ardoch, Keir, Boness, Edinr &c and believe
ever yours most truly

T S

P.S. I am sorry for Ronald Craufords¹⁹⁸ failure, I hope his sisters may not suffer by him I thought one them (Mary) had been Married - I can suppose men are scarce but I do not know Capt Main, I guess he has a good Midden I rejoice at the reunion of Mr & Mrs Bruce, and very sorry at the bad state of health of Mrs Bruce Kinnaird¹⁹⁹, you may make my Compts. there in return for the enquirys after me

addressed: Mrs Graham of Airth
by Falkirk

Letter from Alexander Clark to William Graham

MS. 10924, ff. 11-12

Sir

I was favoured with your kind Letter of date the 28th Febry last which gave me great pleasure by informing me of yours and all the good Family's welfare – your favor by James Graham likewise received That young man is now in Mr Stirling's Employ on Kiers Estate under the Tuition of Mr George McLauchlane²⁰⁰ having been sent there on losing his health in St Thos in ye Vale where he was at first placed – I have never had the pleasure of yours by the second hand as you mention in your last – I wrote you After the receipt thereof by one of our unlucky July Fleet whose Situation on the first of August was truly deplorable We were on that day Visited by another Hurricane which did a great deal of damage particularly to that Fleet which had fail'd some time before but put back and was then lying in Port Royal harbour where upwards of Twenty Ships were driven on Shore and a great many lost with a great number of lives Other places of the Island sufferd greatly likewise All the Wharfs at Kingston & most of the Shipping lying there were destroyed, so that next morning presented the Shore for Seven,

Miles from Kingston to passage fort & Port Royal covered with Wreck..The fruits of the Earth shared the like fate, Destress was added to the distresses of the Leeward parishes who Suffered in October last And the Plantain Walks in St Thomas's in ye East and Liguanea from whence Kingston Market is Supplied – With that article was almost totally destroyed which caused Such Scarcity that two meagre plantains was sold for a Ryall which is equal to 5d Stg Flour has been ever Since from

£12 to £16 p barrel which fell very hard on the poor – Thank God we escap'd both calamities in this parish -

I still remain with Mr Stirling from whom I have all the encouragement that I can expect. - I thank you for your kind inquiry after my health & situation - I have the happiness to acquaint you that I enjoy at present & has for some time past a degree of health that I never remember of enjoying even at home

I am glad that you came so well off with the Cotton as to Save yourself as the only loss is the disappointment - I hope long ere now your puncheon of Rum is arrived, Which Mr Stirling Shipped by the first Glasgow Vessel this year, & has wrote you about once or twice Since – I have the pleasure to Acquaint you of his

welfare, and the Pen Thriving, Stock of all kinds Sells high and will do during the war – indeed Jamaica produce of every kind sells high just now, - I am much obliged by your kind information about my relations – They most of them seem to have forgot that I Still exist, As if it was not for your indulgent goodness (which I hope I shall ever retain a grateful Sence of) I should know very little of that passes at home to deserve a continuence of your correspondence shall be my Constant care - Beg you will offer my Sincere tha[torn] to Mrs Graham and all the good Family at Airth fo[torn] wishes in my behalf that you and them may lo[torn] health and happiness is the Sincere Prayer of [torn]

Sir
Your most Obliged & [torn]
A[torn]

Ardoch St Anns Jamaica 26th Novr 1781

Letters from Thomas Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff. 77-78

Dear Airth

Bath 18th April 1782

[in another hand: 29 Ap]

I received your & My Dear Annies joint Letter to 30th March, the good accts you give of all your family will always give me pleasure and I wish you may both long enjoy wt health and happiness that agreeable comforts. I wrote Annie about Henry a little while ago & then mentioned that a possibility might be fallen on to keep him in Europe a little longer as she was very anxious but I thought the opportunity of C Rutherfords²⁰¹ joining should not be lost, since then you would see a positive order for all Offrs to join their Corps in America unless they had the Kings leave or were prisoners and as Henry never has joined since his appointt, now five years, I think is absolutely necessary he should join the first opportunity, besides the great expence he puts you and the very little benefit, I am afraid, he receives would make it a measure of prudence, if there was no other reason for it I am really sorry he has cost you so much and had I had any Idea of its coming so high I should certainly not have required his stay in Edinr unless he had shown a very particular attention to the branches he put to, which I fear he did not however that cannot now be recalled, and if he has not benefited its his own fault and will not have his parents to reproach for want of care

I bid Mrs Graham write him I should see him as I passed St Omer²⁰² or should write him from Ostend, let me know his direction, I shall leave my Valise wt my bedding for him at London and you may give him a Light Camp bedstead wt common check curtains, Capt Rutherford will advise what necessary to take wt him but let them not be many, much baggage is a great incumbrance I left

a Chest wt books & lumber under the Qtr Mr care who will give the key to H for his use if Rutherfd goes not this year he hopes it might be easier & less expensive for him to go directly from London this you must get settled after you know R motions for I hope to be gone before that time as I leave this the 20th having found no benefit from the waters here, I shall stay as short a while as possible in London, not exceeding 14 days if nothing extra intervenes, & proceed to Margate for a passage to Ostend & then determine as opportunitys offer of going to Bareges²⁰³ either by way of Paris or by sea to bourdeaux, a Capt. McKay of 69th Regt accompanys me. when you settle wt Mr D Erskine you will end it yourself wt Henrys pay from 25th Decr 1780 in Subsist at 3-6 pr day as this will answer both yours I shall not write Annie but offer her my affect Love with my best wishes, for Marys²⁰⁴ happy hour & the Welfare of you and yours as I am with great truth the most faithful of your friends & Servt.

Thos. Stirling
turn

upon reflection Mrs G will be at Kippenross about this reaching Ardoch & as it goes in a frank for Sr W I direct it for her

MS.10943, ff. 79-80

Dear Airth

London May 4th 1782

[in another hand: 16 July]

I have yours of 19th Apr and forwarded Henrys Letter I am really sorry he has put you to so much expence & I fear to little purpose & as he does not benefit so much as might be wished it is a stronger reason for his joining but the late order puts that out of all doubt & the sooner he comes the better I understand Capt Rutherfd wishes to stay longer & has applied for leave, however many other opportunities may be found for his going over, as many Offrs here must join, as I am uncertain whether you & Mrs Graham would wish to see him I shall not determine his going from hence leaving that to you two, but some recruits & draughts are going from hence soon wt whom he can go and Mr Anderson the agent shall have directions from me to assist him in a passage if you fix it, a Matrass wt two blankets in a Oil Cloath bag shall wait him here as for necessarys they ought to be few a pair of boots 3 pr Shoes 8 pr white thread 6 pr Silk 2 pr Nankeen trousers 2 pr white Cloath britches 2 vests of Do 2 White washing vests one Regu. coat & Cloath & Lace & trimming for another 2 dozen shirts – 6 white Cambrick stocks, 2 black Silk, 6 pocket Handkerchiefs, bonnet & black Feathers

the Agents direction is Alexr Anderson Esq Princes Street Lothbury London then to many Offcers of my Regt in Scotland²⁰⁵ who must join a Capt Coln Campbell Glendarowel Jas Fraser Chas Menzies Edd Fraser, Lts Davd Dewan Edinr Jn Robertson &c &c

since writing the above I have Mrs Grahams Letter from Kippenross I disaprove much of his going to Paris the best plan he can be is his Regt, surely dancing & fencing is not worth the expence you are at as for a french mr he must be very bad at it if he requires a Mr at St Omer & he deserves no attentions for his having neglected to write you his situation at first he must therefore certainly come over & if you have any directions for him as to his joining via Scotland you had better write mr Seton where he shall be ordered to call The Agents have credited me wt £14.15.6 his arrears to 24th Decr 79 and his Subn from 25th Decr 1780 to 25th Decr 81 £64-1-8 which sums you will charge me in settling with Mr D Erskine

Mr Edmonstone ought to have refused paying his sons draught for £200 as they have taken

advantage of him, £150 is the regulated price & no more ought to have been given & I can see no harm if he still refuses to pay the £50 if not already done, there is a Ltcy in my Regt to sell for £150 which I intended for W Edmonstone.

I congratulate you on the safe delivery of our Dear Mary²⁰⁶ & she has my warmest wishes for her happy recovery & the health of the boy

I have not yet fixed my day nor entirely how I go from ostend but shall write you if I pass by St Omer otherwise you will hear of me from Sr W or Mrs Campbell

Adieu kind Compts to all my friends and believe me ever yours

Thos Stirling

[in another hand: I have read this letter we shall Consult when we meet on the [illeg]]

Letters from Alexander Clark to William Graham

MS. 10924, ff. 13-14

Sir

The last of your kind Letters that is come to hand was dated the 12th. Feby 1781 - I wrote you by the first Opportunity that offered after receiving it - And I again embrace this conveyance in case of the last being miscarried; not being willing you Should think me insensible of the favor you do me by indulging me with your correspondence, Of which I shall always retain a grateful Sense - Mr Stirling recd. Mrs Campbells letter a few weeks ago, And Another from Mrs Graham About ten days Since, by which we were happy to hear of the Agreeable change in your Family, likewise that you, Mrs Graham And all the rest of the Good family were well - About the Middle of March last we were Alarmed by certain intelligence of the French and Spainiards (who had been Collecting a Force in our Neighbourhood for Some time before) being ready And approaching to invade us; in consequence of Which, great part of the Militia of this Island, were drawn to the Neighbourhood of head Quarters, where we were kept in Suspence for a Month, When, we had the Agreeable Accounts of Adml Rodneys²⁰⁷ having come

up with them, And After a very bloody & obstinate Engagement for near 12 hours without intermission, gave them a Most capital defeat, took the French Adml. (the Count de Grasse) in the finest Ship belonging to France, with three Other Ships of the line, Sunk Another, And a Sixth blew up after being in our possession for Some time - The rest were terribly pitted & dispers'd, And persued by Sir Saml Hood, Who has since Sent in here, two more Ships of the line and two Frigates - It is reported the Enemy lost killd & wounded upwards of 12,000 Men, they having previous to their leaving Martinique, Shifted the Troops from the Transports, to the Men-of-War - There is likewise a great deal of Specie (Some say £400,000) taken Which was for paymt. of All their Troops in the West Indies - So Sure were they of Success, that the Intended Governour of this Island, with his Suite, was taken with the Adml. - The immediate Effects of this Critical and Memorable Action was, Our fears Vanished, The Troops Sent to their respective homes, And Martial law ceased; And I hope it will put a Stop to their Success, Which of late has been too great in this part of the World - We have likewise heard the Accounts of the Success of our Fleet on the Coast of Norway - which

inclines me to hope, this terrible war is near its end, Which God Grant - Mr Stirling enjoys good health, As I likewise do at present (tho Often Ailing) - The prices of All kinds of produce here

Continues to rise – Which I Observe by you last, is not the case with you, And must reduce your Rental much unless you have established a greater proportion of Money Rent, then formerly – I hope your Tenants Continue to Thrive And are punctual

No letters from Genl Stirling lately, but Mr Stirling was informed by a Gentleman (who Corresponded with America) of his preferment to be Coll. of the 71st Regt – Please to Acquaint Sir William Stirling, that I was favoured with his letter, And shall do as he therein directs. I am extremely obliged to you, for All the News, and your kind information About My Friends - please remember me to Mrs Graham And all your Family Thanks for their kind remembrance of me - To Mr. & Mrs. Ure, Miss Hewit, Mr Higgins of Newck²⁰⁸ & Mr Davidson - John Campbell - I am much obliged for remembering me - That you and yours may enjoy everything that makes you happy is the sincere wish of

Sir

Your Obliged Hble. Servt.

Alex. Clark

Jamaica St Anns

Ardoch 13th May 1782

James Graham now lives on Hampden Estate belonging to Keir under the direction of Mr. Geo: McLauchlane & was well About 10 days ago

MS. 10924, ff. 15-16

Sir

I again embrace this Opportunity of writing - Altho I have wrote three letters since the receipt of your last favour dated the 28th Februry 1781, I suppose Some must have been miscarried or taken by your complaining, (in your last to Mr Stirling) of not having received any for some time from me. As I have always look'd upon the indulgence you have shown me, in favouring me with your correspondence, Amongst the greatest Blessing of my life I should not only be ungratefull, but wanting to my own Happiness, did I give cause for your withholding it by negligent Silence - On my part - I therefore hope your goodness will not impute the want of letters to ingratitude, as the times are Such as renders the Conveyence very uncertain.

It gave me a great deal of pleasure to hear of the Happy Change that has taken place in your Family, - And yesterday I was agreeably informed by Mr Stirling of Your Additional Happiness in being made a Grand Father

by Mrs Erskine; ²⁰⁹ upon which I beg leave to Congratulate you and Mrs Graham And that you and Family may enjoy a long Succession of like Blessings is my Sincere wish - In regard to News, there has little happen'd Worthy of Troubling you, Since the Close of the Campaign, by the most welcome Accounts of the Glorious Action of the 12th Aprile; which dispel'd our fears, and eased Our hardships; and has ever Since left us in perfect Security. Gratefull adresses has been presented by all the parishes of this Island, thro' their representatives, to Our great Deliverer Sir George (Now Lord) Rodney; and pompous Entertainments given, by the Towns of Kingston and Spanish Town -

Accounts were received here Some time ago, of a large Fleet sailing from the Havannah which Seem'd to direct its course towards America, but I suppose its Motions will be Strickly watched by ours, under the command of Adml. Pigot²¹⁰, who has taken the command on this Station – Tho I am told an express has arrived for Adml. Rodney to reassume the Command, but whether of not he does I

have not heard. - I have the [torn]ness to Acquaint your that I enjoy good Health at present, and Still live with Mr Stirling upon very good terms – Mr Stirling tells me that he writes you by this conveyance and gives you a Particular Account of the pen, which is Thriving very Well Indeed Pen Propertys are Still increasing in Value; as from the advanced prices of Stock, the profits are very great, By the great demand for Beef to Supply the Ships, that article now Sells from a Shilling to fifteen pence this currency P lib and we have Sold from here, of Horn'd Cattle Since 1st Janry upwards of £2000 worth, besides Horses & Mules to the Amt. of £500. I give you this as a Specimen of our Sales - I again give you a Copy of 13: Parcels for the Cotton bales
- Mr James Graham is Still on Hampden Estate and is well

I thank you for your information respecting my Friends - Beg to be remembered to Mrs Graham & Family, to Mr. Higgins of Newck, and Mr. Ure, to Miss Hewit & Mr John Davidson and John Campbell - I remain respectfully: -

Sir

Your Most Obt. Hmble. Serv.

Alex. Clark

Jamaica – Ardoch 27th July 1782

PS. of 2 Baggs Cotton -

1 bag weighg 366 lib. @ 14d. P £20.3.3

1 Small do. wt. 66lib. @ do. P 3.17 -

23 [illeg]

Wharfage [illeg]4.5 Currey this £17.6.

Letter from Charles Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff.127-128

[in another hand: 28 Novr. 1782]

Dr Brother

Ardoch July 28th 1782

Your favour of date Decr. 8th came safe to hand, & I beg leave to Congratulate you upon the Marriage of your two Daughters²¹¹ to such good Matches, & I am happy to hear of Mrs Erskin's safe Delivery, & wish the same to Lady Kippendavie with all my heart.

I am happy to have it in my power to answer your Letter from Ardoch, for I ashure you in March last, and April, we expected nothing but Death, or a french prison but thank God Admiral Rodney saved us a great deal of Blood Shed & treasure which I hope we shall live to enjoy in peace & quietness. We were 30 Days from home doing tight Duty I happend to have £300 Cash in the hand at the Commencement of the troubles I hid it under a Stone in the Woods & left it in Charge to a trusty negroe in case I was killed how it should be dispos'd of in case I survived & taken prisoner, perhaps it might have been got

and been of Service to me in my captivity; however after all was over, and not a White Soul upon the place for 30 Days I found all the negroes. Stock. and Money as I left them without any damadge. As you are a great farmer and no doubt anxious to know what the farmers & Graziers are doing in the West I shall give you a Short detail of it Your Son in Law²¹² will receive from hence 380 Hogs heads of Sugar wt. near 180 Puns. Rum Dreadfull, what a Princely fortune Keir²¹³ will receive 350 Hogshead & 200 Puns. Rum. & I am making as much as I can. fresh Beef has arose to 1/ & 1/3 pr pound Mutton & Veal 1/[blot] ½ a Goose 1/ 20/ a Turkey 35/ &c &c
Young Horses of the Galloping Strain from £50 to 150 Mules from £40 to 50 Y. Steers to £22 to 35

According to Size & proof[?] Ass's from £150 to 250. I raise all those sort of stock. I have been long looking for the Herrings &c &c but cannot hear anything of them I am afraid they are taken, please acquaint me if you had send then to be shipped, & what Ship as I am very anxious about them. I have been obliged to send to England for a Suply in their room.

Youl please give my kind Compliments to Mrs Graham. I supose Mrs Erskine has got too much to do prevents her Coresponding this year but shall always be happy to [c.o.] hear from her or of her Wellfare, as well as all the rest of your family. pray dont ye make some Excellent Kippers send some & I'll drink your health If you could meet with a tolerable good House Carpenter if h'el come out either indented or Otherwise I'll give him from £22 to 30 Sterg Ann.

Now I think I have wrote you a long Letter Shall be happy to hear at all times from [torn] & you shall hear from me in Course for the present believe me to be

Dr Sir
your affectt. Brother
Chas: Stirling

Letter from James Henry of St Ann, Jamaica, to William Graham

MS 10925, ff. 3-4

[in another hand: 23 & 24/Decr 82]

Sir

You will no doubt be surprised at my opening a correspondence with you, after an absence of Thirty years, and that in this Climate too, which is sufficient to have bloated out the remembrance of a Person of much more consequence that I was of when I left my native Country - But as my conduct thro' life has been such, not only in the line of my profession, but likewise in my private & Publick character, as to gain the confidence and esteem of the first in out little society, I with the greater freedom trouble you with this, in compliance with my promise to your amiable and Gallant Nephew Mr. McDowel,²¹⁴ late Lieut: on board the Princessa ad: Drake,²¹⁵ who has aroused a spirit of enquiry in me, which has been long lulled to rest.

When the All Conquering Rodney and the brave Companions of his ever memorable and unparalleled Victory over the Count De Grasse, on the 12th of April last, arrived at Kingston, curiosity prompted me to see La Ville de Paris and the other Glorious Trophies of that days Victory, and to pay the tribute due to the deliverers of our Country from the most impending danger that ever threatened it, I then fortunately lodged in the same house with Mr McDowel and seeing so fine a youth bearing such honorable testimony of his Gallant behaviour in his Countrys cause, he soon attracted my notice, and being particularly intimate with Dr Morton the Gentleman who attended him, I soon discovered his Family connections which

immediately intitled him to a double share of my care and attention - I presently gained his confidence - nor would he suffer poor Stumpy, as he called it, to be dress afterwards, unless I was present - His fortitude on these occasions is beyond conceptions - with his right hand he bathed the Stump of the left, and when it would start or was any ways troublesome he would call out, in the true Roman stile "Being stumpy, surely I did not get you in Running away". I was attended on these occasions by my third son, William, Midshipman in the Navy, but whether its the sea air that begets such Manly Fortitude in its inhabitants, I will not say but my Youngster seemed to make light of

what he saw, and yet it was hard to say how soon it might be his own lot - However Mr McDowal was pleased to promise him his Friendship if ever they should meet in their professional line.

Mr McDowel gave me a most pleasing acct. of your Family, as well as of Mrs McDowal's, Mr Bruce of Kinard, Mr John Lumsdain²¹⁶ and many others I enquired after. - I had the honor of being known to Mrs Graham and her sisters, Miss Stirling (afterwards Mrs Campbell of Monzie) and Miss Bella,²¹⁷ when they were very young; and I have been particularly intimate with the Brother, Mr Charles Stirling, ever since he came to the Island - I took some pains to acquaint Mr Stirling of Mr McDowel's being in the Country but Mr Clarke (who formerly lived with you) gave me to understand that he was gone to the northside of the Island.

I understand my old [c.o. old] Jamaica friend Mr John Stirling is now one of your Family - I beg leave to be particularly remembered to him; and that now Lord Rodney has freed us from all further apprehensions of invasions during this war I think it more than probable I shall pay my native Country a visit in the course of next Summer: it being now full time I should

branch off my sons into the different Professions and Employments their natural Genius or inclinations points out. - I had the misfortune of losing Mrs Henry²¹⁸ about Twelve months ago, to the unspeakable loss of her Family; but I am still blessed with four Sons and a Daughter, who all promise to bring me comfort in my old Days: and my future happiness is now centred in making them happy in themselves and useful members of society.

I beg leave to present my respectful Compts. to Mrs Grahame and your amiable Family; as also to Mr McDowel and his Family when an opportunity offers: and I remain

with much esteem of regard

Sir

your most obed. & hble Sevt.

James Henry²¹⁹

P.S. I shall be glad to hear of the perfect recovery of my friend Mr McDowel, and whether he has got a Ship; as my son William²²⁰ is sent home in the Ramillies, [torn:] Graves²²¹ and is to be entered into the academy at Ports: Mouth on his arrival

St. Ann's, Jamaica, 9th Sept. 1782

William Grahame Esqr.

Letter from Sir William Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff. 20-21

Dear Sir

Ardoch 15th Janry 1783

[in another hand: 23 Janry]

I had a letter some time ago from our Wine Merchant at Aberdeen telling me that he had made an Importation of Claret which he thought was better than what he had sent us and as he could afford to Sell it Cheaper than the Wine we got he therefor agreed to let us have the two Hdds²²² which he Charged at £35 only at £32 which brings the four Hdds to £122 I had a letter from him lately acquainting me that he has drawn upon me for that Sum payable to Kinnear & Son at Edinbr²²³ and hoped I would honour the Bill I accordingly wrote our Friend Mr Eskine to pay the Bill as you are going to Edinr if it is convenient will you pay your Hogshead being Thirty Pound Ten Shillings to

Mr Erskine and tell him it is upon account if it is not convenient for you write me by first Post and I shall got to Stirling and send him the whole Sum from my Cash Account and can get the different

Two portions from Dr Stirling and Kippendavie and you afterwards - I suppose this will find you and the two Invalids still at Airth as we heard nothing last Post whether the Convoy was to Sail²²⁴ this Week or not - Many happy new years to you Mrs Graham and Family and believe me always

My Dear Sir

Most Affectionately your

Willm Stirling

Mary writes Christy a few lines upon opposite Sheet

My Dear Christy

your Cloack Bag went yesterday to the City I fancy it will be in before you, we expect to hear to morrow something of you - adeau my Dr I hope you are now quite strong - Believe me

Yours M S

Note of Balance due by Mr Graham to Genl. Stirling

MS.10943, f. 81

State of the Debt due by William Graham Esqr. of Airth
to General Thomas Stirling at Whity 1783

Sterling

Principall in Bond by Mr Graham to General Stirling

1,300

Principall in another Bond or Bill by Mr Graham to the General

400

Sum 1,700

Interest from 11th Nov 1774 when a Settlement of Account took
place between Mr Graham & Genl Stirling to 3d Dec 1778

345

Sum then pd by David Erskine Esqr. Clerk to the Signet for
Genl Stirlings Draw. of 17 Oct 1778 to Major John McDonald
being on Mr Grahams Acco'

Sum

60

1,760

Interest from 3d Decr 1778 to 15th Mat 1783

391 5 11

Sum of Interest 736 8 4

1779 Decr 10

Deduce Cash paid by Mr Graham to Mr Erskine on
Genl Stirlings Acco' of this date

50

1780 Jany 28

Cash paid by Do to Do on the Generals Acco' of this Date

100

1782

Ballance of Lieut Henry Graham's pay to 24 June 1782 and
of his Arrears to 24th Decr 1780 received by General Stirling

67 14 6

217 14 6

Remains

518 13 10

1783 May 15th Balance due by Mr Graham to Genl Stirling

2278 13 10

Airth House 15th May 1783 The above Ballance of Two Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Eight pounds Thirteen Shillings & Ten pence Sterling due my me to General Thomas Stirling is hereby subscribed by David Erskine Esqr Clerk to the Signet at Edinr as Doer for General Stirling and me of the above Wt. Date Errors Exeptd [c.o.]

Letter from Sir William Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff. 22-23

Dear Sir [in another hand: 27 May]

Above you have an Order on Mr Banks for Five Pounds Sterling as I suppose you have remitted that Sum to London upon my Account

I have now Bottled our Aberdeen Claret and one Hdd run 23 dozen and four Bottles Clear Wine and the Other Hdd run just 23 dozen Clear Wine, your proportion being one fourth of each comes to 5 dozen & 10 Bottles of the first Hdd. & 5 dozen & 9 Bottles of the Second Hdd.

besides thick Wine which is not yet Bottled the highest priced Wine is marked Red Seal the other Green Seal Capt Moray gets the same proportion you will send a Cart for yours and if you have good Straw for packing it as Mine is done and the Sooner you send for it

the better befor the Weather turns Warm.

Mr Cruikshank²²⁵ has Accepted of being our Pastor at Muthills the Country People are all very fond of him Lady Stirling, Peggy, and Maddie joins in best Wishes to Mrs Graham yourself and my Nieces and believe me Always

My Dear Sir
Yours Most Affectionately
Willm Stirling

24 May 1783

Letter from Charles Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff.129-130

Dr Brother

Ardoch June 1st 1783

Happy would I have been if You had favourd me with a few lines acknowledging your own and familys wellfare. not a Single Sylable have I got from your this twelve months past; never charge us Jamaica folks wt laziness in writing, when we gave you two Letters for one. I look'd for Herrings &c a long time, but never heard whether th[torn] were taken, or lost, or what became of the [torn] We have now got peace, which we graziers, na[torn] I may say our whole Island, would have dispenc'd with the want of. for a Couple of years more, providing no Invasion took place for there will be a downfall in the price of every Commodity we produce I was sorry to hear your last Harvest was so bad, it will make it run hard with the poor. I sincerely wish the next may be better. I

was once thinking of paying ye a visit this year, but I find it cannot be done wt. Conveniency

Pray is there any good grass farms any where in your Neighbourhood to be purchas'd, or rented. I believe if I go home I would be apt to Stick to my old trade, how many years purchase do they ask for a [c.o.] small Estate in your quarter.

If I do settle in Scotland, I must be near you I believe I can shoot; & fish a little yet, with a renew'd lesson from you, I also can take a [c.o.] quid of Tobacco to wards evening. I must beg you'll write or tell My Dear Ann to do it for you, and let us know how you and she and all the Bairns & grand Bairns are. You'll make my most affectionate Compts. to my Sister & them all, & tell them I am very well & intend to see them soon, with sincere wishes for their health & happiness I remain wt. Esteem

Dr Brother
your very Hum: Sert
Chas: Stirling

N.B. Sanders Clerk & James Graham are both well
I suppose they will write you.
J. Stirling will have near 400 Hogsd. & 200 Puns this
year what a princely fortune. C S

Letter from Thomas Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff. 82-83

Bareges 7th june 1783

My Dear Airth, [in another hand: 23d/nov]

I received your Letters of 31st March, & of 1st May with the account as it stands betwixt us fm last settlement in 74 to Whitsunday of this present year, and as far as I can judge, having none of my Memorandums or papers with me it seems to be very right, only one article which is in your favour, viz. the £60 drawn by me on Mr D Erskine by a bill to Major McDonald which you debit yourself with, I had charged in the acct against Henry's pay, you will therefore deduct that sum of £60 from the Genr acct & the ballance will be £2218-13-10, that you owe me at Whitsunday last in place of £2278-13-10 as marked in yours; this is one of the benefits arising from short accts as it might have slipped my memory which is not now very good; as for transmitting a dovetailed acct to me that is not necessary, it is sufficient you leave it wt Mr Erskine, Henrys acct I shall give you at meeting, he got no money from me but £10 which I gave him as present at St Omer which wt the balln of the 470 Livres from Capt Stewart I think might make about 16 or £18 when he got to London he drew for £18.18 at Portsmth from the Agent & who paid £5.1.6 for hosiery for him, these two last articles are charged in his acct, his sea stock you wrote me cost him £16, so that he must have had enough with him, as there would probably be two months pay due him by the time he arrived at Halifax and he will receive a years arrears at Xmas which is about £15 Sterg, I am thus circumstantial to show you he ought not to be in straits, and I would not have him accustomed to expect any pecuniary assistance from you, 'tho I would by no means have the purse entirely shut against him if there was good reason for opening it, he has Magnified the price of sheeting, at least he ought to have said 8Sh Currency pr yard which is only 4.6 Sterling, he got 6 new Shirts at St Omers

if there has been no steps to him lately he is within the break, but last war the [c.o. Ensigns] Lieuts who chose it were permitted to serve on Ensrs pay, and I am clearly of opinion he ought to do so if

he has it in his choice, & means to follow this profession, if he does not like it and wishes to take any other than he may go on half pay, this you should mention to Cambus Wallace²²⁶ for his son to fix it as they may not have time given them to consult their friends, they ought therefore to be wrote to on that head that they may memorial the commander in chief in case of a reduction that they may be permitted to serve on Ensigns pay as the young Lts of the 42d did at the end of the last war - I have had no Letter from him perhaps he wrote me by the Caton which I am afraid is gone, I am really sorry for Sr A S Hammond²²⁷ & family, I knew him well [c.o. &] a worthy man & a good Officer, I am heartily sorry for Jamies remove I make no doubt if Ld Cornwallis²²⁸ goes out but he will attend to my recommendations I hope Hay Mcdowal will be able to prove he could do no more my kind Compts to DE²²⁹ & spouse tell him I remembered how I pestered him wt Letters fm America therefore would not trouble him wt an answer to his wt Dr Blairs²³⁰ Letter, as I had nothing to say & had given a favorable one to the Dr who I supposed he interested himself for; what is Archie²³¹ about in getting daughters pray tell him to fill the Cambo²³² better & mak a plook²³³ in place of a stimple

I arrived here the 21st of last month & never suffered so quick a change of Climate we had been sitting at Toulouse wt all our windows open and the weather too warm to go out in middle of the day, when I arrived here all the hills were covered with snow and on the 24th there was 8 inches on the streets as I was going to the bath & often has it fallen since & only wtin these 3 days has the weather been tolerable I was the first that came & now there not half a dozen strangers

I am injecting, bathing, douching & drinking, at no allowance but my Eyes are beginning to be affected again & I am afraid I must suspend my remedys for some time, I was an hour today lying on my face while a Surgeon was probing & tugging at a splinter wt his forceps but it is D--- obstinate it would not move I might have been making better use of that position in a hundreth part of the time wt the Widow you recommend if she had been here but not being here with one of the Pyrean Nymphs who are as like our Highd Lasses as can be only that they would not throw a pail of Milk in your face was you to put half a crown in their bosom, but this is all theory my Dear Airth, no practice, I am so stewed in the baths, sweated [torn] parboiled at the Douche that there is not a drop of sap in [torn] my flesh soft as butter, my skin loose & wrinkled, my hairs Gr[torn] well might my old Friend at N York say now if she saw me, O Stirling you are grown old & ugly – well thank God I am not immortal I shall get rid of this old battered clay soon - but enough of this - tell Mrs Campbell I got her Letter of 7th May & shall write her soon, it will be near 7 weeks before I can have an answer to any Letter, let her therefore continue writing me till I bid her stop, I may perhaps take a sudden resolution of leaving this as I have no confidence in the waters in that case London will be the first place that will bring me up; Adieu, My Dear Willie, kindest Love to Annie & the bairns, [c.o.] remember me affectely to all my friends, & believe me ever to be,

your faithfull Friend & Servt
Thos Stirling

Letter from James Graham, Trelawny, Jamaica, to William Graham

MS 10925, f. 6

Georgia²³⁴ Trelawny Jamaica 19th June 1783

Sir

I received your Favour of the 31st of July [sic] about a Month ago and am happy to hear of your and your Family's Wellfare I understand from my Aunts letter that you have not Received my letter of the second of May Eighty one from By Brooke Estate St. Thomas in the Vale which

according to my Promise I wrote you as soon as I had Settled there. I had stay'd there only Two Months when I was taken Sick of a very severe fever of which as soon as I had recover'd a little I came to Ardoch Mr. Stirling advised me not to go back to By Brooke but rather to go to Hampden as the North side is thought more healthfull then the South.

I have ever since kept my health as well as I can wish and find the Climate as agreeable as Home

I left Hampden in July last to come by request of my overseer Mr. McLachlan and came here as Book keeper with a name sake of his who was then in want. At the same time Mr Mc. told me as I was not going out of the imploy I could return to Hampden if I not [sic] Chuse to stay here

It is G. Favour of my Present overseer I send this he has given up the Charge of the Estate to the oldest Book=keeper and taken Passage for London I have never had more then £40 Pr. Annum But as I have got the Charge of the Still House I expect 60 or 70£ Curr: that is

Every Article from Home sells so high here that a Book keeper can save nothing at 40£ Shoes are sold here at 15/ & 17/6 Pr Pair Stockings at 6£ C. Dozen and other things in Proportion -

A Waiting Boy of Mr. Stirlings call'd here last week at which time Mr. Stirling and Alexr. Clarke were both in good health & Mr. Stirling has hitherto Promised me his Interest to get me an overseers birth as soon as I am cappable of Managing an Estate Likewise [sic] my Imployer Mr. Grant²³⁵ who has it very much in his power and with whom Mr. Stirling interest is very great.

However I will patiently Continue as I am two years yet and even then be as lucky as many people

I must acknowledge myself ungreatfull in not writting you since May 81 ____ Yours was the first I had from Home. I am happy to hear that you have had several letters from Mr. James and that he is taking well with the East Indies

I Conclude returning you many thanks for your great Kindness which is the only Return I can now make

Sir

Your Most obliged Humble Sert.

James Graham

[in another hand: Jas Graham July 1783]

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Anne Graham

ACC 12290-1-3/3

Suffolk Street²³⁶ No 28 Oct 27th 1783

My Dear Annie,

You would hear from Sir Wm or Mr Erskine both to whom I wrote of my arrival in this country and tho you can have no doubt of my affection for you & yours yet I thought it would not be unpleasant to have those assurances under my own hand after an absence of eight years, which time has not in the least diminished that sincere regard for you all and desire to be usefull to you I am sorry my efforts have not been attended wt better success I find Henry is coming home on half-pay the scheme of his serving on Ensns pay not being allowed, I shall take care of him while here if he comes this way & send him off soon for Scotland as nothing can be done for him at present if he could give application to any other business I should wish he would as there is no encouragement for his present profession

I am uncertain as to my stay but will without fail Salute you & yours with the most cordial affection

at Airth after leaving Edinr Till then, I remain,
with great truth,

My Dear Sister,
your most affecte. brother & Servt
Thos Stirling

P.S. the Leg is in an indifferent state the wound still open but I can walk a little way wt the assistance of a Staff & hope in time go get more strength in it

Letters from Thomas Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff. 84-85

London Decr 11th 1783 Suffolk Street No 28

My Dearest Friends [in another hand: 21 Decr]

I have received both your Letters which were very agreeable as they told me of your Welfare, Jamies, & the young folks at home & the happy recovery of Mrs Erskine & Mrs Stirling being better; the confusion in the India affairs or rather total change makes it impossible to get any recommendation for James at present after all is arranged if I can my efforts shall not be wanting - I have this day heard of Henry he was to have come in a Ship which is arrived here & in which his baggage is but by etourdorie²³⁷ or some other cause he lost his passage & they tell me was to go in the Vessel that carrys the 71st to Clyde you may therefore expect him soon if not already arrived; I am sorry he did not come here as I have been planning for him but which I could not finish wtout knowing what his Major had done or proposed, or if he was in the 42d, if Chas Grant²³⁸ will sell or Capt Dickson as I would be clear for purchasing him a Compy as it would only cost £950 besides his Ltcy, to which I will readily contribute, he might be put under stoppage of £100 pr Annum to pay the interest & sink by little the capital

there is another opportunity in my Regt of a Compy which will cost £800 but this gives only rank of £50 pr an more of half pay than his Ltcy – his prospect of getting any thing in the army but by purchase is very poor for several years & even in that way the price will rise & will cost more all this should be well considered, I know it is more than you can afford to advance for him unless some of his friends would join, whenever he arrives inquire of him if his Major has any scheme for him & what it is or if he thinks Capt Grant will sell or Dixon as that would be a great inducement to me to get him in to 42d otherwise it is the worst Corps for preferment for a Subaltern in the army I have got an Ensn: in my Regt for Henry Hamilton²³⁹ but I would not have it known as I meant it as a support for the whole children as far as it will go (about £30 a year) I had some views for my Grand Nephews but their extreme youth has precluded every attempt if Toms²⁴⁰ ship touches at Madeira give him credit for a pipe of Madeira of the best & let it be cased for me. I bid Mr Erskine advance £100 if there was any venture he could take with him to Jamaica let me know to whom I can consign any baggage or any thing

else I am sending to Carron Shore²⁴¹ Adieu

Love to all my friends & believe me ever

your most affecte Brother
T. Stirling

London 16th Jany 1784

My Dear Friends

I have received your Letters about Henry your intentions for him are certainly as much as could be expected but I am at a loss what to decide upon as you leave it to me, something should be done at present for if I leave this I do not mean to return in a hurry & little can be done except one is present.

there is a Small chance just now of getting him on full pay wtout any money, at any rate that must be done before he could purchase [c.o. either] a Compy either in an Old or young Corps, if this succeeds £800 more could get him the rank of Capt wt half pay £90 a year, if it should not it would cost £850 at least to get that, or even to get him upon full pay as Lt, if this fails, will cost £150, however be assured I shall think well of it and do in it as if he was my own

his baggage is sent in a ship for Carron (I know not the name) directed for Mr Browns care Sea lock the keys in a Letter, in a trunk there is a paper parcell for Lady Stirling & four Ladies Hats tyed up in a Napkin of mine let them be cared for & safely forwarded

Adieu My Dear Brother & Sister/ love to the Bairns & best wishes for Toms safety & prosperity of you all

I ever am
yours most faithfully
T.S.

addressed: Wm Graham Esqr of Earth (sic)

stamped: FREE signature T Murray

Letter from Sir William Stirling to Thomas Stirling

ACC 12290 f. 18

Ardoch 4th Febry 1784

My Dear Brother

I had the pleasure of receiving you letter of the 17th Janry. I wrote you from Clackmanan that we had been prevented from going to Perth upon the 6th of Janry owing to a great Storm of Snow but Mr Haldane who was so earnest to get the Road Bill passed this Session of Parliament had made the Convenor call another upon the 27th which accordingly took place we Combated the Matter with the other Party for upwards of five hours and got every part of the Bill Settled except the last Clause which was for making the Sentence of the Justices at Perth Final without allowing any Appeal to any Court whatever. this Clause they Carried by a Majority of Six Votes upon which we took a Protest and told them we should meet at the Bar of the house of Commons whether they will Venture to bring in their Bills after what has happened I cannot say, but General Murray will let your know if they should I hope you will use your Interest with any of the Members

of your Acquaintance to attend when the Bill comes before the House, it would be granting a most improper Power to our Scots Justices who I am Affraid would sometimes be liable to Abuse it especially in these Political times when Jobbing is so much in Fashion and should be Guarded

against. Mr Graham of Gartmore who was upon our Side of the questions and at Perth with us is gone to London - he is a Sensible entertaining Man if you get acquainted with him he will inform you more particularly of all our transactions as he will look after our Affair at London I send you Inclosed a Discharge of one John Marshall who was a Serjeant in the 22d Regt he is Brother to my Tennant James Marshall at Pendreech he was over in America you will Observe the poor Man is just now in the Infirmary I wish you could get him either upon Chelsea or into some Garrison his Character is good - I send you likewise an Advertisement which appeared in last Weeks papers, the Rent of the Lands as they are Set fourth puts them beyond my reach. I once thought when they came to be Sold it would be prudent in me to Dispose of Pendreech and purchase them to keep out a Bad Neighbour but from the Rental that is impossible, though I think Pendreech a better Estate I mentioned to you formerly my intentions to Entail my

Estate and Settle Pendreech upon you and your Heirs Male this I still mean to take place, and with that view I purchased Drumdrauls and added to it which will make a pretty Situation for a House to your. the Lease of Drumdrauls is out against Martinmass next. if you have any thoughts of doing any thing there you shall have Access to it whenever you please, so I shall make it over to you upon the same terms which I bought it, and the Lands of Pendreech at my Death allowing you in the mean time to take in any part of them you Incline for [unclear] or Conveniency - I hope you will tell me your Mind freely upon this Head. you shall have the Materials of the House of Pendreech to do with what you please. George Ross & Wm Todd at London are my Neighbours principal Creditors and they hold his Estates in Trust Right alongst with Methven²⁴² & Col Edmondstone I suppose they are Selling them I am sorry I had not spoke to Lord Dunmore²⁴³ about the Superiority of Pendreech As he is the Entailer if he was Willing he might still Sell it, I suspect he does not wish to do it - You have escaped a Severe Winter by not coming to Scotland. when you go the Bath you will find Freisweek²⁴⁴ and his Wife there - I hope Mr H Drummond got safe to London - I wish the Ministry was well settled - and also the India Affairs. I had a letter yesterday from Jamie Graham from Calcutta he does not mention any thing of his Situation - if came by a Mr Thomas Graham I believe Nephew to Lord Newhaven who James recommends to my Attention -

Lady Stirling had a letter from Lady Stuart lately She enquires very friendly for you and desires to make an apology to you for not Answering a letter She had from you about three Months ago but says she has not been in a Situation to do it - you no doubt have heard the Dreadful Story that happened to Mr Crawford which gave them all such a Shock - Craigharnock Died last last [sic] Week²⁴⁵ - Lady Stirling and your Nieces join in best Wishes to you I ever Am Most Affectionately yours

Willm Stirling

Letters from Thomas Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff. 87-88

London March 15th 1784

I have been making several efforts to get Henry in to the Army again but all hitherto ineffectual, I am making one last effort if that fails I have no hopes of any thing else at present, but I wish to have yours & Annies sentiments before I go farther there is a Company in the 19th Regt to be sold, but it is in Jamaica and may continue there for some time another offers in the 2d Battn 42d Regt which is in India and as it is a young Corps may be

reduced when the Ministry can make proper arrangements for the Settlement of that Country, it is true this Compy is the additional one & of Course the Capt may be continued in Brittain to recruit for the Battn: but its being the addl: Compy makes it more liable to be broke & the recruiting business is but an unpleasant one

this is the true state of the two chances I have of getting Henry in, the chief thing you are to consider and determine is the Climate of Jamaica opposed

to that of India if he should be ordered there and it being the Additional Compy of a young Corps that has a great chance of being reduced, the income is rather better in the 42d than the 19th this last being a second Capt, that is, wtout a Compy & of Course wtout any emolument, only ten Shillgs a day

the price to be paid is the same let Annie and you weigh matters and write your sentiments to me immediately as no time is to be lost, I mean to bring H in to my Regt first as you would see by my last to Mrs Campbell of 8th directed to Airth & then perhaps one of the above two

I would not have you mention my intentions to Henry as I find he has already begun to talk of the hardship of being a Subaltern for some years, if this plan fails he must be content to get into full pay as Lt & even pay for it

say therefore nothing of purchasing a Company but if you wish to consult him as to the choice of Climates, ask him whether he chuses to go as Lt to Jamaica in a standing Corps or Lt to India in a young Corps that may be reduced soon.

I am heartily sorry for Mrs Stirlings complaints & wish most seriously for her better health, to whom & Kippen offer my kindest Compts

I have been very ill but now much better tho shall not venture abroad yet, but must soon to bring H affairs to a bearing

I hope you heard of Toms arrival at Cork if they were to touch there. I am very uncertain about my stay it depends upon my Pay Mr coming soon after the reduction of the Regt they are all now arrived & of course must soon be set to right about

My kind Love to Annie & the Bairns I ever am

your most affecte friend & Servt

Thos Stirling

yr Nephew McDowal²⁴⁶ found me out for the

first time to day, I made him pay a frank for his visit

I forgot to mention to Sr Willm if Sergt Marshall is able to travel come up immediately, I shall recommend him as in 71st for the Chelsea²⁴⁷ but if he is not here in three or 4 weeks at farthest he need not try it. I send a discharge & memorandum for Sir Wm.

MS.10943, ff. 89-90

London April 25th 1784

My Dear Airth,

[in another hand: 1/May]

I have to acknowledge yours of 20 March and though it was longer in coming than I expected, there was no harm done, I have at last brought my Schemes to bear for Henry and I have the pleasure to congratulate you & him on his appointt to be Capt in the 2d Battn 42d Regt²⁴⁸ by Purchase vice Capt Jn Grant²⁴⁹ by your Letter I found both Annie & you leaned to the East rather than the West Indies and the terms of the latter being higher, for the income and much difficulty

likely to be encountered in getting it to bear, I seized the first offer & closed with Capt Grant, and it will be in next Tuesdays Gazette

I am now to give you some acct of its situation form &c The Comp is the additional for the purpose of recruiting the Battn in India Henry will therefore not be obliged to go over unless he chuses and the state of affairs there at present and the station the Regt is in with the expense of a voyage it is not to be desired if an appearance of service should offer I would not be for keeping him at home in the mean time he will have a recruiting party of the Noncommissioned Officers, to distribute for the purpose of getting men & may appoint his own Headquarters where he pleases either Stirling Edinr or any where else there is two Officers belonging to the Compy

The chance of being reduced soon is not likely as they are keeping the 98, 100, & 101st Regts in India and if I have any guess we shall not be long at Peace in that quarter of the Globe

- the Price is near £1000 besides his Lieutenancy, if the Compy stands 12 months, if it is reduced within that time it is to be £50 less this was was best bargain I could make, and I have had my trouble about it but I shall think my self well repaid if it answers as I wish, The settling of the money betwixt us must be deferred till we meet the method I propose is that you take £550 upon yourself & Henry shall give me his bond for the remainder, with an obligation to pay at least £100 pr an: out of his pay, for the purpose of interest, & clearing part of the principal this he may very well afford to do as his pay will be good 200 Guineas a year

I shall get his beating order, instructions &c before I leave this, & when the Sergt & Corpls leave this for Scotland give them directions to call on him

I am heartily sorry for poor Tom's bad luck at out setting I suppose this may cure him from the Sea, but what next is the thing?

Jamies appointment to a post gave me pleasure & I hope he will be a comfort to you all, the unsettled state of affairs prevented my getting any recommendations for him you ought to get some body to recommend him to Ld Blantynes Brother²⁵⁰ who goes out in a high line Adieu My Dear Airth kind Love to Annie & the Bairns

I am ever your faithfull friend & Servt
Thos Stirling

P.S. 26th

Henrys name is in the Gazette of Saturday and I have settled the money matters till we meet Chas Moray²⁵¹ has got to his Kingdom

Adieu

MS.10943, ff. 91-92

London May 4th 1784

My Dear Airth

[in another hand: 9 May]

I wrote you a few days ago of my having purchased Capt Jn Grants Compy in the 2d Battn 42d Regt for your son Henry the price £1450 and £50 more if the Compy is not reduced 12 Months hence all which I have settled and paid the Commission will bear date 24th April 1784, I mentioned £550 for your part & the rest I take on myself, you will therefore make Mr David Erskine take a bond from Henry to me for £400 bearing date 24th April and when I come down I shall settle the £550 with you with our other accts: Henry must pay the Interest of the whole to us & he must likewise pay £50 of the principall yearly this he will be well able to do if he remains in Brittain as he will live mostly with his friends should he go to India he will with Oeconomy be able to do

more. I have wrote him to try and enlist some of the men at Stirling or of my Regt. at Perth and you must let him have a little money for that purpose if he can get a well behaved lad for a Servt he will be

allowed to put him on the strength of his Compy as a recruit & draw pay for him, if there is any thing from here such as Buttons, lace, &c for Regt: let me know & I shall bring it with me I beg you will keep him at writing & improving his hand and if you was to make your School Master give him an hour a day at book keeping & arithmetick it would be of great service to him I shall probably be down the end of this or beginning of next month, when I shall salute you all in the most cordial manner as I am

most affectionately yours [etc.]

Thos Stirling

P.S. I had a Letter from Charles dated 20th of March who desires to be remembered to you all he says he does not propose being over this year

TS

MS.10943, ff. 93-94

Lochlin²⁵² July 9th 1784

Dear Airth,

I got your Letter some time ago, I now send you the state of our accts as I imagine they stand if you discover any error or omission let me know, you will observe I go upon the acct you send me to France which I think right only the £60 which I had charged Henry in my acct with him; and therefore should not be in your debit to me, I have consequently given you credit for that sum which makes the Ballance due by you at Whitsunday 83 to be £2218-13-10 which wt £10 you got from Mrs Campbell in 76 wt the interest thereon to Whitsunday 84 and the interest of the other sum, with £550 pd for Henry Commission, will make the whole amount to £2893-7-6 at Whitsunday 84, for which sum I have your bond for £1300 & a bill for £400

now the method I would propose for the security to be by you given to me is your separate bill for the £550 advanced for Henry and another bond

for 1000 dated Whitsunday 84 with the bond I have already

for 1300 and at Martinmass you might pay the ballce

for 43-7-6 to me or Mr Erskine for my acct and

Total £2893-7-6 I should give you up your bill for 400£

if this meets with your approbation & you find it right the acct can be drawn out clear and closed and each have a Copy and you may either get a bond & bill drawn out by your factor at Airth or Mr D Erskine that we may finally settle our meeting, my reason for fixing Whitsunday is the other Bond for £1300 bearing date at Martinmass I would wish them at separate terms the bill for £400 and of discharge for intrst shall be given at Settling

£ s d

Mr Graham of Airth ballce after discounting £60 over credit:

in his acct at May 1783 wt Genl Stirling

2218-13-1

To Cash pd you by Mrs Campbell in 1776 for Genl Stirling

10-0-0

To Seven & a half years interest to Whitsunday 1784

3-15-0

To one years interest on £2218.13.10 to Whity 84

100-8-8

To Cash paid by G Stirling for H Graham at My Debit

550-0-0

Total owing by Mr Graham to G S at Whit 84

£2893-7-6

Mr Edmonstone spoke to me of a fine lame selling bitch he could get me the use of enquire for her
affecte Compts to all at Airth & believe me ever yours

T Stirling

[in another hand: 19 July]

MS.10943, ff. 95-96

My Dear Airth

I am very well satisfied with the method you propose of a bill for the £1000 instead of a bond to
save you expence.

as to Henrys money it was paid on the 24th of April last but as I propose Henry shall pay the
interest for the whole I mentioned

your bill for £550 to be dated at the term of Whitsunday and you will only be called on for interest
in case any thing should ail him which I hope will not happen. this being the case you may make
out the two bills one for £1000 the other for £550, and pay the ballce

of £43-7-6 to Mr Erskine at Marts: and you may write him to clear up our acct accordingly or if that
is any additional expence to you we can settle it by ourselves

Love to all with your I ever am

yours most faithfully

Thos. Stirling

Lochlin July 25th 1784

Letter from Charles Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff.131-132

Dr Sir

Ardoch Agust 10th 1784

Long did I look for poor Tom before the Ship arived, & when she did, tho 70 long miles from
here I went to receive him, when I found to my great disapointment he had met with an Accident at
Cork which detain'd him; & he had kept all the Letters, so I was deprived of hearing how ye all
were. I received by the Eliza ten Barrells Herrings & Nine dozen Port wine without any Invoice So
I dont know whether I am in your Debt or not I have now to Acknowledge your favour by Mr.
Milne who arrived last week & In consequence of your Letter I offer'd to provide for him but he
did not choose to engage till he could see his Unkle who lives to the Leeward part of the Island.

There were 42 passengers on board I provided for four of them one of them is the Son of Mr.
Graeme of Garrock²⁵³ who I have taken into my own house consequently will be immediately under
my own and Alex. Clark's direction. Clark is my Overseer and Manager general I allow him in
Money £80 Sterl. & the priveledge of keeping four horse kind which is equal to £30 Str. more pr
Annum & Still on the line of Preferment. I have three other Young men in my employ under the
Denominations of Bookeepers & I am three difficient in my Compliment which by the Laws we are
obliged to keep²⁵⁴

I am glad to find that plenty has return'd into your land. We have most Excellent seasons here this

year

for the Pen's but a great deal to much rain for the North Side Estates, that were backward in their Crops. Our friend Kippen has made a great deal of Sugar 330 Hogds. besides rum but has lost equal to 30 or 40 Hogds on acct. of the rains setting in so early & continuing. I was sorry to observe a Paragraph in your Letter by General Stuart that you & John²⁵⁵ don't Speak, for Gods Sake what is the Matter, Will not one person amongst so extensive an Alliance Step forth & become a Mediator; Oh, It gives me real pain to think any such thing should Subsist where the Conection is so close.

Your Parlementiring must have kept ye all busy for some time, but I am hopefull by the time I hear from you again, that all family feuds are in Oblivion drownd.

Pray is Tom to come here again or not, I should be glad to see him, I ashure you the Capn. Spoke very favourable of him. Write me particularly how all your Children are disposed of.

I cannot finish this without adressing myself to my Dear Sister Ann who I was happy to hear is well with all the Bairns, my intention of visiting ye this Season is once more frustrated but hopes soon to be able to do it.

Upon the 30th Ultmo. we had a severe Hurricane which has either sunk dissmasted or drove on Shore every [c.o.] Vessell in Kingston & Port Royal harbour & has done inconceivable damadge to the Windard part of the Island and all over the Island in general but thank God I have not sufferd a halfpenny I happened to be coming from Spa: Town & was caught by the Storm I was in great danger from the falling of trees the Branches flew about me like Shot.

I received Mrs Grahams Letter and would write her more fully but the Packet is just upon sailing and have hardly time to write a few lines to let you know I am well but will answer her very fully on my next which will be soon

I must now conclude with my Compts. to all your family & believe me to be

Dr Sir

Your affectt. Brother

Chas: Stirling

[in another hand: 14 / Febr'y 85]

Letters from Alexander Clark to William Graham

MS. 10924, ff. 17-18

Jamaica Ardoch St. Anns

22d Augt. 1784

Sir

[in another hand: 29/Jany 1785]

This acknowledges the receipt of your two Obliging letters of 16th Augt – 83 and 9th Aprile last, the former only came to hand in Febr'y and the latter about 2 weeks ago – My reason for not writing on receipt of the first, was, the daily expectation of Seeing your Son Mr Thomas here, agreeable to the advice that Mr Stirling had of his being embarked in the Eliza Capt. Foster²⁵⁶ – On that Vessells arrival at Port Moranz²⁵⁷ Mr Stirling went there in hopes of receiving his Nephew – When he was first Acquainted with his misfortune, and disappointment, which we were truly sorry for – It gives me great pleasure, to hear of the welfare of you, Mrs Graham, and all the good Family at Airth, as well as the agreeable Accounts of your Son Mr James, and the pleasant prospect of a rising Family to the Married Ladys; that you and them may enjoy every thing that can add to your happiness is my Sincere prayer.

The ten Barrels of Herrings and Teirce of Wine Containing nine dozen, came Safe agreeable to the

Bill of Lading, but no Invoice, or letters, received by that conveyance, Owing I presume to Mr Thomas's Misfortune, So that Mr Stirling does not – Know, what he is in your debt – The price of the last Rum was £20.11 this Currey or £14.13.4 Stg, which I formerly Mentioned in one of my letters, but I suppose some of them have not reached you – Mr Stirling wrote you by last packet, which occassion'd my delaying writing till now – He enjoys perfect health, and talks positively (God willing) of visiting the

the land of Cakes next Spring, - I have the happiness to Acquaint you, that I enjoy good health at present, and advancing by Slow Steps in the property line.

This Island was again Visited on the 30th of last Month by Another dreadfull Hurricane, which Spread desolation over Some of the windward parishes; all the Ships in the Harbours of Kingston and Port Royal, were either Sunk, drove on Shore or dismasted, and a great many in the Out ports Shared the Same fate; a great number of lives was lost, And the rich parish of St. Thomas's in ye East from whence the Towns of Port Royal & Kingston are Supplied with plantains, is totally demolished, in Canes, plantain walks & a Number of Buildings - the leeward parishes that Suffer'd formerly; has Sustain'd little or no damage And am happy to inform you, that there was none – done here – In consequence of this disaster the Merchts. petitioned the Governor to dispense with the prohibition of American Vessels into this Island, which is granted for three Months, by which a famine in those – parishes which Suffered, I hope, will be prevented by a Supply thro' that Channel – We have had remarkable long and heavy Seasons; Since the 8th May there has hardly been two dry days together, by which some parishes in northside of the Island has Suffered greatly by not getting off their Crops; It has rather been in – favor of Penn propertys, by giving plenty of Grass and Causing a greater demand for Stock; you'll no doubt consider Penn keepers lucky, and So they have been, in this parish, that

Amidst all the calamitys that has Visited this devoted Island, they Scarce have been Known but by report, I wish Our thankfulness equalled our Blessings. -

Mr John Anderson²⁵⁸ by whom I received your first letter is entered as Book keeper in the planting Business on – Mount Olive Estate St Thos. in the Vale, where I called upon him a few weeks ago and found him well, and as agreeably Situated as he could expect – Mr Milne who I understand it to reside in Kingston in the Mercantile line, Sent your letter by post, I thereby had not the pleasure of Seeing him but I shall make it my Business to See him first time I go to town – Mr James Graeme by whom I had a letter from Sir William Stirling, lives here As he is very young, Mr Stirling very prudently [torn] his being a year on this property, would [torn] from the healthy Situation and easy Business And in the mean time will learn what will be of Benefit to him when he gets a Charge – James Graham was well when I heard from him some time ago And I believe is doing very well – I must now beg you will please to remember me in your first letter, to your Son Mr James – And to Mrs Campbell, whom Acquaint that I Saw Mr Neish well at Frontier Estate St. Marys²⁵⁹ Some weeks ago - Also Mr. & Mrs. Ure and Miss Hewitt & offer my best wishes to Mrs Graham and all the good Family present at Airth as well as absent And believe me to be always with great Esteem & regard

Sir Your Obliged Huble. Servt.
Alex. Clark

MS. 10924, ff. 19-20

Sir [in another hand: 29 Janry. 85]

I wrote you the 22d Augt ult to which I beg leave to refer you. I have now only to Acknowledge

the receipt of your favor of 28th Aprile which I observe was to have come by Mr. Henry Hamilton²⁶⁰ – That Gentleman is now arrived, and I am come down here to Accompany him to Ardoch

I have desired him to write by this conveyance but cannot just now say whether or not he does it – As no invoice was sent of the Herring & Wine, I cannot yet let you know how the balance Stands between you & Mr Stirling the price of the last rum was £14.13.4. Cur

Wch

I mentioned in my two last letters.

Mr Stirling continues well, as is Mr James Graham who lives at Ardoch and One Gilchrist²⁶¹ from Falkirk who likewise lives there a carpenter.

I am truly happy to hear of the welfare of you & Family beg my best wishes to you and them, and am with great esteem

Sir

Your very Hble. & Much Obliged Servt.

Alex Clark

Kingston Jamaica

24th Septr. 1784

Letter from Thomas Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff. 97-98

Lochlin 22d Novr 1784

My Dear Airth

[in another hand: 24 Novr]

[in another hand: to Dd Erskine 23]

I wrote you some time ago about our affairs agreeing to take a bill in place of a bond as you mentioned the expence of the latter, and if you have my Letter you would see a state as I made it which you said agreed with yours, in it I mentioned a bill for £1000 and another for the £550 which you bind for Henry's Commission, and the ballance £43-7-6 [c.o. ..odd shillgs] you was to pay to Mr D Erskine for my Acct: the whole of your debt to me at Whitsunday last being £2893-7-6 for which I have your bond for £1300 & a bill for £400 which bill I was to give up on receiving the two others and a discharge for the an rent of the Bond from Marts 1774, Henry is to pay me the interest of the £550 while his lives, having bought an annuity for Jenny Baird²⁶² She gave

me your bill for £50 payable 5th Decr (tho she says it ought to be the 11th Novr) with 12 months interest on it £2-4 in all £52-5-, in part of money I advanced for her

this bill I sent to Davd Erskine last week having occasion to write him which he has acknowledged & said he would debit you wt it when he had money of yours in his hands, if you can pay that & the £43-9-6 immediately it will do I wish not to press now for money only as you said you would have some spare this Term I was willing to take what you would give to accomodate you; you will observe the interest is calculated to Whitsunday last, so that the bills you are to grant must be from that term

As to Lt Callender²⁶³ I can be of no use to him in what he wishes, I know that Col: McLeod had two or three relations of his who were to have gone volunteers wt the Company had it sailed last season & no doubt will go out this so that Mr Calenders chance of a Commission would be small, but if he can get his passage free he might procure Letters to the Comg Officer of the 73d or 78th Regts but

neither of them am I acquainted with - He might have paid you the two Guineas that he had from me

I wish Tom was fixed in some certain line for as he is he is losing much time
I fancy Henry will apply closer to the grubbing of the Trees than the teaching Jean & Wilmina
I hope he has his accounts wt his men clear & distinct
Affecte Compts to Mrs Graham & the Children
I ever am, Dear Airth,
yours Sincerely
Thos Stirling

Letter from Sir William Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff. 24-25

Ardoch 28th Decr 1784

My Dear Sir

We all return you many thanks for your kind Felicitations as well as those of my Sister and your Family upon this Occasion²⁶⁴ and we are sorry that you your were [sic] all with us to have been Witneses to it tho' our House is as full as it can hold - We all sette off Bodyly from this to Abercairny upon Monday the 3d the young Married Folks proceed to Sir John Wedderburn's²⁶⁵ and from that they go to Edinburgh they desire to Offer their best respects to your and Mrs Graham and will be happy to see you -
I am much Obliged to you for paying Mr Ogilvie the £8-7. Sterg and sending me up the Discharge I shall repay you at

Meeting. All here join in Offering best Wishes to you My Sister and Family and believe me always with many happy Returns of the Season

My Dear Sir
very Sincerely yours
Willm Stirling

Letter from Alexander Clark to William Graham

MS. 10924, ff. 21-22

[noted at top in another hand: 6 June 85 sent Jas Adams power of Attorney & Certificate to Jo Gilchrist pr A Clark]

Sir

The disagreeable Accounts of my Brother Dudley's²⁶⁶ affairs going wrong has induced me to trouble you at this time and by this conveyence - as my information is imperfect (not being from himself) leaves me ignorant of his Situation and in Some doubt how to drect to him, - As you no doubt have heard of the particulars of his Situation, and Supposing him to be in distress - I have (presuming on your known goodness which I have so often experienced) been induced to apply to my friend Mr Stirling for a Letter of credit to you in his favor for £25 Stg when convenient for you to Advance it - which letter I have inclosed to my Brother under his usual adress by this

conveyance; I shall therefore be under a further Obligation (which I shall ever keep in gratefull remembrance) by your giving him information thereof how soon this comes to hand when I shall

be able to repay the many obligations I owe you God Knows, all you can have at present is a gratefull heart and Sense of having done a Benevolent Action

Mr Stirling enjoys perfect health at present and Seems determined to visit the Land of Cakes this year, he proposes to sail from here in all June by the way of London, when I hope he will have the pleasure of reimbursing the money part of my Obligation; but if anything unforeseen Should prevent that, your Commands shall be punctually attended to, whenever you advise in what manner you choose to have it remitted.

I have wrote you twice Since the receipt of your last favor, The last of which by the Martha for Glasgow from Kingston, Acquainting you of Mr Hamiltons Safe arrival, he Continues to enjoy good health, & resided here till 4th Jany when Mr Stirling Sent him to Mt. Olive an Estate St Thos. in ye Vale, where Mr Anderson also resides.

He is here just now for Change of air, having been Sick,

but now getting better – Mr Graham from Gavrock is Still here and well, as is John Gilchrist a Cooper from Falkirk – James Graham from Airth is gone to Kippendavies Estate St James – I have never Seen nor heard of Mr Milne Since his going to his friend in Trelawney. -

I hope you and family have had a good new Year, I sincerely wish Your & them many happy returns of the Season. Please to remember me with best wishes to them, and believe me to be with sincerest regard.

Sir

Your Most Obt. and much Obliged Servt.

Alex Clark

Jamaica St Anns

Ardoch 13th Jany 1785

Letter from Charles Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff.133-134

Dear Brother

Ardoch Janry 15th 1785

I hope you have had a happy new year and a merry Hansle monday²⁶⁷, I sincerely wish you and family many happy returns of the Season. We have not been idle having your Port wine which is very good has got a severe blow having the Holy days, and indeed I would have troubled you with a Commission for some more, but the new year has produced new resolves, which is, that If nothing very particular happens which I cannot foresee I mean to sail for Britain in abt June next by the way of London, when after viewing all the Pretty things there shall do my self the pleasure of paying you a visit in Scotland of this I shall be more particular my next.

Alexander Clark informs me of a very unfortunate disaster which has befell his Elder Brother, he having fail'd in business and been put in prison may be in great Straights has aplyed to me for a Letter of Credit for £25 Sterling on behalf of his distress'd Brother Now hopes you are acquainted best

with Mr. Clerks family I must beg this favour of you if Mr. Clerk desires it, that if it is not attended with any Inconveniences to your affairs, that you will advance the amount of £25 Sterling Which I shall repay with Interest how soon I have the pleasure of seeing you, or as soon I receive an Acct. of

what you have done which you'll please write Mr Clerk of Mrs Campbell wrote me that your Son Tom was coming here this year, I shall be happy to see him I have got another Nephew here Henry Hamilton, who I have kept with myself since his arrival till now, he promises to be a fine young fellow I have now sent him to an estate called Mount Olive in the Parish of St Thomas in the Vale under a Mr William McBean the same Estate where John Anderson from Ardoch is he is now here upon his first Visit, for the Change of Air he has been very sick, but since he came here he has had no return of his fever, I received a Letter from Mrs C & Sir W. by a Sert. of Lady Strath Allens²⁶⁸ who I have provided for on Rose hall Estate in the same period James Graham your Acquaintance lives on John Stirlings Estate Content & well, James Graham Garrocks Son is with me as well; I have also a Cooper John Gillchrist from Falkirk with me who is also well. I hope you, My Dear Ann, & all her Bairns are well I remain

Dr Brother
Your Affectt.
Chas: Stirling

[in another hand: Chs Stirling 15 Jan'y 1785]

Letter from James Graham, St James, Jamaica, to William Graham

MS 10925, ff. 7-8

Content Estate St James 2nd Apl: 1785

Dear Sir

I Received your very much Esteemed favour dated 25th. November last the 31st of February Instant which brings me the greatest happiness to hear of you & your Family's Welfare ____ I left Georgia Estate by Request of Mr Francis Grant²⁶⁹ to take Care of the Still House here, he is Acting Attorney for this Property of your Son at Law Mr Jo: Stirling and has been my Employer now three Years he Promised to give me the Charge of one of the properties for which he is concerned & I don't doubt his Promise only there are several young Men in his Employ Recommended unto him by people for whose Properties he is Concerned

I am under many obligation unto you for the Kindness you have already shown me I request of you the Favour which I am of opinion will do me Infinite service That is a Letter from Mr. John Stirling to Mr. Grant recommending me to his Interest so far as he thinks me deserving -

As to my Character & Abilities he is very well acquainted - He resides on Georgia Estate where I made as much Rum last year as ever was made there & if I continue as I have begun I shall make more than ever was made here

There is Already One Hundred Puncheon of Rum made & if I continue [c.o. to] as successful throughout the Crop as I have been hitherto it will be much in my favour

Mr. Charles Stirling was here about a month ago & also Alexr Clarke the week thereafter they were then in good health.

Mr. Stirling told me that he had a Letter from you that week he came to Content which I presume is the letter you proposed writing him at the time you wrote me He tells me that he expects Mr. Thos. to Arrive at Kingston, on a Tryal Voyage that he proposed following the East India sea Service if he does not like Jamaica before the Crop is over I shall go to Ardoch or even unto Kingston to see him -

Mr James had had a good while's Trial of the East Indies when you write me please let me know when you heard from him & how he Keeps his health And also how Mr Harry does & whether at

Home or Abroad When you write them you will much oblige me in Praying my most respectfull Compts. unto them - I dined with Mr Maclauchlan at Hampden Sunday he presents his Compts. to you

To hear of you & your Families wellfare will always bring the greatest happiness unto

Dear Sir

Your much obliged & most Obdt. Hble. Sert.

James Graham

Pr The Ship
Bird

Letter from Thomas Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff. 99-100

My Dear Airth

I received your and Annies letter of 5th Inst. as to recommendations for James, I am hopeful he will not require many as he has got into to a [sic] permanent line where his own good conduct will best recommend him

as for Tom I have tryed every method that suggested to me to get him out at Midshipman any where but all in vain, I spoke to Capt Cosbie²⁷⁰ newly appointed Comodore for the Mediterranean his answer was he had above twenty six in his ship & he knew no way but to apply to Ld Howe²⁷¹ who might recommend it to some of the Captns. as I am not sufficiently acquainted wt his Lordp. I cannot do it

I therefore do not see the least chance that I can be of service to him or that he will succeed unless Ld Graham²⁷² does it

I was heartily sorry to hear of Mrs Erskines illness and hope the Country air will reestablish her in her health

I beg my kindest Compts to Mrs Graham and the young folks & I am

yours most Sincerely

Thos Stirling

London April 13th 1785

P.S. 15th Mr Stirling Kippendavie has just left me he arrived last night safe there is dispatches arrived fm the East Indies overland which may prevent your having Letters

Genl Stirling 13 Ap 1785 [no address]

Letter from James Graham, Jamaica, to William Graham

MS 10925, ff. 9-10

Content St James 22d May 1785

Dear Sir

Mr Charles Stirling Dined here yesterday he is come down to take his Farewell of his Acquaintances in this Parish & will positively sail for home next month

I am happy to be informed by Mr. Stirling that you and family are well (by his latest letter from you which he received about a week ago)----

I was favoured with a few lines from you in february Dated November last and Accordingly wrote you by the Bird for Clyde but as letters by Private ships are often detained & sometimes miscaried I take the opportunity of sending you this by the Lucea - I spoke to Mr. Stirling relative to what I [c.o.] mentioned to you in my last

Mr Stirling was with Mr Grant Wednesday last & spoake unto him in my behalf Mr Grant told him that I should be amongst the first he would Provide for -

Alexr. Clarke was in good health when Mr. Stirling left home - Also Mr MacLachlan dined here yesterday he has been sick of late but has got the better of it. Mr. Hamilton is to come to Hampden to live with Mr McLachlan

To hear of you & your family being well Always brings a deal of happiness to

Dear Sir

Your much oblidge'd Hble. Sert.

James Graham

Pr the Lucea
Captn. Hunter

Letter from Alexander Clark to William Graham

MS. 10924, ff. 23-24

Jamaica Kingston 15th June 1785

Sir

I was favored with your kind letter of 3d. Feby a few days ago by which I am happy to Observe that you and all the good Family were well.

I am here just now to See Mr Stirling take Shipping on his long intended visit to the land of Cakes, I hope he will have a Safe and pleasant Voyage, and truly wish a happy meeting with all his friends – As Mr Stirling will give you a particular Account of every thing here I shall not trouble you at present but refer you to him.

As I was some time ago informed that my Brother Dudley was in distress from some Misfortune, I presumed on the Many instances of your friendship shown me to trouble you with a letter by the Tankerville packet in his favor, And at same time inclosed in one to him, a letter from My friend Mr Stirling for a Credit of £25 Stg. As I dare say he has applied for that Sum before now – I have requested of Mr Stirling to reimburse you – He

has

likewise been kind enough to undertake the payment of £10 Stg to my two unmarried Sisters²⁷³ at Bo'ness, which Sum I mean to Allow them Annually, but as it may be inconvenient for either you or Mr Stirling to remit it, I have beg'd the favor of James Clark to wait on you for it either Quarterly or Otherwise as he Sees Circumstances requires. Nothing but accounts of their distressful Situation, could induce me to trouble you, but that I hope will plead my excuse.

You have Annexed as State of your Account with Mr Stirling which leaves the balance in your favor – I shall be happy to have your Commands from time to time which Shall be punctually Attended to, as far As lyes in My power. I beg to be remembered with best wishes to Mrs Graham

and all the family. I am much obliged to Mr Higgins & family, Mr. Ure and family And Miss Hewit for their kind remembrance of me - Please to offer my respectfull Compts. to them. I remain with great respect.

Sir Your Obliged Hble. Servt.
Alex Clark

Dt, William Graham Esqr. Of Airth With Charles Stirling Contra Cd.

1779

July 27th

To 2 Bags Cotton P the Mary Speirs
as P Acct rendered £17.6 Stg } 24.4.5

To a puncheon Rum P Acct.
£14.13.9 Stg } 20.11

To Ballance due W.G
£10.19.2 Stg } 15.6.10

£60.2.3

1783

Mar: 29th

By so much paid Mr Stirling in part
of a Gold watch £19.16 Stg } 27.14.5

By Sundries P Acct. P the
Eliza £23.2.9 Stg. } 32.7.10

£60.2.3

[annotated later:

Airth Decr, 16th 1785

Chas: Stirling

pd by Mr Chas Stirling

on this date to W Graham

} 10.19.2 Stg]

Letter from William Graham to his son James Graham

Graham Papers SAA

Airth House 15th Aug 1785

My Dear Jamie

I have the pleasure of yours 10th Decr 1784 Acquainting me that you was well, The Coxcombs²⁷⁴ seed arrived safe but too late for sowing this Season. I Imagine we have got all your letters to the above date and am in dailey Expectation of more as I see Ships arrived Your favours are among the Greatest Pleasures I have, tho ever so short, this is not a Complaint, as you are so punctuall to your Mother & Sisters which is the same as to me, I met with a Happiness in May last, I can scarcely express to see again At the same time I had here Annie Mary Betty Christy Henry Tom Jean Wilhelmina & Seton with John Erskine²⁷⁵ Pat Stirling²⁷⁶ Ann & Douglas Stirling Grand Children when we Received three Letters from you in Aug Sept & Novr 1784 the Contents of which are answered in a former Letter. Think of this, How Happy, all in Health & doing well. Mr Stirling came in on his way from London where he had been settling his Affairs. Mrs Campbell & Genl Stirling were here too all well the Genl had the Jaundice but now recovered, I came from Edinr the 13th Inst. having carried in your Mother to attend Annie who is Expected to be brought to bed this month, Mr Erskine is in perfect Health, I was Conversing with him about your Mothers Jointer in Case of my Decease, by her Contract of Marriage £100 Stg pr Ann, this I thought too small, have therefore given her on the above event £30 Stg pr ann of Addition more by deed of this 13th Inst. which Lyes in Mr Erskines hands for her behalf

I think proper to Acquaint & make no doubt you will approve of it by a Deed made by me 30th Novr 1778 in Favour of my Younger Children Henry & Thomas get £500 Sterg each my Daughters £20 Sterg Annuity each when there are five of them but if reduced to three by Marriage or otherwise £24 each if to two £30 each and upon Marriage to receive £100 Sterg when such Annuities drop

upon pay of that sum This gives your Sisters something to live on but no Bribe to run away with There are some other Clauses which the Deed will shew such as living with your Mother & the greatest number of Daughters as paying £5 pr Ann out of their Annuity on leaving them. Now you may with propriety say where does this Money Come from Therefore here is an Abstract of Estate Crop 1783 Airth

Tenants	1084.11.8 . ₃
Fewars	100.10.5 . ₁₀
Cottars	<u>20.13.3 .₄</u>
Sum Total	<u>£1205.15.5 .₅</u>
Publick Burdens for the Year 1783	132.5.4 . ₂
Annually & Interests	
Of £2810 - at 4½ pr Ct	£126.9. -
Of 3870 at 5 Do	193.10. -
And 100 sunk to Miss Hewett @	<u>9.9. -</u>
	<u>319.8. -</u>
<u>£6780</u>	<u>£451.13.4 .₂</u>

Crop 82 {Bear sold £1.5s pr Boll} Crop 1783 Bear £1.1. -
 {Meale @ 1.2 Do } Meale 17.6
 Tho sold by me in Four lots to the poorer sort @ £1 @ £1 to prevent Famine
 Meale 82 Crop

Crop 82

Famine You must however look upon this great Rental to be no Standing one for Crop 1784 the Bear sold @ £1.1 pr B Meale @ 13s/4d pr B of wheety Crop you shall have an Abstract in a Future Letter and you'll Observe there is in the Debts £550 pd for Henrys Captaincy in 2d Battl. 42d Regt. my Milne cost me £300 in the 1777 and my Greens Inclosing £200 with £200 pd for Annies Portion, the Extraordinarys on the Education of the rest of the Children made the Debt as you see, and which from Time to Time you shall be Instructed of and I think the Estate may still do without Selling - I am Still going on dividing Runriggs and Building Steadings more adapted to the Leeyng of the Lands, this will prevent me from making the Debt much less for at least some Time - But what I Lay out will pay good Interest - I am greatly assisted in this by Mr John Burn who I have appointed my Factor and as a Sensible, Intelligent Man he likewise takes of my hands Settling with Tenants, Extending Tacks &c which I began to find an oppression rather than a Pleasure which it was formerly, for this Mr Burn Receives £25 Stg for the first year and £20 for any succeeding Years and Mr Erskine fixes what the writing of Tacks or any Extra Expenses Mr Burn may be at - This has been a Letter of Business in a former I mentioned the death of Mr Stirling of Keir²⁷⁷, my Friend Castle Semple²⁷⁸, & Mrs Bruce of Kinnaird²⁷⁹ the last is an Irreparable Loss to Mr Bruce & Family his Daughter & Son are fine Children you know the Regard I have for these Families so need say no more, Mr Dundas Carronhall²⁸⁰

was Struck with an apoplexy & Palsey on Thursday last he is recovering but as 75 yrs of Age is a Disease if itself, it is not thought he can Weather it - But how shall I mention a Report here Current of my Friend Mr Seton²⁸¹ that his Affairs are in great Disorder and the Estates of Touch & Appen are Sequestrated and I see in the papers Appen is to be sold, Tho I hope the Best, I dread the worst. It is too Tender to say more from Surmises you can scarcely Conceive how much it hurts me. I beg you to be Silent on it, I have only to say I am bound for no man nor is a person for me but Mr

Stirling Kippandavie for £700 Stg say Seven Hundred Stg. But what am I to do if ask'd to bend. I Believe I should do it to the Extent of a £1000 for the Obligations I am under to him, I Believe this last Affair has led me to be as Distinct as possible in the Note above of my own affairs that you may see on what Grounds you stand where your own good Sense will direct you how to Behave - Christy came out with me & Peggy Stirling Ardoch we propose going to Cardross on Friday 18th I shall do my Endeavours to kill a few Muirfowl and when taking our Bub shall not forget you, My Diversion of late has been Fishing in the Pow there are fine Trout & Perch in it and great Plenty and being so near is Exercise without Fatigues, I saw Mrs Siddons²⁸² Act who is the most Capital performer I ever saw her Power Exceed my Description and I am told she makes the Women mad, P-ss and shew every Extravagance, The men too when they talk of her are not a Little Fancyfull, she is pretty and I own pleases me, Your Brother Tom

is gone to Russia to learn to be a Sailor Capt Middleton trying to get him a war Ship at Leith when he Comes Home, The Carron Works²⁸³ are going pretty Briskly, making Guns for the Empress of Russia, These works were much hurt this Summer with the Drought, they had to work a fire Ingine to throw back the water to supply their works at £7 Stg. pr Day, no man Remembers so dry a Season, no Rain for 9 Months, however the Crop in General is good in my Forresters park, Miln park & old Orchard remarkable. Ld Dunmore²⁸⁴ is come down with him Mrs Hamilton for his amusement, his Ldy being in London, Mr Murray of Broughton has left his Wife and gone to the Continent with a Miss Johnstone²⁸⁵ Nae fool Like an Auld ane, Mr James Drummond of Perth²⁸⁶ has got his Estate, I have his Liberty to shoot & Fish on it, Mr Forbes of Callender²⁸⁷ has lost the Goodwill of all the Country by some Little mean actions about settling marches &c one thing with Colll Livingston²⁸⁸ an Extent of about an Acre of Ground in the heart of a Park Ld Errol did it, but he was only a Tacksman, Forbes prosecute him before the Lords the Colll offers any thing he would ask, No, Forbes would have the Land, the Colll said no Gentleman would have done so, I have done it says Forbes, but youll remember says the Colll, Money does not make a Gentleman, - Your Mother Brothers and Sisters Join me in Love to you They are all well as are the Families, Mr D Erskine, Kippendavie, Ardoch, Keir, Lochlane

Lochlane, Cardross, Castlesemple, Mr James McDowall, Kinnaird, Newak, Manse Miss Hewett Jo. Campbell old Body Nurse &c &c. Now you see I have gone from the Highest to the Lowest all Inquire kindly for you & Wish you Health & Happiness as does your affectionate W: Graham In Edinr Mrs Robinson, George Square and that Family who are well told me their Son has been with you & kindly Received, you can scarcely Imagine the sweet Sensations I have on these occasions But your must from your Goodness of Heart I recommend to you Mr Wm Livingstone, son of Sir Alexr Livingstone²⁸⁹ who is Made Heir of my Mothers Family you can perhaps Assist him if you meet - I saw Miss Seton²⁹⁰ at Edinr Miss Smith²⁹¹ is gone to France with Miss Pawson, one of them is gone to India to her Uncle, Jamie Seton²⁹² is well I wish I Could be of use to any of the Family Old Colvin²⁹³ is alive tho infirm but has never Lost that funny Spunk that was in him I Call'd on Boyd Alexander²⁹⁴ all that Family are well, Remember me kindly to Messrs Day Hort Mac²⁹⁵, Hay Mac²⁹⁶, Claud Alexander²⁹⁷, Seton, Erskine²⁹⁸, Colvin²⁹⁹, Graham³⁰⁰ this makes me mention Mrs Graham³⁰¹ Nicolson Street being well with Mr & Mrs Parks her Daughter, Lady Inchbrake

is Dead³⁰², the rest of the Family in Health as are the Orchill³⁰³ Family Abercainry Charles Moray Wife & Bairns well she has increased a Son³⁰⁴, Christy Stirling Mrs Dundas of that Ilk big we Bairn and Looking well³⁰⁵ - Colll Dundas³⁰⁶ Carron hall is gone to Nova Scotia as Commissioner with a post of £3000 Sterg pr Ann for 2 Yrs at least has left Ldy Eleanor & son at Carronhall Doctor Deans and his sister are well, when I mention my Friend Doctor Stirling³⁰⁷ who keeps us all well, and Injoys a perfect State of Health himself, Concludes my List - Christy & Miss Peggy Stirling Join me in Love to you and I am

My Dear James
Affectionate Father & sincere Friend W: Graham

Addressed: Mr James Graham Writer to the Honble East India Coy at
Calcutta
Bengal

London 15th August 1785 [noted by James "1785 My Father dated 15th August - read over 8th July 1803³⁰⁸]

Letter from Charles Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff.135-136

[in another hand: Chas Stirling 31 Aug 85]

My Dear Brother

I must beg pardon for omitting to write you when I arrived here as I am convinc'd your good wishes are as Sincere for my wellfare as any other of my friends. As I find by Sir Willms. Letter you was at Ardoch when he got my Letter I need not recapitulate the Tragical Sufferings we were likely to meet with upon the Jardines³⁰⁹ But God of his goodness was pleas'd to interfere & admitt of what I hope will happen a Merry meeting with me and my friends in Scotland instead of Dying away by Inches Starving on some Desart land, but no more of this dismall Story at present, I turn it into pleasanter events I beg leave to Congratulate you on the aparent increase of family I understand Mrs. Erskine is near her happy time God grant my Dear Correspondant a Safe Delivery. I am burning with eager Anxiety to see ye all, which shall be soon but as I was never in London before & have come this way, I cannot think of leaving it for a few days longer till I view a few more of the Curiositys, of which there are not a few here. A Man with Cash and Constitution may enjoy many fine things here but more of this at meeting I have been very hearty since my arrival and have had the good fortune to meet with a most flatterg. reception by every person here and a most particular attention paid me. I am never unengadg'd constant invitations to dine in private I am engadg'd for a Week to come

I understand the rum I intend for you is arrived at Glasgow I gave Mr. John Stirling advice of its comeing & that one of the Casks containing 64 Gals. was for you & to give you an order for it. the t'other is for the General.

All this while I have not made mention of My Dear Ann Your Good Wife I hope she is well I beg of you to present her as soon as you can with my most affectt. Compts. & would write her but I apprehend she is better employ'd than reading or answering my Scrawls at present. Therfor will not trouble her till I am going to set out for the North I understand she is in Edinr. where I probably may be about the middle of next month. Do, I beg of you, Give my Dear Sister and all your Bairns a kiss for me accompany'd with the Sincerest protestations of my utmost affections for them, & accept the Same for Yourself which is all at present from

Dr William

Your Affectt. Brother & Hum: Sert.

London Gloucester Street No 43
Queens Square

N.B. If there is any thing here that you or Mrs Graham would wish to have that I can convey in the Post Chaise tell me & I'll buy it wt pleasure

Yrs C.S.

The above is my adress, or the Jamaica Coffee house
I am very well known in London already there is no missing me

[addressed: William Graham of Airth Esquire
[c.o. near Falkirk] Kippenross Stirling
North Britain

stamped: 31 AU & SE 5

Letter from Alexander Clark to William Graham

MS. 10924, ff. 25-26

Sir

Jamaica St Ann: Ardoch 8th Sept. 1785

I was favor'd with your Obliging letter dated 6th June. on the 4th Inst. by which I am glad to hear that you And all the family were then well, which I hope continues to be the Case - I am at a loss to express my sense of the Many Obligations and favors I ly under to your goodness and far less able to make any return, further than to hold them in grateful remembrance, and wish for any opportunity to testify how much I am indebted to you. The accounts you give of my Brother getting again into Business, Somewhat dispels the Cloudy Appearance of his Situation, Which Some letters I have had described him in. I hope he will have a just sense of your Attention to him, and if he profits by experience it will be well - I have not yet received a Single Scrape from him, however as he is a Brother I cannot help having some anxiety on his Account, and will hold myself Obliged by your information from time to time, And your advice what is necessary to be

to be done on his Account without which I shall do nothing.

I flatter myself that by this my good friend Mr Stirling has had a happy meeting with his friends – I wrote you by him to which I beg leave to refer.

This Opportunity is occasioned by another dreadfull Visitation of a Storm or hurricane On the Night of the 27th Ult, which has made great devastation throughout the Island, All the Vessels in the Harbours both in Kingston And the out ports are in General either Sunk or drove on Shore, All the plantain walks down and great damage done to the Canes & Buildings, with a great number of lives lost – Thank God we have received No Considerable damage further than our plaintain walk, and Some Stone fences by the vast number of trees falling across them; but as we have plenty of Ground Provisions, the first will Not be much felt, and a few weeks labour will repair our loss in the other, we had no Stock hurt, which was very

Surprising from the number of Trees thrown down – I wrote Mr Stirling by this conveyance.

Messrs Graeme and Gilchrist are Still here and well, Mr Hamilton went to Hampdon on Mr Stirlings going off, Since which I have not heard from him but hope he is well Mr Anderson is Still at Mt. Olive, and believe is well, and James Graham at Content. I have not heard from Mr Milne Since he went to Leeward – I'm afraid Mr Gilchrists Power will do nothing, from the information I have been Able to collect; White Kept no Books, had extensive [torn] with a Mr Findlator, Whom he left his Executor [torn] Gen[illeg.], Said Whites Estate was indebted to him, he is since dead, his Estate is involved and a Minor the Heir, and when She arrive at age, little or nothing can possibly be obtained Admitting Findlators Estate was indebted to Whites; However I Shall endeavour to procure all the information relative to the truth of the Above, for Mr Gilchrists direction - I must now beg my best wishes to you and all the family thank them for their kind remembrance - Please

to remember me to All friends & Acquaintances & believe me to be with sincerity, Sir
Your Obligated Humble Servt.
Alex Clark

Letter from Thomas Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff. 101-102

Dear Sir

Having learned you was going from home and that you proposed being from this Country soon I delayed answering your Letter of 17th October which contained the rectified account betwixt us which you desired me to sign and return to you a you was now satisfied from what Mr Erskine had wrote you that the former acct as settled betwixt us in 1774 has no sort of influence on the present accounts

In all our money transactions I could not reproach myself with having ever done any thing that had the appearance of being mean or overselfish, or could even have given rise to a suspicion that I had taken any undue advantages of you at any of our former settlements, my astonishment was therefore I confess very great when you said you could not settle until you had sent the former accounts to Mr Erskine to be re examined after a lapse of fifteen years
to say more is unnecessary considering our connection but this has confirmed me in an opinion I have long had, that where people wish is to keep up

a friendly intercourse the less money transactions they have together the greater chance of its lasting as it truly said that short accounts make long friends I hope therefore that nothing hereafter of that sort will interfere to prevent that harmony which I shall always wish may subsist betwixt us, I am

Dear Sir
your most obedt & most humble Servt
Thos Stirling

P.S. I have delayed sending the acct as we hope to see you soon in this Country when the affair shall be finally settled

Lochlin 10th Novr 1785

MS.10943, f. 103

*Letter from William Graham to Thomas Stirling*³¹⁰

My Dear Sir

Tho I am to see you the beginning of next week I cannot Sleep without answering your Letters which I have just now Received as it gives me pain, to find you so far mistake my meaning as to imagine I ever thought you Capable of anything mean or Selfish, when on the Contrary I think myself under very great Obligations to you, I only thought you might have Committed a mistake as I have often done myself (and no man is Infallable) that I am diffident and do nothing without Consulting Mr Erskine who will hereafter do my Business and might Complain if I did not shew him every Transaction in Accounts that I was Concerned in, that he might understand & Explain

them to me, I am Sorry you have so much mistaken me as to Imagine I could Suspect you who have been so much my Friend would have taken Advantage of me and have only to assure you that is would given me less uneasiness to have lost than gained on this Occasion. All here present Love to you and all at Locklane and I am

My Dear Sir

Your Affectionate W. Graham

Airth House

16th Novr 1785

Letters from Charles Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff. 137-138

My Dear Sir

Edinb. Miln's Square Feby. 9th 1786

Your kind favour I received, and in answer thereto, will inform you regarding your particular enquiry as well as I can. I have been at every public meeting that Edinb. has afforded since I came here, which has given me an opportunity of reviewing the Ladys, & no doubt that has been very pleasing, but those who are call'd beautys has not in general made their appearance yet. Last night and part of this morning (for I did not bed till 2) afforded a great Show of Ladys, one third of which I believe did not get dancing on Acct. of extraordinary Numr. I had the pleasure of seeing your Niece Miss McDowall³¹¹, seemingly a very fine, affable, frank Young lass, with whom I chattered a good while even on our first acquaintance, & [c.o. I have appointed] am engag'd to call upon her this day at two O Clock to be introduced to her Mother, & I swear I shall kiss the Daughter You ask me if I have been tip'd the Velvet Luscivously, All I can say is, that Milns Square is a Den of Whores Who will fuck any hour of the day or night, but I am safe hitherto. I am at a great loss for a Companion to Accompany me on a Cruize of that kind.

The General has orderd my allowance of Eggs to be withdrawn from me for he says I'll play fury wt. myself.

I have now to acquaint you that I have got your two Sixteenth shares of Lottery Tickets for you, & registerd in your own Name which you'll receive inclosed; your Flies will be ready in two days which shall be carefully send you, as also your Ladys watch

how soon it is repair'd; My Chaise is not yet Arrived from London which is really vexatious. You'll be kind enough to give our Compl's. to Mrs Campbell & thank her in our name for her Beef, Eggs, & honey which arrived safe.

If there is anything here that you would wish for that I can procure I hope you'll freely command me as there is nothing that yeilds me so much pleasure as to have the power & opportunity of pleasing I saw Chas: Masterton³¹² last night, & he is to call here to day, Since writeing the above I have received a Card from Mrs McDowel to sup & play Cards to morrow Evening, we sup or play Cards wt. Sir Willm. Murray Ochertyre to night, we dine wt. Mr David Erskine on Sunday, we dine at Lieth with Mr. Middleton on Monday & so forth -

I think I have given you a Sketch of our Maneuvers at present, & if you think they are worth reading you shall have as much next week, but at present I must stop as I have two or three Other Letters to write, therefore I shall conclude with offering my Love to my Dr. Sister Ann, and my Dear Nieces Ann, Bess, Christie, Jeanie, Willhelmina and Seaton and [c.o.] wishing you the Beggars Bennisson³¹³

I remain

Dr Mr Graham

Your affectt. Brother
Chas: Stirling

MS.10943, ff. 139-140

My Dear Sir

Edinb. Feby. 25th 1786

your kind favour of 22d of Feby. I received, & it gave me real pleasure to find that all your family were well. The General is pretty well, and as to my self If plenty of good eating, Drinking, & mowing will make a man well I ashure you I have plenty of that. I have dissbanded my bolster for I can sleep very sound. I have seen your Sister³¹⁴ who has a great resemblance of you I have seen Miss McDowal frequently, & I ashure you I think her a very fine Girl, I have made several attempts to see her oftener but I always miss'd them from home however we generally meet at the Publick places. In regard to Betty Clark³¹⁵ I think she should get the Money her Brother has promis'd her & if you pay her & get her receipt I'll thank you, as to Dudley Clark I shall either call upon him or write him soon.

I this moment received the agreeable news of Mrs Stirling Kippenross being safely deliverd of a daughter³¹⁶ on which Occasion I beg leave to congratulate your Honour. In reverance of your good fortune Mrs Dundas³¹⁷ has very unluckily parted with Child. Mrs Campbell wrote me that one of your Tickets turn'd up Blank, I hope the tother will produce something better, I have been long looking for some Thing worth to credit up to my self, but have seen nothing as yet. We have had 3 Days hard frost which makes the Streets dry and pleasant but I am oblig'd to take a little warming before I can mount. I am sorry for your wants as your wife is away.

We dine with General Lesslie to day, tomorrow with Mr. Huggart We din'd with Mr. Hay³¹⁸, Drumellier two days ago a man 84 he gave us the hardest drink we have had in Edinbr. There is a play tonight but I am not sure of seeing it.

There is no news here but what you see in the papers I am in Company with some likely Lasses every day which makes the time pass away very agreeably, I believe I shall be loath to leave Edinbr. for I really have every enjoyment that a man in health can wish for. Wishing you the Beggars Bennison and Offer my Love to Mrs. Graham, Mrs Campbell, Mrs Erskine, Bess, Christie, Jean, Willhelmina, and Seton.

I remain with real Esteem

Dr. Sir

your affectt. Brother & Hum Sert.
Chas Stirling

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Anne Graham

ACC 12290-4

Edinr 4th March 1786

I congratulate you, My Dear Sister, on the safe delivery of Mrs Stirling and that She & the Child are doing well - I had a Letter two days ago from Mr Anderson wherein he tells me they had positively refused giving any allowance to Henry for his passage tho he had only asked what the Subaltern had got (£70) & even with that they would pay about £10 - more for the expense of it, He

says Henry has taken his passage on Board the Willm Pitt³¹⁹ which would sail in about a fortnight after the date of his Letter (25th Ult) so that there is little time to spare if you mean to apply to Ld Graham, to recommend him to Ld Cornwallis³²⁰ which by all means you ought to do as certainly it would be of great service to him, but I doubt if Ld Cornwallis would take him into his suite as he will have such powerful recommendations from all hands for hundreds of others

and the time is so short if the ship sails as Anderson mentions that Henry will probably have paid his passage already & could not get it back however I would not have you fail in applying for Ld Grahms recommendation as at all events it will do him service. I wished to have seen Coll Ross³²¹ before he set out for London to have spoke to him but missed him Henry knows Coll Ross and I hope will wait of him to beg to introduce him to Ld Cornwallis, I could write his Ldp but it would only be in the Genr Line that if Henrys conduct met with his approbation that I should deem it a favour he would give him his countenance I had one Letter from Henry but he did not say where to direct for him & then he was in hopes of getting an allowance I ansd his Letter but had to direct it to Andns care, you should write him by all means to get presented to Ld. C. & if there is time & he thinks it will be of use to him to write me & I shall send a Letter to his Lp: - I find the accts but unfavorable about the expense of living in India and had Henry

wrote me immediately in finding that nothing would be allowed I should rather advised him to have taken the money it will cost him for his passage & gone to the Continent for a year, as my greatest desire when I thought of his joining was to take him from home, & being an Idle man there losing much however it would [torn]em as if he was of opinion he could think for himself, I shall be happy he may conduct himself thro life wtout any foreign assistan[torn]

Mrs Erskine is well and we dine together at Mrs M[torn]vals Charles is a poor Flirt and will never succeed (if he has any intention) in the town, whatever he may do in the country the facility wt which the Sex was approached in Jamaica at least the Black part of it makes it very up hill work at past forty to dance, to flirt, & speak small talk to procure a smile, a tap of the fan or even a squeeze to make place for him on the same bench at the play or assembly but I must let him answer for himself, as for me I have made great exertions to put on the semblance of former days like the Old hunter I prick up my Ears and prance a little at the Cry, but cannot get over the field, but it is not folly in me for I am truely sensible it is full time for me to retire before I am hissed out & therefore do not press myself upon them

Make my kind Compts to Mr & Mrs Stirling Bess & Miss Mcgrowter and believe me My Dear Sister yours most affectly TS

PS I have wrote H to get introduced to Ld C & likewise to wait of M.of G. to recommend him

addressed: Mrs Graham of Airth
at Kippenross
Stirling

Letter from Henry Graham to William Graham

ACC 12290 f. 4

28th March 1786
Wm Pitt

one more line to my dear mother to let her know that I am well again altho' a little weak after being a few days sick. - it was owing to a cold that I caught before I left town wich brought on a fever. there is a very good humane man on board as Surgeon a very different sort of being from naval surgeons in general. he has paid me every attention in his power after a great deal of trouble I [c.o. have] settled with Anderson or rather with his deputies deputy – I have directed him to send a copy of

of my account to Genl Stirling. - I hope soon to weather my debt and be a free man. - make my best compliments to the General and tell him that I would have wrote him by this opportunity but am too weak to sit long at a time. tell my other friends that the [unclear] is now und Neptune too [unclear], - I send this by a boat that we met by chance she is just setting off, we are off Plymouth with a fair wind to carry us clear of the chanell. - farewell God bless my father & mother brothers sisters and the rest of my relations amen

believe me ever your affecte Son
Hen Graham

thank good Lady Elgin³²²
P Robertson Geo: Square desires his compts he is well

addressed: Wm Graham Esqr of Airth
Airth House
Falkirk NB

stamped: AP 7

Letter from Alexander Clark to Thomas Graham with his reply

MS. 10924, ff. 27-28

Ardoch 5th May 1786

Dear Sir,

Your favor by return of Charles Graham³²³ – gave me great pleasure not only as it informed me of your Safe arrival at Hampden, but in Conveying the agreeable news the welfare of all your friends; be so kind as offer my best and warmest wishes to them all when you write; which I dare say you'll not fail to do, first opportunity that offers - I had a letter from – Mr Stirling since you left this dated 27th Janry. The family of Airth, Mrs Campbell, the General & he I understand kept the Xmas at Ardoch, all well & merry - I have been thinking of you in this blowing weather, in turning the Weekend – I hope Your Captains Prudence will prevent your being exposed to anguish On that Account – The drought Still continues as inveterate as ever Accompanied with Gales of wind, which greatly Aggravates the Calamity – We have Still water at the Moneague, but it is drying fast, Should it be done before we have rain, the consequences must be dreadfull indeed (Which God of his infinite mercy avert)

No news Stirring here, in the least interesting – I Observe what you mention relative to Beswick, and mean so soon as I can Spare the labour, to grant him the Indulgence you Mention. In the Mean time, he has Accommodation in New N: Houses – I have not yet had the pleasure of Seeing Old Scrogie³²⁴ Since the rect. of Your favor, but shall not forget your message how Soon I do.

Althou' you Seem to hint that writing is a disagreeable Task, Yet I cannot help imposing a request,

To have the pleasure of Your correspondence, not only while you remain in the Country, but after you leave it; You know my direction, And opportunitys are not wanting from every quarter, Your doing me that favor will lay me under a particular Obligation, which I shall always remember with gratitude, as it will afford me infinite pleasure to hear of you welfare & happiness, that being the the Sincere & earnest wish of.

Dr Sir
Your Most Ont. Hble. Servt.
Alex Clark

Mr Thomas Graham

[in the hand of Thomas Graham] Altho' I hinted that writing was disagreeable yet I only meant Letters of Ceremony, & as I stand on none with you, it alters the Case, as I could [above: can] write to you without much care as to my nearest relation, & you may assure yourself, that I shall allow no opportunity to escape me, hoping that you will do the same informing me from time to time of what passes in Mount Diablo. Distance in time & place shall make no alteration on my Friendship, which will find opportunities from the most distant quarters of the Globe, to inform you, how I fare, & I assure you, that nothing can ever efface from my memory the few happy Days I spent with you at Ardoch. In my letters from Scotland, I am desired to inform you that your Friends are well, but I suppose Mr Stirling will have anticipated this pleasure by being before hand with me. - With best Compts to all Friends, & best Wishes for yours, & their Prosperity, I am . Dear Sir,
your real Friend & Wellwisher,
Ths. Graham

Addressed to: Mr Thomas Graham
On Board the Trio Capt. Webster
Montego Bay

Letters from Alexander Clark to Thomas Graham

MS. 10924, ff. 29-30

Ardoch 14th June 1786

Dear Sir

Your favour of 17th May came to hand Some days ago (tho' Note by course of post) and I Should not have miss'd an opportunity, Had not my absence from home & Other hurry of Business prevented me; which I hope your goodness will Accept of as having the colour if not a Sufficiency, as I flatter myself you are Convinced that a Mutual & frequent Correspondence Affords Mutual Satisfaction & Pleasure – I have to beg your Acceptance of my warmest thanks for your kind remembrance of me to your friends, I Sincerely Condole with your Mother, in the distant Absence of her Sons, but hope it is for their welfare and her future Comfort & happiness; by seeing them return to her Arms & that of their friends, in Affluence & ease; which is the earnest wish of your Hbl Servt – I was truly glad to hear that you was not exposed to the tempestuous weather When it was proposed you Should have gone round the

West end, as it has given me, equal uneasiness to hear by a Mr Edgar, that you had been ailing at Hampden – I hope you have by this got the better of you Complaint, Which I will be glad to hear by the first Oppty – We are now happily relieved by fine Seasons, which I hope will give plenty of Grass Soon – and make matters go on their usual Channel – I am greatly Obligated to you for the Mention of my friends in Scotland, I have had no late letters from Mr Stirling which Surprises me a

good deal

All you [sic] Acquaintances here are well & tell you how d'ye - I have no news that can be in the least Amusing, tho only from Town yesterday - please offer my best respects to Messrs McLauchlane, Hamilton & Graeme when you See them, And be assured that my Sincere & Warm wishes for your welfare & happiness ever attends you - I remain with Esteem

Dear Sir

Your Most Obt. Hble. Servt.

Alex Clark

Mr Thos. Graham

Addressed to: Mr Thomas Graham

On board the Ship Trio Capt. Webster
at Montego Bay

MS. 10924, ff. 31-32

Jamaica Ardoch St Ann 17th Nov. 1786

Dear Sir

Your favor of 23d June from Montego Bay, now lyes before me which I did not receive, till after your had Saild.; Otherwise I should not have dispaired of convincing you, that the pleasure of hearing from you, leaves me in no danger of forgetting you, or of giving you reason to complain of my long silence, when want of Opportunity could not be pleaded; as I had certainly wrote you twice before the receipt of your last, after your departure from here; Since I have been in hopes of a private Opportunity, without Success: And as I wrote your Father two packets ago, I deferr'd taking that Opportunity till now – I with pleasure observed Mention made of the arrival of your Ship, And I hope, I may congratulate you, on your relief from the disagreeable situation you mention'd, being in, on Shipboard, after your return from St. Ann, which I was very sorry to hear – I since Saw Mr McLauchlane, here, who partly accounted for the reason, tho' not much to the credit of either (a Certain Persons) friendship or humanity – However, these are rubs that we must lay our Account with Meeting, in our passage

thro life, And he is happy whose mind, by the precepts received, and Observations made, in the early period of life, and these improved into a Philosophic reasoning, is so fortified, as to meet these attacks with a Manly Steadiness; thereby Surmounting them, if not, discerning them of that poignancy, which we are apt to feel on these – Occasions, which I flatter myself was the case with you. -

I am in hopes that (considering the Season) this will find you at your mothers fire Side, and again enjoying the agreeable Company and Conversation of your friends; it must afford you an additional degree of Satisfaction, which you never before experienced - I was happy to hear that they were all well 1st. Septr., and Shall be glad to hear that you found them so, on your arrival among them - I beg you will remember me to all the family of Airth - To Mr. Ure & family Miss Hewit and all acquaintances that you know -

I come now to the news part of this epistle, which I cannot - Promise you much amusement from, except it is to Acquaint you that all those in this neighbourhood are well, and often mention the few days you spent here, (made agreeable by your good company) with pleasure & regret, [c.o. because] they are gone; they are often enquiring for you, And I make no doubt, but the hearing that you are well, will be to them, as I am Sure this will be to you, great Satisfaction – We were

Visited again on the 20th Ulto. with another Severe Storm, which did Considerable damage to the

plantain walks & Canes; particularly in the Leeward parishes; which were, in a manner before wasted by the dry weather, coming on before they had recovered from former divestations; which occasioned a Dearth, little Short of a famine, that caused a great Mortality amongst the Negroes, on Some Estates from 40 to 50 in a few months – this was their Situation before – the last Calamity, which blasted their rising hopes in a few hours, especially those, who depended on plantains; which I am Sorry to find, was but too much the case at Hampton, where they had before Suffered greatly

Thank God, our loss here was inconsiderable, And upon the whole the Seasons Since they Set in, has been very favourable, [torn] thing thriving as well as I can reasonably expect – All the Ne[torn] folks are well & desire to be remembered to you, Polly has got a husband & promises to give you another relation, tell no tales. -

I had letters from H. Hamilton & Jas Graeme a few days ago they are both well – R: Graeme has been plagued with a fever for some weeks past. I wrote him to come here for change of air.

I am Sorry you give me no hopes of having again the pleasure of Seeing you here. I hope reasons, of More Moment than your bad usage will determine you on that matter; And that wherever you are, you'll lose not Oppority of gratifying the ardent desire of hearing that every thing good Attends you, of, Dr. Sir Your Affectionate friend & Wellwisher Alex Clark

P.S. When you write your Brothers, or Should fortune direct your Steps that way, be kind enough to remember me to them, and if you can prevail of them to favor me with an epistle; it will be thankfully Acknowledged and gratefully remembered by Your & their AC
Please Acquaint Mr Stirling that I just now observe mention made of the Death of old Mr Erskine of Dun³²⁵ – Old Scrogie desires particularly to be remembered to you -

Addressed to: Mr Thomas Graham at Airth House
By Falkirk
Stirlingshire
North Britain

Letter from Alexander Clark to William Graham

MS. 10924, ff. 33-34

[in another hand: Feby 28 & Mar 1st 87]

[noted: ? 23 Nov. 1786]

Sir

Your obliging letter by Mr Callander³²⁶ came to hand About a month ago – On receipt of it I set about looking out for a Birth in the planting Business for him, and was lucky enough to get him engaged with Mr John Anderson (whom you wrote by Some years ago) who had lately got a charge in the employ of a particular friend of Mr Stirlings; But on my going to Kingston and intended to bring him up, I found him waiting Mr Taylor³²⁷ (Brother to Sir John³²⁸ who lately died in this Island) his return to Town; he having had letters from Mr Graham of Gartmore, to Sir John Taylor, which he had sent to his Brother, and was advised to wait his return; being a man of very extensive concern, and of Course has it much in his power to Serve young men – I was therefore Obligated to fill the place bespoke for him by another young man that came in the same Ship, Strongly recommended to Mr Stirling by Sir Harry Seton³²⁹ – However, Should Mr Taylor not provide for Callander, which I think there is little fear of – I have desired him to let me know; In that case I make no doubt of getting

him in with some other Acquaintence of repute; and his future welfare will greatly depend on his own merit; Tho' nothing in my Power shall be wanting, to render him, or any you recommend –

Any Services they may Stand in need of.

I have now to return you many thanks, for your kind Attention to my Brother and Sisters which I hope they will join me in remembering with gratitude, And at the same time will Presume so far on your goodness, as to beg of you to continue the payment annually of Five pounds Stg to each of my Sisters – unmarried, while Single, or till you hear from me to the contrary; which I have requested Mr Stirling to pay you, while he Stays in the country I having an Account current with him, wherein I have given credit for the first payment; and Should he return here, Any manner which you please to mention for the remittance of it, Shall be punctually complied with.

I hope by this, you have the pleasure of your Son Mr Thomas's return from this Island; I had the pleasure of his Spending a few days here, which were rendered happy by his agreeable company, and much regretted they were so few, be being obliged to Attend to his duty on Shipboard; I must beg you to Offer my best & warmest Wishes for his prosperity & Happyness, in all his undertakings – And

will be much obliged by the fulfillment of his promise to let me hear from him, every opportunity; as I shall embrace the first after this, that offers.

All the young men that you recommended are doing well; James Graham has lately got a Charge in Hanover thro Mr George McLauchlanes Interest – James Graeme Garvock is in the employ of Mr [illeg]bourne in St James's – Mr H. Hamilton is Still at Hampden, and I hope Mr McLauchlane will be able to get him a Charge Soon – Mr Robt Graeme³³⁰ from Garvock is in St Marys & promises to do well And Gilchrist is Still here as carpenter, and merits every encouragement. I have the pleasure to inform you that I have upon the who[torn] good Health since my last, which I am Sorry is of [illeg] distant date then I can well appologize for [torn] does not accept, of the additional care & attention occassioned by Mr Stirlings absence, as Sufficient. I therefore could not defer writing till a Private opperty. offers there being no Scots Vessels here at present – And must confide in your former indulgence to Screen me from the imputation of remissness or neglect – [I have now to request [torn] remembrance from me to all your good Family both at hom[torn] to Mr. & Mrs. Ure, Miss Hewit, Mr Higgins, James Clark, and all [torn] Friends & Acquaintences. And believe me to remain with sincer[torn]

Sir Your much Obl'd. & [torn: Alex Clark]

Letter from Alexander Clark to Thomas Graham

MS. 10924, ff. 35-36

Jamaica Ardoch St Anns 27 Decb. 86

Dear Sir

[in another hand: Febr. 28 & Mar 1st 87]

I wrote you two packets ago, wch I hope has reach'd you before this time. And have now to Acknowledge the receipt of your favor of 5th Octr by Mr Cruickshanks³³¹. I am very happy to learn that you have got the better of your disagreeable Situation, and Changed it for the pleasant enjoyment of your parents & friends whom you found all well which must have been greatly augmented by the recent Contrast - I was Sorry to learn that a certain gentleman assign'd as a reason, to Some of your friends, for the alteration that took place in his behaviour After your return from St Anns, was your long Stay from the Ships Business; but as it was well known to them, that it was with his leave it was look'd on as a very frivolus excuse, & remote from the true reason (his capricious temper) which they Substituted. however, as you have now got clear of him, and no other bad Consequences Attended your visit to Ardoch, I hope you do not regret it. As a Number here remember the few happy days (inlivened by your good company) that you Spent here with pleasure – I am glad to hear that you have a prospect of An Appointment agreeable to your inclination, And

shall be happy to hear of the Completion of your wishes, from yourself, before your departure from Great Britain – As I flatter myself that

you entertain no doubt, of your having my best wishes for your Success & prosperity in all your undertakings; And therefore will Conceive it will be agreeable, at all times when opportunities presents, to let me hear from you; And Should it be your good fortune, to have a Meeting with your Brothers in a distant Country, May I request the favor of Remembering me kindly to them, and if Convenient, a letter will be gratefully Acknowledged by their & your Hble. Sert. - I had not the pleasure of Seeing Mr Cruickshanks in his way thro' St Anns to his Brother, he having miss'd our turn in, but he wrote me from B: Heath, - inclosing your letter & one from my old acqtce: & friend James Clark, whom I have likewise wrote by this conveyance – He at Same time acquaints me, that he had two other letters from My friends at Airth, but had left them in his trunk. I flatter myself one of them is from your father; if so please to Offer my best respects & Acquaint him that I will Answer it by next Opperty. If Mr Cruickshanks come this way, or anything Offers wherein I can render him any Service, you may rely, everything in my power Shall be done, as I think it a peculiar happiness, to have it in our power, to contribute either to the Conveniency, or Interest of a Stranger -

All those here that had the pleasure of your Acquaintance (tho' Short) are well, except poor Mr Amos (Mr Scrogies Son in law) who died a few weeks ago & left a disconsolate Widow with two Children with

(I am Sorry to Say) an unrelenting hard hearted old Mother – Who I understand has Shown evident Marks of disregard to the Widow & Children Since the Husbands death – but why do I trouble you with Such news, unless I offer as an excuse, that a pity for one, and indignation at the behaviour of the Other, introduced it – Mr Scrogie in particular and all the rest are often enquiring for you, And desire to be remembered, As also the family at the Moneague - I have nothing in the least either amusing or interesting in the News way to give your - I shall therefore Conclude this hurried epistle, with requesting you will remember me to all at Airth House as well those of [torn] family Absent, which you may see - likewise to Mr. [torn] family And all my Old Acquaintances & friends that you Know And believe me to remain with unfeign'd regard

Dear Sir

Your Most Obl. & very Hble. Servt.

Alex Clark

Mr. Thomas Graham

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham

MS. 10951, ff. 135-136

My Dear Nephew

Lochlin 11th Jany 1787

I regretted much I had not the pleasure of seeing you before you left Scotland, but as that cannot now be helped I must have recourse to paper to convey in part what I should more fully have expressed by words - and First let me assure you that none of all your friends have your prosperity and welfare more at heart than I have and nothing shall be wanting on my part to forward both, provided your future conduct in life shall deserve it, and fullfull the expectations your Conduct hither to has made us hope for, your Mother, who is a most excellent Woman, has no doubt given you many good advices which I hope you will remember and follow, there is therefore the less necessity for me to trouble you with many now which my wishes for your good might prompt me to give you however you must indulge me with giving a few. The profession you have chose is like

the Element that it is on, rough & boisterous, but even then it is not incapable of being gone through wt good manners but which I would have you understand not alone politeness but good morals likewise, that is, fair honest & candid in your dealings, conversation, & conduct, abstaining from

lying, swearing, speaking filthy or profane language, drinking to any degree of excess which if not guarded against will lead you to every degree of vice corrupt your morals & ruin your health, always remember you are a Gentleman and by your words & actions show the world you are so; remember you have little fortune to expect, but what you can make, be therefore a good oeconomist; take care of your pence & your pounds will take care of themselves, but at the same time never do any thing mean or unjust for the sake of money. love your own as much as you please but never love that of others.

be exact & regular in keeping your accts, & perhaps keeping even an account of the expenditure of your pocket money may be of use by showing you in what articles you might retrench [c.o.] Be clean in your person & dress exterior show often impresses people with a good opinion & serves as an introduction to good Company & will even have some effect upon yourself, for as a Gentleman I knew justly said, a well dressed man stood in awe of himself, therefore be rather a fop than a sloven, but steer between the two if you can

I shall now have done for was I to lengthen out my advice according to the degree of regard I have for you I assure you this sheet would not hold them and as a small proof to begin with I enclose you a Letter for my agent requesting him to honour your draught for any sum to the amount of fifty pounds' this I mean for your first venture

and if you make a proper use of it you shall not want for assistance from me the next voyage you make.

You may either draw a bill on Mr Anderson³³² at 3 days sight or go to his office No. 10 Princes Street Lothbury where he or Mr Kock his partner will be at all business hours

I desire you will make my affectionate love and good wishes to your Brothers should you see either of them and wishing you a prosperous & happy voyage & safe return I remain with great affection

My Dear Nephew
yours most sincerely
Thos Stirling

addressed: Mr Thomas Graham
on board the Besborough Indiaman

Letter from Charles Stirling to Sir William Stirling

GD24/1/459 f.5

Airth 13th April 1787

My Dear Sir William

I take this opportunity of acquainting you that I arrived here from Glasgow yesterday to dinner when I found Mr Bruce, Mr Haldane, his Wife & daughter just gone to Dinner; they staid Tea, & went to Kinnaird at Night, the two later Ladys were dress'd in Tartan Ribbons, both head, & Waist, which look'd well.

Your horses are Sold for £21:12, & if you please to charge me hire from Glasgow to Airth, you will have £23 but when I made the bargain, it was agreed I should be carried back to Airth with the same horses, wh. was Accordingly done. The man who bought them his Name is Craig, & says, If youl

part with the young Bay horse you have got from me, he'd give you forty Guinys for him. I recommend the Glasgow Market to you & Mrs Campbell if ye have anything to dispose of. Mr Finlay is an Excellent Assistant. He desires his Compts: to ye all, as does Sir John & Lady Stuart, & Mr Rae³³³. Lady Stuart is presently at Castle Milk and is in good Spirits, tho not very well. Mr Rae is rather dealing deep in the Toddy, poor man, he is much to be pityed. Mr & Mrs Sommerville³³⁴ are well and desires Compts. also the two Miss Stirlings N Side

I am longing to hear how Lady Stirling does, pray did the bleeding give her any relief, I told Dr. Stirling that it would only give her momentary Ease but hurt her Ultimately (the day I met him on the road) and I rather wish it should not be repeated.

I received Letters from Jamaica by the last Packet, & every thing on Ardoch is doing tolerable well; the Deficiency in the Number of Horse kind has been very Considerable, so has it been in the Cattle. God forbid it should happen so this year, otherwise M. Clark & I will have a tertie[unclear] Clark mentions having received mine of Novt. 28th & he says, I have not seen the Surveyor yet, about Sir Williams Land, but will see him soon & shall write you accordingly. I sold my Chaise for within a trifle of what I expected, & have sent her back to Glasgow this morning wt. your pair. I set out to morrow morning for Edinburgh, & If it is convenient for you to order payment for the Balce of the Horses through David Erskine I'll thank you.

I mean to stay till about friday in Town, but no longer If I can help it. I understand that I am to Settle wt. Mr. Erskine for £4000 which will make your Interest £200 pr Annum, & you may rest Ashured it shall be sent you punctually.

I shall write you from London how soon I get there.

I have nothing more to add but beg you will offer my Love to all your family & accept of my Sincere & hearty thanks for your repeated Indulgencys in money matters, and all other favours, & believe me to be

My Dr. Sir William

your most affectt. Brother & Hum. Sert

Chas: Stirling

Mrs Graham Sprained her foot on monday last but it is getting better;

If you see Mrs Camp: on Sunday tell her I shall write her & G. from Edinr.

Willy Hamilton³³⁵ is safe arrived in Jamaica & John Anderson is well the 17th of Febry.

Letters from Alexander Clark to William Graham

MS. 10924, ff. 37-38

Jamaica Ardoch St Ann 9th June 1787

Sir

[in another hand: 30/ Janry 88]

I was favored with your much esteem'd letter of 28th Feby About a Month ago which gave me great Pleasure, by informing me of your, & familys welfare, the pleasing prospect of Settling your young folks in the world, and the happy Situation of your own Estate which, the thriving Tenants & vassals must afford, - That you & yours may long enjoy a Succession of these felicitys, is my Sincere wish. - I am infinitely Obligated to you for your kind intelligence of what occurs in your neighbourhood; it revives in Idea the happy days I enjoyed under your benevolent patronage; And makes me often wish I could again return to it with propriety to Effect. this a little would Suffice; as I assure you my views are not very ambitious; The Stocking and Settling a Snug farm, that would afford a comfortable livelyhood, I Conceive would afford more real happyness, then a greater income in this country; as I assure you, I am often tired of holding the rod, over a perverse Stubborn

race, that nothing but necessity could reconcile the feelings of Humanity to; this has almost determined me against engaging

in any landed concern here: I would therefore esteem it a particular addition to your many favors, your opinion of Such a plan, with your conveniency – I must at Same time crave pardon for presuming so far on your goodness – which I have so often experienced, that I am flattered to think you have Still a concern for my welfare & happiness; which I estimate, amongst my chiefest Blessings; and of which I hope, I shall ever retain a grateful Sence.

Be pleased to Accept of my most hearty thanks for the concern you have taken for my Brother & Sisters, - I have given Mr Stirling credit for £35 Stg which he advises me he has paid for them – I have sent down a Hhd Sugar, to be Ship'd for James Clark, agreeable to his order; out of the price of which, I have desired him to appropriate £10 Stg for this years allowance to my Sisters, in case Mr Stirling has not paid it – This I some time ago advised James Clark was to go by the Bell, Capt. Cathcart for Glasgow; with 2 Casks Rum, two Cedar & One Mahogany planks, & a Case contg Some Guinea grass seed & Redhead Commissioned by Mr Stirling, and address to Sir William Stirling, & care of Messrs Somerville Gordon & Co Glasgow; which I likewise advised Sir William of. But from some remissness in the Wharfinger, they were

not Ship'd by that Vessel, he advised me Some time Since that they were to be sent by the Ship Juno, but my distance from the port, leaves me ignorant whether or not they are yet Ship'd; so Soon as I am advised thereof Shall again write Sir William, & James Clark – I have sent down two pieces of wood the nearest (I can as yet procure) to your discription for Fishing rod Crops, which I wish may answer; If they do, there is enough on this property – the largest, is what is here called the black Lance Wood & the other rod wood – I hope they will go by the Juno. -

W: Callander, I believe is still on the Estate I [torn] Sent him to, but I hear Mr Taylor has, or is, to take [torn] into his Employ. J: Anderson is now an Overseer [torn] Thos. In ye Vale, in a very good Employ – both Messrs Hamilton are in Mr F: Grants Employ, & well; Graemes of Gavrock are well – Harley I hear is gone to be a Blacksmith in Kingston – I have not heard of the Deed you mention – from Allan – Gilchrist is gone to a carpenter in this parish to learn that Business – I must now beg you remembrance of me, to Mrs Graham, and all your family, Mrs Campbell, Miss Hewitt - And all Acquaintances about Airth I Am obliged by their kind enquiries - I remain - with great respect

Sir Your Mt. Obt. & Much Oblgd. Hbl. Servt.

Alex Clark

MS. 10924, ff. 39-40

Jamaica St Ann Ardoch 11th Augt 87

Sir [in another hand: 30 Jan 88]

I wrote you the 9th June, in answer to your much esteem'd letter of 28th Febry – And have now to advise you, that the two pieces of wood which I then mentioned having sent down, was Shipp'd on the Juno Capt. Ritchie for Glasgow, which Sailed about three weeks ago; A Bill of lading has been Sent by the Juno and a Copy by the Swan Sloop of war, to Messrs. Somerville & Gordon; to whom they are consigned, along with Some Rum & planks &c for Sir William Stirling, and a Hhd. Sugar for James Clark – I have likewise to acquaint you, with a Circumstance that has taken place Since Mr Stirlings Arrival, which I must own, was very unexpected – About three weeks after he Came here, without the least previous notice he acquainted me of a resolution he had taken, of becoming his own

Manager – This, you will easily conceive Surprised me not a little; I happen'd to be a good deal

indisposed, & had been Confined to my room from the time of his arrival, but was conscious that the property, and everything upon it was in very good order; and, (except a Dull market for Sale of Stock), in a More thriving way then at any former period, which Mr Stirling did me the Justice to Acknowledge. But upon a further explanation, he Satisfied me that the only motives for his taking that Step was his not having brot. any powers of Atty with him that would either bring him in Anything, or, require his going from home, & thereby leave him no employment for his own time, while he continued an Overseer; and as the hardness of times, call'd for every aeconomical measure, to one that Ow'd money, were the real causes of his adopting that plan they certainly were weighty – However, as I was (from what had pass'd on former Occassions & a Consciousness of having discharged what was Stipulated on my part) led to

a too fixed confidence of my residence here, I had at Mr Stirling's desire purchase'd some negroes & Mares, the former to be hired, & the latter pastured upon the pen, as perquisites to Assist my Salary, which was always deem'd Small. I had therefore been at a Considerable expence in Making Provision grounds which there was some loss and inconvenience in evacuating – I thought it rather an indifferent return for near 12 years (I hope) faithfull Services, – Without giving me a little time to provide myse[torn] negroes – He has however, Some what relieve[torn] by continuing to hire my negroes, till I get them Otherwise fixed - & from his recommendation, I have views of getting into a very good employ – So that I hope we Shall Continue upon the good terms, that has always Subsisted – This I have thought my duty to communicate, as it ever has, & I hope ever Shall be my Anxious endeavour, to act, worthy of your Countenance – I must now beg to be Remembered to Mrs. Graham & all your family - with Kind Comple. to all acquaintances at Airth. I respectfully am Sir

Your very Hbl. Servt.
Alex Clark

Letter from Charles Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff. 141-142

My Dear Brother

Ardoch Agust 31st 1787

[in another hand: 19 Janry 88 & 20 do do]

Youl think it strange that several of your family has received Letters from me before yourself which certainly requires an Apolygy but it was Owing to the Servant neglecting your Letter on the Table when he carried away the Others to the Post Office which was found a few days too late however I shall make up for my servants fault by giving you Scrawls enough in future

Your kind favour of June the 27th came safe to hand, also one from Aunty Campbell, and I ashure you they were both very Acceptable & pleasant, when they aforded me the agreeable Accts of the Welfare of all friends in general and the addition of a Grandchild³³⁶ to you an Mrs Gram.: on which happy event allow me My Dear Sir to sincerely Congratulate you I am hopeful Mrs Stirling will have a Speedy recovery. I wrote to her by last Packet as I did all my Married Nieces & would write some of the Miss's if my time will permit but at present time with me is a precious Article for the following reason

I found it absolutely necessary soon after my Arrival here to part with Mr Clark and Consequently the whole management of affairs devolved upon me which realy has kept me in hot Water ever since my Arrival but now I have got a pretty good Idea of things in general & shall be more at leasure hereafter.

We have had glorious Seasons ever since my Arrival and great plenty of grass, consequently fatt Stock, but our Markets are very bad nothing in demand but this is the first week of the Grand Court I mean to make my appearance there (not to be tried) but to see every one of my old Acquaintances when I am hopefull I'll raise the Wind³³⁷ as I did before.

I have kept my health extreamly well notwithstanding I heavy fire which I have gone through by constantly being in Company both with Men & Women. I suppose Sandy Clark will write you, he is not yet provided for, but I hope will be soon as he has several good qualitys I shall be glad to hear from you at some time present my Compts. to my Sister, & all the Bonny, Bonny, Misses; and tell them, if my wishes would do it they should all be well Man'd presently.

& believe me to be with sincere regard

My Dr. Sir

your affectt. Brother

Chas: Stirling

NB if you want rum or anything that this Island produces mention it & it shall be sent, if we are not swept of the face of the Earth.

PS Having a little spare paper I will fill [torn]

your friend Dr. Taylor I do not remember. poor Henry³³⁸ is dead and left very little [torn] but a large family. I saw Cruickshanks & his Brother who are both well, as is James Graham We have been dipping deep in Politicks lately, Our Assembly has been dissolved, and one half of the present Members are new. adieu

Yrs sincerely,

C.S.

Letter from Charles Cruickshanks Orange Valley, St Ann, Jamaica to William Graham

MS. 10924, ff.183-184

Orange Valley, St Anne's 16 Oct 1787

Sir

[in another hand: 30 Jany 88]

your will no dobt be as much surpriz'd at receiving a letter from me at this distance, than you will probably be, at my presumption, in using a freedom that I confess I have no right to, any more than in laying claim to that general partiality you have always shown to those, you hitherto condescended to patronize, or take notice of. it is not among the least pleading reflections of my past conduct, that I had the honour, & happiness, of being taken notice of by you: & permitt me to assure you, that as your condescension wt regard to me, was not, as I hope derogatory to yourself; it will always inspire me with such an emulation, as may probably favour & countenance you were pleased to bestow on me - notwithstanding my partiality in regard to myself, I should scarcely have ventured to intrude upon your more important concerns at this time, had not a letter from Mr Hunter³³⁹ to my Brother, clearly pointed out, the active, & charitable part you took, with regard to our poor & unhappy Parents. we have nothing in our power left us, only to express our gratitude, & the assurance, that every engagement shall be most punctually confirm'd on our part: & if you please to continue your countenance, & friendship, to the Sister of your old, & I dare say much respected friend: you will find I hope that her offspring will not prove ingratefull, nor unworthy

of a share of that confidence, that both your & your most respected Predecessor, paid to the late good [c.o.] honest Mr Wm: Harper -

I have likewise to thank you for the kind recommendation you was pleased to give me, on my setting out to this Country tho' I could not make use of them upon my arrival here, I am confident they were of singular service, had I happen'd to be settled in that part of the Country your influence still, may prove of the most singular utility to me; & when I find myself sufficiently qualified, to acquitt myself with propriety, to the satisfaction of my employers; I shall if agreeable to you, point out the mode, wherein your interest will be of great consequence to me. but as I cannot just yet flatter myself that I am able to give the necessary satisfaction, I shall reserve it for a future occasion - I had the pleasure of seeing Mr Stirling since his arrivall here; he shew'd both my Brother & me every kindness, & a general invitation to his Place when convenient. He is a Gentleman of such extensive acquaintance & experience in this Country, that I look upon his Friendship, & acquaintance, as a very valuable aquisition - A: Clerke is gone into some other Employ & I have have not as yet seen him

I have little to say with regard to my own private situation at present. my hopes of success tho' sanguine are not yet realiz'd: & I am not such an enthusiast with regard to Fortune, but that I am sensible nothing

nothing can secure an independance, to such of her Votaries as me, but industry & strenous application. My Brother who has been some considerable time in the country, seems now to get over the difficulties that are incident to empty handed Beginners, his Practice is pretty extensive; & some lucky efforts of his Skill, upon some respectable Characters has acquir'd him such an influence, as can hardly fail of ensuring him a moderate success - will you be pleased to offer his, & my most gratefull respects, to Mrs Graham, & hopes she will honour us with her remembrance

If it should not be thought impertinent in me, may I trouble your with a few memorandums in your visits to Edinburgh. Dr Robertson³⁴⁰ not only befriended me on my setting out to this country; but wrote me a most friend[torn] letter since I have been here. & tho' I have not th[torn] doubt of His friendship, while I continue to deserve it [torn] influence, & good opinion, would cement that friendship, although my merit might be wanting - Your enquiries after my Honest Aunt Mrs Stewart³⁴¹, will be a great cordiall to her drooping spirits, she is Clannish in her disposition naturally; & the wellfare of you and yours to her is a very considerable object - would you honour Mr Hunter with a Call at Leisure; you will I am sure find a worthy deserving honest Man, his Wife, a Decent well bred woman, a Daughter of the late Revd Mr Forbes at Mussleburgh & Cousin to your old Friend Mr Harper - I hope you will excuse my freedoms Sir, as I leave it entirely to yourself, & if ever I should have the honour of hearing from you, I shall esteem it a most singular favour; but as I have little right to expect that I shall only beg leave, at proper times, to testify my regard to you & your Family, which is the sincerest wish of, Dear Sir your

Most obedient Humble Servant &c &c
Chas Cruickshanks

Letters from Charles Stirling to William Graham

MS. 10943, ff. 145-146

Dr Sir

Ardoch May 29th 1788

Your favour's of the 19th of Jany. I received, also one by Mr. Livingston³⁴² but that Young Gentleman put his Letters in the Post Office which has prevented my knowing any thing further about him [co. for the] then his arrival, before your Letter came to hand, I had Ship'd a Cask of Rum directed for you on board the Rossell Liddle Master bound to Leith, also one for Orchill but as you don't want it, I take the risk of it upon myself and you'l dispose of it on my Acct. for what it will

bring, and send me out some good Port and Sherry in return. It is very good rum and is made by a Son of William Anderson's³⁴³ at Ardoch. I have now the pleasure to acquaint you that this Island throughout will make very large Crops, your Son in Law in particular will make 400 Hogsheads of Sugar.

you may tell him that I am going to see his Estate and will then write him

and you The May rains are Set in which afords a favourable prospect for next year.

On Acct of these good things to the Sugar planter The poor Grazier hopes for some pickings to, I have sold all my Spare Stock of Horses, Mules and Steers, & fatt Cattle are now in great demand and none to be got in the Country, but in this parish, & very few here; my dropping wont be so considerable this year as I could have wish'd, but I expect a very Capitall one next year; I am horribly plagued at present with the Mumps amongst my Horse kind, I dare say 30 has had it and very bad, but by my own personal attention, I have lost none but a filly This morning however for my Comfort I have found a horse Colt dropt. My Negroes has been very bad with the hasping Cough these two things has made a Slave of me for these 3 Months past, but I am in hopes as the weather has Chang'd from two months without a Shower, to fine seasonable weather that both Complaints will leave us.

good horses will only sell here at present, and as I excell in that Artickle I get from £40 Sterg to 78 at 3 years old Mules £20 St. Steers 10

and fatt Cows about 7; now I think I have given you a good deal of Information about this Country, I'll expect some from you I am told some of your Neighbours are in a bad plight in point of purse, you should drink the Beggars Bennison to them.

I have nothing more to add but to offer my Love to your Annie and her Sweet Daughters and tell them if [c.o. they] my wishes would procure good husbands to them they should be very soon man'd to their satisfaction.

I must now conclude with my best wishes for your health and prosperity & believe me to be with great regard

My Dear Brother
Yrs most affectly
Chas: Stirling

I heard of Lady Stirlings³⁴⁴ death and shall write Sir W. soon

addressed: William Graham Esquire
of Airth
[c.o. Falkirk] Lochlane by Criffe
N. Britain

Leith 20th Augt. 1788 forwarded by Your Mo. Obt. Sert. Wm. Sibbald & Co.³⁴⁵

MS. 10943, ff. 147

Dear Sir

Spa Town June 9th 88

I wrote you a few days ago of a Cask of rum having been Shipt for you before, I got your Letter & the Bills of lading in your name, but it makes no difference, as you dont want it, I now send it to you who I beg will dispose of it on my Acct. & send its value in Wine. I consider it being at my risk,

not at yours. As I just now Arrived here to Attend the Grand Court I have not time to say much I only beg you's give my Compts: to all your family & believe me to be with great regard

My Dear Sir

Your affectt. Brother

Chas: Stirling

I am just going to dine with a sett of
Brave Boys I dont know how we will
[c.o.] do by the Evening.

[in another hand: 3/Novr]

Letter from Thomas Stirling to William Graham

MS.10943, ff.104

Lochlin 19th Sept 1788

Dear Airth

As Mr Erskine says that the Charter for making out Toms vote³⁴⁶ cannot be passed before Decr next & of course he could not be voted till Michaelmass 90 the affair need not be pressed But the objection of his being seldom at home I should not consider much nor the chance of disoblidging some while he was serving others We have a great many good wishing friends but there are few people among the Great or Politicians that will give them interest for nothing and we must extract it from them by having some thing to hold up - However we shall talk of this after. Our Country is pretty quiet at present but we are to have another Hop at Crieff the 3 of next I hope Tom has seen Lady Elgin & learnt his fate I saw her for a few hours at Drummond Castle³⁴⁷ Love to all wherever you are I am yours faithfully

Thos Stirling

addressed: William Graham Esqr of Airth
if left town Mrs G may open it
T.S.

Letter from William Graham to Ann Graham

ACC 12290 f: 15

My Dearest Annie

As you desird me by Bess not to write Mr Erskine till you spoke to me I think it proper to send you Inclosd a Copy of a Memorandum of what is proposd to be done for your Opinion how far it is right and to Consider it well, Mr Stirling is a good hand to give you advice You see every thing is done to the utmost for you and the Lasses I shall only make a few Observations on it, Of the 3d Augt 1786 I provide you in the whole household furniture heirship Moveables Silver plate and China This I think shoud be redeemable for an adequate Sum of Money to the Value of those things that may be in the house at the time of my death So that the heir will not have an empty house I have in some Instances seen this Complained of The 30th Novr 1778 my son Tom's provision may be interpreted £750 which I woud make £500 giving him all the Money allready paid out for him free I am Looking over the Rental of the Estate what he will have over as an averadge who is heir which

I shall lay before you when here, There are several Occurrences may happen by which the heir will benefit which makes me agree in filling up the Bond £380

I am happy to hear all are well at Kippenross and hope to have the pleasure of meeting you here soon the Servant hall is finishd and seems to answer the Garden wall is Cap'd so make out a List of Trees for it, All here Join me in Love to you and all at Kippenross
Jeans Cold is better and I am

My Dearest Annie
Unalterably Yours W: Graham

Airth House
3d Novr 1788

Addressed: Mrs Graham of Airth
at Kippenross
by Stirling

Letter from Charles Stirling to William Graham

MS. 10943. ff. 143-144

My Dear Sir 23, Dr. 88 [unclear 5 Feb 89 suggested by arrival stamp]

Knowing you to be a Man of a most humane & Sensible Heart, it would be wrong to hurt it, by particularizing upon your late loss, but I cannot help expressing my Deep regrate for the unfortunate Captain³⁴⁸ And I hope in God that you have no more afflictions of that kind.

No more of so disagreeable Subject, I'll now venture to treat on a Subject that will be more agreeable.

I sit down this day with a heart felt Satisfaction to tell you we have escaped a Hurry cane this year, and that the prospects for next Crop never were better: this must cheer up your heart since it will effect your friends Interest so much for the better. I have also to tell you I never had a moments Sickness since I saw you, nor do I feel myself much older I am just drawing on the old trade of Basket Making³⁴⁹ as before

As I heard you had got the Rum, I hope in good order Shall expect to hear from you soon, and nothing will afford me more pleasure then to find ye are all well have been told your Crops of every thing were good this year, which gave me great joy, may it ever Continue to be the case. As to my Crop it is just commencing, & had I enough to sell, I could meet with a good Market, as all my Commditys [sic] are in demand, and Money once more seems to appear in plenty amongst us but My Sales wont be so large this year as I have known them, but I must be contented With thinking that my dropping in the Spring will exceed anything before known upon Ardoch which is some Comfort.

Believe me Airth, I long to have a Booze with you, I often think of the Many happy day & night I have spent with you and My Dear Annie now & then taking a kiss of the sweet Bonny Miss's I hope their Mother works them up & down the Green, you know there is

nothing on earth will tend so much to prevent Obstructions in Young Women than Exercise. It will require a Great deal of nocturnal Exercise to remove it, I know that.

Now my Good Brother you must accept of this as all I can spare at present, and must beg you offer my Love to Annie (who I wrote to very lately) and all the Pretty Miss's, not forgetting one Single Branch of Our Connections from Edinb. to Lochlane, & I now remain with real Esteem & regard

My Dear Brother
Yours most affectly.
Chas: Stirling

PS I am this moment in Kingston with
Dr. Finlay go tomorrow to Spa: Town
where I have been this week past

Dr desires his Compl.

attending the Supreme Court & Our Young Prince W. Henry³⁵⁰
five Days races & Balls & 3 plays last week

addressed as usual & stamped: FE 5 & 89 but both incomplete

Letter from Thomas Johnston to William Graham

MS 10925 ff.11-12

Ardoch 11 Febr 1789

Honoured Sir,

In consequence of your most esteemed favour addressed Messrs Somervell Gordon and Co. I obtained credit of a passage in the Ship Elizabeth which sailed from Greenock on the 26 Novr and after a tolerable passage arrived at Pt. Maria on the 10th of last month, from whence I made the best of my way to this place where your very obliging letter procured me a most hearty and kind welcome from your worthy Brother who I found in good health and spirits.

Mr Stirling has in a very friendly manner, intimated his medical friends with my wishes of becoming a Surgeon's assistant, but as there is at present no vacancies of that kind, they very politely undertake to be upon the outlook for me, and have promised to make Mr Stirling acquainted with the first opening. In the interim I make myself as useful as possible at Ardoch and Mr Stirling very generously allows me at the rate of £26 Pt. till I am provided for in my

my own line. At the present this Island appears to be overburdened with Europeans, for from what I can learn there are many worthy characters entirely unemployed, therefore it affords me no small satisfaction to my mind to think I have been so happy in procuring your disinterested friendship and must confess I am altogether incompetent in language to express the grateful sensations that arise in my Soul when I think of you, or hear your name mentioned. If humanity and liberality are virtues which entitle the possessor to universal esteem, surely to you are owing the highest marks of general respect, and I, while I live will subscribe myself

Your much Obligated and ever Obedient Humble Servant
Thomas Johnston

PS Please make my most respectful compliments to Mrs Graham and your beloved family. Tell Mr. Thomas that I posted Dr Taylors letter at Blackheath³⁵¹ and his Uncle undertook to forward Mr. Clarke's - I hope Miss Hewitt, and Mr Ures family are well -
I would be extremely happy to receive a letter from you in course of the packet and hope you will not disappoint my wishes - Address - Mr Johnston Surgeon at Charles Stirling Esqrs. Ardoch near Blackheath St Anns Jamaica T Johnston

[in another hand: 25 Apr 89]

Letter from Charles Stirling to William Graham

MS. 10943, ff. 149-150

My Dr. Sir

Ardoch Feby. 12th 1789

I take this opportunity of acknowledging your Letter by Mr Livingstone & Dr. Johnstone, the former I never saw, but I understand he lives in Clarendon as a planter; the latter is here, & I have done every thing in my power to procure him a Birth, but this Country at present abounds so much with people of all professions that really there is not bread for them all; therefor, if any more Gentry applies to you for recommendations to me I must beg you'll decline it as they become troublesome and expensive and if Dr. Johnstone should not be lucky enough to get employment soon he must either go back or live upon me.

I now wish you & Mrs Graham great joy of your two Grand Children, I sincerely hope, they, & their Mothers will do well to whom I beg my Compts.

I observe you say Tom is improving him self at Edinr: tell him how do-ye.

there is nothing new here, most people have [c.o.] begun Crop & our expectations are very great, the Caines having had fine seasons & no Hurry cane; we are all waiting wt. impatience the event of the Kings illness, I hope he'll recover but I do not like his Complaint.

My Mares are just beginning to drop I have had 1 Horse, 2 fillys, & 4 Mules dropt & I expect 40 od more. Sanders Clark has been sick, but is well again, I heard from him a few days ago. We had Prince Henry³⁵² here a while, and we gave grand Entertainments to him, he is now gone to Barbadoes.

Our Assembly voted him £1000 Sterg. to buy him a star, & the Town of Kingston raised £1000 to give him and Entertainment, wh. he would not Accept of till his return, he liked our Brown's, & our Blacks very well tell the Genl. that I got his Letter, but his Commission is not yet arrived, when it does I shall write him; please give my love to my Dr Annie & all her Bairns & Accept of my best wishes for all your wellfares & believe me to be

My Dr. Sir

your most Affect Bro[torn]

Chas: Stirling

PS we are to have 4 days racing in April at St Anns Bay, when there will be 2 or 3 of my Horses get to start as 2 years old. I run one myself you'll say I am turning a fool in my old days

C S

We pay £26 Deficiency this year & I have got a Galloway Tup, a Bonny bairn from Falkirk & 2 Creole Lasses, to save my Deficiency but I want one more which I mean to offer the Dr in case he is not quickly provided - ³⁵³

[in another hand: 23d apr 89]

Letter from Alexander Clark to Thomas Graham

Jamaica Span Town 11th March 1789

Dear Sir

Your Obliging favor of 17th Novr. last, was Sent me by M. Johnstone from Ardoch some weeks ago, I have not Seen him nor have I heard how he is Settled; I Should have been happy to have had it in my power to be of any Services to him – Believe me My Dear Sir that it affords me very sensible pleasure to hear of your Safe return from Such a distant Voyage, as well as the welfare of your Brother James, but of poor Harry – I Sincerely felt for you all when I heard of that Melancholy event, from Mr Stirling Some time ago. -

I am extremely Obligated to you for the Concern you express for my Interest, my leaving Ardoch So Suddenly, as it was unexpected, you will easily Conceive gave me at first a little uneasyness, however as the proverb goes that “What is, is best” I am very glad it happen'd as it did. I was applied to, how Soon it was known I was to leave Ardoch, & have been on a property be

belonging to Mr Jones³⁵⁴ within 17 Miles of this Town ever since, where my management is rather better then at Ardoch; Yet I could not help regreting leaving a place in a manner Settled under my charge; but the Slender tenor we overseers hold of what gives us bread, is so often instanc'd, that I am really tired of the profession.

As you mention your intention of going out again to India, I must request the favor that you will remember me kindly to your Brother, & thank him for his kind remembrance of me, please likewise to offer my best respects to all the family at Airth House And believe me to remain with respect & sincere regard

Dear Sir

Your very Hble Servt.

Alex Clark

P.S. pray excuse this scrawl as I have just heard of the opportunity wch. I would not wish to miss, be so good as write your AC.

All your acquaintances are well & wish to be kindly remembered to you

Addressed to: Mr Thomas Graham at Airth House

Letter from Alexander Clark to William Graham

Jamaica Span: Town 28th June 1789

Sir

I cannot let Slip the opportunity offer'd by the Sailing of the Rosselle for Leith, of acquainting you of my welfare; Since my recovery from a very Severe fit of Sickness in Decr. last, I have enjoyed rather an uncommon degree of good health, and find my situation a little more agreeable.

I have rather been unlucky of late, in the loss of negroes. This however, is a Misfortune that every one who possesses that kind of property, ought to lay their Account with meeting; it being a very very precarious one.

Your last favor that has come to hand, bears date the 30th Jany 1788, which conveyed your kind & friendly Advice respecting my leaving this place of Abode; which daily experience Since, has

pointed out the propriety & justness of you observations thereon; as however much my inclination leads me to that object, Yet on a Serious view of that event, I see so many Obstacles, as yet, in the way of Accomplishing it, that makes me apprehensive the

Step is yet premature; I have therefore, laid aside that intention till a future period; and altho the life of a planter, is in Many respects, a disagreeable one, there are many inducements to perseverance, to a dependent man; To mine are added; your countenance & friendship which, allow me to assure you, are none of the least, and has often afforded me, much Consolation, under many distressing circumstances; which I will allways remember with gratitude.

The kind condensation of your Son Mr Thomas Graham, by his letter of 17th Novr. last, afforded me the happiness of hearing you, and family were then well; I wrote him Since, by a Vessel going to Glasgow, which I hope he received – I likewise wrote you, Since the receipt of your last favor – I saw Mr Stirling About ten days ago, who was then well; he inform'd me that Dr Johnstone whom Mr T. Graham mentions in his letter; (but whom I never have had the pleasure of Seeing) is got into very good business with a Dr. Smith of Trelawney, thro' the friendship of Dr Cruickshanks – The Mr Graemes of Gavrock, are well, Robt. is either prefer'd to a Charge, or will Soon be, in a very good employ; James has not been so fortunate, he lives at present with Mr Stirling at

Ardoch, but he does not mean to continue him longer, then he can provid [sic] for him in a more eligible way – I believe neither Mr Miln, or Mr Harley, are doing so well as it could be wished; the former has left the planting business, & become clerk to a Shopkeeper at Port Maria St Marys – Mr Harley is Still a Bookeeper on a Small Estate in Liguanea, at least he was lately, when I saw him. Gilchrist is Still with Mr Stirling – Messrs Henry & William Hamiltons were well, when I saw Mr Stirling, but I believe not yet preferr'd to a Charge; they have lost a good friend in Mr George McLauchlane, who died in his return to this Island.

I have little that is interesting in the news way [torn] -nicate; the crops in general has been good, & produce bears a good price particularly Sugar & Coffee; the Cotton crops, has greatly fail'd this year, and it does not bear Such a good price as last year, trade Still continues dull – peoples minds are in agitation on acct. of the Slave trade, now under Consideration of parlament; I hope the information Sent from this Country Some time ago, will have a proper effect, in Satisfying the Scrupulous, in regard to the treatment of Negroes here. I must now beg to be kindly remembered to Mrs. Graham & all the good family at Airth, Mr. Ure & family, Miss Hewit & remain with great respect.

Fr. your Mr. Obl. & very Hbl. Servt.
Alex Clark

Letter from Charles Stirling to William Graham

MS. 10943, ff. 151-152

My Dr Sir

Ardoch Agust 8th 1789

[in another hand: 4 Decr]

Your Letter of April 23d. I received, and was made very happy finding ye were all well, a Continuance of which I sincerely wish. Dr Johnstone is at last fix'd in a very agreeable Situation as an Assisstant to Dr Smith in Trelawney parish.

I understand Mrs Erskine & Mrs Stirling has both been ading to their familys I wish them much joy & shall write them next Packet As you realy seem almost as anxious for the Increase of the Pen as myself, I must say a little to you upon that head Stock in general dont sell so fast as could be wished

for, the prices are /7½ for Beef, Mules £28, Steers for the Yoke £14, Horses when good from £50 to 100, of this last Artickle I have the best supos'd in the Island, & not Inferior to any, in the former

there was a Kings Purse of a Hundred Pistoles run for, this week when a Creole Horse beat two English Horses carrying ten Stone.

& we are to have 3 Days racing in Decr. in Spa Town when probably some of this Pen Breed will run, but I run none myself for the reasons you mention, there was a filly of this breed that run in April last which Distanc'd every thing the first heat, and is allow'd to be the Speedyst Creature in the Island.

We have lately had all our Militia reviewed & all uniform'd, & are to have a review in Oct. so wt. reviews, horse racing, & Balls wh. always go together, youl say we must be all alive

I hope to hear that My Dr Sister Ann is well & regain'd her Spirits, & that some good Beaux has taken some of the Miss's from you. I am sorry that such able hands as they are should be lying idle but most of Women are to be pity'd. I am still in the Old way a Batchelor doing a little softly softly in the Corner

Let me know how your sons are in India & all about your farm & I shall return you the Compliment. I sold 5 fall Steers & 8 fatt Cows to the Butcher yesterday for £100 Sterg. & 3 Horses unbroke 3 years old for £60 Cury. pr head. I gave £30 Sterg. for a Bull a few weeks ago if this sort of Conversation is agreeable to you I can give you enough of it. but I am afraid I offend you by it. therefore will conclude by wishing you & family every felicity that this world can afford, & believe me to be wt real regard

My Dr. Sir
Your Most Affectt. Brother
Chas: Stirling

Dr Finlay is been here for a Week
& desires his Compts. to ye all he is well.

Addressed as usual but readdressed to Kippen Ross by Stirling
stamped [illeg] 30 89

Letters from Thomas Stirling to William Graham

MS. 10943, f. 106

Lochlin 18th Oct 1789

Dear Airth

I received your Letter about what I spoke to you when here and was in hopes to have heard from you fully about it as you mentioned Mr Burns was to inform himself & let you know, if you have heard any more of it let me know as I would wish to know whether it was worth my while to go and look at the place Mr Stirling³⁵⁵ perhaps has heard something about it & can tell you

Are we to have the pleasure of seeing here when the Girls are to be sent for, Mrs Erskines delay of the happy moment³⁵⁶ I suppose may change your plans

Love to all at Kippenross I am

Dear Airth

yours sincerely

Thos Stirling

addressed: William Graham Esqr of Airth at Kippenross

MS. 10943, ff. 108-109

Dear Airth

I have yours with Mr Ferriers to Mr Burns inclosed The Rental & names of Tenants is the least necessary to know what I chiefly wanted to know was the extent & what was Carse³⁵⁷ & what Upland if Mr Ferrier had named the length of ye Tacks that would have been something, what Mr Burns wrote for viz the quantity & quality of the ground & value of timber was very right, I should likewise wished to have known the upset price to have saved me the trouble of further inquiry if I had found it high I would not put Mr Burns to the trouble of inspecting it minutely but if he knew any of the Tenants or any body that could guess at the extent until the new measurement

was made I should be glad to know it and any of the other particulars. what are you to do with yourself after you return from Dundas? do you carry Beefs to Kippenross & come this way after if you do I may perhaps take a jaunt down the Country with you & we shall take a took of G³⁵⁸
All here joins in best wishes & I am

Dear Airth
yours sincerely
Thos Stirling

Lochlin Halloween

Mrs Campbell begs Bess to make the Post enquire at Bathgate if the Candles bespoke for Locklin be ready and the maker to send them

[in another hand: 5 Novr]

[in another hand: Genl. Stirling 31st Octr 89]

Letter from Seton Graham to Ann Graham

ACC 12290 f. 13

Abercairney
Augt. 22d 1790

My Dear Mama

I was very sorry to hear of papa's illness, but I hope he will soon get better. I am always very happy every letter I get from you, or any of my sisters, I shall endeavour to pre-

serve the opinion you have of my improvement it always gives me pleasure to think I am doing any thing that will please my dear mama.

I was very agreeably surprised to see my brother Tom here yesterday,

as I did not know of his coming till I went in to dinner. I see Willna³⁵⁹ very often which is a

great[~~to~~]ppiness to me.-M[~~to~~] duty to my dear Papa & love to my Sisters. I am
My Dear Mama
Your dutiful Daught.
Seton Graham

Aber Augst 27th

My Dr Aunt

I need say nothing for this Letter I think it will answer for itself - I had the pleasure of receiving your Letter and since that I heard from Aunt Campbell that the boyle under my Uncles nose had broke from which I hope he has found relief

Mr and Mrs Oliphant³⁶⁰ are here and join in best wishes to all our friends at Airth - ever yours
Anne Moray

[addressed: Mrs Graham
Airth House
Falkirk

Letter from Charles Stirling to Ann Graham

ACC 12290 f. 19

Ardoch Octr. 10th 1790

My Dr Sister

Your kind favour accompanied with My Dr. Jeany's Postscript I received, & I consider my self faulty for not answering it before now, but from a Multiplicity of bussiness of one kind & tother it has escap'd my memory on Packet days; not that I forget ye, or your kindness to me when wt. you in Scotland & shall be always glad to hear of your's & family's Wellfare.

We had a Young Hurry Cane on the 1st of Sept. which affected Kippendavies, & Kiers property, by destroying their Provisions, but it did not Injure me, but rather help'd me to grass & water both of which I was Scarce of.

Pray how does all the pretty Miss's do, any Beaxs Speaking sweet to them; I understand their Cousin Mary Stirling³⁶¹ has fled a little to the Eastward, I hope some of yours may take flight also soon.

Is your old Gentleman Still catching Makin's yet, & how does he keep his health I received the Powder flask & Shot Bag which I am using in killing Ring tails I have plenty of them every day & the Duck & teal are coming in season so we shall get fine Sport.

Sandie Clerk was here a few days ago he has been ailing but gets well immediately upon coming here

I had a Letter a few days ago from Dr. Johnstone who is at Philadelphia, he says he is to be back in Jamaica in the beginning of next year. to pay his Debts, I am afraid he has not made much by Madam Brodie.

I was extreamly sorry to understand that mr David Erskine has been bad I hope ere now that he is restor'd to his wonted Vigour & good health.

As I have not wrote Annie this good while give my best Compts. to her & tell her I dont forget the many good things she has given me when at home wt her. I heard of Tom's Arrival from India how is he I hope the Lad is doing well.

I must now [c.o. say] write a few lines to my Bonny Jean.

My Dr Jeany

Your Mothers Letter accompanyd by your Postscript I received, & it gave me great pleasure to read it as it inform'd me you were well, but I should have been as well pleas'd to have read the Signature Jean something else than Graham, but it must be chang'd some day soon, as you are now come to a good age, & you promis'd to have good quarters, plenty of red in

in your Countenance, and I can swear you have a warm affectt. heart. All these things the Gentlemen likes Therefore a Lady so well Stor'd as you, must not go to a Numery you must be preserved to be the mother of a Dozen fine Children, to suport the Nation in the room of we old bodys like you father and me who are going fast in to Clay.

I must now finish with troubling you instead of your Mother to give my kind Compts. to all our Conections you know my heart warms always when I think of the Bonny Miss's, therefor dont forget them & accept of my best wishes for yours & familys wellfare & believe me to be

My Dr. Sister & My Dear Ni[torn]

Your most affectt. Brother, & U[torn]

Chas. Stirling

[Addressed: Mrs Graham of Airth
at Airth

Falkirk

N. Britain

stamped: SPANISH TOWN

DE 9 90 [William Graham had died 12th November so this arrived after his death]

Letter from Seton Graham to Ann Graham

ACC 12290 f. 14

Abercairney

Novr 4th 1790

My Dear Mama

I received my Sister's letter and wish with her my dear Papa may soon get well I often regret my not

being at home to share with you and my dear Sisters the fatigue and anxiety you much undergo. I return you many thanks for my frocks and think the muslin one very pretty

Miss Moray and I are working hard at my sewed frock. I am much obliged to her for her assistance - Mr and Mrs. Moray are at t[torn] Perth Hunt. Miss Moray joins me in kind love to you my Papa and Sisters

I am My Dear Mama

yr affectionate daughtr, Seton Graham

[Addressed: Mrs Graham
Airth House

By Falkirk
noted in pencil: Seton Graham Born Dec 23 1779
Died Nov 27 1791

Letter from Sir William Stirling to Thomas Graham

MS. 10951 ff. 131-132

[nd. Nov. 1790]

My Dear Tom

I this Moment received your letter which has prepared me for an Event³⁶² that gives me the greatest Concern and I most Sincerely Sympathize with my Dear Sister and you all upon this trying Occasion indeed the letter Maddie Received yesterday from Bess left us no reason for any favourable Accounts - I have wrote this day to Edinr. for my Mournings and shall wait your further Commands to proceed to Airth to pay my last Duty to my honest Friend your Father -

I must mention to you that I have a fine Fat Calf let me know by Tomorrows post if your Mother will have it and I shall send it upon Saturday - with my kindest Love to you all I ever am

yours most Affectionately
Willm Stirling

&c &c

Have no use for the Calf here

Let me know if the Calf shall be killed here before it is sent away

addressed: Thomas Graham Esqr
Airth House
Falkirk

Account of the last year of his father's life in James Graham's Memorandum, 1803

Acc12290 Box 1 folder 7

...1790 My Father on the 24th March sent me his annual prayer on my birthday, and informed me of the Genl. having gotten the 41st Regt. - My Mother tells me of a severe hurt my Father had recd. in his hand from the bursting of his Gun but that he has entirely recovered. - Wm. McDowall, the Genl. and other friends inform me of my worthy Father's death after a long and severe illness during which my Brother Tom, my Mother, and unmarried Sisters constantly were with him. His Disease was occasioned by Abscesses which formed deep under his muscles - every thing that could be done was done for him. Dr Monro attended from Edinr. My Fathers good old friend Doctor Stirling and Thos Rind came from Stirling and did all in their power, Nine different incisions sustained with the most manly fortitude gave promise of a successful cure, but the discharge from he abcesses proved too much to be borne, and my Worthy Father expired on the 12th Novr wholly resigned to the will of that providence in wch it was his happiness to have a steadfast belief - The manner in which he brought up a large family to whom he gave a very expensive education and the Style in which he lived on a very small income rendered him one of the most extraordinary Characters of his age. He was a friend to the poor and died lamented by all ranks and conditions of men. He left to his eldest

son, after providing for his widow and unmarried daughters by Annuities and his son Thos. by giving him £500, the sum of £320 Pr. Annm. which was nearly as much as he himself had clear when he Came to the Estate of Airth in 1746. How shall I fill the place of such a Man? I have had advantages which my Worthy Father never enjoyed. May God grant me grace to follow such an Example as has been shewn to me in his life and in his death!...

Letter from Thomas Stirling to John Burn

MS. 10866 ff: 100-101

Wingate³⁶³ 1/4 past 3 Friday

Dear Sir

I am just come to town with Mrs Campbell on our way to Airth & a line here I should have called upon you but would not interfere with your hour of dinner

If you can conveniently send me by the Bearer my Servt £65-8-5 which is all I want at present the remaining £80 you will be so good as remit to Mr Jas Dundas writer Edinr. Should you have any difficulty in getting the Cash out of the Bank just now, I get it from you on my return from Airth which will be middle of week.

Please write out the discharge which I shall sign & send you

I am Dr Sr yours Thos Stirling

Stirling 9 Sepr 1791

I acknowledge to have received from Mr Burn the within Sum of Sixty five pounds eight shillings and five pence Sterl, Which with Eighty pounds Sterl to be remitted by him to Mr Dundas compleats the payment of One hundred & fourty five pounds eight Shillings & five pence Sterl being one years interest to Whity last on the late Wm Graham of Airths Bond to me for two thousand nine hundred & eight pounds nine shillings Sterl.

Thos: Stirling

Genl Stirling for 1yrs int to Whity 91 of £2908.9/- £145.8.5 pd 9 Sept 1791

addressed: Mr John Burn writer
High Street

Letter from James Graham to Thomas Graham

Graham Papers SAA

Rungpore³⁶⁴ 27 May 1792

My Dear Tom

I have received yours of the 1st and 26th of March last and by them was happy to find you pleased with your passengers and the prospect of a safe arrival in old England -

Your friend David Colvin³⁶⁵ is up at Patna superintending the manufacturing of Opium a consequence of the death of the Contractor Mr James Ross, for whom the Colvins were Securities to Government

Collins³⁶⁶ & Lumsden³⁶⁷ are well – the former had some thoughts of returning to Europe this season, which resolution he was frightened

into for a few days by the death of Mr Amherst³⁶⁸, a particular friend of his, which happened at this place the middle of last month – Collins now means to remain till the Expiration of his Contract. -

I went up to Gualparah³⁶⁹ with Brydie³⁷⁰ and had most excellent sport - I killed the last morning 17 out of 19 shots. vizt. a large chuckou³⁷¹ partridge, 5 black do. 9 Quails, and Peacock & a large Rail – You know the distance to Gualparah? it is upwards of 100 miles and I did not go on a mere party of pleasure. I was deputed to inquire into & settle some Complaints made by the Assam Government, and by laying three horses on the road having performed the land part

of the Journey, which is about 40 odd miles, in a few hours - I finished my business and returned to this place within twenty days from my setting out after finishing the investigation I was sent on -

On receipt of this write to Nock³⁷² the Gun maker in Ludgate Street for a pair of locks with spare pieces for a double barrel'd Gun of his making No 986 and send them out by the first Conveyance -

I shall take your Advice respecting keeping the time I propose to return to Scotland a Secret & well I may, for I see no probability of my ever making a fortune with time left

to enjoy it, it is therefore my Intention to make myself as comfortable as I can in this Country – if I had fortunately been bred a Taylor, without doing more than taking a Measure, I should have been a man of large fortune after six or seven years residence in this Country, but having been nearly twelve years bothering my brains I find myself from same circumstances probably, in the same spot from which I set out. - But you may be luckier. Let us think everything best which we cannot better.

-

Make my Compts to all the fine Misses of my Acquaintance though most of the unmarried ones may now be ashamed to acknowledge me.

Adiey my Dear Tom, Yrs ever affey

James Graham

Rungpore 27th May 1792

Compts. to Mr Begbie

Letter from Thomas Stirling to John Burn

MS. 10866 f: 107

Lochlin 4th June 92

The bearer Thos: Stewart the Crieff post has undertaken to bring the money for me arising from the interest of the £900 due at Decr last upon the Estate of Airth

You will therefore be so good as to give it to him taking his receipt at bottom of this Letter for the amount which will be sufficient voucher till we meet . I am,

Dear Sir,

your most obedt. Servt.

Thos Stirling

Stirling 6 June 1792 I own to have recd the above interest being £40.10.- from Mr Burn for Genl Stirling Angus McEuen

addressed: Mr John Burn
writer in Stirling
pr Thos Stewart

Letter from Magdalene Stirling³⁷³ to Thomas Graham

MS. 10951 f: 180

My Dear Cousin

I have just received a letter from Mrs Erskine³⁷⁴ inclosing one for you, which I forward with these few lines from myself being convinced that it will give you much pleasure to hear, that my Sister Mrs Stuart³⁷⁵ is recovering vastly well & her young man a fine Chopping Boy, you may easily believe what a happy man Mr Stuart³⁷⁶ is upon this joyful event, he & little Christian are in good health, his Family has encreased much since you went away - My Sister received your letter which was forwarded to her from Grosvr Strt some time ago, we all felt very much for your situation at that time, in bei[torn] so long of hearing of your friends particularly after having heard there had been a loss in your family, your sweet Sister Seton³⁷⁷ was suddenly taken from us which was a hard stroke upon all her friends particularly her amiable Mother, who with her wonted resignation submits to the will of Heaven, she and all my Cousins were wonderfully well, when I saw them last - when do you think of coming down to see us all -

I must now conclude, with wishing you joy of Willmina's Marriage to Mr Day McDowal

(whom I have never yet had pleasure of seeing,) & of her Daughter who I [sic] is a fine Stout lass³⁷⁸ - My sister Mrs Moray is in Town with her young folks all week she unites with Mr & Mrs Stuart & me in Kindest & best wishes to you

& believe me my Dear Cousin

Yours with friendship & Affcn.

Magdalene Stirling

George Square Octr. 16th

P.S. when you write you friends in Scotland put them under cover to Mr Stuart.

addressed: Edinburgh October sixteenth 1792

Mr Tho. Graham

Mr Begbie's No. 12

Great St. Thos. Apostles Street

London

free Aw.. Stuart

Letter from Thomas Stirling to James Graham

MS. 10947 ff: 139-140

Lochlin 10th April 1793

My Dear Nephew,

I was extremely happy to receive your letter of 18th Augst. giving me such pleasing accounts of your health, which I most sincerely wish may continue and I hope by this time that you have got an appointment to your liking which will remove every degree of chagrin, that certainly increased if it did not bring on your complaints

The success in India gave universal joy here and which was heightened by not being expected by many [c.o.] I had always a very high opinion of L C³⁷⁹ integrity and honour, but I confess not so of

his military talents & I still think the first campaign a very rash one & but for the junction of Mahrattas He & his whole army had been lost, The retreat from Persapatam showed like wise in that Commander no great military talents upon the whole we were most fortunate.

We have got into a War in Europe which I hope will not last long the beginning of the operations this spring has been crowned with success by saving of Holland & the Austrians driving the French out of Brabant

and the great combination of Powers which the bloody & atrocious rulers of France have drawn upon themselves, with their internal discontents I think must crush them soon & bring about a resolution in that Government if it can be called one. And yet there were many in Brittain that wished to follow their example, horrid as it was, and overthrown a Constitution, which tho not perfect, is certainly the best we know of

You have so many correspondents in this country that I need not say a word of your family & friends, and your Mother is so careful & well versed in all the concerns about your affairs that she will give you every information, All I shall therefore say is, nothing shall be wanting on my part if my efforts was necessary to pay the strictest attention, but your Mother on the spot, Kippindavie Sir Willm, Cardross³⁸⁰ & D-H Mcdowal all men of landed property & versant in the business, makes my interference very unnecessary Your Brother Tom will be the bearer of this to India happily he got a Second Mates berth on [c.o.] board the Houghton Capt Hudson,³⁸¹ which was of great consequence to him as after having sailed in that rank he may command a Ship whenever it can be

procured for him, His conduct meets with my full approbation & I think he will be a credit to all his friends, He has taken the benefit of your remittance to increase his investments which I hope may turn out favourably the High insurance is against him

Christy has been these few weeks with your Aunt & they are both well & join me in affectionate good wishes for your health & prosperity, and believe me to be, with great truth,

My Dear Nephew,
yours most faithfully
Thos Stirling

addressed: James Graham Esqr
in the H India Compys Service
at Rungpoor
Calcutta

[note: Ansd. 21st Decr 1793]

[another hand: 1793 dated 10th April & Genl. Stirling Kind as ever! read over 10th July 1803.
Noted in James Graham's Memorandum 1803.]

Letter from Thomas Stirling to John Burn

MS. 10866 ff: 109-110

Lochlin 3d June 93

Dear Sir,

I duly received yours by Doctor Stirling enclosing £63- and a bill wt Stamp & disch. £10-1-7.
As you say Mr Graham has no use for the money, you will be so good as send me a bill at par on

London for £30, and the remainder of the two years Intr on Mr Grahams bond for £2908-9- you will please remit to Mr Jas Dundas for my acct, and when I see you shall grant a discharge for the whole

In making up the ballce to remit to Mr Dundas you will observe that there is one year from 91 to 92 to be at 5pr Ct, and from 92 to 93 at 4½ pr Ct, and hereafter I shall not want the interest but till the end of two years, when it will be at 5 pr Ct, especially during the war, as interest on large sums have got back to that interest paid annually

Mrs Campbell joins me in Compts to you and Mrs Burn, and I am,

Dear Sir,
yours sincerely
Thos Stirling

P.S. I never got your vouchers
for the £900 from Mr Dundas which
you desired might be given up when
you was to deliver the Bond
please mention them to him as I
formerly desired him to send them to you

Letter from Thomas Stirling to James Graham

MS. 10947 ff: 141-142

Edinr 22d Jany 1794

My Dear Nephew,

I was very happy to find by your Letter of 5th May which I received here that you was in good health, and I wish I could add in good Spirits, upon your appointment of Collector³⁸² It certainly was very unlucky that the new arrangement should take place at the moment when your services entitled you to one on the Old footing, but I suppose there are many sufferers like yourself, and unless there are junior writers to you named to be judges, which I understand is a better situation, it can only be laid to bad fortune

I wrote to you so fully my sentiments formerly on your coming home that I need not repeat them, but as I cannot be a judge of your feelings & situation they ought to have no weight compared with what you think may add to your happiness & comfort I wrote you by our unfortunate friend Capt Dundas of Winterton³⁸³ whose fate prevented you from receiving it - Your Mother no doubt writes you very particularly about your Affairs. She Sir Wm Stirling & Kippindavie have acted since our first meeting & I have no doubt quite for your interest, in all affairs

of that kind I have always thought the fewer meddled the better where those that acted were fit, I therefore did not interfere & for that reason only - However that I might be enabled to give you some account I wrote Mr Burn³⁸⁴ to send me a General view of them He tells me that it takes about £900 pr An to pay Intr of debts Annuity & Publick burthens expence of managemt &c and nearly £500 over to liquidate the debts but which will vary as the Meal & Bear [sic] sells; This is all you have to look to in this Country, and Add a crazy house that can scarcely be made to hold out water with every thing to do in the inside, & the Offices (except Library & Barn) all to be renewed, besides dressing up out of doors, all these would absorb a considerable sum of Money before you could sit down with any degree of comfort, and the style of living is so much altered even since you left the country, that you cannot form an Idea of it - Your Mother with all her affection for Airth & desire to stay there could not have done it, after all you did for her, had it not been for Mrs

Erskine³⁸⁵ & Children living there & paying a good board - These are facts & ought to be well considered, my Dear Nephew, before you take the pet & throw up what you these 12 Years have been struggling for -
you say you can save only £500 pr An

but remember that that & £500 at home makes £1000 pr an saving, in place of coming home & living at rate of £1000 upon £500 - However you are come to that time of life to judge for yourself, independent of any one private opinion I thought it but fair to give you a general view of yr affairs at home Indeed it is hard to say if you will have a property here three years hence, the rapid success of the diabolical sans Culotes on the continent makes it doubtful if their arms & their principals many [sic] not pervade this Kingdom soon, when equality in every thing will [c.o. soon] be introduced to its fullest we have many among us of that way of thinking & ready to rise The defeat of the Duke of Brunswick & Genl Wurmser,³⁸⁶ the Gre[torn] Captains of the age, upon the Rhyne opens a door to them [torn] heart of Germany, or if they come down that river or the Maese³⁸⁷ they will get behind Prince Cobourg in Flanders with a force in his front take that country, & Holland will fall likewise, when this last happens, it is over with us - I do not say this will happen, for it is impossible to form an opinion upon matters at present, History gives you no example Similar of the present times every thing opposite to Religion, Laws human & divine, Morality & virtue, triumphant & carrying all before them where it will end, God knows, but He seems to have abandoned those that believe in him You will say I am Gloomy so shall say no more We manage ill Your friends all in health, Wilmina increasing her family fast, Miss McDowal³⁸⁸ is married lately to a Mr Ferguson and Advocate brother to Sr Adam³⁸⁹; Adieu, My Dear Nephew, and believe me to be,
your most affecte humble Servt
Thos. Stirling

addressed: James Graham Esqre.
Collector at Rungpour
Bengal

[in another hand:.....read over 15th July 1803]

Letters from Charles Stirling to Sir William Stirling

GD24/1/459/6

Ardoch March 1st 1794

My Dr Brother

Your favour of the 29th of Decr. I received a few days ago by the Sandwich Packet & I now take the Opertunity of returning answer by her who will sail the 3d Instt. Inclos'd you'll receive a Bill for £200 Sterg. which will pay the Intt. till April 93 I would have sent it sooner but my American jaunt derang'd my money Matters & besides Bills bear such a prem: that none can be got under 12 & ½ pr Cent premium which I given for the one I send. _

I am happy to hear of your Daughters success in the breeding way, pray are you not going to try to breed some yourself, surely you'll furnish the new house with a bit of nice flesh or you'll be lonesome It gave me very great uneasiness to hear of poor Mr. Dundas's³⁹⁰ fate but I hope God will be good enough to spare his young family to be a Comfort to their Mother. Archie Stirling³⁹¹ arrived at Frontier a few days ago I am going to meet him in a day or two to give him possession. We are all well & quiet here at present with an excellent prospect for next Crop, but a great Scarsity of every Article to eat, drink, or wear, being in a hurry I remain

My Dr. Willm.

your most Affectt. Brother
Chas: Stirling

Addressed: Sir William Stirling of Ardoch
Stirling N. Britain

[in another hand: Answered 28th June 1794]

GD24/1/459/7

Ardoch July 20th 1794

My Dear Sir Willm:

Your favour of the 29th of April came safe to hand, & I was sorry to find that you had not got the £200 Sterg. for the discharge of the Intt. I owed you, as also another Bill I sent to discharge Mr Murrays debt but I make no doubt but you have received both before now, however have sent you a Copy of the Bill to Murray which is £57:14:10d Sterg. drawn in your favour upon James Miller & James Connel[torn]³⁹² Merts: Glasgow by James Finlay, & the Bills for yourself was for £200 Ster: upon Davidson Newman & Co. London drawn by Mr. Alexr: McLeod³⁹³. for both of which I paid 12 & ½ pr Ct premium.

I had the pleasure of a Visit here by Archie & Robert Stirlings of ten days, Bob goes home in all this month he'll tell you all the News, Archie has behaved most handsomly & Generously to Bob, & Charles, he has given [c.o. them] £20,000 Sterg. to each of them. Archie & I settled 4 years transactions in two hours at Frontier, when we Ballanc'd Accts. I owed him £40 which I paid him & we are in the Sticktest friendship & he has in general ask'd my advice regarding his most material affairs ever since he arrived.

I observe you have built a New house I suppose you intend to furnish it wt. a young Wife, I receiv'd a Letter from the General, & Mrs Campbell by last Packet, to whom youl make my Compt. also Mrs. Graham, & all friends. We have had remarkable fine Seasons this year, & consequently plenty of Grass & provisions, which was lucky for me as there has been almost a famine here, flour has been as high & £10 & 12 pr barrell & every thing in the house keeping way Butter £10 pr firkin, Irish Beef £10, Pork dearer, Candles 3/9 pr pound & every thing in proportion, however I escap'd pretty well & fresh Beef is said Yesterday to have Started from 10d. to a Shilling pr pound Mules are £30, young steers £22 & rather scarce we have had a great mortality throughout this Island & particularly among our troops, & Seamen, it is consider'd Dangerous to visit the Towns, from the Pestilential disorders that reign there, last week there were 6 White people died on one Estate adjoining Hampden called Green Park. We are all peacable & quiet here but ye seem in Britain determin'd to overturn the Constitution, as you'l get all the News from Bob Stirling, I shall conclude wt. wishing you health & happiness, & believe me to be,

My Dr Brother
yours most affectionatly
Chas: Stirling

NB I received your Letters by the 2 Young men they are both fixed in business

Letter from Thomas Stirling to James Graham

My Dear Nephew,

Lochlin 24th Decr 1794

I have been very unlucky in my correspondence with you for these two or three reasons, having found that scarce any of my Letters have reached you, Mr Dundas's unhappy fate prevented one I sent by him coming to your hand, I wrote by Tom which I hope was more lucky and I wrote last Spring from Edinr a long one giving you a full acct of your affairs from one I had from Mr Burns, I there mentioned that he assured me, there would be nearly a surplus of £500 to pay off debt the amount of which I think I put down, and that it lay entirely with yourself after considering maturity your present situation and prospects of getting something better soon, whether it was worth your while to continue in India or quit it and come home and live on what you have, of this nobody could judge but yourself - and whatever determination you came to, your friends would approve at any rate I repeat what I have always said, should your health be in the least endangered, do not remain, we shall receive you with open arms whether poor or rich

Your Mother who attends carefully to your affairs & knows every thing that is done will no doubt give you a full & regular account of them, as I know she writes you often I need not enter into particulars about your family, Bess's³⁹⁴ marriage gave us all satisfaction he is a worthy good man in a fine line of business and promises to make her happy which is better than great

Mr James Dundas³⁹⁵ is a very good Gentleman by birth, tho some of the foolish ones were at first startled, not being able to see him through any other medium but as having been David Erskines Clerk but it had my hearty approbation & all the sensible part of her friends

Poor Tom has been unlucky in being detained in India I know not how the Directors can compensate those Officers for their loss of time & trouble We were near purchasing a Ship for him but luckily it was not concluded finding he was not to be home this year, the price was very great near £10,000 & by the time the investments had been made he would have started with a load of near £18000 upon his Shoulders, this at a time when the trade is a losing one, for I scarce hear of any Captain that makes any thing, nay save themselves, it was too deep speculation. I sincerely regret he is in that line, but it cannot now be remedied. He shall always have my assistance when necessary

Your Mother would write you a turnpike road proposed, to strike off at Polmont through the Carse crossing Carron at a ford below Carron shore, along long Dyke passing Airth to westward by the back of Dunmore Wood & so to King Ferry & Stirling, I wished it to go to the East of Airth for the sake of the Estate the ferry of Higgins nook & town of Airth but Lord Fincastle³⁹⁶ & John OGilvie was for the other & upon measuring the two lines they say the West is a Mile shorter & will cost £700 less, but I do not believe it will go on as the estimate is above £9000 and their funds will not answer nor do I approve of you embarking in it farther than what I understand your Mother Sir Wm & Kippendavie agreed to subscribe for you £300

Mrs Campbell & I set out tomorrow to keep our Xmas at Kippinross where we are to have the pleasure of meeting your Mother & Christy I shall therefore reserve the rest of Letter till after seeing them

Kippindavie has bought part of Mr Drummond of Perth's estate Kinbucks & Cambushinie to give you an idea how land sells The present rent is about £387 - price paid £21850 - I bought a small property near this, Strowan rent £160 pr an price paid £6000, we must improve greatly to make a Centage for our money. His will rise much when manured with Sugar Mine is a Hobby, to keep my blood from stagnating for want of employment

Kippenross 27th We found all here in perfect health and good accounts of all our friends Mrs Erskine & Jean³⁹⁷ still at Hinkley in England on acct of her daughter³⁹⁸ of whom they have hopes of

getting rid of her complaint [torn]

Sir William & Maddie³⁹⁹ are at Keir where there is a large Company, all his concerns well

I need not give you anything of publick news as it is uncertain where this may go Our Democrats are quiet at present, the French carrying every thing before them against the great combination against them but they seem as far from a permanent Government as ever & by that means put the prospect of peace very distant or rather uncertain to a long war cannot be one side or t'other must tire

Adieu My Dear Nephew the Affectionate good wishes of all here will ever attend you believe me
yours most faithfully

Thos Stirling

P.S. I am ashamed of having so long neglected to thank you for the Madiera which is safe at Ardoch & yr health shall not be forgot when it is broached

addressed: James Graham Esqre.
 Collector at Rungpour
 Bengal

Letter from Henry Hamilton to Sir William Stirling

House of Lords p. 188-9

Jany 18th 1795, Kingston.

My dear uncle, - It is with infinite concern that my first letter to you should be the occasion of acquainting you with an event that I make no doubt will fill you with grief. Your brother Charles expired this morning after enduring a very grievous sickness. He will have property enough to pay all his debts. If you think you can trust my abilities to act as your attorney you must send out a power. I have fully explained all matters to the general, to whom I beg leave to refer you. I shall write you more fully hereafter.

& I remain,

My dear uncle,

Your affectionate nephew,

Henry Hamilton

Excuse this haste on acct of my situation. -H.H.

Letter from Thomas Stirling to John Burn

MS. 10866 ff: 112-113

Lochlin Thursday 5th Feby 95

Dear Sir

Peter Drummond farm servant to Mrs Campbell will call upon you in course of the day tomorrow, and if you are prepared you will please give him for my account £45 being the interest 1 year of the bond for £900, on the Estate of Airth, from Novr 92 to Novr 1793 and his receipt on this Letter will be a sufficient discharge & voucher to you

We have had a most severe winter & a great quantity of Snow on the ground, & many infirm people ailing and dying - I thing Mrs Graham should remain in Edinr till the frost break up as nothing can be done in the country & Airth House not a very warm one

In case you are not prepared to give the money to Peter Drummond I shall draw on you from Crieff in the course of next week at Sight -

Mrs Campbell joins me in kind Comps to you & Mrs Burn

I am

Dear Sir

your most obedt Servt

Thos Stirling

[in another hand:

Stirling 6th Feby 1795

I own to have received the within Sum of fourty five pounds Sterl from Mr Burn

Petter Drummond]

*Will of Charles Stirling*⁴⁰⁰

House of Lords Sessional Papers 1875 Vol. XII⁴⁰¹

Jamaica "S.S"

A.

Stirling, Charles.

Proved

12th February 1795.

This is the last will and testament of me, Charles Stirling, of Ardoch Penn, in the parish of Saint Ann, in the county of Middlesex, and island of Jamaica, Esquire. Imprimis, I will and direct that all my just debts and funeral expences be fully paid and satisfied as soon after my decease as conveniently may be by my executors herein-after named, for payment whereof I subject, charge, and make liable all my estate, both real and personal. Item, I give and bequeath to Rebecca Ash, of the parish of Saint Ann, spinster, the sum of three hundred pounds sterling money of Great Britain; and I also give and bequeath to the said Rebecca Ash my gold watch, chain, and trinkets, my riding horse and wearing apparel. Item. I give and bequeath to the said Rebecca Ash during the term of her natural life, or for so long as she shall remain single and unmarried, and without forming any connexion as housekeeper or mistress to any man, the annual sum of twelve pounds current money of Jamaica, to be issuing and payable out of all my estate, real and personal; and I do hereby sincerely request, and as far as in me *lays*, do direct that the said Rebecca Ash, with her house, servants, and slaves, so long as she shall be entitled to receive the said annuity, be permitted to reside in the mansion or dwelling-house upon a certain penn herein-after mentioned called Charles Town, and to receive and take such advantages therefrom for her maintenance as the produce thereof can admit and supply her with. Item, I give and bequeath to each of my executors herein after named the sum of fifty pounds current money of Jamaica. Item, whereas I am now seized and possessed in trust for the use and behoof of my three natural reputed sons and children, Charles Stirling, Thomas Stirling, and William Stirling, begotten by me on the body of Rebecca Ash herein-before named, and for the use and behoof of all and every such child or children as shall hereafter be born begotten by me on the body of the said Rebecca Ash, of and in a certain penn, piece, or parcel of penn land called Charles Town, situate, lying, and being in the parish of Saint Ann, and formerly my property, with the slaves, cattle, and stock thereon : Now I do hereby direct, authorize, and request and empower my executors herein-after named, or such of them as shall take upon himself or themselves the burthen and execution of this my will, to apply, invest, and lay out the annual rents, issues, and produce of the said penn, slaves, cattle, and stock in the purchase of negroes, to be put and placed upon the said penn, and in other necessary and proper improvements of the said penn, and to uphold, support, and maintain the same in the most advantageous manner

for the use and benefit of my said children. Item, I give, devise, and bequeath unto my brothers, Sir William Stirling of Ardoch, in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, and Major General Thomas Stirling, my nephews William Hamilton of the parish of Saint James's, gentleman, and Henry Hamilton of the parish of Saint Ann's, gentleman, and Alexander McLeod and James Finlay, of the parish of Saint Catherine, esquires, their heirs, executors, and administrators and assigns all that my plantation, penn, piece, or parcel of penn land, called and known by the name of Ardoch Penn, situate, lying, and being in the parish of Saint Ann, in the county of Middlesex and island aforesaid, with all and every the slaves, cattle, and stock thereupon and thereunto belonging, and all other my estate, real, personal, or mixt, to hold the same and every part and parcel thereof unto the said Sir William Stirling, Thomas Stirling, William Hamilton, Henry Hamilton, Alexander McLeod, and James Finlay, and the survivors and survivor of them, and the heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns of such survivor for ever, in trust nevertheless and to, for, and upon the several uses, trusts, intents, and purposes herein-after mentioned, limited, expressed, and declared of and concerning the same; that is to say, in trust and to and for the sole and only use, benefit, and behoof of my said three reputed natural sons and children, Charles Stirling, Thomas Stirling, and William Stirling, born of the body of the herein-before named Rebecca Ash, and to the use and behoof of all and every such child or children as shall hereafter be born, begotten by me on the body of the said Rebecca Ash, their heirs and assigns for ever, to be equally divided between them, share and share alike as tenants in common and not as joint tenants: and in case one or more of my reputed children, begotten or to be begotten as aforesaid, shall depart this life before he or they shall attain his or their age or ages of twenty-one years and without lawful issue, then, as to the share or shares of him or them so dying, in trust to the use and behoof of the survivors or survivor of them, their heirs and assigns for ever, share and share alike as tenants in common and not as joint tenants. And in case all such children but one shall happen to die under the age of twenty-one years and without lawful issue, then as to the whole of my said estate in trust to the use and behoof of such one surviving child, his or her heirs and assigns for ever; and in case such surviving child shall also depart this life before he or she shall attain the age of twenty-one years, and without lawful issue of his or her body, then in trust, as to the whole of my said estate, for my own right heirs for ever. And I do hereby fully authorize, impower, and direct my said trustees, or such of them as shall act under this my will, and the survivors and survivor of them, and the heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns of such survivor, forthwith after my decease, to send my said three sons to Scotland, as also all such child or children as shall hereafter be born, begotten by me on the body of the said Rebecca Ash as aforesaid, and there to be liberally and genteelly educated and maintained by and out of the annual rents, issues, and profits of my said penn called Ardoch Penn, with the slaves, cattle, and stock thereon, and I do earnestly recommend my said children, during their respective minorities, and their rights and interests to the care and attention of my said trustees. And I do nominate, constitute, and appoint the said Sir William Stirling, Thomas Stirling, William Hamilton, Henry Hamilton, Alexander McLeod, and James Finlay to be executors of this my last will. And I do hereby, revoke, annul, and make void all other wills by me heretofore made, and do declare this to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and affixed my seal, this ninth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five.

CHAS. STIRLING, (L.S.)

Signed, sealed, published, and declared by Charles Stirling, the testator above and within named, as and for his last will and testament, in the presence of us, who, at his request, in his presence, and in the presence of each other, have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses.

R. FINLAY⁴⁰². JNO. KELLY.

Wm MCROBBIE⁴⁰³.

B.

Jamaica S.S. -This is a codicil to my last will and testament as above set forth, and as I have not or

neglected to make any disposition of what real or personal property I may die possessed as to the residue and remainder thereof, it is therefore my will and desire, and I do hereby, give, devise, and bequeath the same in trust to my executors mentioned in my said will, to and for the same uses, intents, and purposes as mentioned in my said will; that is to say, to be equally divided between my three reputed children, begotten on the body of Rebecca Ash, share and share alike, as tenants in common and not as joint tenants. And whereas I have not in my said will given any power to my executors to sell and dispose of my lands and negroes in the parish of Saint Ann that I may die possessed of, it is therefore my will and desire, and I do hereby grant and empower the majority of the executors mentioned in my said will to sell and dispose of all my lands and negroes; and I do hereby authorize the majority of my said executors to grant and convey good and sufficient titles for the same, as the law may require or be found requisite or necessary. I also give to each of my sisters twenty guineas to buy them a mourning ring, as a token of my esteem.

CHAS. STIRLING, (L.S.)

Signed, sealed, published, and declared by Charles Stirling, the testator above and within mentioned, as and for his last will & testament, in the presence of us, who, at his request, and in his presence, and in the presence of each other, have subscribed our names as witnesses to the same.

R. FINLAY. JNO. KELLY. Wm MCROBBIE.

Jamaica S.S. Memorandum.

This 12th day of February 1795 personally came and appeared before me, Robert Finlay, and made oath on the Holy Evangelists that he was present and did see Charles Stirling, the testator within mentioned, being then of sound mind and memory, sign, seal, publish, and declare the within written instruments, marked A. and B., to be his last will and testament and codicil thereunto subjoined, and which he desired might be deemed and taken as part and parcel of his said will; and that at the same time John Kelly and William McRobbie were also present, and together with him subscribed their names as witnesses to the same in the presence of the said testator, and further that he knows nothing of any other will or codicil since made by the said testator which may tend to the disadvantage of the will and codicil within written, marked A. and B.

Adam Williamson. (L.S.)

Letter from James Finlay to Thomas Stirling

ACC 12290 f. 3

Spanish Town 7th March 1795

Dear Sir

By the last Packet I wrote in a very hurried manner to Sir William of the 18th Jany informing him of the melancholy Death of my late Worthy Friend, Your Brother, which happened the preceeding day – By this opportunity I have wrote Sir William fully, to which I referr. From some impropriety in Mr Harry Hamiltons conduct, who is probably ill advised on the occasion, & which I have explained – neither Mr. Macleod nor myself intend to Act as Executors under your Brothers Will – with respect to myself, as I intend leaving the Island by the June Packet or Fleet, all I proposed to have done, was to have given my Advice when Consulted, relative to the future management of your late Brothers Affairs, & to have seen Inventorys

and

General Stirling

and Apprisements of All His Personal effects taken & Recorded in the Secretarys Office – and to

have Viewed & Valued Ardoch & Charlestown, for your and my own satisfaction – Your Brother had formed a very unfortunate Connection with a Young white Girl previous to my Arrival, which no persuasion of His Friends could dissolve – I attempted it often – Three Natural Children (all Boys I believe) have been the consequence of this unlucky Connection, and They are His Heirs – to Charlestown absolutely, without being subject to Debts - & to the Reversion of Ardoch after All Debts are payed – It is absolutely necessary that you should send a Power of Attorney that Your Demand may be Secured – and as Mr Harry Hamilton hath Proved the Will, no Time is to be lost, that you may be put on a footing with the Creditors in the Island in point of Priority – They will take Judgements of course as soon as the Law admits – But the Rule of Executors can be pled the first Court, in Bar to

to any Judgement being obtained – this gives four Months delay; & there is a Law in favor of the British Creditor, which gives another Court or four months additional delay So your claims may still be Secured, on an equal State with the rest of the Creditors – As far as I can form a Judgement of the Value of Ardoch & the Debts affecting it, there will be little or no Reversion – And if the Creditors Issue Venditiones⁴⁰⁴, & make Levys on the Negroes & Stock, & They are Sold by a Marshall below Their Value, a Deficiency would ensue – It is therefore for the Interest of the Creditors, that the Property should be Sold for its real worth – but if They want Confidence in the Acting Executors, every Claimant will push for immediate Payment – This is the Risk in Mr. Macleods not acting, as He is a Man of much consequence, credit & respectability in the Island – Please name any Person You please in the Power – I have recommended Mr. Macleod, & Mr. Donald Davidson as two Gentlemen well Qualified in all respects to do you Justice – Please offer my best respects to Mrs Campbell, and All your

Numerous

numerous & respectable Connections – being with much Esteem and Regard

Dear Sir

Your most Obedt. & Faithfull Servt.

James Finlay -

P.S. I have directed this to Sir Williams care, as
I dont know your present residence

Addressed: General Thomas Stirling
to the care of
Sir William Stirling of Ardoch Bart.
Near Stirling
North Britain

stamped: AP 27

N.B. The Power insist to the Gentlemen Jointly and Severally with full powers to Sell & Convey Lands, Slaves &c to Sign Seal & deliver the same – J.F.

[note inserted with the letter]

Charles Stirling
Born May 29th 1791...
Thomas Stirling..
Born October 5th [sic] 1792
William Stirling..
Born June 5th 1794...

Letter from Thomas Stirling to John Burn

MS. 10866 ff: 114-115

Lochlin 28th May 1795

Dear Sir,

This will be delivered to you by Peter Drummond Mrs Campbell's farm servant, to whom you will be so good as give the ballance of the Intr: due on Mr Graham of Airth's bond for £2908-9- from May 1793 to May - 94 after deducting £60 Cash you remitted Js Dundas CS on my acct

Do	20 for Mrs Campbell as pr inclosed Letter
Do	Expences & charges for Probation Copys of Bond & getting city Seal appended to papers 1st May &c

This last article fill up and his receipt at bottom of this Letter wt itself will be a sufficient discharge to you till we meet, or at settling Airth's Acct.

You may give him the Bond I sent you & the probation Copy, to be delivered to me Mrs Campbell writes you how to dispose of the £20.

I am,

Dear Sir,
your most obedt Servt
Thos Sterling

[in another hand:

Stirling 29 may 1795

Received from Mr Burn Sixty three pounds one shilling & ten pence Sterl. being the balance of the within interest due Genl Stirling as advised by letter from Mr Burn to him and now given to me to deliver
Petter Drummond]

Letter from William Hamilton to Sir William Stirling

House of Lords p. 189

Dear uncle, - I am truly concerned to find, by uncle Thomas letter, the manner in which Henry has conducted himself, in asuming the manigement of you late brother's affair. Had I been aquanted with the busines previous to this I might by waiting on him have put a stopt to it untill such time as he received letters from you. However, as I find by you brother letter that you ar inclined to give him another tryal, I will write him and make no doubt but he will aquire with me in making appolagis to all concerned parties. I shall also write Mr McLeod and D. Finlay on the subject, who I am sure will forgive Henry's conduct

I am, dr uncle, your
most afft nephew,
William Hamilton

Sunderland⁴⁰⁵, St. James,
6th July 1795, Jamaica

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham

MS. 10951 ff: 137-138

Lochlin 8th Augt 1795

My Dear Tom,

I was happy to hear of your safe arrival of which I sincerely congratulate you & hope that native air will perfectly reestablish your health

I can be no judge of the bargain you are upon wt Capt Drummond but it appears to me a very indifferent one to pay 5000£ for an old Ship that may not make another voyage or at best only a Sugar one, which if you had been at home we could have got a new Ship for £8000 there seems to be no comparison however consult your friends in London & the knowing ones there, & if it meets with general approbation and that you cannot strike out anything better for yourself, I have no doubt but the same friends that were to have exerted them selves in this country will come forward on this occasion I scarce need say my efforts shall not be wanting, you have conducted yourself hither to much to my satisfaction, and while you continue to do so, look upon me as a firm friend

I am glad to find James in such good Spirits & health which his Letter informed me, & that you had a meeting at Murshidabad,⁴⁰⁶ I have just been drinking his health in a cup of super excellent Madeira of which he sent Sr Wm and me a quantity - I need not give you any intelligence of your friends in Scotia your Mother & Sisters will do that fully, Sr Willm has built a new House in which he will be in by the time you visit Strathallan and I have got a small property not much to my amusement but in what may be done hereafter for there is long leases

Your Aunt joins me in affectionate good wishes & believe me to be

Yours most Sincerely

Thos Stirling

addressed: Thomas Graham Esqr.
at Mr Bigbie's St Thomas Apostle
London

MS. 10951 ff: 139-140

Lochlin 1st March 1796

My Dear Tom,

I received your Letter of 20th Ult acknowledging mine of 16th with my bill in your favour on Messrs Cox & Greenwood 8 days sight which I hope has been duly honoured. We now understand what you meant, but really it was only to be guessed at by your Letters to Sr William & me however it is now all settled and there is no more to be about it but the means of fulfilling your wishes James Dundas wrote Sir William you had drawn for his £2000 & he is taking the means to settle it - As you said you would write me in a few days & give me a statement of our Account, I have waited expecting it before I should send you the bills for the remainder of the £2000 on my part that I might know precisely how much to draw for, but as I have not heard from you & you say you expect to leave Gravesend by the 9th Inst to proceed to Portsmouth I cannot delay any longer sending you the bills for the Ballance in the manner I mentioned which you say will perfectly suit you and I have sent you a statement nearly as I think things

may stand between us if there is any error I beg you will put me right for I like exactness you will

observe that I charge you with exchange this arises from my finding I have no money in my Agents hands as I received yesterday a Letter from my Irish Agents telling me they had drawn upon C & Greenwood for upwards of £600 due to them, so that I shall have nearly the whole money to replace from this Country for which I have given you bills on London, I have wrote my Agents to honor my draughts as I shall transmit the value before they become due.

I observe you mention having signed a Bond on 20th Feby to me for £2000 & sent it Jas Dundas, that is therefore the date of the difft Intts I have computed from & to - your two bills of £300 each were dated 18th & 20th Apl I have therefore taken the 19th April as the Medium, I shall send these bills to Jas Dundas. If the acct is right you'll perceive a ballce against you of 17th

I shall hope to hear from you on receipt of this & after you have presented the bills for acceptance which I trust will be honoured tho I have no Cash in their hands

I am sorry to tell you your Aunt has had a bad Cold which she has taken so little attention to that I am much alarmed you know her value but to me she is invaluable

Adieu My Dear Nephew & believe me to be yours Sincerely Thos Stirling

Inclosed is the bills on Act for £200

& on C & G for 178

let me know yr precise direction as I shall write James by you

Acct betwixt Capt Graham & G Stirling

Capt G. Dr To your bills of 20th Apr 1791	£300
To 5 years Int on do to 20 Apl 96	75
To your bill on John Burn 18th Apl 93	300
To 3 yr Intr on Do to 18th Apr 96	45 - 0
To Cash pd you by Jas Dundas 5 feby 96	320 - 0 -
To 14 days intt on Do to 20th feby 96	12 - 3
To a bill on Cox & Greenwood 8 days sight received	
20 feby supposed paid on 1st March	590 - 0 - 0
To a bill on A Anderson payable 11th July 96	200 - 0 - 0
To a bill on Cox & Greenwood payable 24th July	178 - 0 - 0
To Cash Mcrovie express wt yr Letter	2 - 6
To Exchange on £968 at 40 days	<u>5 - 6 - 1</u>
NB no exchange is charged on bills for £600 got in April 91 & 93	<u>£2014 - 0 - 10</u>

Capt G dr By your Bond to G-S. 20th feby 1796	£2000 - 0 - 0
[torn] 59 days & Int on yr bills for £600 fm 20 feby	
[torn] 19th Apl	4 - 16 - 0
By 10 days Int on £590 fm 20th Feby to 1st March	3 - 16 - 2 [torn]
By 143 days Int on £200 fm Do to 11th July	3 - 17 -
By 156 days Int on £178 fm Do to 24 July	<u>3 - 14 - 8</u>
Ballance you owe	<u>0 - 17 - 0</u>
	£2014 0 10

[in another hand: 1 Days Int on £590 - 1/7
3 Days on £378 - 3/1
4..8]

[in another hand: 1796
Genl. Stirling Lochlin March 1st
Reced - 5th
Answd - 5th]

addressed: Capt Graham of the Genl Goddard India Sh⁴⁰⁷
at Mr Begbies St Thomas Apostle Street
London

Letter from Thomas Stirling to John Burn

MS. 10866 f: 119

Lochlin 4th July 1796

Dear Sir

In consequence of yours of 30th Ult I have to request you will pay in at sight to Mr Willm Telford Cashier to the Stirling Bank the sum of one hundred and forty five pounds eight Shillings & five pence being one years Intr from Whitsunday 94 to Whitsunday 1795 on Mr Graham of Airths Bond to me for which this will be your discharge I am Dr Sir

yours Sincerely
Thos Stirling

Mr John Burn Writer in Stirling

[in another hand: 6 July 1796 I acknowledge Mr Burn has paid me the above sum which I will send to Crieff to Morrows morning W Telford]

Letter from James Dundas to Thomas Stirling

ACC 12290 f: 1

Dear Sir

Edinburgh 18 Augt. 1796 -

I was duly favoured with yours of the 5th instant and agreeably to your desire I have sent you by the Carrier two Copies of your accompt Current signed by me and balances in your favour at this date by £392.18.5. If upon examining the accompt you find it Right Be so good as to sign and return one of the Copies. - The vouchers are sent except the disposition of Strowan. - I have marked on the Copy of the accompt to be kept by you that Cap. Graham bond to you for £2000 is in my Custody on your Account.

The Locality of Strowan & Monyvaird⁴⁰⁸ is not yet Settled, it shall be pushed on as much as possible next Session But there is so much of that sort of Business in the Court that they have not time for the one half of it – I am inclined to think that the Tenants are not liable in paymt. of the ministers Augmented Stipend, unless they had specially

agreed to subject themselves to that Burden. - You can easily perceive that in some cases it might be heavier than they could well afford to bear. - And were it a doubtful Case The Court would if a trial was to ensue lean towards the side of the Tenant by finding him liable only for the Stipend payable at his Entry to the farm. -

Mrs. D. and her two Boys are very well She desires to Join with me in best Respects to you and Mrs. Campbell and I am

Dear Sir

Your most Obedt. hu. Ser.
James Dundas

[in hand of Thomas Stirling: 9th March 96 Mr Dundas says in laying on Augmentation Minister might have taken the whole free teind⁴⁰⁹ & left you to seek redress fm those who ultimately will be found liable for Augmentation – And without Ministers assistance Afterwards it may be somewhat difficult to recover overpaymt

That can only to get a particular receipt for what you pay of Augmentation
On 18th Feby 96 He said There is an Old Valuation of Strowan which should be of considerable use to you upon this Occasion (viz the Augmentation)

Letter from Thomas Stirling to James Graham

MS. 10947 ff: 145-146

My dear Nephew,

Lochlin 16th Sept 1796

Altho I may be among the last of your friends in congratulating you on your preferment and agreeable situation that you are now placed in, I can with truth assure you that few of them felt more real satisfaction than I did at it, and I trust that now you have got into so respectable and comfortable line that your health and spirits will no longer suffer from disappointment & chagrin, but that you may enjoy both with uninterrupted pleasure till you are in a way to return among us without having any regret for leaving the Paradise of the world, which many Britons do after they come home, either from a misconceived opinion of their native country from having left it early or an ill placed attachment to the Asiatick luxuries, and finding the wealth they bring home not sufficient to procure them here or bring them forward to that preeminence of notice which they vainly thought money ought to do without merit. Whenever you are disposed to come among us we will receive you with open arms and if you are contented with your own situation

none of your friends will repine at your not bringing with you an Eastern fortune
You will have heard from your Mother every thing relative to your affairs in this country & of your near relatives so shall say nothing about them. She would tell you the exertions made for Tom in which we judged it necessary you should bear a part of which I hope you will approve, I sincerely wish it may turn out for his benefit, his time was valuable & hanging on as a Subaltern Officer without any probable views of getting a ship without buying, made his friends enter to his views of this purchase 'tho I confess I do not think it a good one as She has already made five voyages, but he was so keen & had embarked in the bargain so far there was no disappointing him I likewise always disapproved of making a young man too flush of cash at once as I have in all my observations through life seen that those who were obliged to exert their talents and Industry succeeded better than those who got assistance from their friend or depended upon it, £10000 in hand was a great sum to command at once however Tom is come to that time of life that I hope he will act cautiously & make a good use of it and his past conduct gives me reason to think he will do so
I know not if you received my last thanking you for the pipe of Madeira

it is excellent (which is not always the case with E India Madeira) and we always remember the health of the Donor but send no more presents till you come yourself I shall reserve some dozens for to celebrate your welcome I likewise received the Coins but they are lost here for nobody understands them I sent them to Day McDowal but he could not explain them, the Sword I fancy

Tom purloined for his own Cabinet as I never saw it, but that was excusable as he supposed my fighting days were over

I am glad to tell you Mrs Erskine is coming down from Hinkley, her daughter is no better & her own health was suffering

I find you received mine wt one from Lord Hobbart⁴¹⁰ who I understand it to go to Bengal as his successor to Madrass is named, if you deliver it will be an introduction tho I am happy to think you do not stand in need of any assistance it might have procured to you assure his Lordp of my best wishes for his health which is th[torn] of humane blessings that can be bestowed on us from above

Our politutical [sic] hemesphere looks blacker & blacker every day the French [torn] victorious on the continent driving the Imperialist before them so as to make the Emperor fear for his Hereditary dominions, all Italy in their power, and made a treaty wt Spain Offensive & defensive so that a War wt that power is inevitable & daily expected and an invasion threatened both upon ourselves & our allies the Portuguese who must fall if attacked through Spain, in short nothing can be more gloomy as our funds shows which a few days ago were down at 5 pr Ct the Consols they have started a little wt a rumour of our begging peace but the French say Delendo est Angletterre⁴¹¹

I have no great fears at present for their coming here while our fleets keep a good look our and who are behaving nobly, The French will scarce be able to throw 20000 Men ashore on a dark night unnoticed for the purpose of plundering London. Ireland is our weak part & it is there they will attempt to throw some men to cause a diversion We must buy a peace by giving up all our conquests in East & West Indies Corsica &c and leave them to settle the Continent as they best can wt the powers there As a Comercial Country we have nothing to do to meddle wt Continental matters Let us trust to our trade and our fleets & we may defy all Europa. I have always thought so & was clear we ought to have caught the first opportunity to make a peace

Adieu My Dear Nephew and believe to be your most affectt. T S

PS The turnpike road in the Carse is to go as far as the Carron from Polmont where an expensive bridge is begun but as it does come the length of Airth I am clearly of opinion your subscription if any should be very little

I have not yet begun to farm only contented myself wt planting 30000 Larch last spring & intend as many next year Kippindavie has 500 Acres in his own hand to improve - Your Aunt is much better tho Still Coughing and much shaken wt her late Illness She send Love to you

146v

addressed: James Graham Esq.
Judge of Punneah
Bengal

[in another hand: 1796 date 16th Septr Genl Stirling

A kind affectionate letter and shews also much political foresight the predictions in it having been fulfilled. - read over 23d July 1803]

Letters from Thomas Stirling to John Burn

MS. 10866 f. 123

Dear Sir,

Be so good as to let me know if it is convenient for the Estate of Airth to pay me the £45 of interest due by Trustees Bond for £900 at 1st Decr last - And if it is what day I may draw upon you

for the same at Sight -
this Letter & my bill will be a sufficient discharge till we meet
In case it be very inconvenient to pay it now I can wait it for some weeks
Will you ask Mr Jas Wright Writer if he got the papers safe I sent by Post,
I am,

Dear Sir,
yours Sincerely
Thos Stirling

addressed: Mr John Burn
Writer in Stirling
noted: Genl. Stirling Lochlin Janry 1797

MS. 10866 f: 126

Lochlin 22d May 1797

Dear Sir,

I have this day a note from Mrs Graham saying it is agreeable to Mr Graham of Airth Trustees to pay 4½ Pr Ct regularly at the term for the moneys due me by Bond in place of 5 Pr Ct after 2 years You will therefore please pay in to the Stirling Bank £270 of the two years due me at this term and get an order from them on London at par for that sum & send it to me immediately and please note in your Letter the precise sum the Interest comes to, that is, one year at 5 pr & one year at 4½ to this present term, and I shall draw on you at Sight for the Ballance & my Bill & this Letter will be a sufficient voucher to you until we meet. I am

Dear Sir
your most obedient Servant
Thos Stirling

Mr John Burn
factor on Estate of Airth

Letter from Thomas Stirling to William Stirling

GD24/1/458/8

Monday Eveng 23d Oct 97

My Dear Brother

I delayed writing to you in hopes of having H Hamiltons Letter by the Jamaica fleet which he promised to send giving a particular acct of the Pen, but no Letter having yet come, I shall give you such remarks as I have made on the acct sent, that you may write Mr Mcleod⁴¹² pr 1st packet
X See Postscript.

I find by comparing Mr Mcleods estimate & the one made out by the valuers after Chas death⁴¹³ by order of Lr Govr: that they valued the Slaves & Horse & Horned Stock about £1100 more than he does, & the Horned Stock had been reduced by a sale of 420£ before they valued, so that there is little difference in point of Number of Cattle, & I thought their valuation low So that if you add £1100 to the £18158 it will bring it to £19258 - the value of the whole. I expected it might fetch £20000 but I am of opinion it should not be sold under £19000 as considerable improvement may be made by increasing Horn kind & diminishing Horse kind. On 1st Jany 96 there was 140 Horse

kind which produced net profit for 96 (after deductg 2 stallons bought & culling & curing foals & Mules) £574 And on same day there was 190 Horned kind which produced £900 during An: 1796 wtout any deduction of stock bought and if it is in Jamaica as it is here that one horse eats more than 2 Cows you may guess how much more may be made of it in Cattle you may suggest this to Mr Mcleod & if trouble of rearing & taking care of them does not far exceed that of horse kind I am clear

it ought to be adopted and I shall write H Hamilton to that purpose and to have an exact state of debts up to 31st Decr 97 with Interest due upon them, (such as bear Intr) & likewise a Calculation as near as possible of what the Annual charge of Pen may be in future, for Stores, supplies, Contingent expences, [c.o. Law Medicine], & Salarys & we shall than be able to judge whether we should keep it or not, in the last acct Stores, Supplies, & Contr. expences seem to amount to £550 - £111 for law & £80 for Doct & Medicine besides Salarys, Taxes, & Negro hire - I think any person who bought it & lived on it might net 15 or 1600£ pr An as it is, but if stocked all with Horned kind £2000 - I think there can be no harm in keeping it another year when we shall know what 1797 produces & the debts & annual charges, but in mean time Mr Mcleod may receive offers & if a very advantageous one is made I would not preclude him closing with it or at least conditionally after hearing from us - The whole produce of Pen fm 1st Janry to 31st Dec 1796 was £2526.4.3 you will observe if Pen is sold H Hamilton is intituled to 6 pr Ct on Sale & the exchange on remitting our debt (near 10000£ Jama Curcy) will take away £2000 of price & after paying debts which may be £15000 there will be a trifle over for Children⁴¹⁴
I go to Ardvorlich⁴¹⁵ tomorrow [torn]nsday if you wish any thing from me before you write let me hear We[torn] yours Affecty Thos Stirling

P.S. in examining narrowly into Numbers of Horse & Horned kind at Valuation by order of Lt Govr I find they exceeded greatly the numbers Mr McLeod saw of course His estimation is nearly the same wt theirs Still I think £19000 might be expected

Addressed: Sir William Stirling Bart Ardoch

Letter from Thomas Stirling to John Burn

MS. 10866 ff. 133-134

addressed: Mr John Burn
Writer in Stirling

Lochlin 29th March 1798

Dear Sir

I was Glad to find I was not wrong with regard to the paymts I had received, had you recollected that I never draw one years Intt. till there was two due it would have put this matter right I shall draw on you at Sight in a few days for £39.3.5 being the Intr due at 4½ Pr Ct from 3d Decr 96 to 21st Novr 97 on the Trustees of Mr Graham of Airth their Bond to me for £900 which you paid up on 21st Nov 97 to Mr Robertson CS for my behoof - The Bond discharged I delivered to Mrs Graham when here to be delivered to you I left the day it was paid up Blank Novr as I was not sure of precise day, You may in presence of Trustees fill it up the 21st Nov 1797 & hope you will find discharge proper - As there is nothing material to be done next meeting, I believe I shall not

attend Wishing you better health I am Dr Sir yours Sincerely
Thos Stirling

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham-Stirling

MS. 10951 ff. 141-142

Lochlin 23d Augt 1798

My Dear Nephew

It gave me much pleasure to hear of your safe arrival, after so long an absence and so unfortunate a voyage I had not much hopes of the profits to be made after so great a delay, however I am happy to learn that you will no loser & that you may even be a gainer, besides the Character you have established & the Friends you have made by your own account. I never supposed the Goddard would make another Voyage as she had gone on more than usual, but I am told you will recover £5000 out of the price you paid by new regulations, but be that as it may, I have no doubt you will arrange your matters with the assistance of your friends in London in the best possible manner, and you may rest assured that nothing shall be wanting on my part to forward your views, that may appear to me with any probable view of Success, or propriety in the Adoption - I have conversed several people on the plan of Shares in Ships, they all said it was a bad

Speculation, & some of them had lost by it but I shall throw no cold water upon it if a Ship cannot be procured in a better way, but I shall press nobody to embark their money in that Speculation I hope you will be able to make some arrangement for yourself before Leaving London but if that is not practicable we will be happy to see you as soon as convenient & shall be glad to hear from you when you adopt any plan or have one in contemplation

I am in no hurry about my Interest, but when you are in Cash you should pay off the other Intts as that may be some saving to you & may be pleasing to some of those who befriended you wt Cash as I suppose you get no Intt for [c.o. Cash] it in London

I need give you no news of your friends in Scotland as your Mother & Sisters will detail every thing interesting to you in this Country, but one valuable friend you have here who joins me in affectionate good wishes her health has been precarious since you left us & she has been & still is not in a way you or I ought to wish her Adieu & believe me yours most sincerely

Thos Stirling

addressed: Captain Graham
No 17 New Broad Street
London

MS. 10951 ff.143-144

Lochlin 29th Novr 1798

My Dear Nephew,

I regret we are not to have the pleasure of seeing you before you go to London as I wished to have had some serious conversation with you before your departure. In your Letter from London you spoke of taking Shares in a Ship to insure your of a command, & then mentioned the certainty of the

Company allowance yielding 5 or 5.5 Pr Ct with a sufficiency to pay insurance; but that will not be enough unless it yields likewise - a profit of 12 or 15 Pr Ct each voyage to make up a sinking fund to liquidate the Capital paid at the first. I shall suppose of each 2000£ there is 100£ pr An for Intts, Insurance at 8 Pr Ct that requires 160£, & 15 Pr Ct each voyage (or as Sinking fund [unclear] that is £300, in all £560 each Voyage. Whether at the very low rate the Ships are taken by the Compy. the profits will allow so great a sum upon each Voyage after paying all expences appears to me impossible, and I am well informed that Capt Preston & many of the old Husbands⁴¹⁶, in winding up & getting out the employ as fast as possible, and it is only Speculators or people wanting to bring themselves into notice that are adventurers in this
[in another hand a calculation appearing to give the sum 7040]

new business, or those who have incredible concerns by which they may bring themselves home by changing hands & furnishing supplies of different kinds to the Ships in which they have Shares, these are my Ideas of it and I wish you to consider & weigh it well in your mind before you embark on so desperate a game. I sincerely wish you may get a Ship but in my humble opinion any way would be better than buying Shares for that might involve you in inextricable difficultys which you might not get the better of for the rest of your life. you happily saved yourself in your last speculation of the Genl Goddard, which was a bad one, but I can allow for the ardent desire of a young man desirous to get at Ship, You have now more experience & it will be expected that you should conduct yourself hereafter with prudence and Caution
I am sincerely anxious for your Welfare & success in Life & nothing shall be wanting on my part to give you assistance, but you know my Character well, I shall expect you deserve it, I me not by being always successfull, that is in no mans power, but by doing your best & not entering in or adopting rash & inconsiderate measures, to deserve blame. I shall hope to hear often from you how you are going on, and altho I do not expect you are to ask my advice in these matters which

I acknowledge myself not to be fully competent in, Still if there is any thing doubt full or any little further aid I can give you, as some of your friends have withdrawn their for the present, I shall expect to be consulted, and frankly give you my opinion upon it and Aid, if I conveniently can. In equipping your Ships I know not if you have Swords on board. I have about 70 half basket hilts 24 Inches in length of Blades without Scabbards at Stirling in Jas Bairds, they would require a little cleaning & brushing up they may be worth 6Sh each if they could be of use to you in that way I shall make you a present of them & they might be put in a box & sent to London. I wish you had seen them to know if they would answer or unless you are sure of that it would be needless to be at the expence of sending them up -
Mrs Campbell wrote your Mother to day so shall conclude with my affectionate Love to her & your Sister and warmest wished for your Success & Welfare as I am, with great [unclear],

My Dear Tom,
Your most affectionate Unkle
Thos Stirling

addressed: Captain Graham
Airth House
by Falkirk

[calculation in another hand]

Letter from James Graham to Day Hort McDowall?

My Dear Mac

I wrote to my Mother and to you a few weeks ago when I mentioned my disappointment at not having been provided for in the arrangements which lately took place in the Judicial line, and my Consequent intention of returning to Europe by one of the Ships of the first fleet. My wish still remains in force, but it appears that I shall not be able to get myself ready in time as I find the greatest difficulty in realizing my funds.

James Seton, James Wright the Colvins and all your friends are well but poor D. Munro from the effects of a wound which he received in a duel is so ill that it is thought he cannot recover

I myself am tired of this Country in which I have been so miserably used, and would prefer a mere existence among my friends to the greatest splendour here. Every body calls out shame on the Govt. but I fancy not loud enough to be heard - I am desired to hope that a recompense will be made to me but I have so long lived in hope that I can do so no longer. -

Hay⁴¹⁷ was well when I last heard from him - Poor fellow! his promotion will force him to return unless he be put on the Staff of which there seems to be but little present prospect as the appointment vacant by the death of Genl. Doyle⁴¹⁸ has been filled up by General Baird. Make my Compts. to all friends and believe me to be

Yours most sincerely

James Graham

Calcutta 13th Jany 1799

Letter from Sir William Stirling to Thomas Graham

MS. 10951 ff: 133-134

Ardoch 8th April 1799

My Dear Tom

I had the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 26th ultmo Inclosing one for the General which I duly forwarded to him, I was very happy to find by your letter that you have a prospect of being Employed this Season by getting the Command of the Rose for this Voyage, which I shall be glad to hear has taken place and that also you have finally settled for the Building of your New Ship - As the Money I lent your is likely to be of such Advantage to you I shall not intaind [unclear] [c.o.] ask it up at present -

As to what you write me about getting a further Aid from your Brother James I am entirely at a loss what to say about it, but if the £1000 you mention is wanted soon, I do not know how it is to be raised, for Money is so scarce and very ill to be got, that Mr Burn Applyd to me to find out any Sums that could be

Borrowed in this part of the Country to Answer some demands made upon him but some of your Brothers Creditors against Whitsunday, as he could not get the Money about Stirling - As there is to be a Meeting of your Brothers Trustees at Airth upon Saturday next, I hope you have wrote them also upon this Subject, that they may deliberate upon it - the State of my Health is such at present that I cannot Attend the Meeting the Severity of the Weather and the Cold Easterly Winds Affects me very much, and I never do out of the House - It is very hard upon all Invalids - I was very sorry to hear that Mr Stewart has been Complaining of late, but if the Weather is as Cold at London as it is with us, he could hardly Escape -

I shall be glad to hear that you have finally Settled with Capt Gray [unclear] As it will really be a fortunate Affair for you to get this Voyage Wishing your every Success in your Undertakings and a happy meeting with all Friends believe me Ever

Yours most Affectionately
Willm Stirling

Maddie Offers kindest and best wishes to you

addressed: Capt Thomas Graham
No. 17. New Broad Street
London

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Sir William Stirling

House of Lords p. 190

1st May 1799.

My dear brother, - I send you inclosed the state of Ardoch Pen, with the sales, &c., which I received by last packet, with a letter from H. Hamilton, dated 28 fby. -99, referring me to a letter of his 29th Octr, wherein he mentioned the loss of 25 head of cattle and 5 of horse kind wt the disease in the island, which was a trifle to what others had lost. He says "the premium on bills is so high, 17 per cent., that neither Mr McLeod nor Mr Davidson thought it advisable to remit your interest at present, you may [torn] the first proper opportunity shall not be neglected. Mr McLeod leaves this country soon, & will take a particular view of the pen, that he may be able to give any information wanted." I wrote him by May packet some observations on the accounts which he does not carry on clearly, and regretting the Pen was so short this last year, and shall write he again by next packet.

He has brought himself into a dilemma, which I do not know how he will get rid of, but accepting a commission on full pay, & he may probably be ordered to join, so that he must leave the island for his regt or throw up, and lose the half pay of commission I got him in my late regt (71st).

You would hear of Stewarts & Edmondstone carrying collectorship by majority of 9. But their will be another trial next year. After you have examined the accts you can return them to me. Mrs Campbell joins me in best wishes, & I am,

My dear brother,
Yours affectly,
Thos Stirling

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham

MS. 10951 f: 145

Lochlin 11th Oct [unclear] 1799

My Dear Nephew,

I was happy to hear of your Brothers appointment tho a temporary one as it would have been a pity he had come home in disgust, & I have no doubt that so soon as the last orders of the Board of controul to the Govr Genl arrives he will be replaces with honour in some good and permanent situation, I am Glad to he he was well when Genl McDoual wrote - I observed Mooney's Ship taken up, and you are best judge of what you should do in you your views upon here after you hear from Capt Robertson, but as you think there are too many ships going the same way to expect much

from the Voyage, I would advise to be carefull what sort of Bargain you make & not enter too deep into speculation for an immediate voyage but I do not pretend in the least to direct your operations. I heard of some money sent home by your Brother, if you are to go out perhaps it might be necessary to secure some of it as you would need the ready & I might not conveniently fulfill my promise in Spring but of this we shall talk more at large when you come here which will give all here pleasure who joins in affecte good Wishes to all at Airth House & believe me to be your most affecte Unkle

Thos Stirling

turn over

PS Maddie my Niece has been with us for a few days & says Col Moray has agreed to have all differences Settled by Arbitration which gives us much pleasure but I would not have it go out of the House so caution the [unclear] in their Correspondence to leave that news out

Glorious intelligence from Holland pr Telegraph which I hope is true Adieu
your Aunt will rejoice to receive a Letter fm your Mother as a proof of her own mending -

Letter from James Begbie to Thomas Graham

Graham Papers SAA

Calcutta Novr 18th 1799

You will no doubt My Dear Friend have heard of me long ago & altho' I hope to be home nearly as soon as this, yet I know a letter from me will not be at all unacceptable – You will be anxious to be acquainted of all my proceedings, but before I say one word about myself I my communicate a most pleasing piece of intelligence which I have just now heard & which I dare say you have heard also, but it has rejoiced me so much that I must repeat it – the subject is about your Brother - I understand that the Court of Directors in their general letter by the Charlton have said that the whole of the papers respecting Mr Grahams business had been taken into their

consideration and that they were astonished that the Government of Bengal should have pursued such rigorous measures in a case where in their opinion (if fault was to be found) it proceeded only from an Error in judgement – they therefore desired that your Brother should be immediately reinstated to the situation which he had left, if practicable, or to any other at least equally good – the very words of the letter are even much stronger of the disapprobation of the conduct of this Government than I have stated – How flattering for your Brother – & how highly gratifying for your feelings - I heard from him lately & all that he wanted was a confirmation of his appointment at Mirzapore -

Now for the concern – You would be alarmed when I talked so much of damages - I like to frighten the Underwriters & I was determined that they should know the extent of our sufferings previous to my arrival, had they proved to have been considerable

[cont. re breakages and then purchases incl. elephant's teeth & silk to be send on the William Pitt..."I think you may calculate upon being a richer man by £2000 if all gets well home.."]

....

Novr. 22nd

The Asia came in two days ago & I got letters from my Brother - I am rather anxious from what he says, respecting your Business with Wigm. He does not mention the cause of your being dissatisfied with his conduct, but I think I can guess at one part – He wants to charge Freight for the

additional private Trade that was carried home -.....

....The Wm. Pitt & Preston leave this on 1st Decr – they fill up at Ceylon & have a certainty of not being detained – We call at Madras.....I shall see Genl. Macdouall at Ceylon....
[info. on friends and ships] James Begbie⁴¹⁹

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham

MS. 10951 f. 146

Lochlin 26 March 1800

My Dear Nephew,

I thank you for your information about J.R.A. & wish to have done with him I have therefore drawn a bill on him of this date for what I suppose may be the ballce or rather within, of that is in his hands viz £62.18.0 I would have you call at his house yourself & deliver the Letter when you present the Bill that you may be seen of him but if he is not visible or has not somebody in his house to accept the Bill, you must take the best steps you can think of or advised to take to recover I marked at Bottom of his Letter a particular State of acct betwixt us - allowing him Commission as agreed between us for what Cash he has used & a Guessed sum for Postage is 7-8 which is more than he laid out, but if there is any small error in this article I have told him you are directed to allow it him at paymt of bill perhaps H Hamilton has wrote him from Jamaica & that postage you can pay him.

I yesterday recd a Letter from my Agent Fraser Reed & Sons Dublin saying they had sent me an order on Sr Willm Forbes & Co for £194-15-11 on 30th Hany last this order I have not received, and Mr Dundas will please send to Sr W Forbes House to Stop paymt should it be presented under a forged Signature of mine

I suppose you are Surfeited with the feuds [unclear] & riots of Edinr tho not your Eyes in feeding on the Caledonian Beauties it does very well for a while but the best of things will Cloy - if not taken with moderation

I wish you a pleasant journey & success in all your undertaking & shall be glad to hear from you after you have Settled with J.R.A. The Bill is enclosed - remember me kindly to Mr & Mrs Stuart - Love to your Mother & Sister & believe me to be

most affectionately yours
Thos Stirling

Letter from [unclear] Strange⁴²⁰ to James Graham⁴²¹

Graham Papers SAA

Madras 8 June 1801

I was very happy to hear of you from Richard Threipland⁴²². In fact, I had lost sight of you & am pleased to find in you a Brother judge. I imagine your situation to be a good one. Your promotion to the Court of Appeal marks your merit, of which I imagine the Governor General must be sensible in bringing you forward to such a station. I shall have great satisfaction in learning for you at your leisure something of the nature of the suits and practice in these Country Courts, and the effect of them

among the people, and it will always give me particular pleasure to know that you are well.

But what I desire to be informed about by you without the least delay and in the greatest detail is the state of your family at home, on that I have had little opportunity of knowing anything for many years, and I may truly say that never was a family throughout more beloved than yours was by me. Perhaps your worthy father and mother, who were so kind to me, may be no longer living. Your aimiable sister Jane?? [Anne] I remember married Mr Erskine, who I know to be dead. Let me know her history since, and the state of her family. Your lovely sweet sister Mary married

I think a Mr Stirling – Of them I since know nothing, tho' I have an idea that she also became a widow. She was beauty and sweetness itself. Christie, and her twin sister Bessie two most excellent girls, - what became of them, and of that lovely winning child Jean, who was not above six years old when I was at Airth? Those were among the happiest days of my life, and I like to recollect them. If it please God I ever go home again, I shall make an early visit to my old acquaintances.

Let me know a little of your own situation and prospects. Are you getting pretty rich, and what time have you fixed for returning? You Bengallies never think of returning,

you live so luxuriously in India, upon the Coast we think too much of it to be tolerably comfortable during the interval.

Having promised Sir John Anstruther⁴²³ a visit, I hope at furthest in the course of next year to have the pleasure of seeing you, for my plan will be to go up to the Bonaires⁴²⁴, and I should be glad eventually to have you to accompany me.

Pray let me know that the Threiplands are about, and if they are making any thing. I have just been enclosing Richard a line of introduction to Mr Wellesley.⁴²⁵

Adieu! Let me hear from you soon; believing me to be ever

Very truly yours

W? Strange

Letter from Mary Hamilton⁴²⁶ to Sir Thomas Stirling

ACC 12290 f. 20

Stirling Jany 13 [1802]

My Dear Uncle

I received your very kind and freindly letter and I trust I shall never do any thing but what shall merit your kind Protection and care many good advices I received from my dear and much Revered aunt⁴²⁷ which I shall treasure up in my heart She was more than a Mother to me and heR Loss can never be made up - but we must not Repine she is happy, we her Mourning friends are left to deplore her loss. two years ago she sent me a hundred pound Bill on the Airth Estate and said as her Life was very Precarious and that I might not be left destitute when that happned she sent it that I might receive the intrest every year which is £4 10. - if my Brothers Legacy⁴²⁸ turn out as he intended, it was more than I could have expected but all I owe to my worthy Aunt and your recommendation as to my Situation I could not be better in any Boarding house than I am with - Miss Baird as I have been longe under her care and she has taken such a charge of me even in my destress that my dear aunt put intire Confidence in her --

as to the Boys⁴²⁹ they are perfectly happy they are good scholars and good boys Williams Master expects he will be ready to go to the Gramar School next vacancy, poor things they have lost a good

friend as she gave them every thing that would make them happy there shall be nothing wanting on my part towards the dear boys - by her leaving me so much it will enable me to pay that attention to them that they would require I would wish to know what you chuse to give the Boys for ther Masters Candlemass gift as my aunt gave half a Guinia to each of the two boys to the head Master and a Crown to each for the second Master likewise to the Writting master each and the same to Williams Master as the time is drawing near I think it proper to inform you how every thing went on in her life time you will receive the forty Bills and have kept six which shall be done as desired the Boys join be in Duty to you and my aunt

I ever am my Dear Uncle your Dutyfull Neice
Mary Hamilton

[noted in hand of TS

No 1 Jas Baird £6.11.½
2 Foreman 6.16.0
3 Taylor 1.4.0
4 Schoolg 2.15.9½
5 Jas Baird 3.12.10
6 Shoemr 4.9.5
7 J B Mourng [unclear] 5.16.9
8 . 15
9 MB 24.11.8½
19 MB 8.9.8½

[addressed: Sir Thomas Stirling
Lochlane
with a small parcell

Letter from James Graham to his sister Christian Graham

ACC 12290 f. 8

My Dear Christian

What do you think of my long silence? it is a bad return I own for the many agreeable letters which I have received from you but business, a little bad health and want of subject for a letter prevented me from writing while on my Circuit and what with the pleasure of Society and the necessary avocations of my office my time has been pretty well employed since my return to this place.

James Begbie wrote home often from Calcutta and expressed his inclination to meet me, but the extensive concerns which he had to look after, the close attention he was obliged to pay to them and the distance to this place prevented him from being able to pay me a visit. You have heard no doubt of my promotion to the seat of a puisne Judge to the Courts of Appeal and Circuit

Circuit for the division of Dacca. This carries me out to hold the Court of Jail delivery for the districts of Momynsing, Sylette, Tipperah, Chittagong, Backergunge & Dacca Jellaulpore, and if you have a map by Rennel⁴³⁰ you may amuse yourself in tracing my week on my travels which begin on the 1st of July next. You will see the magnitude of the Megna & Burrumpooter rivers which I have to navigate, but at the season of the year when I go out the whole Country almost is under water, the villages are little Islands, communicating with each other by cannoes in which the

naked natives like savages padell away at a great rate, to procure provisions for themselves and food for their cattle which are all kept at home for four months in the year. Even in that season however the Industry of the husbandman does not stand still. He raises all in seed

seed beds takes up the plants when of sufficient size and puts a bullet of clay to the root of each; these he drops from his canoe at the season when the rains commence and the growth of the plant is so rapid that it keeps pace with the rise of the river. The business of reaping is again carried on in the boat and it is not uncommon to find the straw of the grain from fifteen to twenty feet long. this at first has a novel and not unpleasant appearance to the admirer of the works of nature but the sameness of the scene soon tires the eye and the tempestuousness of the South east monsoon makes it at least unpleasant and sometimes dangerous for the traveller. In the month of November the floods subside, the lands late deluged are brought into Cultivation and the plains are covered with cattle. The sportsman then too begins to prepare for the field and from December till the end of march, mounted on the lofty Elephant, he may pursue

pursue his diversion in one of the finest climates in the world. Game of all kinds abounds he must be constantly on his Guard for he does not know whether he may expect to see a Buffalo, a tyger, a bear, a wild Boar or even an Elephant rush from the next covert. - The month of February brings on the spring with astonishing rapidity, the trees put out their foliage in a thousand various hues of the brightest coulours - flowering shrubs of the rarest kinds perfume the air affording an ample scope for the knowledge and curiosity of the Botanist and a thousand parasitical creepers continue in succession to put forth their flowery garland from that time till the end of September - The birds are as gaudy in their plumage as the trees and shrubs in their blossoms, but few of them are birds of song. The lark alone chaunts her orisons in the European voice and ushers in the coming day even before

even before the morning dawn - After this description traced without exaggeration by a faithful hand why should one think of quitting this peaceful Country for the bleak hills and wintry blasts of Scotland? - Why the fair side of the prospect has only been portrayed. We have vegetables in great perfection, Ice for our tables and the tropical fruits in the greatest variety and abundance but we have noxious vapours, poisonous reptiles, beasts of prey, nightly concerts from the shrill howling treble of the Jackalls and the hoarse base of the frogs and toads and flights of nauseous and troublesome Insects which equal any of the plagues of Egypt. - These we have, but we have not the society of our Country women nor the Conversation and Company of our natural friends which after all I believe to be the Main springs of the partiality which almost every one feels for the spot

spot where he was born; where he first entered on the scene of life and where he is naturally, on his return, led to retrace the happy period of innocence and youth. At this moment I could prove to you my strength of memory and the enjoyment I feel in contemplating former times, but if our feelings and sentiments be congenial, as perhaps they are, what advantage could result from it? -

The great body of Inhabitants in this part of the provinces is divided into two sects the true believing Mussulmans and the pagan Hindoos - The fundamental principles of their respective tenets naturally occasioned a striking difference in their respective characters but many of the Mohommedans of the present day are converts from Paganism and the constant communication which they have with each other makes the original character less conspicuous every day and from

our example of toleration, there is no saying how far they may yet deviate from their former Customs and habits. The Mahommedans formerly admitted of no material objects of worship but

many of them have now left off the simplicity of their religious ceremonies and in the month of Mu hurrim they light up the mosques and introduce the Tombs of their heroes Hussen and Hassen with figures of them laying in state and these silver gilt and of crimson paper they carry in procession to be interred in state the followers [c.o. beating their breasts] (among whom are hindoos hired for the occasion) beating their breasts [blot] shewing all the symptoms of Grief. Our [blot] with hindoo literature has opened a new field for enquiry and an ingenious Gentleman of our society is employed in a work respecting their mythology. His conjectures are curious and if they be well founded, will prove our pagan Hindoos, in their religious tenets, to be nearer our roman catholic neighbours than the world has yet imagined - The learned among them believe in One God the Creator, and the Idols which they worship are thought to be
but

but symbols of the different divine attributions which have been originally typified to suit the weakness of the intellectual powers of frail mortals - &c &c but this is a subject which would carry me beyond the bounds of a letter.

indeed perhaps you will be already tired of me. - I shall tell all these things when we meet wch may be in three or four years hence. Remember me kindly to all friends and believe me to be your ever affectionate Brother

James Graham

Dacca 31st Jany 1802

[addressed: Miss Graham
Airth House
Falkirk

stamped: AUG 17 1802
Ship Lre FALMOUTH

Will of Henry Hamilton

House of Lords Sessional Papers 1875 Vol. XII.

Evidence before Lords Committees for Privileges etc. Belhaven and Stenton Peerage. Exhibit No. 129

Jamaica "S.S.

George the Third, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, and of Jamaica Lord, Defender of the Faith, &c. To our trusty and well-beloved Francis Smith and Edward Bullock, Esquires: Know ye that we have constituted, authorized, and appointed, and by these presents do constitute, authorize, and appoint ye, or either of ye, to administer an oath unto Robert Finlay, or any other that are witnesses, and can make oath of the signing, sealing, publishing, and declaring of the last will and testament of Henry Hamilton, late of the parish of Saint Ann, deceased, and therefore you or either of you are to make a due return under your or either of your hands and seals, unto our Lt. Gov. & Comr-in-chief of our said island, or to the Governor-in-chief of the same for the time being, with this power annexed, so that such proceedings may be ordered therein as may be according to law.

Witness, his honor George Nugent, Esqr, Lt Govr et Commr-in-chief of our said island at St Jago de la Vega, the 29th day of August Annoque Domini 1801, and in the forty-second year of our reign.

G. NUGENT. (L.S.)
Passed the Secretary's office,
M. Atkinson, Secretary.

Jamaica "S.S."—The execution of the within dedimus appears by the will and probate hereunto annexed, which I humbly certify under my hand and seal this ninth day of February 1802.
EDW. BULLOCK. (L.S.)

Jamaica S.S.
St Ann
Hamilton, Henry.
Proved
9th February 1802

In the Name of God. Amen. I, Henry Hamilton, of the parish of Saint Ann, in the county of Middlesex, and island aforesaid, planter, on considering the uncertainty of life, and being of sound and perfect health, memory, and understanding, do make, publish, and declare this my last will and testament, hereby revoking and annulling any former or other will or wills by me made or published. First. I will and desire that my just debts and funeral expences be fully paid off and discharged immediately or as soon as conveniently after my decease. Item, I leave and bequeath unto Ann Sterling, a free brown woman, now my housekeeper, all my wearing apparel, plate, and furniture, &c, and also four negro women slaves named Bessy, Beck, Violet, & Ellen for the term of her natural life with the issue of them, and immediately after the decease of her, the said Ann Sterling, I leave and bequeath the above-mentioned slaves to my reputed daughter, Eliza Hamilton, with the issue, &c. Item. I leave and bequeath unto the above-mentioned Ann Sterling the sum of two hundred pounds current money of Jamaica, to be paid her immediately after my decease, and to have the liberty of residing in the house on my mountain plantation, with a reasonable allowance of land for her negroes, or in case she does not choose to reside as above mentioned, to have an annuity of forty pounds per annum for her life. Item. I leave and bequeath unto my reputed daughter, Eliza Hamilton, the sum of one thousand pounds current money of Jamaica, to be paid her when she arrives at the age of twenty years. Item. I leave and bequeath to the said Eliza Hamilton two negroes named Pitt and Fancy, with the issue, &c, and I make all my estate, real and personal, except what is above mentioned, liable for the prosecution of it, that is except what is left to Ann Sterling, &c. Item. I leave and bequeath unto my sister, Mary Hamilton, the sum of five hundred pounds sterling money of Great Britain. The residue and remainder of my property I leave and bequeath unto my nephews and nieces, the sons and daughters of my dearly beloved sister, Mrs Donaldson, residing in that part of Great Britain called Scotland. And lastly, I do nominate and appoint Archibald Sterling, Robert Sterling, both of the parish of Saint James, planters, and John Anderson and John [blank] of Trelawny & St. John's, planters, executors of this my last will and testament, with a power to sell or buy as they may think fit. Given under my hand this 16th day of Nov. one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine.

HENRY HAMILTON. (No Seal.)

And whereas I owe no debts my executors will as speedy as possible comply with the said above requests. There is a considerable sum due me from Ardoch Pen which the books will shew. And whereas I have neglected to make any provisions for any other children by my housekeeper, and she being now with child, it is my will that the said child shall receive an equal share as bequeathed to my before-mentioned daughter, Eliza Hamilton, and the interest accumulating from their money will be sufficient to give them education, and in case of the death of one of them, the other to take the whole share. In witness whereof I have put my hand and seal this 6th day of March 1801.

HENRY HAMILTON. (No Seal.)

Jamaica "S.S." -In obedience to the dedimus potestatem hereunto annexed I have administered an oath unto Robert Finlay, who, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists, deposeth and saith that he was well acquainted with Henry Hamilton the testator in the annexed instrument of writing named, purporting to be the last will and testament of the said Henry Hamilton for several years before his death, and also with his manner and character of handwriting, and that he verily believes the names Henry Hamilton set and subscribed at the foot of the first, second, and fourth sides of the said annexed instrument in writing, as also the whole of the said instrument in writing, to be all of the proper handwriting of the said Henry Hamilton, and for cause of which his knowledge and belief saith he hath frequently seen him write and subscribe his name; and further that he knows nothing of any will since made by the said testator that can tend to the disadvantage of the will hereunto annexed.

Given under my hand and seal this 9th day of February Annoque Domini 1802.
EDW. BULLOCK. (L.S.)

Letter from James Graham to Ann Graham

ACC 12290 f. 10

My Dear Mother

Your letter of the 11th September last has this moment reached me and through it contains the unpleasant accounts of poor Mary's⁴³¹ loss the general Contents of it are of a nature to afford me pleasure. -

It was astonishing to me that the latest letters you had received from me were those of Jany as I had taken every precaution to insure you some of a later date, not only by writing over land but by almost every ship which sailed afterwards from this Country. I have written frequently to you since my appointment to Dacca and trust that when this reaches you, you will have received an Account of all my travels and Occupations from March last

last till within a few weeks ago. -

I am convinced of the inefficiency of wealth alone to procure happiness and am entirely of your Opinion as to the propriety of a Man at a Certain time of life bringing his mind to his fortune if he have not a fortune to his mind. That time of life has now arrived and thinking thus it would be strange indeed were I to resist the united intreaties of you and my other kind friends. - Events are not always under our Controll and the [faint: best laid] plans owing to unforeseen Accidents [illeg.] prove abortive but it is now my firm intention, as far as it depends on myself, to take my passage on board of one of the ships of the first fleet of next Season. I wrote to you on the 18th Octr, 10th Jany, 11th Novr. 31st Jany & 24th Feby - and hope some of these letters must have reached you. -

James Elpinstone⁴³² is at his Collectorship in Sarun, his Brother⁴³³ Assistt. to the
Resident

Resident at Poonah. Doctor Spottiswoode called on me in his way to Chittagong lately he returns with his brother next season. The Thruplands are well at Mirzapore -

The Setans well in Oude where Archy is the 2nd. Commissioner for settling the ceded territory. John Glaswell at Bhagulpore intends to return next year Hay McDowall well at Ceylon where he is Commander in Chief. Mrs Brook (Anna Maria Stuart)⁴³⁴ is well as are the Colvins. -

I don't remember any others of your acquaintances whom you are likely to be interested about at present - or would mention them. -

I beg you will give my kind remembrances to all our old neighbours; my Love to my sisters, uncle and Aunt; and that you will believe me with earnest prayers for your Health and happiness to b[e] My Dear Mother Your ever dutiful and affectionate Son

James Graham.

Dacca 17th March 1802.

[addressed: Mrs Graham of Airth

Airth House

Falkirk

P Althea

stamped: Bengal [illeg.] MARCH POST PAID

SHIP LETTER OCT 12 1802 LONDON

Letter from James Graham⁴³⁵ to William McDowall⁴³⁶

ACC 12290 f.12

Airth House 10th Novr. 1803

My Dear Cousin

I have written to the Court of Dir[torn]tors, and if, after perusing it, you think you can patronize the claim I trust you will, though Lord Wellesley has given it as his opinion that I have no right to any remuneration

David and [torn]rence⁴³⁷ w[torn] us for one night in good Health, David in high Spirits which Kippendavy, who was here at the same time, enjoyed very highly - We are all well though in the livery of winter hard frost and Snow.

You will, I hope, excuse the half sheet of paper in consideration of its paying no postage. Our best wished are with you and I remain

Yours very Sincerely

James Graham

A particular application to Mr Bosanquet⁴³⁸ might be of essential service. -

[Addressed: William McDowall Esqr.

of Garthland M.P.

Castlesemple

Paisley

Letter from James Graham to Ann Graham

ACC 12290 f.11

My Dearest Mother

Yours of yesterday has this moment reached me and I am sorry to find you angry at what I meant for the best. Mary was most Anxious to have you with her at the same time with the McDowalls and you yourself had consented to stay - Do not give yourself any uneasiness about my fare for I have plenty of every thing - The Mistress gave me an excellent dinner, rice broth minced Collops, a fowl, potted head and Potatoes and though I had a Gentleman (Mr Smith) to dine with me I have plenty of

wine to last me till your return, be it Friday or Saturday,

I know Jeanie's Goodness and that her kind heart would lead her to forgo any satisfaction if she thought she could be useful to me, but I could not agree to her doing so, and not having any body to trifle with here, it is no trouble to me to write out my own returns which however cannot be made before Monday. - I have Ordered the Mistress to

to get a sheep killed which will be done tomorrow Morning and I shall send George with the Carriage tomorrow to bring your home on Friday. - I got home in good time and I think with less jolting than we had on the road, but as Mr Cadell was at the Muir I thought it unnecessary to go there and drilled the Airth squad which performed well though four were absent and I hope that they at least will appear tomorrow before the Inspecting Officer. - I think I shall go to the Muir today. -

Poor Mr & Mrs Ure have just sent me a message that they are on their road to Edinburgh having heard by express that there is no hope of their son Robert's recovery - So stout a man setting off so suddenly ought to shew us by what a slight tenure we hold the goods of this life and how little we ought to value them.

I have sold my Barley for 17/6 and 6d more if a use shall take place in fourteen days. - This is low but Mr Burn advised me to take it. I took up the £30 and have paid away eight

Guineas

Guineas for my cart. - I find that I shall have occasion for about 13 boles of oats for seed and for Eight of Barley. The new stack of Oats will be begun upon and will contain about 18 Boles - The 13 for seed may be kept from it, and perhaps Mr Burn may content the purchaser of my Barley by delivering 280 Boles instead of 313 and my Order the difference of 33 Boles to be delivered to the house for the seed wanted and Consumption of the horses - If you [torn] this plan, which I think will be a s[torn] one, you had better mention it on yo[torn] home. - It is raining hard and I [torn] but must add a few words to Jane. [torn]

Believe me your ever dutiful Son and affectionate. - James Graham

My Dear Jane

As you seem to expect a few lines I shall not disappoint you for I am not at all offended at the scold you have

given

me for being off - I meant it kindly but you shall have the pleasure of fagging when you return: A happy meeting with Mina and Mac⁴³⁹ - Give my Love and blessings to Ann, Meg and them all and believe me your most affe. Brother James Graham

27th Decr 1803

[addressed: Mrs Graham of Airth
Kippenross
Dunblane

Letter from Thomas Stirling to John Burn

MS. 10866 f. 158-159

Lochlane [sic] 17th May 1804

Dear Sir,

Be so good as pay to Miss Mary Baird the years Interest in the Bill due me of Estate of Airth for

£200 due this Whitsunday taking a receipt from her for the Amount, on acct from me on Back of this Letter, will be sufficient as a discharge from

your most humble Servant
Thos Stirling

John Burn Esqr

Stirling 18 May 1804

I own to have received from Mr Burn Nine pounds Sterl being the years interest directed to be paid to me by the within letter

Mary Baird

addressed: Mr John Burn
Writer in Stirling

Letter from David Colvin⁴⁴⁰ to Thomas Graham

Graham Papers SAA

Calcutta 12th June 1804

...received your letters from Madras dated 19th & 23rd March...many passengers [so goods out, passengers return?] ...your letter of 3rd April at sea...from what I have heard of a fair passenger of yours, you will give up a roving life and set yourself down quietly, Mrs Maxwell is talked of as young, handsome, with a fortune, these are all of the description of qualifications that will be acceptable to you... Your description of Mrs Maxwell is so moderately reserved that I really believe she has made a deeper impression than you are yourself aware of, but I shall probably get a line from you or Ainslie from St Helena, which will give me an Idea how these matters are to end....wars and loss of European troops...when you come back 13-14 months time bring claret & beer....James his little rib⁴⁴¹ & piqeneenies are quite well...I should be very glad to hear James of Airth, who I love too with all my soul, has as near a prospect of being a Father within the pale of the Church. You & he both ought to set seriously and religiously to work in this way, and pray do think of what you are about at the time & do not leave it to chance....

Letter from Hay Macdowall⁴⁴² to Thomas Graham

Graham Papers SAA

Tanjour⁴⁴³ Oct. 17 1804

My dear Tom,

I was made very happy by the receipt of your most voluminous letter from sea, when I was just about quitting Madras, there I had been most comfortably stewed for two months. I felt most keenly the change between the cool climate and refreshing showers & breezes of Colombo, and the arid, parched and destructive land winds on Chaultry Plain⁴⁴⁴ - I never desire to see that abominable hole again, and if by accident I should ever arrive at the temporary command of the Army (the permanent is out of the question) I should immediately remove the Head quarters to a milder region.

Our friend General Stuart is on board the Centurion (the noble conduct of the Crew of which

little ship you will hear amply & justly praised) and will be in Old England as soon as this letter, you will of course see him either in London or Scotland & you will hear that all your friends are

well, and that Emily Cribbage is yet a virgin! [sexual allusions..]

We have heard of your arrival at St Helena and a dismal passage you must have had. Poor Sr John I read is gone, with all his family. A most melancholy occurrence – As you had to wait for convoy I apprehend you are not this day in England, in that we shall not

learn your safety for many months -

As the fates had decreed that we should not meet, we must submit to the mutual disappointment; and as I presume your worthy Uncle the General⁴⁴⁵ will not allow you to plough the main any more, it may be many years before that long wished for moment is attained.

I left Ceylon with regret, having been for near five years there in a most respectable & lucrative situation, & I tell you candidly that it was a pitiful action in Lord Hobart to remove me. - Were I by you, I could give you a thousand better reasons for continuing me, than the only one he pretended to publish 'I had too large a salary' – Let him or his successor look at the management of the Military disbursement during my reign & Genl. Wemyss's and then tell me how the system of economy has answered. - After serving thirty years

(and arriving at the rank of a General officer, I having scarcely been absent from my duty during all that time 12 months) I am rewarded with an appointment from which I can save £3000 a year - I will ask you or any impartial man, if that is a very extravagant recompense! - my means are now sadly reduced, as from my present income I cannot lay by £500! One source of uneasiness arises from this alteration in my circumstances, namely, that I can no longer assist my brother Garthland⁴⁴⁶.

I have ever beheld my own fortune and prospects in a secondary point of view, & while he is embarrassed and distressed, I never could enjoy affluence anywhere. -

I trust that now Mr Pitt and Lord Melville are in power, some arrangement may be made with the Crown Lawyers to adjust the debt without bearing too hard on him; but should this fail he has nothing for it I fear but to deliver the whole of his

property landed and personal to his Auditors -

We have not yet heard who Mr Norths successor is to be, altho our intelligence reaches down to the 6th of June, and if Garthland has really any influence, and would exert it, if is not impossible but I may be named - I should return with the greatest pleasure, & without assuming any great degree of vanity, I might at this moment be useful – It is unnecessary for me to give you the long detail of the squabbles and dissensions which had lately taken place between the Governor, the Judges & Genl. Wemyss. I shall merely mention the result, viz. that the General was summoned before the Supreme Court on the 3d instant, and after being sharply reproved he was bound over to keep the Peace in the penalty of one Lac of Rupees for the whole transaction is gone home, and you will have as much as you like to enquire about, if this does not suffice. -

The Chief Command having been given to an old & meritorious officer, Sir John Craddock, my prospect of succeeding Stuart

is marred, but as the Honble Knight is a man very likely to step into General Lakes shoes when he resigns, (which may be expected next year) as as I shall in all likelihood be the senior King's officer in India, (tho' this is immaterial) there is another string to the bow, if my friends find they can pull it. -

[further thoughts on promotion..]

shall be very satisfied if Garthland can secure me the reversion of Ceylon, even after the next Governor, and mean time I might be ordered back to Command the troops, & Genl. Wemyss replace me here. -

I am sorry to inform you that our friend James Balfour still remains unprovided for – while I lived with General Stuart I frequently spoke to him on the necessity of getting him appointed to some situation, no matter what, so that he was once more identified a Companys Servant, he promised both to James and myself to urge Lord William, at a proper moment, and I hope he will not fail before he embarks. -

Balfour is one of the finest young men in the settlement, and it is a thousand pities, for a mere venial offence, that he should so long have been kept in purgatory. -

You must well know that until I am Commander in Chief, I can be of little use to your protegee John Maclean, as to any one else – If he falls my way, I shall not forget that

he has been thought worthy by you – Tell Mrs Moray that the very mention of her name is as quite sufficient to urge me to use the little influence I may have in favor of any one she is interested about. -My kind Compts. to Lady Abercairny, and I yet trust I shall live to see her and her charming family -

Lady Pulteney would be a new London acquaintance of yours - I have no doubt Sir William will in the course of the year disinherit Sir James & Lady Bath! -
[refs to other local friends]

...When you write let me know how all friends are, & if there is an probability of my succeeding to a better situation, for I am really tired of a soldiers life, and wish to get home & see my dear, dear, Dear, Marys Anne's Mena's &c - I am told your nieces the Stirlings are the most delightful devils imaginable -

My love to James, I shall also write to him, as a standing correspondent, and not as to Pirate like you – who can be found in no certain place.

My respect go Genl. Stirling My love to my dear Aunt, to [unclear] Christian

and not even forgetting John Campbell

[addressed to TG Airth House]

[further notes on the war in India..]

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham

MS. 10951 ff. 147-148

Lochlin 24th Octr 1804

My Dear Nephew

I congratulate you most sincerely on your safe arrival the accounts of which gave me very great pleasure as you was latter of arriving than we have have expected. Persons of your profession must lag their account with Storms & tempests on so turbulent an element that your health is good is gratifying to me & must be to all your friends, as to the profits of your voyage as you justly say depend on the Chapter of accidents, but as I know you are Philosopher enough not to take any disapointment in that way too much to heart I the less regret it, all I wish is that you could be independent & clear the obligations you lay under to those who gave you aid at the beginning, I speak not for myself I ever had pleasure when ever an opportunity offered to forward you in Life & you may find that at its proper time you have cleared your Brothers in law & there is only Lady Pultney⁴⁴⁷ to whom your debt to the Ardoch Ladies fell at the division of Sir Williams executing, if

it is convenient in winding up your affairs to get Clear of that I think it would be better than having

Cash laying in Your Bankers hands tho you get interest for it

You may be assured of a Friendship bottle in my new habitation to remove to which occupys me greatly & give me much trouble and it will be some time before I shall be in a Situation to receive my friends there but whenever I hear of your arrival at your brothers House I will not fail of pressing you to an affecn. Bosom & hailing your safe arrival

I have amongst my other cares that of getting my Ward Charles⁴⁴⁸ sent to Sea as a Midshipman on Board a Ship with a good Captain Lord Melville⁴⁴⁹ has undertaken that friendly Office, but he is so much occupied with publick affairs that I have some fears it may be protracted or perhaps forgot, Should that channel fail perhaps you might give some assistance with your acquaintances in the Navy however I will wait for Ld Ms answer to my last before I look out for some other Channel, there is one thing will be necessary when the Lad goes out to settle a credit in some house in London for the regular payment of an annual Allowance to him at the disposal of the Capt he sails wt, for which I am told is £30 pr Anm this I might do with my living Agent or my Banker in London but I would rather wish you would settle it with Messrs. Begbie & Hunter⁴⁵⁰ your friends before you leave London

should it be necessary, & let me know what time you think of coming among us. I thank you for your remembrance of me in bringing a little Muselascabam [unclear] & Hankerchiefs I communicated your compliments to the Abers, Monzie Ochertyre & Lawers through Mrs Moray as I pay no visits now - I shall say noting of your relatives as you will hear often from themselves - Adieu, My Dear Nephew, & believe me with great truth to be,

Your most affectionate Unkle
Thos Stirling

addressed: Captain Graham of the Windam Ind Man⁴⁵¹
No. 17 N Broad Street
London

Letter from James Sandilands⁴⁵² to Thomas Graham

Graham Papers SAA

Mellerstain⁴⁵³ 28th Octr. 1804

My Dear Tom,
[awaiting arrival of TG in England...in neighbourhood of Stirling - note on Baillie having married cf. G Baillie below]

....saw your Brother on Tuesday on my way here, he appeared to me wonderfully changed for the better from the time I had ran him before. I was quite delighted to see him so well and out of all danger he is still however weak and the doctors think it will

take some months before he can recover his former strength – a meeting with you will I dare say be of great service to him. We were in expectation you would have brought home Jessy with you but I find you are as fickle as ever, if you had been far gone you would not have so soon forgot her She is a nice little girl but in my opinion a very great coquet but in that respect perhaps you would have matched her. -

... I am glad to find you have got a Madras and Bengal voyage as you seem resolved to go out

again...

[Addressed: Capt Thos G. 17 New Broad Street. London G Baillie]

Letters from Sir Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham

MS. 10951 ff. 149-150

My Dear Nephew

In my last I wrote your about Chas Stirling going to Sea & that I was Corresponding wt Ld Melville who has promised to get him wt some good Capt - This day got a Letter fm his Lordship desiring I would send him to Town & that his Lp would find some good Capt who would take good care of him, I am now puzzled about his equiptm' of necessary &c is it to fill his Kitt wt Shirts Shoes Small Cloath Stock &c &c before he leave this Country for London or could that things he may want be supplied there could you get Mr Begbie to take the trouble of charge of him that is, taking a Lodging in some boarding house while he is in town & setting him off for what Port L M may direct he should be sent wt some person going there & that could take care of him or can you find any other person to recommend him, I think it might be as well while in London that you would call on Ld Melville at the Admiralty sending in your name & business that you might be admitted & receive his instructions from his own mouth fully & say it is at my desire hearing you intend being down soon I wish to catch you before you set out for I am very desirous to get the Boy fairly on board not that he shows any vice rather the contrary but I have my troubles

of removing from hence, building a House - & too many things to do that plague me much & I have lost much of powers now to Struggle with difficultys do your Possible to relieve me Lord Melville private Secretary is a Mr Alvis if you should not be admitted on Calling on his Ld you might ask an Audience of Alvis & tell your Errand giving your address Adieu My dear Nephew & Oblidge

Your most affec. Unkle
Thos Stirling

4th Novr 1804

I heard lately from Your Mother & Sisters all well but James very low wt the effect of Mercury for the Liver Complaint & proposes in a few days going to Airth Let me hear fm you soon

addressed as before

MS. 10951 f. 151

Abercairney⁴⁵⁴ 9th Nov 1804

My Dear Tom,

I am truly sorry that you are disappointed of your wished for destination, and that we are to have so little of you among us, I had prepared for your arrival by sending Miss Windham to Airth whenever your Mother wrote me you was soon to be down you will find her in health & good condition

I hope you will be able to prevail on Mr Elphinstone to rectify your destination & Make it Madras & Bengal in place of Ceylon

As to paying off Ly Pultney I spoke of it only in case you had the Cash unemployed, Feby will do better than immediately as it is customary to give some previous notice

As to my Ward Charles I have no doubt of Ld Mellville's getting him a Berth wt some good Capt so soon as he arrives in London but what I particularly wished you to do was to find some proper Person to whom he was to be consigned who would take some charge of him by finding a Lodging where he could board while in Town, advise him on all little difficultys as to fullfilling any direction Ld M - might give & see him set off for the Port where either his Ship lay or where he would embark to get to her with some sort of Letter to any person there who would aid him in setting off

and in case he was not completely supplied with necessary trim would get that item in London. I have nobody in London I could ask to take that trouble My Agents having too much to do of their Office & Line; It is this thing on I particularly requested you to assist me in & if Mr Begbie could be prevailed on to undertake it by your influence you will oblige me much, I have got a list of necessarys in which the Lad must be provided & if they are not got him there can by no doubt of getting them in London in 24 Hours I am very Anxious to get him sent off as soon as possible otherwise his going up with you would be an excellent opportunity but as your stay will be uncertain I would take the first to despatch him if you are to be down soon you need not trouble yourself to write me, if not let me know if Mr Begbie would undertake the trouble I had a Letter from Xtian who tells me she was to write you of James & all your friends, Yr Brother intended leaving Edir. end of this or beging of next Week

I have now removed to Pitkillony⁴⁵⁵ my address in future is Pitkillony by Dunblane

All this family desires to be kindly remembered to you

Margaret is at the Stirling Ball wt Mr & Mrs Graham Ardoch & Kippen 2 of family are to be there too

Adieu My Dear Nephew & believe me to be,

Your most affectn. Unkle

Thos. Stirling

PS send the Card on tother side as directed by penny post

Final note by Ann Graham to 'Memoranda of James Graham'

ACC 12290 f. 21

My Worthy and Much Loved Son James Graham returned home to Airth Sept 1803 to the joy of all his family & friends to whom he was as ever Most kind and affectionate, he seemd then in Good Health but in Augst 1804 he began to Complain and went to Edin in Septr. for advise His ailment was found to be in his Lovers, and tho he had the best Medical assistance he sufferd great pain, with Much patience and resignation to the will of his Heavenly Father, in whom he trusted, and to whom he Dayly prayd, till the 13th of March 1805 when he Expired regreted by all who knew the good qualities he possessd & with what attention he fulfild the duties of a son, and Brother, a friend, and a Christian - Alas his widowd Mother is Left to Mourn him and write this, he is the Sixth Son also has been deprived of, O God since thou has been pleased to Call them from this world look with Mercy on me and on all those who are Left behind, O preserve them to me, enable us to resign to thy will and to trust in thy Mercy, and me we dye the Death of the righteous and our Last End be Like his lesson AG

Letter from James Begbie to Thos Graham of Airth, Falkirk

Graham Papers SAA

London Oct 8th 1805

My Dear Commodore

I hope in my next to have the pleasure of announcing your promotion to the Rank of Rear Admiral of the Black, and you know I am always forward in rewarding merit. And I cannot doubt but your management of the important command I lately intrusted to your charge will meet my highest consideration – Halt – To the Point -

The Belle Packet is now under dispatch for India, and you ought to write by her immediately (but do it immediately) that is if you wish the remuneration money to be sent home – It was a matter of doubt with many people here whether without fresh powers from you, Colvin could have acted in a business of this nature in India, but I am now informed if he is in possession of the Will that the company will not object to him making the sale of the 8 P Ct paper - I should suppose

it would be a most favourable time to dispose of it being Lord Cornwallis's Reign & I am clear for it's being remitted in Indigo or Silk – try the last article – they [above: Colvins] have sent a small quantity just now to us which I understand will sell for 20/ P Ib, and it will not be so much Ran after in India as the Indigo; & if your Orders go out now they would have time to procure it for the first ships of the season -
[other ship gossip]

...You have never said if your Sister is now quite well since her return from Buxton - I admire your prudence in not having gone to Perth – You will see that the alarm about the Calcutta's convoy has been much magnified – We were upon the Whalers which have escaped, but luckily have nothing to do with the Indus which is a rich ship – She is it is feared taken – India Stock today 184 – you lucky dog -

Wm. Stirling⁴⁵⁶ sends his love & duty

Will of James Graham made in Calcutta 16th Feb 1803. Inventory 13th Nov 1805

CC21/6/98 Stirling Commissary Court

Inventory of the personal or moveable Estate and Effects which belonged to the deceased James Graham Esquire of Airth, who died on the thirteenth day of March last, made up by Thomas Graham Esquire now of Airth his only Brother German for himself and for behoof of John Stirling of Kippendavie and James Dundas writer to the Signet in Edinburgh executors and administrators nominated and appointed by the Defunct over his affairs in Britain conform to his Will & Settlement bearing date the sixteenth day of February one thousand eight hundred and three lodged with Messrs. Colvins Bazett & Coy in Calcutta and whereof an holograph subscribed copy by the said Defunct was found in his Repositories at Airth House after his death, and from which a copy is taken and subjoined to the present Inventory, The principal Will being still in the hands of the said Messrs. Colvins Bazatt and Company in Calcutta All in terms of the Act of Parliament of the Forty fourth of his Majesty George the Third

Chapter

Thomas Graham [sig]

Chapter Ninety eight

To principal sum resting by the said Thomas Grahams Bond (therein designed Commander of the

General Goddard East Indiaman) To the said James Graham dated 20 Feby 1796 bearing interest from the 20th of that month - 2000. .

To principal sum by the said Thomas Grahams Promissory note dated 26 March 1800 to John Burn factor for the Commissioners of the said James Graham payable one day after date - 500. .

To principal sum by the said Thos. Grahams other promy note to the said John Burn factor for the Commrs. of the said James Graham dated 13 Janry 1801 payable one day after date - 502.10.7

To interest on these three principal sums from Marts. 1802 to the said 13th day of March last 2 years and 121 days - 350.0.4

To Arrears of Rents and feu duties of the Estate of Airth - 320.16.11

To Cash due to the Defunct in the hands of the before designed James Dundas - 2500. .

To Ditto lodged in the hand of Messrs. Begbie Hunter & Coy. in London - 2500

To value of the Defuncts horses, Cows, furniture and other stocking on his farm of the Mains of Airth - 300. .

Airth House 13 Nov. 1805 The foregoing in the Inventory referred to in the oath now emitted by Thomas Graham [sig]

John Burn [sig]

In the Name of God Amen

Know all Men by these presents that I James Graham of Airth in the County of Stirling in North Britain at present a Senior Merchant in the Honourable the East India Companys Service in the Province of Bengal, being in a sound state of mind and in good health Do hereby Appoint Alexander Colvin and James Colvin and Christopher Oldfield and Robert Brydie to be Executors and Administrators in India and John Stirling of Kippendavy and James Dundas writer in Edinburgh and my Brother Thomas Graham to be executors and Administrators in Britain to this my Last Will and Testament by which I bequeath and dispose of all my property real and personal of which I am now possessed or of which I may be possessed at the time of my death for the uses and in the manner hereafter directed.

Firstly. I bequeath to my Mother Anne Graham alias Stirling the sum of one thousand pounds sterling of lawful money of Great Britain in addition to the settlements already)

Thomas Graham [sig]

already made on her by me.

Secondly. I bequeath to my Sisters Christian Graham and Jane Graham the sum of Five hundred pounds Sterling each in addition to any thing I made do for them during my life.

Thirdly. I do leave and bequeath to my Executors above named and to Robert Collins⁴⁵⁷ formerly Surgeon of Rungpore now in England the sum of one thousand pounds Sterling in Trust for and for the use of my Son William Graham commonly known by the name of William Jamieson⁴⁵⁸ now in England under the Care of the said Robert Collins who can identify him. This sum of one thousand pounds shall be applied in such manner as my executors and Robert Collins by this clause constituted Trustees shall deem to be most for the advantage of my said Son till the Seventeenth day of October which will be in the year of Christ Eighteen hundred and eight, when the Trustees shall cause to be paid to the said William Jamieson alias Graham my Son aforesaid the said prinl sum of one thousand pounds together with such advantages as may have accrued from it after my death, in testimony of my affection to him.

Fourthly)

Thomas Graham [sig]

Fourthly. For the love I bear to my Mother and to my Sisters I bequeath unto each of them the principal sum of one hundred pounds each for a ring.

Fifthly. To each of my executors above named and to Robert Collins and to James Wright I leave and bequeath for the love I bear to them the sum of Fifty pounds for a ring.

Sixthly. To my beloved Sister Williamina Graham alias Williaminu commonly called Minu McDowall for the love I have for her, for my obligations to her Husband D.H.McDowall and for other good & sufficient reasons I leave and bequeath the principal sum of Two thousand pounds Sterling of of the lawful money of great Britain under the following provision vizl. that the said sum of Two thousand pounds shall be kept in Trust, and that the interest accruing on it shall be paid annually in each year to the the said Williaminu Graham alias McDowall during her Natural life, And that after her death the principal sum of Two thousand pounds Sterling aforesaid together with the advantages accruing from it shall be divided equally among the Children of Minu McDowall by D.H. McDowall who)

Thomas Graham [sig]

who shall each receive his or her respective share on compleating his or her twenty first year. - The Trustees above named for my Son shall also be the Trustees for managing this bequest, if they will Accept of the trust.

Seventhly. I do hereby leave and bequeath to my Dear Brother Thomas Graham all my Estate real and personal on condition that he pays all my just and lawful Debts, And that he shall cause the legacies and bequests herein mentioned to be duely paid in nine Calendar months from the day of my death, or as much sooner as circumstances may admit of, it being understood that in the event of the death of my Son William Graham before the seventeenth November 1808 the Sum of one thousand pounds bequeathed in trust to him - shall revert to the said Thomas Graham my Brother.

Eightly. I trust that the intent and meaning of this Will is so plain that no difference of opinion can be held respecting it, but if contrary to my expectations any dispute shall arise respecting it, I recommend that recourse)

Thomas Graham [sig]

recourse be had to Arbitration to settle such dispute, and not to law In testimony that this is my true and lawful last Will and testament, I have signed the three first pages with my initials and now affix my Seal and Signature At Calcutta in Bengal on the Sixteenth day of February in the year of Christ one thousand eight hundred and three in presence of William Spottiswoode of Dunnypace and James Seton and John Corsar⁴⁵⁹ of Calcutta where no stamps or Stamped paper are in use or to be procured.

In presence of us who in his presence & in the presence of each other have subscribed the same as witnesses thereto

This is a true copy of my Will lodged with Messrs. Colvins Bazett & Co. in Calcutta (signed

James Graham

Thomas Graham [sig]

At Airth House the thirteenth day of November eighteen hundred & five years

In presence of Mr John Burn Commissary Depute of the Commissariat of Stirling Compeared Thomas Graham Esqr. of Airth who being solemnly sworn and examined Depones that James Graham Esquire of Airth his Brother German died upon the thirteenth day of March last That the deponent has entered upon the possession or management of the deceaseds personal or moveable Estate in Great Britain as one of the Executors and administrators nominated and appointed by him over his affairs in Britain conform to his Will and Settlement bearing date the Sixteenth day of February Eighteen hundred and three lodged with Messrs. Colvins Bazett & Company in Calcutta and whereof an holograph subscribed copy by the said Defunctx [margin: x at least the attestation thereof is so] was found in Airth House after his death - And which holograph copy is now exhibited and signed by the Deponent and the said Commissary Depute And a copy thereof is also subjoined to the Inventory after mentioned as)

John Burn [sig] Thomas Graham [sig]

as relative hereto That the Deponent does not know of any Settlement or writing relative to the disposal of the deceaseds personal Estate or effects of any part of them other than the one above referred to and the holograph copy now exhibited and signed by the Deponent and the said Commissary Depute of this date as relative hereto is a full and compleat Inventory of the personal Estate & Effects of the said deceased James Graham wherever situated & belonging or due to him at the time of his death in so far as the same has come to the deponents knowledge Except that there are some funds which belonged to him in the East Indies which fall under the Charge of the Executors Appointed by him by the foresaid Will for his affairs in India and it will require sometime before these are ascertained and liquidated And the whole of the deceaseds personal Estate and effects Situated in Scotland in so far as come to the deponents knowledge is above the)

John Burn [sig] Thomas Graham [sig]

the value of Six thousand four hundred and Seventy pounds Sterling and under the value of six thousand five hundred pounds Sterling All which is truth as the deponent shall answer to God.

John Burn [sig] Thomas Graham [sig]

[wrapper: Affidavit by Thos. Graham Esqr. of Airth on the Inventory given up by him of the Personal or Moveable Estate of the deceased James Graham Esqr. 13 Novr 1805]

Letter from James Dundas to Sir Thomas Stirling

ACC 12290 f. 2

Dear Sir

Edinburgh 27. Sept. 1806.

I am favoured with you Letter of the 25th. Inst. And I likewise received your former Letters of the 20. May respecting the Stipend of Dalginross⁴⁶⁰ which I have delayed answering in hopes of being able to send you an account of what you will have to pay for these Lands, but still no Locality is as yet made out. - Your Land however will be burdened with a much larger proportion of the Augmentation than Comrie will be, owing to their being an old valuation of the Comrie teind in 1633. which is nearly exhausted by the present Stipend – When the new Augmentations are applied for I shall attend to your interest and endeavour to keep your proportion of them as low as Possible.

I shall pay your Subscription of Twenty Guineas ordered for the Scotch Bishops. -

Between you and Mrs Graham there is no occasion for very formal writings, She may discharge Mrs Campbell's Legacy by a Letter acknowledging that you have paid it to her, And you can write a few words at the End of your Will saying that you have already paid Mrs Graham the sum ordered for her on this account.

Mrs D. is at Walkinshaw and returns to Airth on Monday next with Mrs Graham. - I shall be very glad to hear that your Complaints have left you – I remain

Dear Sir

Your faithful hu. Ser.

James Dundas.

Letter from Sir Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham

Pitkillony 16th Decr 1806

My dear Nephew,

It was with heartfelt satisfaction I received yours of 10th informing me of the happiness which you promise yourself soon in the possession of what is dearest to you in life, the aimiable Character the Young Lady⁴⁶¹ bears among those who know her, with what you have told me yourself and the sincere passion you have for her gives every reason to hope that your union will be happy and I think I may say, that all your friends highly approve & rejoice at is & I make no doubt will contribute all in their power to make her so [c.o.] and you may be assured my mite of Affection & esteem will not be wanting to prove how much I am interested in every thing that concerns you & yours, and shall press the Lovely Caroline to my heart as my beloved Niece - your Mother & Christian are now with me & participated with me the joy your Letter gave us of your approaching happiness, which we earnestly pray may not we marr'd by any malevolent Demon -

Your Mother leaves me the 22d for Kippenross, & stays there till the 26th when she goes home to prepare to attend Mrs Dundas - She hopes you remembered to write Mr Bruce Kinnaird about the meeting to be held the 27th for removal of the Church

I thank you for setting Tom⁴⁶² down at Thorp Arch⁴⁶³ I heard from him since well and happy wt his Situation - I have likewise a Letter from Capt Champaign proposing to send Charles on Board a frigate until he gets a ship himself that his time may we going on of which I approve much & have wrote Mr J Begbie about it desiring that no time should be lost

Your Mother & Sister unite with me in the most sincere and Affectionate good wishes for your happiness & that of you fair friend, & believe me to be with great truth,

yours most affectionately

Thos. Stirling

P.S. I you are writing Mr Begbie mention that I have heard of his getting paymt from Greenwood & Co. of my order for £120 to be applied as directed, and that I find I was in a mistake in calling it £122 -

addressed: Thomas Graham of Airth Esqr.
No 17, new broad street
London

stamped: DEC 20

[Sir T. Stirling 16th Decr. 1806 Congratulating my father on his intended Marriage]

Letter from Sir Thomas Stirling to his sister Ann Graham

MS. 10951 f. 154

Pitkillony 3d Feby 1807⁴⁶⁴ The Happy day that
Unites My dear Nephew to his beloved Caroline

Huzza, Huzza, Huzza,

wt a Three times Three,

Joy to my dearest Sister, Joy to my dear Nieces, and may my dear Nephew possess & enjoy all the felicity that the married State can give, and every happiness this world can afford, and may be lasting & Solid such as Love can only give when founded on Esteem -

This circumstance I have long wished for & desired to see & gives me much pleasure, I have only to look for another descendant from you, A Male you will natural believe is my Wish, & may all of that Sire fill your Fathers Bonnet, and of the females, may they fill yours, And may Toms beloved Partner follow your good example which has been conspicuous through life as a Daughter, Wife, & Mother, Friend and Neighbour, nor can She copy better, which added to her own good sense & sweetness of disposition, which all agree in. I have not a doubt but they will be happy I will not harrass Tom with a Letter at this busy & happy season to him but you may say everything for me of congratulations to him and his Dear Spouse with every warm wish for their happiness & Welfare and shall expect to have them at Strowan to heat the new House But before that can happen will see them at Airth or Bannockburn to press my Lovely Niece & Daughter to my Heart

I am happy to learn you have got quite well of your Complaint of which Xtian wrote me, She was so good as offer her assistance in choosing things for my House but is so uncertain when I get in, that I gave up any intention of providing for it untill it is made habitable which is not in the present state of the Walls & Roof & it is hard to say if this can be rectified wtout stripping the Roof & perhaps pulling down the West Wall

I thank you for your kind remembrance of me but I cannot think of your being at any expense in supplying me with what you think I may want I will take the Vase & Tea Tray if bought, but on condition you allow me to repay you; There being in my House will be as good a Memento of your kindness as if they had been a present it will be enough you chose them when you see Lady Home pray offer her my best Compliments & tell her I have not forgot the merry days & pleasure I enjoyed at Glasgow & the Agreeable Society of herself, worthy Mother & Sisters

Make my Love to all my Nieces wt thanks to Xtian for her offer & that she will excuse my not writing her as my House keeper was then At Abercairny seeing her Niece, Machelys Maid, who is very unwell, & I did not know what was wanting. Adieu, My Dear Sister & believe me to be with great truth & sincerity

Your most affectionate Brother

Thos Stirling

P.S. I shall drink a Bumper to the Welfare & Prosperity of the happy Pair United this day & that before 12 Months there may be a Third my next will add Dowager

M H⁴⁶⁵ offers her duty & warm Congratulations on the Occasion

Letter from Thomas Maclean to Thomas Graham

Graham Papers SAA

22 Feby. 1807

My dear Friend,

[looked at every ship from England for a year...friendship]

I daresay you have heard from Colonel Moray to whom I wrote end October last...[mutiny in

Vellore.⁴⁶⁶] not heard from the Colonel of Mrs Moray for above a year....

...We were in expectation that the last Overland Despatch would have brought out the appointment of General McDowall Vellore to be our Commander in Chief – Sir John Cradock has taken his passage in the Asia & sold his horses &c but about 8 days ago he altered his mind - I believe he expects to go to Bengal as Commander in Chief -
[fear of famine – rains failed]

...What has become of James Moray⁴⁶⁷ - I do not see his name in the 1st Dragoons or in any other Cavalry

Regiment – William⁴⁶⁸ I see in the 17th who are ordered out to South America -

I daresay we shall have a strong reinforcement as soon as they hear of the unfortunate business at Vellar - I am afraid the Government had not got at the bottom of the dissatisfaction in the Native Army - We never can do till we get 4 times the number of European Officers to a Regiment of Sepoys that we now have. They are now forcing 200 Cadets to study the language of Cuddalore when I am sure they would be much better with their Regts....

...I now hold the situation of Last Adjutant Paymaster of Family Certificates [etc..]

Letter from Sir Thomas Stirling to Ann Graham

ACC 12290-1-3 f. 5

addressed:

Mrs Graham
Airth House
Falkirk

Strowan 12th July 1807

My dear Sister,

As I know it will be agreeable to you to know something of my motions in the uncertain state I have been in for some time past I address my first Letter to you from this place where I arrived Friday Evening from Abercainey where I had been these days, the last of my furniture &c being sent off from Pitkillony on Tuesday altho the Carpenters, Mason, Plumbers & Slater were not done at that time and even when I came home found five Carpenters who only left me yesterday that is three of them not to return but two of them comes tomorrow & I suppose have more than a weeks work yet to do the absolute needful but far from completing it, but my arrangement was made and I would not wait any longer, I know Stirling will plead that for any deficiencies or defects particularly the want of the painters Brush which like Charity covers a Multitude of faults, but I have been much disappointed in him & can assume Tom will be too - however I bear it, with much Philosophy & contented to be where I cannot be turned out, until I am carried to the narrow House where the weary findeth rest

There is to be a Roup⁴⁶⁹ at Balgowan⁴⁷⁰ of all the Household furniture soon

where I intend going to endeavour to furnish my House with some necessarys, but I hear of many to be there among the rest Mrs Moray & I suppose things will go higher, than new from an Upholsterer, & I have no Idea of the price of things - every article for my dining Room & Drawing Room particularly Tables & Chairs, & for 3 Bedrooms Bedsteads Chairs &c is wanting -

I was happy to hear from Xtian Mrs Graham had got quite well again & that Dr Corbus had relieved Tom of his Bile (I suppose you will now soon Flit as your Hay harvest will be over - I begin my few Acres on Tuesday - I intend doing down Tuesday or Wensday Senight to be at Kilsyth on Thursday the 23d about the Jamaica acct where I hope to get them settled finally unless Dr Finlay takes another fit of the Gout but you need not say any thing of this, I hope Mr Stirling & Mr Graham Gartmore⁴⁷¹ will find it convenient to go that day as Mr McLeod has fixed that day: -

The preachings has been this week in our parish which has retarded my works - and a [unclear] the Sheriff has granted upon a Petition about the Church yard has stoped finishing my Byre but I have no uneasiness about it -

Give my kindest Love & best wishes to all yours with you and be assured of the unalterable Love of

your most Affectionate Brother
Thos Stirling

Letter from Thomas Maclean to Thomas Graham

Graham Papers SAA

Vellore 12th October 1807

[still waiting to hear from TG...Genl. MacDowall now Commander in Chief – news of army in India]

I have not heard from the Abercairney Family for a very long time - I had a letter from Mr MacLaurin of Broick lately which mentions that they were all well – and James married & settled at Ardoch. - Mrs Moray was so good as write to me twice since I have been in India, but her last letter is dated 2 years ago.

My last letter would inform you that I had got a wife, and I have now the happiness of saying that I am Father to a pretty little girl, who was born last April. I am as well as I can expect to be in this hot climate, annoyed with bile &c at times, but we get accustomed to it. ..

[Addressed to Airth, redirected to Bath. Stamped 14 AP 1808 & 20 AP FALKIRK]

Letter from James Begbie to Thomas Graham

Graham Papers SAA

Apr. 19 1808

I hope you got safe down – Pat & I went away afterwards to Brown's, & the Misses all say that I behaved very ill, but I won't admit any such thing as I conceived that I was exceedingly amiable in my own opinion -

I write just now to mention a circumstance which has just occurred – Mate Lowis has his moment been with me – he said that Williams had informed him that I was in want of a Writership & that if I was not yet provided he could procure me one in the Madras establishment - I told him how I was situated with

Fuller – that altho' I was possitively promised to have the nomination yet I had some doubts of success – that I should see my man & tell him that he was not to consider me fixed while he was doubtful and then I should be glad to treat with him – he said his price was 3500Gns - I told him

that I could not on any account give more than 3000Gs. & unless he could come in to these terms it was needless to say any more on the subject – he then said that he believed £3500 would be taken, and as the appointment which he had was intended for a Young Man who was in the Army in India, who has just now arrived in bad health without being able to avail himself of the exchange, it was of an Old Standing & would enable the possessor of it to embark for India immediately without the necessity of going to College at Hertford⁴⁷² – this I consider would be an amazing point gained and worth more than the difference in the price – He wishes me to give

him an answer without delay – Now I should of course make him believe for a time that the 3m G is the ultimatum, but if I see that the £3500 is not to be receded from – What do you say? - it will be necessary to act with great caution & circumspection but I think I am up to him -

It would cost more than the difference, his expences at College here, and it if were necessary for him to go to the College at Calcutta his 300 Sicca's P month would be going on – He says he cannot wait for Sir Thos⁴⁷³ answer so I have not written him, but you may if your like – At all events let me know your sentiments by return of Post - I shall be happy to hear good accounts of Caro – remember me most kindly to her....

PS – Since I wrote the above I have seen Fuller - I find it is Lowis that he is in treaty with, at least he repeated nearly what L – said to me – he told him that not one sixpenny piece should be given more than the 3M G's - I do not know which of them to treat with, as they have both objections to names being mentioned – Let me hear from you

[Addressed Thomas Graham Esqr. No 2 North Parade, Bath]

*Deed of Trust for Sir Thomas Stirling*⁴⁷⁴

PROB/11/1487

General Sir Thomas Stirling Baronet

At Edinburgh the Sixteenth day of June One thousand eight hundred and eight years In Presence of the Lords of Council and Session Compeared Mr Thomas Thomson Advocate as Procurator for General Sir Thomas Stirling of Strowan Baronet and gave in the Trust disposition underwritten desiring the same might be registered in their Lordships Books conform to Law which desire the said Lords found reasonable and ordained the same to be done accordingly whereof the tenor follows I General Sir Thomas Stirling of Strowan Baronet Colonel of the forty first Regiment of Foot and second lawful Son of Sir Henry Stirling of Ardock Baronet deceased for the better Settlement of my Affairs in the Event of my death agreeably to the Instructions given or to be given by me in relation thereto do hereby give grant and dispose to Robert Sterling Esquire of Hampton in the Island of Jamaica John Graham⁴⁷⁵ Esquire late of the said Island of Jamaica now residing at Ardock Archibald Campbell⁴⁷⁶ of Clathick Esquire Advocate William Erskine⁴⁷⁷ of Kinnedder Esquire Advocate and James Dundas Clerk to the Signet and to any other person or Persons whom I shall hereafter appoint by a writing under my hand or who shall be assumed in virtue of the Powers afterwritten as Trustees for executing the Trust hereby created and to the Survivors or Survivor of the Trustees hereby named or to be named by me or who shall be assumed as said is and who shall accept hereof The Majority of them for the time being a quorum and any one of them having sufficient Power at all times to act in case one of them only shall accept and survive But In Trust for the Uses Ends and Purposes with the powers and under the Conditions and Provisions afterwritten and failing all the said Trustees by death Non-Acceptance or otherwise then to Thomas Graham Esquire my nephew Captain of the Windham⁴⁷⁸ East Indiaman and his nearest Heirs and Assigns whomsoever But alwise as Trustees also for the Uses Ends and Purposes afterwritten. All

and sundry debts and Sums of Money Principal Interest and porialty presently belonging or which shall happen to belong to me at my death by any person or persons whatsoever upon Bonds Heritable or moveable Bills Promissory Notes Contracts Accounts decreets

Agreements or any other Vouchers Arrears of Rents Pay of my Regiment Interest or Annuities Stock in the Public or Government Funds or in any other public or Private Company or Society and dividends due or to become due thereon Together with the Bonds Bills Promissory Notes Accounts decreets Agreements and other Grounds and Vouchers of the said debts and others themselves and all that has followed or may follow thereupon As also all and sundry Household Furniture Plate China Linens Books Wines Liquors lying Money Carriages Horses Cattle Sheep Farming Utensils and whole other Outsight and Insight Plenishing and other moveable and Personal Estate Goods Chattels and Effects Heirship moveables included presently belonging or which shall belong to me at my death wherever the same shall then be situated with my rights and Titles thereto dispensing hereby with the generality thereof and declaring that these Presents shall be as good and effectually to all intents and purposes as it the Sums and debts and other Effects in general hereby disposed were herein specially enumerated and described And also declaring That any List or Inventory of my Personal Estate or of any Part thereof to be signed by me at any time of my Life shall be held as a part of this deed and supercede the necessity of Confirmation As also and singular the Penn or Plantation and Parcels of Land thereto belonging situated lying and being in the Parish of St. Anne and Island of Jamaica as mentioned and comprised in my Rights and titles thereto with the Houses Buildings Slaves and whole other Appurtenances thereof and debts and Sums of Money due to me thereupon And Also all and sundry the Lands and other Heritages after specified Viz All and whole the Lands of Strowan the the Lands of Wester Dalginross and the Lands of Easter Dalginross with all and sundry parts and Pertinents of the same whatsoever (all) lying within the Lordship of Strathearn and Sheriffdom of Perth As also That Piece of Ground formerly possessed as the Glebe of Strowan by the Minister the the United Parishes of Monivaird and Strowan and acquired by the now deceased John Duke of Athol from the whole Heritors of the said United parishes with Consent of the Presbytery of Auchteiarder Bounded and

marched as follows Vizt On the North East and South by the said Lands of Strowan and on the West by the Lands of John Dewar and lying within the said parish of Strowan and Sheriffdom of Perth aforesaid As also that small Pendicle of the Lands of Comrie sometime Possessed by Comrie and lying contiguous to the said Lands of Wester Dalguirross As also all thad whole the Lands of Little Cowden also Brunt Cowden with the Meadows there of Parts and Portions of the foresaid Lands of Strowan with the Pertinents of the same lying with the said Lordship of Strathearn and Sheriffdom of Perth aforesaid As also all and whole the lands of Wester Glentarff with Houses Buildings Yards Tofts Crofts parts Pendicles and Pertinants thereof whatsoever lying within the said Parish of Strowan late Stewartry of Strathearn and Sheriffdom of Perth As also an Annual rent of two hundred and twenty pounds Sterling or such other annual Rent as shall correspond to the Sum of four thousand four hundred Pounds Sterling due by an Heritable Bond granted by Thomas Earl of Elgin and Kincardine⁴⁷⁹ to me dated the fourth day of September Seventeen hundred and ninety three yearly to be uplifted at the Term of Lammas with forty four pounds Sterling of Penalty for each years failure in Payment of the said annual Rent during the not redemption forth of All and sundry the Lands and Barony of Hill alias Anstruther field comprehending the Lands of Windmill hill with their Pertinents As also the Lands of Perdious or Broomhill with the Stave acre Short-acre and But-Acre the Lands of Limekilnhill or Long-bank the Terraris Meadow the Lands of Mill hills with the Mill Mill-lands and Multures thereof the Chaplain Lands or Guildie Lands the third Part of the Lands of Easter Gellets and Wind Sheaves of the same included extending to twelve thirteen parts of the whole third Part of the said Lands of Easter Gellets one thirteenth Part thereof called the Bank being excepted with the Wards Headrig and Meadow and also the Lands of Pennylands with

the Pertinants and all which Lands are Particularly bounded and described as in the Rights and Infeffments and lie within the regality of Dumferline and Sheriffdom of Fife or furth of any part or portion thereof or Rents and duties of the same And also

the said Lands Barony Mills Winds and others before mentioned themselves in Security of the Payment of the said Principal Sum Interest thereof and Penalties thereto annexed together with the said Heritable Bond granted to me by the said Noble Earl and whole Sums thereby due with my Infeffment thereon and all that can follow upon the same and also all and sundry other Lands and Heritages previously belonging or which shall belong to me at my decease But In Trust to and for the uses Ends and Purposes after specified Viz. To the End that the debts and sums of Money Arrears of Rent and Pay Stock in the Public Funds or in any Private Company and dividends thereof may be uplifted and also that my other moveable Estate and Effects Chattels and Personalty and my Lands and other Heritages before conveyed now belonging or which shall belong to me at my death may be sold or disposed of either in whole or in part at the discretion of my said Trustees and the Produce and Prices thereof applied to the uses aftermentioned Vizt. In the first place for payment of my deathbed and Funeral Expences and of the Expences of management and executing this Trust 2dly for and in Payment of all the just and lawful debts which shall be owing by me at my death declaring that it shall be lawful to my said Trustees to Pay such open Accounts as they may be satisfied were resting by me without putting the Creditors therein to the necessity of constituting the same by decree Thirdly for Implement and Payment of all Obligations Legacies Annuities Donations or other bequests whatever granted or to be granted by me to any Person or Persons whatever by any Bond Deed Missive Memorandum Codicil or other Writing whatsoever expressive of my Will and Intention executed or to be executed by me at any time of my Life and even upon Deathbed with the Formality of which writings or Deeds I hereby for ever dispense And Lastly the whole Residue Remainder and Surplus of my said Estate and Effects shall be conveyed and made over or applied and employed by my said Trustees or Trustee acting for the time to and in favor of such person or persons or for such uses and purposes as I have directed or shall direct by any deed missive memorandum or other Writing executed

or to be executed by me for that Effect at any time of my life and even upon Deathbed I hereby dispense and failing of my executing such deeds or directions then to be applied in Favour of the said Thomas Graham and his Heirs and Assignees whomsoever And with the powers afterwritten Vizt. with full Power to each of the Trustees before named or to be named by me who shall accept this Trust to name and appoint any other Person he shall think proper to succeed to himself in the Trust hereby created after his own decease and also to such nominees to name other persons to succeed to them respectively in the said Trust after their deaths and that from time to time in all time coming ay and until this Trust shall be completely executed and the Purposes thereof fulfilled And also with Power to the said Trustees named or to be named by me or to be assumed as said is accepting and surviving or to their Quorum foresaid to assume and appoint any Person or Persons they Please as joint Trustees in the Trusts hereby created in place of any former Trustee or Trustees named or to be named by me or who shall be assumed as aforesaid who shall decline to accept or act or who shall leave Britain and go abroad or who shall have died without naming a Successor or Successors to himself or themselves in the Trust hereby created and which Trustees do to be assumed shall have as full and ample a Powers as are given to the Trustees hereby appointed and with full Power to my said Trustees named or to be named by me or to be assumed in manner before mentioned and to the Survivors or Survivor of them or to their Quorum foresaid to uplift receive one for convey renounce and discharge the debts and Sums of Money heretable and moveable real and personal and Rents and Arrears of Rent of Lands and other Heritages Prices and dividends of Stock Pay of my Regiment and Arrears thereof and other moveables and personal Estate hereby conveyed and to sell and dispose not only of my Stock in the Government Funds and my Furniture

Plate China Linens and whole other moveable and personal Estate Goods Chattels and Effects herein before conveyed but also my said Lands and other Heritages Particularly before disposed in case I shall

not otherwise direct and appoint and any other Lands Tenements Annual rents Adjudications and other heritable Estate now belonging or which shall belong to me and generally or particularly herein before disposed or such parts of Parcels thereof as they may find necessary or expedient for the proper Execution of this Trust and either by public Roup⁴⁸⁰ or Private Bargain at such prices and upon such Terms and Conditions as my said Trustee or Trustees acting for the time shall think proper and likewise to enter and receive Vassals in all and sundry Lands and other Heritages holden of me as superior and to grant Tacks or Leases of the whole or any Part of the said Subjects for such Periods and at such Rents and upon such Terms and Conditions as my said Trustees or Trustee acting for the time shall think Proper As Also to compound transact and agree all debts Claims and demands which any person or persons may have against me or which I may have against others and if necessary to submit and refer all disputes and differences concerning the same or otherways arising in the Execution of this Trust to any person or persons as arbiters or Overseers And to fulfill and enforce the awards and decrees's arbitral to be given by them As also to constitute and appoint either one of their own Number or any other person or persons with or without finding Caution for uplifting and discharging the debts and Sums of Money Rents and Arrears of Rent pay and Arrears of Pay of my Regiment Prices and dividends of Stock and others before disposed the Produce of my other moveable and personal Estate and the price or Produce of my heritable Subjects which shall be sold as said is and whole other Funds of the Trust and to give such Allowance to those Factors for their Trouble as my Trustees or Trustee acting for the time shall think reasonable and in general to do every thing necessary for the Proper Execution of the Trust hereby created and for that purpose to grant and subscribe all disposition Conveyances Assignations Charters and Precepts of clare constat to Vassals Tacks discharges Renunciation Submissions Factories of Powers of Attorney and all other Writs and deeds requisite and necessary But with and under the Conditions

afterwritten As it is hereby expressly conditioned and Provided that my said Trustees or Trustee acting for the time under this Trust shall be holden and obliged to apply and employ the Funds and Subjects hereby assigned for the Uses and purposes before mentioned As also that the purchasers of the Lands Houses and other Heritages and of the Goods Chattels and Effects hereby disposed which shall be sold and the debtors the Sums and Debts hereby conveyed shall be nowise concerned with the application of the Prices Sums or Debts or with any of the Conditions or Provisions herein contained nor be any ways bound to notice or examine whether these Prices Sums or Debts be applied of not towards the uses and Purposes of this Trust but they shall be effectually discharged and secured by the dispositions Conveyances Transfers Renunciations or discharges to be granted by my said Trustees or their Quorums or by any Factor authorized by them for those purposes As Also that the discharged Accounts of the Expence of executing this Trust paid by Order of the Trustees or Trustee acting for the time to the disbursers thereof or an Account under the Hand of any of my said Trustees who shall disburse the same shall be a sufficient document of such Expence And also declaring that my said Trustees and my Executors and Administrators after named acting under those Presents shall no wise be liable for any Omissions in the management of the Trust hereby created nor for the Omissions or neglect of their Factors nor for the responsibility of them or their Cautioners if Caution shall be required But that my said Trustees Executors and Administrators in their whole Transactions Management and Execution of this Trust shall only be bound to act honorably and be accountable no further than for their own Actual and Personal Intromissions respectively and shall nowise be liable in solidum or for one another but each for himself only and for his own personal Intromissions respectively and no further And under this Condition also as it is hereby specially conditioned and provided that in case none of the Trustees

hereinbefore named or to be named and

appointed by me or to be assumed in manner before mentioned shall accept hereof or in case after accepting the Trust hereby committed to them they shall die or decline to act and execute the same Then and in either of these cases the Lands and other heritages and rents and Sums of Money and other Subjects and Effects hereby conveyed shall fall and belong to such person or persons under such Conditions and Limitation and be applied to such Uses and Purposes as I have directed or shall by any deed missive memorandum Codicil or other Writing of the date hereof of any other date or dates direct or appoint And under all which Conditions and Provisions these Presents are granted and shall be accepted and no otherwise And In which Lands Annual-rent and other Heritages before disposed and under the Conditions and Provisions before written I bind and oblige myself and my Heirs and Successors to infest and seise my said Trustees named or to be named or assumed and the Survivors or Survivor of them or their disponers whom failing the other person or persons to be appointed by me and that by two several Infestments and manners of holding one thereof to be holden of me and my foresaid in freebench for payment of one Penny Scots Money in the Name of blanch Farm at Whitsunday yearly upon the Ground of any part of the said Lands if asked only and receiving in of the duties and Services payable and Prestable forth of the same to our Superiors thereof and the other of the said Infestments to be holder from me of and under my immediate lawful superiors of the same in like manner as freely as I hold or may hold the same myself and that either by Resignation or Confirmation and for accomplishing the said Infestment by Resignation I hereby constitute and appoint [blank] and each of them jointly and severally my lawful and irrevocable Procurators for me and in my Name and behalf and duly and Lawfully to resign and surrender all and sundry the lands Annual-rent and other Heritages hereinbefore disposed with the whole parts Pendicles Privileges and pertinents thereof All lying and described as aforesaid and here held as repeated In the Hands of my immediate lawful Superiors of the same In favour and for

new Infestment thereof to be granted to the said Trustees named or to be named by me or to be assumed as said is and to the Survivors and Survivor of them and to their disponers whom failing to the other Person or Persons to be appointed by me as aforesaid all in legal and Proper Form But Alwise for the uses ends and purposes with the Powers and under the Conditions and Provisions before written and to do and cause to be done all and every thing which to the Office of Procurator in such Cases belongs Ratifying hereby and holding firm all and whatever my said Procurators shall lawfully do or cause to be done in virtue hereof And I hereby assigns and disposes to my said Trustees and their foresaids the whole writs and Evidents Rights Title deeds and Securities old and new and as well legal as conventional of an concerning the Lands and other Heritages before disposed granted and conceived or to be granted and conceived in my Favour with the Procurations of Resignation Precepts of Seisure Clauses of Warrantice Obligations to make Writs forthcoming and whole other Clauses and obligations thereof And all that has followed or may follow thereupon And I oblige myself and my Heirs and Successors to grant all other Writs and Deeds requisite and necessary for vesting the Lands Estate and Effects before disposed in my said Trustees and for rendering more effectual the aforesaid disposition of my moveable or Personal Estate I hereby nominate and appoint the said Robert Stirling John Graham Archibald Campbell William Erskine and James Dundas and any other person or persons to be hereafter named and appointed by me or who shall be assumed in manner aforesaid or such of them one or more as shall accept hereof and the Survivors of them whom failing any other Person or Persons to be appointed by me to be my sole Executors and [unclear] with my moveable Estate and Executorship falling under Testament in Scotland and to be likewise my executors and Administrators of my Goods Chattels and Personal Estate and Effects in England Jamaica or elsewhere out of Scotland excluding all others my nearest of Kin and Executors from those Offices But always for the Uses Ends and Purposes

with the Powers and under the Conditions and Provisions before written declaring that any List or Inventory of my said moveable Estate in Scotland signed or to be signed by me at any time in my Life shall be held as part of this Present Disposition and exclude the necessity of Confirmation And I hereby reserve full Power to myself at any time of my Life and even upon deathbed to recal or alter this present disposition in whole or in part to sell or gratuitously dispose of the Lands and other Heritages and whole other Subjects herein before conveyed and in general to do all and everything concerning the same in like manner and as freely as I could have done before granting hereof And I dispense with the delivery hereof and declare that these Presents although found in my own Repositories or in the Custody of any other Person undelivered at my death shall be equally good and effectual to all Intents and Purposes as if delivered any Law or Practice to the contrary notwithstanding And for more Security I consent to the Registration hereof and of any Codicil or Codicils or Memorandums relative hereto in the Books of Council and Session or of any other Proper Court therein to remain for Preservation and constitute Mr Thomas Thomson Advocate my Prois for that Purpose and further I hereby desire and require you [blank] and each of you as my Baillies hereby jointly and severally and specially constituted to the Effect after written that upon right hereof ye give and deliver heritable State and seisine to the said Robert Stirling John Graham Archibald Campbell William Erskine and James Dundas and any other person or persons to be hereafter named by me or who shall be assumed as Trustees in manner foresaid and to the Survivors or Survivor of them who shall accept hereof or to their disponees whom failing to any other person or persons to be appointed by me as aforesaid of all and sundry the said lands annual-rent and other heritages hereinbefore disposed with the whole parts Pendices Privileges and pertinents thereof all lying and described as aforesaid and here held as repeated to to be holden as said in But alwise for the uses ends and purposes with the Power and under the Conditions and Provisions before written and

that ye give such seisine by delivery of all Symbols necessary to my said Trustees or their foresaid or to their attornies in their names bearers hereof and for doing whereof I commit to you and each of you as my Baillies foresaid full power by this my Precept of Sasine In Witness whereof I subscribe this and the eleven preceeding pages of Stamped together with the two Marginal Notes one on the third and the other on the Sixth page hereof all written by Colin Dunlop Donald Clerk to the said James Dundas at Lochlin the thirteenth day of August Eighteen hundred and four Before these Witnesses Peter Drummond my Overseer and John McLean my Servant The Place and date of Signing and the Witnesses Names and designations being inserted by the said James Dundas (signed) Thos. Stirling – Peller Drummond witness John McLean witness Extracted furth of the Records of the Court of Session in Scotland upon this and the twenty one preceding pages of stamped Paper by me Colin Mackenzie Esq. one of the principal Clerks of said Court – Colin Mackenzie

This Will was proved at London on the twelfth day of October in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and eight etc. by the oaths of John Graham Archibald Colquhoun formerly Campbell William Erskine and James Dundas Esquires four of the Executors named in the said will to whom Administration was granted of all and singular the Goods Chattels and Credits of the deceased they having been first sworn by Commission duly to administer Power reserved of making the like grant to Robert Stirling Esquire the other Executor named in the said Will when he shall apply for the same

[There is a useful addition to this opaque will in the following extract from a case in the Court of Session at Edinburgh]

SECOND DIVISION

No. XVI.

30th November 1838

Thomas Graham Stirling⁴⁸¹
 against
 John Dundas⁴⁸², (Stirling's Trustee)

.....By trust-disposition, dated in 1804, the late Sir Thomas Stirling conveyed his estate of Strowan, Little Cowden, Dalginross and Glentarff, and whole othe means and estate, heritable and moveable, to trustees in trust, for payment of his funeral expenses, debts, expenses of management, legacies and bequests; and thereafter that the residue should be applied to such purposes as he should direct.

Of the same date, and referring to the trust-deed, Sir Thomas executed a deed of instructions, whereby after payment of funeral expenses, expenses of management, debts, and certain specified legacies and annuities, he directed that the whole residue, remainder and surplus of his said estate and effects, after payment as aforesaid, (excepting his lands and estate of Strowan, Little Cowden, Dalginross and Glentarff,) should when uplfted and recovered by his said trustees, be invested and laid out, as soon as proper opportunities offered, in the purchase of lands or other heritages in Scotland "to be conveyed and made over to them, along with my said lands of Strowan, Little Cowden, Dalginross and Glentarff, to and in favour of the said Thomas Graham, Esq. captain of the Windham East Indiaman, my nephew, second son of the said deceased William Graham of Airth, and to the heirs-male of the body of the said Thomas Graham; whom failing, to the second son to be procreated of the body of James Graham, now of Airth, Esq. also my nephew, and the heirs-male of the body of the said James Graham, successively in their order, according to their seniority, and the heirs-male respectively to be procreated of their bodies successively. But as it is my will and intention that my estate, and the estate of Airth, shall not be enjoyed by the same person at one time, therefore I hereby direct and appoint, that if any of the younger sons of the said James Graham, appointed to succeed to my estate, shall happen to succeed to the estate of Airth, he shall be immediately obliged to denude and divest himself of my estate in favour of his second son; or, in case he has no second of other younger sons, in favour of his immediate younger brother, or the heir of tailzie next in succession to him, and the heirs-male of his body; and in case of the decease of the said James Graham without heirs-male of his body, and that the said Thomas Graham, or, in case of his death, his eldest son, or any other son, so succeeding to the said estate of Airth, shall be obliged to denude and divest themselves of my estate in favour of the second or other younger sons of the said Thomas Graham, successively in their order, according to their seniorities, and the heirs-male respectively, to be procreated of their bodies successively; and failing all such younger sons of he said Thomas Graham, and their heir-male,' then in favour of a series of heirs therein mentioned: 'But always with and under the conditions, provisions, exceptions, limitation, declarations, and clauses, irritant and resolute, and reservation after specified, viz. That the said Thomas Graham, and my other heirs of tailzie, shall be prohibited from selling, feuing or wadsetting my estate, in whole or in part, or contracting debts thereon, or anywise burdening the same, and from granting leases of the whole, or any part of my estate, for longer than nineteen years, and without diminution of the rental, or taking fines or grassums, excepting only that they shall be entitled to grant jointures or annuities to wives or husbands, in place of their terce and courtesy, from which they are to be expressly excluded, and also provisions to younger children, not exceeding one-fifth part of the gross rent or produce of my estate, as the same shall stand at the time of their respective successions, for the annuity of jointure to wives and husbands, and one-fifth of such gross rent, by way of annuity, for provisions to younger child or children; which fifth, they, when of age, or their tutors and curators, when under age, may sell to the heir at ten years' purchase; but if he declines to redeem this annuity at that rate, then they may sell the same to any other person, for onerous purposes only, and such

annuities or provision to younger children shall return to my heir in my estate, as they shall happen to fall in by deaths, if not redeemed, and shall not go among the surviving younger children; and no additional burden shall be allowed to be put on the estate by other annuities, jointures, or provisions to wives, husbands or younger children, until the former annuities, jointures and provisions shall respectively have fallen: And I hereby declare, that in case any of the said Thomas, William or Charles Stirling⁴⁸³ shall succeed to my said estate they shall not be entitled to receive the rents thereof, or enter to the management of the same, until they shall attain the age of twenty-five years complete; and, upon the succession to my estate opening to any of the said Thomas, William or Charles Stirling, their share of the foresaid provisions herein before granted to them shall fall to his brother or brothers equally; and also declaring, that, until my purposes shall be completely fulfilled by my trustees executing a regulat entail of my estate in the forms above written, and recording the same in the Register of Tailzies and in the books of the Council and Session, the said Thomas Graham, or any other heir of tailzie for the time, shall be entitled only to an annuity of L.500 sterling per annum from my funds, to commence twelve months after my death; and which annuity I hereby direct my trustees out of my effects, to pay to my said heir: And which conditions, provisions and declarations shall be fenced and secured by all proper and necessary irritant and resolute clauses, in case of contravention; and the entail to be executed by my said trustees shall also contain all other conditions, limitations and clauses which my trustees shall consider to be necessary and proper for carrying ot my views and intentions to full effect."..... The defenders pleaded - That the trustees, in executing the foresaid entail, did not exceed, but only proceeded in conformity to the instructions under which they were bound to act; and that if, in particular, the deed had not contained a prohibition against altering the order of succession, they would have failed in the duty which they were called upon to discharge. The object of the late Sir Thomas clearly was, to have the lands so entailed as to secure the succession to the series of heirs to whom they were appointed to be conveyed, as was manifest by the clauses with regard to bearing the sirname of Stirling⁴⁸⁴ and arms of the family of Ardoch, the preservation of the estates distinct from that of Airth, and the relative provisions for denuding the estates, by the heir in possession, in favour of the next succeeding heir, in case the former should come to have right to the estate of Airth, &c. Sir Thomas's purpose was, to fix irrevocably the succession to the estate upon the heirs there pointed out, by placing them under the fetters of a strict entail....

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 1-2

H.M.Ship Barfleur⁴⁸⁵ at Anchor
off the Tagus August 4th 1808

Dear Graham

I have this morning received a letter from Mary Hamilton stating the loss of our old and worthy Uncle who died suddenly on the 9 May.

Dear Graham have the goodness to write to me and let [] know the Particulars as I am anxious to hear them, We Poor Orphans have now lost a friend who had ever been Dear to us & I hope & trust we shall always conduct ourselves with that degree of Propriety as to gain in you a friend & benefactor as you are the only Person who we have to look up for assistance since your Dear & worthy Uncle is gone

I hope you will have the goodness to keep some small trifle for me to clasp to in remembrance of him & whenever I look at that I may think of him & give it me the first opportunity

We are now blockading 13 sail of the line in the Tagus and about 100 sail of merchant vessels we expect to go in here every Day, we had 1100 troops landed ashore here & is now on there march to take the town & the Forts our fleet consists of 10 sail of the line & 2 or three Frigates which if we take [above: the money] will give me a little Prize money and if we go in here we will be back to England in a month or 2 & I will wate [sic] on Mr Begbie if I can get leave, that is to say if I live to see old England

I dare say this business has taken great effects on your Mother & Sisters which I hope they will soon get the better of remember me to all the family your Mother & Sisters & your espouse & My Brothers & Mary Hamilton likewise

Dear Graham I am so agitated that I cannot say no more So

I remain your Affection

Cousin

C Stirling

PS. Remember my keep Sake

Mary desires me direct under the

Care of Mr. Begbie which I have done

Addressed to: Thos Graham [inserted in another hand: Stirling] Esqr
[c.o. Barrack Buxa House]
Southampton
[c.o. Falkirk]

Stamped: 2 SE 808

Letter extracts from James Begbie to Thomas Graham Stirling

Graham Papers SAA

London 13th Feby 1809

have been looking for a letter from you every day telling me when you are coming to Town Pray write.. your sister we expect the beginning of the week next...

....I expect an exposure of all Tom Stirlings⁴⁸⁶ business - I have not got back my Memo & I apprehend Dovistan has given it to Mrs Clark – look out Sharp – Kind love to my Lady Caro..
[addressed Thomas Graham Stirling of Airth, Southampton]

Graham Papers SAA

Old South Sea House 20 Feby 9 [1809]

I am not quite sure whether we can give you a bed at York St. or not but drive there first at all events. Your sister & Mr Mac⁴⁸⁷ are to be in Town tomorrow, and I believe the Pig will have taken a lodging for her within a few doors of us, before I get back – We have been engaged for a long while to dine with the Munros on Wednesday, there is an invite for your Sister, but write to the Pig & say you will take a Beef steak at York St. with Mr Mac - & it shall be prepared for you there -

Mr Munrow you know would require to see Mr Mac & you, but I believe his table is very small..
[Addressed TGS of Airth, Southampton – To be returned to Hunter Begbie & Co Old South Sea House in case Mr G Stirling has left Southampton]

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 62-63

Downs off Deal H M Ship

Victorious⁴⁸⁸

June 3 1809

My Worthy friend

I begin to doubt whether you received my letter (which I addressed to you at Mr Begbie's) or not). If you did I should have expected an answer: but if not it was totally out of the Question. I did not write to you since, as I was ignorant of your situation, but now I conjecture you have returned to Scotland by this time.

I should derive the utmost satisfaction from a single letter from you though it only contain a few lines denoting the state of your health at present, including Mrs Graham's little William & the rest of our friends.

In our last Cruize off the Texel & Goree we met with severe misfortunes which I thing requisite to mention here. One evening a violent squall of wind suddenly came on which carried away our Fore yard, maintopsail yard & Cross Jack yard all at once & our fore mast suffered a great deal [unclear]. At another time we run aground on some sand Bank but having drawn all our guns forward we backed her off; after remaining in that state for about an hour & a half but suffered no damage by

We are no less unfortunate in our accidents as in misfortunes. A piece of the outrigger fell on a marines head & fractured it who is since dead; another marine shared the same fate about a week after by a piece of wood fell from the main top on his head and fractured it & is in a very miserable condition. One of the Lieutenant's boys fell from the main deck into the main hold which was quite empty & is in a very bad way.

Though I do not dislike the Sea, still I am not particularly fond of it. When I consider the length of time I have to serve in the Navy before I can arrive at any higher rank, it makes me sorry for not taking the Commission in the army which you offered me before; I must be 6 years a midshipman – 3 of which I must serve till I be rated. We intend to sail tomorrow being 4th to join Sir Richd Strachans off Flushing who has 7 sail of the line with him. Mrs Hammond sailed with us last cruize but was tired of it at last & was glad to get ashore again. Capt. Hammond⁴⁸⁹ takes particular care of us & does not allow us any money, but what he thinks requisite to purchase cloaths or other necessaries which is I think a great mark of his attention.

I suppose Airth Castle⁴⁹⁰ is entirely finished now & all ready for inhabiting. I hope your crops, plantations, Orchards, Garden Herds succeed very well. This I end with sending Jas Macdowall's⁴⁹¹ love as well as my own to you Mrs Graham & your Family

I remain
Your affectionate friend
T. Stirling

Direct to me at
Downs or elsewhere

Addressed to: T. Graham Stirling Esq.
Airth House
Stirling

N B
Victorious

Stamped: JUN 8 1809
DEAL 74

Letter extracts from James Begbie to Thomas Graham Stirling

Graham Papers SAA

London June 5th 1809

Lying is a Crime Colonel – You know you are delighted with your promotions notwithstanding all you say to the contrary....⁴⁹²

[prices got for goods ...ships, the Company, ownership]...Do you mean your Windham shares to be insured – Answer this for the ship will soon leave Gravesend – Genl. Macdowall writes me of Sandie Macraes Death...

[Addressed Thomas G S Kippenross Dunblane]

Graham Papers SAA

London July 6 1809

[ship building]..You never read my letters - I told you that Wm Stirling⁴⁹³ was 4th on Old Wills⁴⁹⁴ list for Cadets of next year - I would have insured £2000 on your Windham Shares had they been mine for I take it you would then been your own underwriter £1000 - I have done £1500 on them -

Friend Donaldson⁴⁹⁵ you will have heard has got himself spliced - I am unacquainted with the Lady having only once seen her – he gets not a sixpence, nor no connection whatsoever – the first is not perhaps necessary, but it is of consequence as

Hunter says to know well who & who are to be together, but I think she shall make him a good wife...

[Address TGS Airth]

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 64-65

H M S Victorious July 22nd
Off Flushing

Dear Sir

Your letter was the first & only one that I have received since I joined the ship. I cannot conceive how none of your letters or even Macdowall's arrived here. I can't say whether you received mine or not but indeed it is very strange.

We sailed from the Downs about three weeks ago for our old station off Flushing: Everyday we expect a large expedition out here to land at some place in Holland, but we have not yet ascertained

the real truth of the matter. We hear there are upwards of 20 sail of the line at the Downs with their lower Deck Guns, each having troops on board for this occasion. Every ship here is exercising between seventy & a hundred men to be ready for landing. Admiral Gardener has hoisted his flag on board the Blake & has the command at present.

Mrs Hammond has taken leave of the Sea being without Doubt pretty tired of it & experienced that, for a person of her sex as sea life is not the most agreeable. Capt. Hammond is extremely active in his profession & admires activity in others, by his quick disposition he has rendered our ships Company the smartest in the whole fleet; at reefing topsails or at weighing & making sail we are always the first even when we had all reefs out & the other ships had only two out our men were laying in off the yards as soon as we on course [unclear]

You mentioned in your letter that a hard beginning made a good beginning in which point I certainly agree with you. For if a young man meet with many difficulties at his first entrance into publick life they will appear trivial to him afterwards so they will teach him to weather them with great ease. I don't know where the Barfleur is, but nothing would equal the joy I should conceive at seeing my brother Charles; I have not seen him since he went to sea which is about 4 years ago. There is a midshipman on board a year who sailed from Lisbon in the Barfleur & who knows Charles perfectly, but did not speak much in favour of him saying he was as his other ship mates very spirited and fond of kicking up [unclear], which is the Case with all young sea officers. (I am in every respect very comfortable good officers who shew every mark of attention to me & an attentive Capt. I shall endeavour to preserve their friendship as long as it lays in my power.

Is William at Mr Dick's⁴⁹⁶ academy in Perth still or not. I am ignorant of what you intend him for, but I hope he will prosper in whatever line he enters, & likewise that you not fail to find him a good berth. Give my love to him as well as to All my other friends particularly Mrs Graham Mr & Mrs Macdowall Miss Hamilton &c let me know Miss Hamilton's address for I should be very happy to write her a few lines at times. I remembered you to Capt. Hammond (as you Desired) who likewise desires to be remembered to you. Think not that I have forgotten to inquire after the state of your health

for I sincerely hope you are enjoying all the pleasure of Domestic Happiness. Capt Hammond was saying he thought you should not leave the sea yet⁴⁹⁷ but I don't know his reasons for saying so. I begin to take more delight in the Sea now that I formerly did, but I have seen nothing of it yet.

I intend making it a constant practise of revising all my cloaths every month to see that nothing is lost, which I think is a good plan.

The word is passed for all letters which obliges me to conclude, with my duty to you.

Dear Sir
Your affectionate Cousin
T. Stirling

We have had shocking
weather this long time
Write me soon
but excuse my writing

Addressed to: T Graham Stirling Esq.
Airth Castle
Stirling
NB

H M S Victorious

[no clear date stamp]

Letters from James Begbie to Thomas Graham Stirling

Graham Papers SAA

York St. Sunday Augt. 27 1809

My Darling,

In order to save you a quarter of Postage I send this by friend Pat as far as Ferrybridge. You must be very kind to him I entreat you, but you are to lead him into no kind of debauchery or not on any account whatever – My dear Sir I find I have many things to say to you -

Young Shedden tells me that his father never had the least idea of Castlesempole & he cannot think how such a thing ever got abroad - & I understand from Old Will that Walkinshaw⁴⁹⁸ is not for the seasons Money - I fear indeed you must not place much dependence on the chance of finding a purchaser here for Walkinshaw at least, unless

you make a great alteration in the terms – the land perhaps may be fairly valued enough, but the houses & buildings are considered very high, & altho' probably they could not now be built for what they are estimated at, I do not think you will find a man in these parts who will sit down at so great a rent as he would have to pay for Walkinshaw House & Garden - £1000 P ann would not be sufficient – and if you were to dispose of part of the land without the House would that not be against your getting rid of it at all, for who would purchase such a House without a considerable portion of land being attached to it?

A Word to the Wise – but I dare say your Wisdom head has not let this observation escape you before -

No account yet of Genl. Macdowall⁴⁹⁹ - I shall be exceedingly anxious if we do not hear from them by the China fleet which are daily expected – What a pity it is that he could not have held his tongue at Madras⁵⁰⁰ – if he had only come home and quietly & respectfully

stated his grievances here, he would have upset Barlow⁵⁰¹, but instead of which his orders I fear will press hard upon him – the Directors are very severe, but by no means so much so, I understand, as Lord Harrowby & the Members of the board of Controul – they, it seems, do not wish to take the responsibility of an act of this nature upon themselves, and have referred the proceedings to His Majesty's Ministers, who it is said are all against the Genl - Davie Grant⁵⁰² is bustling about his friends – but I have thought all along he had better not stir at all in the matter till the Genl. himself comes home, as it is impossible that any one can make so good a defence as he himself could do, with but scanty or partial materials, and unfortunately, I think, that Davie is too sanguine, or looks too much at the fair side of the question to advocate his Brother's cause to advantage - & I really wish he may not initiate, without being able at present to do the smallest good whatever -

[ship building]

[Addressed TGS Airth redirected to Strowan House near Creiff]

Graham Papers SAA

London Oct. 21st 1809

...I got your letter to the 16th yesterday and have paid to Coutts further on Account of Capt. Hammond £3.7.3 as you desired. I spoke to Old Elphinstone⁵⁰³ two days ago about the Cadetry for Wm Stirling, but he does not now hold out the same hope that he did formerly – he told me that he

was fourth on his list, but he now talks of having four or five to provide for, and as so few are to be appointed this Season he was very doubtful if he would be able to do anything – You have therefore better try elsewhere, and I shall also be doing what I can – By the Bye Collin's⁵⁰⁴ death will make it necessary to do something about Jameson's Stock that is in trust – a probate of his will should be exhibited at the Bank, otherwise you as the Surviving Trustee could not dispose of it at any time

when the money might be wanted.....

Pat Stg⁵⁰⁵ has been an Tunbridge Wells for this last week

I have a note from him saying he is to be in Town to dinner – and he wished me to go to Cheltenham with him tomorrow - I shall certainly go for ten days or so, inconvenient as it may be, for I am not well -

[Addressed TGS 25 St Andrew's Square, Edinb.]

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 3-4

H.M.Ship Triumph⁵⁰⁶
Port Mahone Minorca
18 Novr. 1809

Dear Graham

I wrote to you before we sailed from from (sic) Lisbon informing you of our going up the Mediterranean which place we are now arrived after experiencing some very bad weather and blowing away our sails when we arrived at Gibraltar we were immediately loaded with stores of every kind for the fleet We sailed from there on the 16 of Oct. and arrived at Minorca on the 10 of this Month and wated here for the arrival of the fleet which arrived here yesterday consisting of 17 sail of the line under Collingwood from whom we heard of the destruction of 3 sail and a Convoy of transports there had seven of the prizes arrived here already besides a number they burned.

I wrote to you when I first joined the Triumph informing you of my loss of my Clothes to which I have had no answer

Capt. Linzee⁵⁰⁷ was kind enough to indorse me a bill for 20£

on our arrival in port and if he had not done that I would have been naked, as it is now I am very little better, for Cloth is so very dear in Lisbon that it took nearly all of the Money to get a suit of uniform.

We have great [c.o. take] talks on board of our returning back to Lisbon again to assist in the embarkation of the troops which is dally expected so we here, but there is no confidence to be put in every [c.o. thing that has] report that is spread. But if we remain up here I am afraid we shall make but a poor Xmas dinner as there is no fresh beef to be had and every thing is imensly dear & the salt provisions that we get is hardly eatable

Give my love to Mrs G your Mother Sisters and my Brothers when you write them Miss H and all Friends

I shall write to you if we change our Station

I remain Yours &c
C Stirling

Inside: 23 Nov. direct to Cadiz your next as we are going there to remain for some time now

C Stirling

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling Esq
Airth Castle
near
Falkirk

Stamped: DEC22 1809
SHIP-LETTER PORTUGAL

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 66-67

H M S Victorious
Gibraltar Bay. Decr 29th 1809

My Dear Sir

It is nought but my duty to seize the present favourable opportunity of giving you a short epistalary detail of our passage from Plymouth to Gibraltar.

We sailed from Cawsand Bay on Monday the 18th Decr with a fine fair Breeze till we got into the Bay of Biscay then it became fowl & kept us boxing about the bay for three or four days; it fell a calm twice & there was a very heavy swell indeed which made us roll our Main deck guns under & the main chains several times.

We passed Cape St Vincent off where the brave & gallant action was fought by noble Jarvis when we got round the Cape the wind was fowl which forced us to beat up along the coast of Andalucia, the beauty of the country was certainly pleasing, & the delightful

Orange groves were very tempting.

There were numbers of houses along the shore which spot for my part I should choose as the fine breeze from the Sea must be refreshing in the heat of the Summer. We passed Cadiz at a Distance but it appeared a very superb place.

Then opened Cape Trafalgar to our view where Nelson rendered his name immortal

I should liked to have fallen in with a French 80 here; as we should have the honour of being at the battle of Trafalgar. We run through the Gut & anchored in Gibraltar bay.

I was much astonished at the stupendous height of the rock & more so at the rock being hollowed out, & port holes cut out of the solid rock with guns in them must have been an Herculean labour indeed. Opposite the rock there is the stone chair on which the Queen of Spain sat at the top of the hill viewing the fight when the Spanish Gunships attacked Gibraltar

She made a resolution not to stir from that spot till she saw Spanish Colours flying on the rock but she was very much disappointed but as a favour they were hoisted that she might not fail in her resolution.

John James has the Measles at present but I am happy to say he's doing well. he unites with me in kind remembrance to you all we expect to sail tomorrow to join the fleet which is at present at Minorca

In case I should be obliged to draw some money from the Capt. Or any one else for my mess I thought I ought to let you know.

I am obliged to conclude
Your Affectionate friend
T. Stirling

I have written to
Mrs McDowell
along with this.

Addressed to: T. Graham Stirling Esq.
Airth Castle
Stirling N. Britain

Victorious

Stamped: MISSENT TO STIRLING
7 FB 1810
FB 1810 10

Letter from Charles Stirling to James Begbie

MS. 10872 ff. 228-229

H M Ship Triumph Cadiz Harbor Jany. 14 1810

Dear Begbie

I have writen to you so often and have never received any answers makes me think you never received any of my letters so to make sure I have sent this by Mr. Kelly Mid. who has come to town to pass for a Lieut, who will give it in person any thing you can do for him I will thank you as he is a very intimate friend of mine

I have no doubt but you have received the bills that I have drawn on you and the letters of credit to the amount of 40£ on Grahams accout [sic] all endorsed by Capt Linzee I intend drawing on you for 10£ in a day or two which I have no doubt but you will except [sic] to begin the new year

I have requested Mr Kelly will call on you before he leaves Town to join the Ship again and if you have any thing to send he will no doubt [c.o. but he will] do it with pleasure.

Give My best Respects to all friends Mr Hunter & Donaldson and any that may be in Town

believe me to be
Yours Respectfully
Chas. Stirling

addressed: James Begbie Esqr
Old South Sea House
London

Letter extracts from Thomas Maclean to Thomas Graham Stirling

Graham Papers SAA

Madras 20th Jan 1810

..It is now nearly two years, my dear friend, since the date of your last letter to me - I think

however, it is not improbable, that you may have written, and your letter lost in one of the late Captured Indiamen – You will have ere this reaches you that the United Kingdom & Charlton, were taken in the Bay, by two French Frigates, and that it almost amounts to a certainty our old friend the Windham⁵⁰⁸ has afterwards shared the same fate – You will no doubt have all the particulars of the Capture by

the Ocean and Devaynes – It is now two months since they were taken and we have heard nothing of the Windham – We therefore have every reason to fear, that the same, came up with her – The Windham is very much blamed for running away, by the two others. They allow however that she fought well for an hour against the odds – It is strange that three Frigates & a Corvette, should have been in the Bay no less than 6 Months and yet have escaped our Cruizers – A few days ago, we got the Accounts of another, the Bellona, having made her appearance and captured, the Victor Sloop of War – a Portuguese hijah, and two Merchantmen

We ought to make an attempt upon the Isle of France...[Nelson etc.]

2nd Febr. I met the other night, Mr More who was one of your midshipmen, & is now he tells me Chief Officer of the Retreat – He told me that he had seen you in Edinburgh a short time before he quitted Scotland – he made me happy by saying you

were well - I have not had a letter from Abercairney for a very long time back - I correspond regularly with William Moray – He is however rather lazy - I heard from him about two months ago & he was at that time well.....[reflections on upset state of the army etc. Now has 2 children]

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 68-69

H M S Victorious
off Cape St Sebastian Janr. 26th

Dear Sir

I am happy to think There [illeg.] is an opportunity for writing to you so soon. We joined Lord Collingwood's fleet a few days ago, but I am sorry to at the Triumph is not here, she has been at Cadiz some time, notwithstanding I have not the smallest doubt, but I shall have the pleasure of seeing my Brother yet. We did not put in at Port Mahone in Minorca as the fleet was not there. I should like to have laiyn [unclear] at anchor there for several days to see the Island & likewise to get some linen washed. I suppose Minorca is very fruitful from the number of wind mills that are upon it. It is vary strongly fortified especially at the entrance of the Harbour; It is impossible for any Ships to take it. We are cruizing off Cape St Sebastian as we expect six Sail of the Line with a Convoy to relieve Barcelona. There was 18 sail of us here besides the different look our ships which are cruizing about in all directions.

There was a small French Brig taken a few days ago who said the inhabitants of Barcelona were in a most miserable condition they have nothing to subsist upon but rice & water & told [unclear] that they are very badly -

We had a pleasant passage from Gibralter to Minorca but now we have worse Weather than we had in the North Seas with Capt. Hammond, it is also as cold as it was there;

I recollect in Scotland about this part of the Season we had shocking Weather; heavy falls of Snow

and hard frosts.

How does Mrs Macdowall & all her family do I hope they are doing well? I suppose William is still going on with Mr James, he will soon be an excellent scholar; I am sorry to say we have no one to teach us Navigation but we are doing the best we can to improve. John James is further on than I, & he assists me in the best manner possible.

I wrote to Mr Begbie two days before we sailed from Plymouth for several of the most useful of my books, & for some money; the former is necessary to improve & to pass away the time, the latter I should find very useful to furnish myself with clothes & to purchase any curiosities should we go to Malta. I understand Cloth is uncommonly dear at Minorca. You can get a coat for six or seven guineas shoes are very dear & indeed every thing is very much too.

Could you think of any method of sending me some money?

If you think it is not safe to inclose it in a letter, perhaps you may contrive some other way of sending it. This Purser will Indorse bills but it is very hard to get them cashed.

Have the goodness to write to me as soon as you can that it may be ready if any vessel is going to the fleet. If you cannot send it to me in a letter write to our Purser Hill P Victorious &c &c

I hope you are Perfectly well Mrs Graham & the little child likewise. Remembrance to Mrs Macdowall Miss Hamilton & the rest of our friends. Is William still at Perth? I hope you will be Successful in getting him out to India as a Cadett. Nothing would give me more satisfaction than to hear from you as soon as possible

I conclude
Dear Sir
your affectionate Cousin
T. Stirling

John James desires to be
kindly remembered to you.

I hope you spent a merry Christmas at home among your friends & a happy new years day. We spent our Christmas at Sea but we were much disapointed as we expected to be at Plymouth on that day. I did not forget I was 17 on the 6th of Octr. I had a letter from Miss Hamilton lately

[in another hand at top] James Dundas⁵⁰⁹ Esqr. W.S.

Addressed to: T. Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Stirling N Britain

Victorious

Stamped: MAR 10 1810

Letter from Ann Moray Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10951 f. 155

Ardoch Febr 15th 1810

My Dear Sir

I was really sorry that from particular circumstances I cannot at present comply with your wishes in making the application to Balgowan on [unclear] of Willm Stirling - who I should have been very happy to have be of me to, as well as to have obliged you - I rejoice to hear your Lady Wife is going on well and that all the rest of our friends with you are in good health

All our friends join me in best wishes to all yours and I remain
your affecte Cousin
A Moray Stirling

we are just setting out to spend a day at Keir and will see our Kippinross friends - we came from
[unclear] yesterday

addressed: Thomas Graham Stirling
Airth Castle

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 214-215

Perth May 21st 1810

Dear Sir

I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that we are all well here and I hope you are all the same @ Airth. I received Miss Hamiltons letter a few weeks ago which informed me that you are not willing to buy a commission in the army and if you will not buy me a commission in the army I will thank you to get me into the Navy, but if you can get me into the army I would like it better. I had a letter from My Dear Aunt & last week she is in good health. I had likewise a letter from Charles he is quite well he is off Cadiz he says he expects to have a slap at the French before they quit that place he had never received a letter from a friend since he left England last February till he received mine in November last I shall give you an account of what I have been doing since I came here this year

I began with Geometry, Arithmetic, Book Keeping Right angled and Oblique angled Trigonometry Mensuration of Heights and distances. Mensuration of Surfaces and Solids, Landsurveying &..... We have gone through these at the Academy already this year and we have to go through Conic Sections Navigation, Fortification &c yet before August. besides these we have learning French Geography Chemistry &c the two latter Mr Anderson⁵¹⁰ gives us at the Academy⁵¹¹ Gratis. I add no more at present Dear Sir

Your afft. Cousin
William Stirling
Write me soon

PS. Excuse bad writing for I am so closely employed I cannot really get time.

Perhaps you are acquainted with Mr Anderson the rector of the Academy he comes from Kincardine
W S

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr
Airth House
Falkirk

In another hand: Mr Bills Schoolmaster Stirling

Stamped: MAY 22 1810

Letter from Ann Moray Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10951 ff. 157-158

My Dear Cousin

We were all most delighted to hear that your small Craft had safely unloaded her Burden, and that the Cargo proved so profitable a one to you, I would recommend you to steer the Helm in the same direction next Voyage - we really very sincerely wish you and Mrs Graham joy my Dear Tom and doubly so its being a daughter⁵¹² and I trust both Mother and Child will continue to do well - we were driving at Strowen the very day little miss made her appearance and your

Good Lady Mother very anxious about your Wife, and the account came in good time to Cheer her while she grieved for her old and excellent friend Lady Christian Erskine⁵¹³, what a sad blank she will indeed make to her family and friends - but I will not dwell on this melancholy subject at present - The Col. went away Monday last to the West Country to meet Chas⁵¹⁴. and to get Horses for him but I have not heard of his success we have had Tomy White both at Ardoch and here - beautifying at a great rate - what delightful

weather - I delivered your message to [unclear] who is with us and joins me and my two Misses in very fond wishes to you and Mrs Graham and believe me my dear Tom

Your truly Affect Cousin

A Moray Stirling

remember me to M.Hamilton if with you

Abercairny June 2nd 1810

addressed: Thomas Graham Stirling

Airth Castle

[notes in another hand may not be relevant]

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 70-71

Messina Harbour
June 22d 1810
H M S Victorious

Dear Sir

It give me great pleasure to write to you every opportunity.

I am quite pleased with the Mediterranean since we left the fleet; we lay at Palermo two days I admired the place very much. On going to Messina we passed right under Mount Strombolo⁵¹⁵ it smoked a little & rumbled a great deal. We saw Etna with the Snow on its top. It was an amazing height.

Every day we are in expectations of the French attempting a landing here we see their encampments on the hills on the Calabrian Shore The Sicilians here are very much alarmed but they make no secret of telling you that they will join them as soon as they come over. they wish the

Island to belong either to the English or the French. The French shewed 420 Gun boat some time ago which they intend to land in & there is no doubt but the French fleet will come out at the same time.

Genl. Murrat commands the French troops

I believe he is a great man but the British Thunder resounding about their ears will astonish them a little. Our Boats are all armed & the few gun Boats that we have here are in constant readiness to annoy any vessels of the French attempting to pass.

It is only about three miles from the Sicilian to the Calabrian coast & they generally fire at our shipping going out or coming into the Harbour.

Capt. Talbot endorsed me a bill of £25.0.0 for which I drew from Mr Begbie old south sea house London. At the same time I wrote to Mr Begbie according to your directions. I am very happy I have got some money at last as I have had none since we left England I shall make a good use of it & put it to the best purposes. We have had no luck at all made no prize money. I shall bring some shawl or some curiosity

I hope you are perfectly well with Mrs Graham & all our friends. How does Mrs Macdowall do & all her family? & our friends at Strowan? John James & I are quite well. I have not heard from you since we left England. Charles I understand is in the Triumph off Cadiz, I suppose he has almost

served his time.

How does William do, is he going out to India this Season? I hope he will do well wherever he goes.

Remember me to Miss Hamilton I hope she is well.

I conclude I beg you will accept this as a Scroll the Packet sails for Malta immediately.

Dear Sir

Your most affectionate Cousin

Thos. Stirling

Please let me know

Capt Hammond's address.

Addressed to:

T. Graham Stirling Esq

[c.o. Airth Castle]

Strowan House

[c.o. Stirling]

Creiff

N B

Dated: AUG16 1810

Letter from Thomas Stirling to James Begbie

MS. 10952 ff. 72-73

Messina Harbour June 22d 1810

H.M.S. Victorious

Sir

It is Mr Graham's desire that I draw on you for whatever money I should require.

Capt Talbot our Captain has endorsed me a bill of £25.0.0 Sterling & placed it to the account of Mr Graham Stirling.

We expect the French over from the Calabrian Coast every day. We see their encampments on the hills with the naked eye, they shewed four hundred & twenty Gun boats the other day & by all appearances they will make an attempt to land, & it is supposed that they will really effect a landing with a few Broadships I think we could sink a good number of them.

I should be very happy to hear from you any time you are at leisure but it makes one quite unhappy to think it will be such a length

of time before a letter arrives.

Your young friend J. Macdowall⁵¹⁶ is perfectly well & desires to be remembered to you.

We lay at Palermo a short time I admired the place very much we are not at Messina but quite uncertain how long we shall remain here.

At this very moment there is a small vessel coming in with English Colours over French, a prize to one of our cruisers. We captured 17 of their gun boats about a fortnight ago.

Has Mr Graham been in Town lately or does he mean to reside at his Country house during the Summer? The Weather is uncommonly hot in this part of the World, but the fine Sea Breezes are very pleasant.

The boat is Just shoving off from the ship which forces me to conclude. The packet sails tomorrow for Malta

I shall not appear too often for money.

Yours

Thos. Stirling

Addressed to: [torn]unter Begbie & Co
James Begbie Esq
Old South Sea House
London

[date torn off]

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 5-6

H M Ship Triumph
Cawsand Bay Plymouth
July 7th
arrived this morning

Dear Graham

[faint: I am] at last become the bearer of my letter as far as this which I am very happy to say as I am compleatly tyred of this Ship. I wrote to you when we were at Gibraltar informing you of our miserable situation by which we lost severall lives and is now very sickly no doubt but the Ship will be paid off as she is already condemned to dry dock before they will be able to get the Quicksilver⁵¹⁷ out of the bottom. I myself have been very sickly but thanks to God I am quite recovered altho' my health is greatly impaired through the Situation

Dear Graham with your approbation and the Consent of Capt. Linzee (who has behaved to me on every occassion very kind considering his disposition) I will be able to come down to see all my

friends and stop a few weeks to recover myself, it only layes

with you & if you have no objections, will you be so kind to write to Capt. Linzee to solicit his giving me leave for a Month or 6 Weeks by which I will loose none of my time, which I believe is up in the Course of 9. or 10 Months. I am sorry I had not the pleasure of seeing my Brother Tom altho we were so close to each other but I hope it will be only eclipsed by the same pleasure in seeing you all will very shortly but however I wrote severall letters to him but did not receive one in return, I shall take care this will fetch you for I intend puting it in the Post office myself to prevent miscarage so I shall be certain of your getting it

The Moment we arrived we were put into Quarintine but we do not know how long we may remain but we expect only untill return of Post. Every thing at Cadiz wears a very gloomy aspect at present the Inhabitants find every thing very dear beef half a Dollar a pound & cry greatly against keeping it but we have a good footing there now and it does not signify what they say. There is plenty of fighting there night and Day to amuse them and keep the Devil out of their mind

When we were at Cadiz a Relation of ours Mr Erskine⁵¹⁸ a Capt. of the 87th Regt. came on board to see me and I did not know him, & he likewise gave me a letter from Mary Hamilton I never was more astonished in my life to see him for I never recollect seeing him altho he knew me very well and I cant recollect were I ever saw him Give my kind Love to your Mother Mrs Graham & little ones also to William who I hope is doing well & Mary Ham. if you consent to my coming down [torn] keep it as secret as possible that I may more asto[torn] when I come I remain Yours Most Affect

Chas Stirling

I shall write to you whenever
I know what is to be done
with the ship

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling Esqe.
Airth Castle
near
Falkirk
Triumph Scotland

Stamped JUL 12 1810
PLYMOUTH 218

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 74-75

H.M.S. Victorious
Messina Harbour July 16th 1810

Dear Sir

I am still equally anxious to hear from you as I formerly was. I understand there are letters in the Fleet for the Ship but I am perfectly at ease in my mind, as I expect to be disappointed.

I take the opportunity of writing to you by the Ganymede Frigate which sails straight from this to England; I have desired John James to do the same to Mrs Macdowall.

Nothing has occurred since I wrote to you last at Airth Castle. We are still at anchor

at Messina, where we find ourselves much more comfortable than with Sir Charles Cotton off Toulon. The French have strong batteries all along the Calabrian Shore & the beach is lined with Dun boats with which they intended to land their troops & take the Island of Sicily, but there are four lines of Battle Ships here, which I suppose has put an end to their intention, as they do not seem to be in a hurry to come over now.

We plainly see with the naked eye their Camps on the tops of the mountains of Calabria besides a smaller number quite close to the Shore. They made a grand shew of troops yesterday on the sane amounting to the number of about ten thousand though they have upwards of twenty thousand.

I wrote to you a short time ago mentioning that I drew a bill of £25 & at the same time to Mr Begbie. Your gave me permission to draw £40 pr Annum & the rest I shall draw about the end of the year. The Gentleman's name who cashed my bill is Mr Bishop, he was very much alarmed

at that time about the French coming over but he dreaded the Calabrees more. I endeavoured to raise his spirits as much as I possibly could by telling him that should they attempt to land they must either effect their purpose or be cut to pieces, as our troops are under arms the whole of the night, & they could by no means get back as we should sink [unclear] their boats or run them down. We have about fifteen thousand troops on the Island.

How do your Crops prosper this summer? do you reside at Airth Castle with Mrs Graham till winter?

I hope all our friends are in health. how does my Aunt at Str[torn] & Mrs Macdowall Mr James Miss Hamilton enjoy their health? remember me to them when you see or write to them. John James & I are perfectly well & joins me in kind Love & remembrance to you & all our worthy friends at home. We have delightful warm weather here & plenty of the most delicious fruits, in a short time grapes will be ripe. Accept of this as a scrawl. I am obliged to conclude

Dear Sir

Your Affectionate Cousin

Thos. Stirling

Addressed to: T. Graham Stirling
[c.o. Airth Castle
Stirling]
Strowan House
Creiff

stamped: 7 SEP. 1810

MS. 10952 ff. 76-77

[noted in pencil at top Nov. 1810]

Dear Sir

It gives me the greatest pleasure to write to you on every occasion that offers. I sent a letter to you in answer to yours of the 27th of Augt. Which I hope you have received. John James did the same. I was happy to hear that you were in a good state of health & that Mrs Graham had presented you with a daughter whose name is Mary.⁵¹⁹

We lately left the fruitful Island of Sicily to come to the barren Rock of Malta.

There is nothing strange to be seen here. The Opera is pretty well. St John's Church is the most

elegant structure in Malta & well worth seeing.

The Batteries & works of Malta are very strong. It is impossible to be taken in any way whatever but by starving them out of it as we did the French some time ago.

The horses are very good & the roads uncommonly smooth. Everything is pretty dear, but a person with plenty of money can live very comfortably.

We are taking in stores for the different Ships of the fleet & preparing to go to Sea.

I do not like the idea of going off Toulouse. We had shocking weather there in the Summer, then what kind of Weather must we have during the Winter. I hope they will escape to the West Indies & lead us a chase that we might cheat the Winter.

I was happy to hear that Capt. Hammond had a Son. I believe he intends to live in the Isle of Wight for some time & that he does not mean to try the Sea yet.

I should be extremely happy to sail with him the moment he is afloat.

He certainly was one of the most clever and meritorious officers of the British Navy. If he finds the shore agreeable to his health it would be most prudent for him to remain ashore.

I have written to Mrs McDowall & Miss Hamilton several times but I have had none in return.

I begged you in my last to increase my annual sum as every thing is so uncommonly dear.

I was eighteen the 6th of last month which I suppose you know.

Murrat returned to Naples with his Troops as he found it impossible to take Sicily but I believe he intends to make an attempt next Spring. John Jas. Unites with me in Love to you all. Give my best regards to Mrs Graham & the rest of our friends

I remain

Your affectionate Cousin

Thos. Stirling

IMG14062011145933

Addressed to: T. Graham Stirling Esqr
Airth Castle
Stirling

[Not stamped]

MS. 10952 ff. 78-79

Port Mahon Decr. 4. 1810
H.M.S. Victorious

Dear Sir

Yesterday I received a letter from my Brother Charles, on board the Dreadnought in Cawsand Bay. I certainly was very much pleased but it was the first letter I have had from him this long time.

We are very lucky in having a good station, we are just come to the Fleet, & no sooner have our stores been distributed to the different ships but we have orders to proceed to Malta, then up the Adriatic. A great deal of prize money has been made by small vessels up there, but lines of Battle Ships have not such a chance. John James heard from Mrs Macdowall about a month ago, mentioning the

the melancholy death of his little brother Tommy who died about eight months since at Strowan

after languishing three days in the greatest agony.

I suppose all your crops have been very fruitful this Harvest, & I do not doubt but you have every thing within doors by this time. Have you any snow on the ground at present or have you had much frost as yet? The Weather here is pretty mild & dry, but the air is rather cool at times.

I understand Mr James & Mr Wilshire [unclear] are taking a trip into the Highlands this Summer as they are both fond of variety and Scenery they will find the eye much enraptured at the pleasing & delightful prospect the country will afford. The Rocky Mounts, their brows covered with the fleecy race & their sportive lambs, the green valleys crowded with Cattle, & the meadows bespangled with beautiful flowers & leafy trees are scenes which Mr James delights in. I am surprised William Macd. Did not accompany them as he would be very glad to go, but I suppose as he is no great walker he would be more in the way than as a companion.

How are all our friends in Scotland? Do they

still attend the Perth Hunts, the grand Balls & amusements of the season as they formerly did?

Is William still at Perth studying the various branches of Education. When do you intend to purchase his commission or to send him to India as a Cadet? I have written to Miss Hamilton several times but I have had no answer. How do little Mary & William do? I hope they are both stout & in good health. Remember me to Mrs Graham most kindly J.J. The same.

I mentioned to you in my last about the £15 bill which Capt. Talbot indorsed for me.

I requested of you at the same time to make an addition to my annual sum as every article in this country is twice as dear as in England. Likewise I am a year older which I hope [torn] will consider duly. Remember me to all our friends at home I am anxious to hear from you. J James &c Unites with me in Love to you all he is now writing to his Mother in Edinburgh. I have also written to Charles.

The fleet are in Mahon there are four Admirals in the fleet at present

Sir C. Cotton Commander in Chief

Sir S. Hood Second in Command

Adml. Freemantle

Admiral. Pickmore

there are eighteen sail of the line here besides frigates & smaller vessels.

I remain

Your affectionate Cousin

Thos. Stirling

Addressed to: T. Graham Stirling Esqr.

Strowan House

Crieff

[not stamped]

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 7-8

H M Ship Dreadnought⁵²⁰ Lisbon

Decr. 9th 1810

Dear Graham

I have at last arrived on board the old Ship where I was received with the greatest kindness by

Capt. Linzee contrary to my own expectations but I am sorry to inform you that I have lost all the time that I was with you so instead of six Months to serve I have now Eight but however I hope that it will soon pass over that I may be one of those that are candidates for promotion, I do not expect Capt. Linzee will do much for me at the time I will have pass'd as he has now on board some of his relations who will have served theirs at the same time I will have finished mine, so he will provide for them first but as I told you I will only remain 5 or 6 months after my time is up and if they do not do something for me I most certainly will bid them good bye, and

and try some thing else where I may have some little hopes of doing some good for myself which I am sure I can be doing very little as a Mid. I intend when I leave the Navy to turn Farmer or go to Jamaica or any other business that you think would suite me but you are very well acquainted with my abillities as to the choice of any future thing that I might make mention, but I most certainly will not do any think but what you think proper or right so I will look to you for my future welfare,

I have just arrived here where all the Gunboats have come down the river, the French army having retreated out of reach of the the boats, & are about to retreat out of the country as is supposed by the army, in there last retreat they left all there Tents standing and fire's burning to deceive us but they were very soon found out in their manouvers & harrassed by our light Troops but the main army stands fast we have also sent 20,000 English & Portuguese troops in the rear of the French army to intercept supplies, and can be withdrawn in a very short time without any interuption

In the Abercrombie⁵²¹ the Ship that I came out in, we brought out 350 Marines to act with the army, or to garrison the town but it is not know what they are to do yet

I hope by this time Mrs Graham is quite recoverd from her illness and quite well an likewise Miss Graham's knee, the little ones, Aunt, Mrs Home⁵²², & all our friends. Give my kind love to the Miss Stewarts & the Aber. family Billy & all others &c &c I remain yours with all due Respect &c &c

Happy Xmas to you & all Friends

Chas Stirling

Addressed to: Thos, Graham Stirling Esq.
Airth Castle
near
[inserted: Strewan House]
[c.o. Falkirk]

NB Crieff

Stamped: DEC 28 1810

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 80-81

Off Corfu Jan'y 6th 1811
H.M.S. Victorious

Dear Sir

We had no sooner joined the Fleet at Mahon but we were ordered up the Adriatic Sea to cruize

off Corfu, & as we are going to relieve the Montague I embrace the opportunity of writing to you by her as she is the first Ship going home.

Her Cruizers have made a great deal of prize money in these Seas. The Leonidas Frigate captured a French man of war Brig laden with stores of all kinds to supply the island of Corfu a little time ago. I hope we shall be as fortunate.

It is generally thought that an attack will be made on that Island in the Spring. It is strongly fortified & must necessary be very difficult to take, they say as soon as we effect a landing the inhabitants will

turn as they are fonder of the English than the French.

We have had very mild weather all along but there is plenty of snow on the Mountains & high lands of Albania. I suppose you have very hard frost & a great Quantity of snow at home now. Did you spend a pleasant Christmas at Airth? No doubt your had a happy meeting of our friends & consequently passed the time very agreeably.

We anchored in the Bay of Cephelonia⁵²³ & there remained for several days, the cheapest article here was poultry: a dollar for three Turkeys is the common price and two geese at the same rate. We provided ourselves with plenty of stock for our own Christmas dinner which we enjoyed very much. There are a few English troops on this Island but the Headquarters are at Zante⁵²⁴ the Inhabitants are partial to the English General Oswald is the Governor.

What has become of my Brother William? Have you fixed upon any profession that would please him or had he bent his mind on a particular one himself?

The army is an honorable as well as an excellent choice [unclear] for a young man.

I heard from Chas. About two months ago he expressed a great wish to go to Scotland to see all his friends again, which I hope I shall have the pleasure of doing when the Victorious goes home. I hope your endeavours will not be wanting to forward him on in the Service he has served his time & will be looking out for his Commission one of these days.

The French Fleet made a push on the Sea but the wind shifting several points they returned to Toulouse their old prison. Sir Chas. Cotton weighed & made all sail the moment he heard of the agreeable intelligence but unfortunately arrived too late. They were steering to the Westward & it is supposed they intended going to Brest.

I hope you are perfectly well with Mrs Graham your little family & the rest of our friends. John James & I are in good health, he is very stout & tall & very happy.

I wrote to you some time ago for an increase of my annual sum the exchange at Malta was up to seventy two & down to seventy, which is a great rate

with a small bill. Pray write to us & let us know if you receive your letters. how do the affairs get on in England? I suppose there is no likelihood of a peace coming on.

I remain

Your affectionate Cousin

Thos. Stirling

Addressed: T. Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Sirling

[no stamp]

Letter from Charles Stirling to William Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 275-276

H M Ship Dreadnought Lisbon
Janr 9 1811

Write as often as convenient but mind have the
Postage Paid as I will never get it
the Packet sails tomorrow from here

My Dear Brother

I have this evening received a letter dated the 12 Nov. from you by which I am glad to find you and all our friends are well. nothing gives me greater pleasure in this line of life that I have chosen than to hear from my friends and likewise of there welfare, but I am sorry to think that our dear Tommy seems to neglect that little fillial duty which we owe to one another, but surely I cannot attribute that to any neglect on his part, no, it surely must be some mistake in the conveyance which very frequently happens, I have written to him frequently but have never heard any thing about him, but I hope & trust there is no unfortunate accident happened him, Vessels arrive here every so often from the Mediterranean & I look anxiously for a letter but, alas, I am deceived

I just arrived here when all the Gun boats had been called down the River, from annoying the Enemy, they having retreated further into the interior of this country out of reach of the Gunboats , and our army advanced, but at present there appears every likelihood off a reetreat on our part and we have received orders to prepare the Boats again to go up the River to annoy the enemy as much as possible, and my self being a great friend of Capt Linzer I have no doubt but I will go to command a boat, and if I do I will pepper the fellows well with Shot. but I must likewise take care they dont give me a thump on the head with a Shot. (but they Say the Devils children have devils luck).

I am just fancying what fine cold weather you have in Perth at Present and I dare say plenty of Snow, no doubt plenty of battles with snow ball, but your balls are not so hard as those

on Deck for me whilst I wrote this short epistle to you It has just struck 7 Bells or ½ past 11 Oclock & hear the Sentinals proclaiming, All's Well, round the Ship and every boats that that passes hailing her, What Boat Ahoy, in about half an hour more I will be realeved by Lieut. Head who is the Officer who realives me at present, because I am doing Lieuts duty, for a few days the rest being employed on different services, or my Mr Porter Mid who used to relieve me before, then I will return to my Hammock & take my nocturnall repose until some one comes to me at 7 Oclock tomorrow morning and tells me Mr Stirling you must turn out the Hammocks are piped up Sir if you dont turn out I will cut you down, Well then I generally give the fellow a good damn and then turn out wash myself and decorate my person for the day then at 8 Oclock a Boy comes. Breakfast is ready, Sir, well I go down to Breakfast (if we may allow it that appellation) & before I have sat down some one tells me it is my Forenoon watch I am wanted on deck immeadeatly. I am oblided to attend the Summons & go without breakfast. at 12 is our dinner hour the same happens again I am now released & go to dinner if it may be

be so termed Salt Horse and Dogs Body the latter is a Mess I suppose you are not very well acquainted with, it has just struck 12 Oclock I must repair on deck to receive the Officer who releaves me. Give my kind love to all the ladys when you write to them & believe me to be Your ever Affectionate Brother

Chas Stirling

I wish you many happy new years & if I was in England I should send you a new years Gift but it is to far and such a thing from this place about 1,000 Miles from Perth besides the risk of your not getting it, but at some future period I will give you some thing out of my Prize money that I have to receive for the ship which is not a very large sum, but sufficient to raise a foreign [unclear] as we term it. Write as often as you can but pay the postage C Stirling

Addressed to:
13 Jany 1811

Mr William Stirling
[c.o. Mr Dick Perth]
Care of Thomas Graham Esqr of Airth
Falkirk

N.B.

Stamped: FE 7 1811
FE 2 1811

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 9-10

H M Ship Dreadnought
Feby. 5th 1811

Dear Graham

I wrote to you on my arrival on board which I have no doubt you have received long ago for I believed I mentioned there were no further use for the Gun Boats at the army, but the Ships here take it in rotation to send a boat up to the army every week as a Dispatch Boat still I was up there a few days ago in our boat and had an opportunity of seeing the Enemys Works and what they were at and from appearances was intreanching themselves very strongly
I have observed in all the Newspapers that I have seen that you pride yourselves in the high state or your troops, you Say how well they are Fed and Cloathed, Only for the Short space of a week that I was up there, we were obliged to go without Bread for 4 Days and then I was obliged to go to other Places close to Lisbon or I should have gone without all the time

I was up there. I asked some of the Soldiers if it often happened they told me they had sometimes gone without Bread for weeks & weeks together, there seems here (at Lisbon) to be plenty of Bread but whether from the neglect of the Commisarys or not I will not pretend to say but such was the case

When I was up [c.o. the] at the Army I was at the out lines and was so close to the French Sentinal that I could have spoke to him with the greatest ease they take no notice of any one, if they do not advance to near. The Sentinals of [] Country talk very famillerly and the Frenchman looked exceeding well dressed.

As to News in England you have more that we who are in the scene of action we never hear any thing but when they retreat or advance we never hear of any Skirmishes that take place &c And as for Bouncing this is without exception the greatest place that ever I was in or at. nothing but lies in one continued story

But however I am glad to see we are at last determined to make a desperate effort to drive them out of the country which I hope will be the case. we expect that large reinforcement out here every day and after that you may expect something to be done and if we only said what or when [unclear] it will be to the Arms of the Country

I received a letter from Billy some time ago from Perth but he does not say a word about you or Mrs G's health or any of the family. I have been trying to find out Tom's ship for some time past but cannot find where she is I know he has left the Mediter: some time back but where is is I cant find out at present. We have leatly had dreadfull squally Wr. here but nothing was so bad as is reported in England to have be been. no hard frosts here nor Snow or Ice find mild Wr.

I am just going to draw on Begbie in a few days for [blotted] to replenish my present wants which is very considerable [blotted]

Linzee wishes me to keep up a little appearance at present as I am doing Lieut. duty [c.o.] to others orders but his own yet, but he bids fair when I have served my time if I can keep in his good graces Which I shall try to do

Give my kind Love to the Ladys Mrs G. & Mrs Home Mrs Dow⁵²⁵ and all the youngsters Billy and all others & believe me to be yours &c Affectionatly

C Stirling

Addressed to:

Thos. Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
near
Falkirk

N Briton

Stamped: LISBON FE 24 1811
MR 12 [unclear] 1811

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 216-217

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq.
Airth Castle
Falkirk
NB

Stamped: FE 19 1811

London Feby 13-1811

Dear Sir

I arrived here on Monday Morning at 5 o. clock in the Mail without stopping at York or any other place when I arrived here I was not a bit [c.o.] tireder than what I was when I set out from Edinburgh. Yesterday I passed at India house and am getting myself rigged out as fast as possible. I was like not to get past because in the oath that I took at Falkirk [c.o. it was] we left out caused search for a parish register but however Mr Abbington⁵²⁶ did not take notice of that I have written Charles Mr Dick & Day Macdowall I expect to sail on the Union Capt Sanders about the beginning of next week it has been in the Downs since the 10th of Jany. Capt Sandiland left town the friday

before I came I have seen Patrick Stirling several times and I went tonight and saw Davy Dundas⁵²⁷
I [sic] did not know me at first he said because I had grown so tall

I hope your mother is quite well and I hope Mrs Graham Stirling is better than she was
My trunk has never arrived here yet I can not think what is the matter the day that I left Edinburgh I
had a line from Gibb saying that I might depend upon it that he would send it by the mail that day it
did not come and Mr Dundas said that that [c.o.] he would send it on – to London in the mail as
soon as it came be so good as write Mr Dundas about it and when you write him be so good as to
tell him with my kind compliments that he gave me too little money after paying the carriage of a
trunk Guards and drivers &c I had only £1.12.6 to eat drink and be merry with [above: I had to pay
some shillings out of my own pocket] Begbie and all other friends quite well I add no more at
present Dear sir

Your afft Cousin

William Stirling

remember me to all my friends in the Pigeon house and all other houses

since I have written you this far I have seen Patrick Stirling and his wife; they say in Scotland that
Mrs Patrick⁵²⁸ does not speak but I assure you she speaks quite enough here Pat. Sent his servant
with me to shew me

some of the places about here I went to see the King's palace which looks as like a prison as any
thing else I likewise saw the Queens palace but I think very little of either I saw the King's stables
and [torn] through them and saw his state [torn] coloured horses beautiful animal [torn]

I had the pleasure of stroking each of them they are eight in number I likewise saw the state coach
the man told us that it weighs 4 Tons it is a very elegant looking machine – [illeg] I have been in
Hyde Park St James's Park Westminster Abbey &c tell Mrs Home that I delivered her letter to Mr
Forbes⁵²⁹ and have sent Mrs Grahams letters off

I remain

Wm Stirling

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 82-83

Off Corfu Febry. 19th 1811

H.M.S. Victorious

Dear Sir

I embrace this opportunity with the utmost pleasure, but whether this will arrive safe I cannot
say. I am remarkably anxious to hear from you as I have only had one single letter of yours since I
came up this Country. I have no news to inform you of, nor have we made any prize money.

Last week we had an excellent chase of eight hours after a french man of war schooner.

We perceived her first in shore about 4 o'Clock & took her to be one of our Cruizing Brigs, but
at day light we saw who she was, we made all sail after her, fired several guns at her to bring her
too, but she still kept her wind. Shortly after it fell on Calm, she having swept

swept directly for Corfu, but one of the Frigates that was chasing sent her boats out, to annoy them,

they prevented them from sweeping but Capt. Talbot would not send his boats for the fearing endangering the lives of his men; the grape & musketry fell very thick about the boats. A breeze sprang up we followed the chase & after firing several Broad-sides at her & finding herself cut off in every direction run on shore on the Coast of Albania & shortly after blew up with a tremendous explosion. She was full of Ordnance, Brass guns Mortars powder &c she was valued at about £20,000 but we have since heard that all the Officers & Crew have been murdered by the Cruel & savage Albanians Her name was the Leoben⁵³⁰ from some estate in Germany. We have taken several boats with troops for Corfu. Some time ago we took a boat with two Officers of distinction with their Ladies & families there are two very handsome daughters. I am very much captivated with the handsomest of them,

& I find the little French I know very useful.

I long to hear the news at home but you seem to have entirely forgot us being at such a distance. Has your winter been severe in therm[unclear]

I suppose you would rather pass that season up in this Country than in Scotland. We had felt no cold here yet & the Weather has been so mild all along that I frequently forget it is so near the beginning of the year. I am surprised at your never having written to Capt. Talbot yet I should be much pleased if you did for it would cause him to pay more attention to us & give him a higher opinion of us. I am anxious to know what profession my Brother William has chosen to pursue.

I mentioned in my last that I had heard from Charles, an answer I accordingly returned wishing to keep up a correspondence with him continually.

How is Mrs Graham & the little Children? I suppose William is a stout lad. I hope you are in good health yourself with the rest of our friends. J. James & I are extremely well but long to go into Harbour again to fit out. In all my letters I have begged of you to increase my annual allowance J.J the same. J. James unites with me in Love to you all. Write immediately. It is a point I never shall fail in myself as good friends are the greatest possession a man can have. Therefore

they should always be kept in remembrance.

I remain
Your affectionate Cousin
Thomas Stirling

Addressed to:

T. Stirling Graham Esqr.
Airth Castle
Stirling

[not stamped]

Letters from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 218-219

H C Ship Union⁵³¹
Bay of Biscay

18th March 1811

My Dear Sir

I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines by a man of war going to Lisbon (the Comodore has made the signal) to let you know how we are coming on in this part of the Globe. We left St Helens on Tuesday with what the sailors call a brisk gale and has continued till yesterday when we were almost becalmed they told me I should be tossed about in the Bay of Biscay but we are quite the contrary since I have come on board 2 or 3 fellows have got flogged and 2 soldiers began a fight with their fists they were tied together and got leave to fight with ropes the Capt (Rankine) says that he knew you and he was asking very kindly about you. In India an Ensigns pay is

from 3 to £400 a year very good pay for a younker⁵³² of 17 I may say. On thursday the Comodore (Tower) of the Curazoa hoisted American Colours and made all sail after a schooner man of war taking her to be a frenchman but she turned out to be an English ship of war we have 10 passengers on board two of whom besides myself are Cadets englishmen you may be sure because they are so [c.o.] surly The Capt has been very ill since he came on board I have not been sea sick yet but all the rest have been there are 3 ladies on board 2 of whom are young unmarried ladies. The officers and other passengers are very kind to me and tell me that their Cabins and every other thing are at my service when ever I please the other two Cadets being what I call surly fellows have to stay in the steerage and Curse their bad luck yesterday we passed a dead whale a nasty looking animal it was

I have not seen Capt Sandilands since I have come on board but we were detained for about a fortnight or more by foul winds at Spithead after I wrote you at Motherbank⁵³³ I had a letter from Day Macdowall enclosing a letter to Mr Money⁵³⁴ I suppose it was from you he did not mention [torn] word about where it came from [torn] any other thing the order for saili[torn] orders us to be last and we kept while we were going before the wind but when the wind got a little to the westward we could not help getting before they have been just giving us a place to stand if an enemy comes alongside I am stationed to the poop the boat is just going away

so add no more!!

remember me Dear sir to all my friends your afft Cousin

Wm Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr of Airth
Airth Castle
Falkirk
NB

Stamped: AP 12 1811

MS. 10952 ff. 220-221

H C Ship Union May 9 1811

My Dear Sir

I take the opportunity of a brig going to Rio Janiero to write you a few lines to let you know how we are coming on in this part of the world On the 21st March (all in the Bay of Biscay) we had a heavy gale of wind The Comodore made signal should we part convoy to put into Madeira the gale still increasing we parted convoy and no ships in sight from the mast head after two days the gale moderated when we were completely becalmed I suppose you people in Scotland will think that us in the Union have all gone to glory but all is allive we staid 4 days at Madeira we went ashore and the captain introduced me to several people at Madeira among whom was a gentleman who had

been at Perth Academy he was very kind I staid all night & dined with him

I was likewise introduced to some very beautiful scotch girls – Yesterday we crossed the line (after being 2 months out) the usual operation of shaving was performed & yesterday the captain asked us to pay a couple of dollars each and we would get past we did it and stood on the poop to see the next of the people shaved upwards of 20 were shaved I have written you several letters since I left Old England I suppose you received them. I did not think of the enjoyments I had while I was in Scotland If I had known then what it was as well as I do now I would have done it so [unclear] much more advantage there to think of what liberties I had on shore now shut up as in a prison where you can neither go from one place to another without being knocked about as the officers like best you knew that yourself that they like to run down the cadets but we never mind them a midshipman on board

the Bonne Citoyenne (the comodores ship was an old school fellow of mine he wrote me a line the other day and told me to write heme for the bodies in Scotland would be mighty glad to hear frae the fold sae far awa Be so kind as remember me [c.o.] kindly to your good old mother and Mrs Graham Stirling Mrs Home Mrs Dow Miss Graham's Mrs Erskine Davy⁵³⁵ & Christy⁵³⁶ Day Macdowal Wm Dundas & all the rest of my friends Orchill⁵³⁷ &c

I remain Dear Sir you most
sincere friend
Wm Stirling

When you write me tell me if there is any appearance of a young pigeon -
W Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Gordon Stirling Esqr
Airth Castle
Falkirk
NB

[not stamped]

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 11-12

H M Ship Dreadnought
Spithead May 15th 1811

Dear Graham

It is with great pleasure I announce the receipt of your letter by which I find you are all well and is in a fair way of having the family increased I can only wish your lady a safe delivery and may you have as many as you wish for

We are now about to sail for the Baltic where we remain untill the Winter drives us out of it. it is likewise expected that we take the Swedish fleet out of their own ports and the Russian fleet out of Croanstad. we are all (30 sail of the line) furnished with additional proportion of Powder and Shot for that purpose. Again on the other hand if is supposed that the Enemy seeing such a formidable

fleet that they will open their ports to us. but I hope otherwise that We may have a slap at them (I speak individually) My time will be up this summer & I will pass up the Baltic and when I return I

will waite on my friends in town to use their intrest in my behalf which I hope I will be able to succeed in

There is a report very prevalent at present that there will be a promotions of Admirals take place on the 4 June and it will include Capt. Linzee so if he goes (which he will if the promotion takes place) I shall ask him to put me into some frigate or other where it will be either death or Glory that I may have some opportunity to distinguish myself it [c.o.] being the only thing to get forward by, if intrest does not succeed

I am very sorry to find yours rents does not come in as you wish money being so very scarce in that Quarter. I can assure you mony is very scarce even in this. I have been obliged to draw on Begbie now for 25£ since I have been in here, having neither pay nor Prizemoney to receive which I hope you will have no objections to because having Charts telescopes &c &c to find

I am Glad to hear by you that my Brothers are both well which I hope they will continue to be so and likewise all our friends down about the North

Give my kind Compliments to all the lady Aunt Mrs GS & a safe delivery to her Mrs Home Miss Graham's & Mrs Dow & all the yound [sic] Dow's I remain Dear Graham

Yours &c &c &c
Chas. Stirling

We sail in a few days
for the Downs & then proceed up

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
near
Falkirk
Scotland

Stamped: 20MY20 1811

Letter from Rebecca Longbotham to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 202-204

Friendship, St Anns, near the Moneagues, Jamaica
15th May 1811

Sir

I beg your pardon for taking the Liberty of the trouble I give you with this, which I hope you will forgive as it is natural I should be anxious to hear concerning my three Sons, of whom I understand you are the Uncle, and of whom you have the chief management by the old General's Will – whose names are Charles Stirling, Thomas Stirling and William Stirling – I understand the eldest has been a Midshipman some time past on one of his Majesty's Ships and that the Second has been likewise in the same Capacity in the Mediterranean – but I do not know

Please turn over

either of the Ships they have served or are serving in – I understand the youngest is studying in an Academy in Perth.

I will be very much obliged and will esteem it a particular favor if you will be kind enough to let me know the particulars concerning them, and to tell them I am alive and doing well

I have a little property of my own (unincumbered) in Land and Negroes

I shall be happy to hear of them and if it should please God that it was convenient for them or either of them to see me – and likewise it will be a pleasure to me to leave them something handsome after my decease – I am married to a Mr Longbothom who is a sober industrious man – I am very respectfully

Sir your most obedt Servt
Rebecca Longbothom⁵³⁸

Inland postage paid for
Addressed to: Thos Graham Esquire
of Airth near Stirling
North Britain

Packet

Stamped: JAMAICA 17 MY [unclear]
JUL 8 1811

[outer envelope with the same address]
favour'd
by David Dick⁵³⁹ Esqr.

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 222-223

Lat 13 S. Long 27 May 19 1811

My Dear Sir

I take the opportunity of writing you a few lines (by the Bonne Citoyenne going to the Cape of Good Hope) to let you know how we are all coming on board the Union – The other day I wrote you a few lines by a brig going to Rio Janiero you see that I loose no opportunity of writing to old Scotland. We have never see or heard any thing of the Rose or any of our old fleet – I suppose that you people in Scotland will by the letters of the Curazoa & her convoy think we have all gone to glory on board the Flying Union – Captain Rankine enquired kindly after you and desires I will [c.o. give] send you his compliments we part convoy tomorrow and proceed by ourselves through the Mosambique channel we have had the commodore dining several times & he is to dine here to day again if the weather

will permit. The rest of the fleet will be obliged to put in some where for water for when we were at Madeira the people told us that the comodore would not allow them to anchor and some of the ships were in very great want indeed I have very little or no news for we are not like people on shore seeing novelties every day I only write to you to let you know that we are all alive - & I beg to be most kindly remembered to your Mother – Mrs Graham all the Miss Grahams & Orchill – all the abercaerney people and tell Mrs Moray I have taken great care of her box she sent to her son⁵⁴⁰ at Bombay when you write me tell me if a young pigeon has come into the world yet or not – we have got a pigeon house on the main top [c.o. one of the midshipmen of the Bonne Citoyenne being tired of salt junk killed a pair of our pigeons for his dinner]

the captain and all the officers are very kind to me and take me into their cabins the other cadets are

too great men to speak to the officers -

I remain my dear sir
your afft. Cousin
William Stirling

have you heard any thing of my brothers since I left you when you write [c.o.] them tell them in what part of the world I have got to now -

I am geting on in speaking English The cap[torn] tells me [damaged] in India it is better to speak [torn] than English

William Stirling
Flying Union
[illeg. Smudged]

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
near Falkirk
Scotland

Stamped: SEP 19 1811
SHIP-LRE

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 84-85

H.M.S. Victorious
Off Corfu May 27th 1811

Dear Sir

I have been particularly anxious to hear from you these last eight months. I am confident you have written to me frequently but it is impossible to account for your letters not arriving either by the Packet or any man of war that come out.

I am apprehensive you have received but four of mine, still I was happy to find in a letter from Mrs McDowall that you had heard from us both.

We went into Malta the beginning of last month; we had five hundred french Prisoners on board with about twenty five Officers, fifteen of whom were of the medical staff; they were taken going into Corfu in vessels laden with Corn. I expect a little prize money when we go to Malta again,

We were hurried out of Malta to go in chase of four french frigates that were seen by the Redwing Brig off Pantalaria⁵⁴¹ (a small island near Sicily) but they have since arrived at Messina & prove to be Transport going to fetch troops from Sicily to Spain. This is a very active station besides very pleasant. We are in chase of something every day which passes the time away very agreeably. We shall be out about four months again which is a very long cruize indeed.

John James & I have drawn bills to the amount of £25 each endorsed by Captn. Talbot dated the 6th March. The exchange was so high as seventy two thereby we lost £5 on each of the bills. Eighty Pounds pr annum is as little as I can possibly draw for; Every thing seems go exceedingly high, the exchange is shameful, and every thing else totally out of the Question.

The French are making dreadful preparations at Calabria & it is feared by many that they will do something very dashing this summer; but I hope the Gallant support of the Navy will never be wanting to protect the lives & properties

of our friends & Countrymen from the hands of our insidious foes the French.

Mrs McDowall⁵⁴² promised to write to me by I am surprised to think she has not fulfilled her promises. I am desirous to hear how the family is getting on. I suppose William & his brothers are busy at their respective studies, & I am sure Bessy & Mary are doing well. What has become of the two little children Jumina & Wilelmina? I believe they were both at Strowan House when I heard last of them.

How is my Aunt Mrs Graham? I hope she is in as perfect health as we can expect for a person of her age. How is Mrs Graham of Airth I do heartily hope you are both enjoying perfect health with the little family no doubt little William is a stout boy and little Mary the same. I don't suppose you have a family of three yet, but in the course of a few months there is no doubt you will have.

John James is doing well but gets kicked about a little it does him a great deal of good. He desires me to remember him most sincerely to you all.

The 10th _ 14th Regt. are at Malta, if you know any of the Officers I would be very much pleased if you could send word or memorandum. Probably you are acquainted with Genl. Oaks⁵⁴³ the Governor.

The Magnificent is going to England a good opportunity for my letter. I remain

Dear Sir

Your most affectionate Cousin

Thos. Stirling

Write to me immediately
The Wr. Remarkably Cool here.

Addressed to: T. Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Stirling

[not stamped]

Letter from Ann Moray Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10951 ff. 159-160

Ardoch June 13th 1811

My Dear Tom

I suppose I must wish you joy altho your nose is put of of joint it would certainly have been as well had the young Laird of Strowen⁵⁴⁴ delayd making his appearance for some time longer, but these events are rarely orderd for us and it is our duty to be thankful and I have no doubt the little stranger is made very welcome by both Father and Mother who I am very happy to hear is doing well which I sincerely hope will continue to be the case - Christys⁵⁴⁵ spirits are

certainly better but I cannot say I think her health much improved - Margt⁵⁴⁶ went on Tuesday to Monzie for some days - Davie Erskine & a little Macdowal left us the same day for Strowan - I regretted their visit was so short -

I had a letter to day from Chas.⁵⁴⁷ he says it is reported that the Regt will be ordered Abroad - not very agreeable news to me you may believe -
Christy joins me in offering fondest wishes to you Mrs Graham & Christian Erskine & I remain
Your very Affect Cousin
A Moray Stirling

addressed: Thomas Graham Stirling
Airth Castle

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 224-225

Bombay Castle July 29th 1811

My Dear Sir

I arrived here on the 25th of this month and now take the opportunity of writing you a few lines by the Carmarthen (Extra) Capt Cross – I [c.o.] am very well settle and quite happy here we have a room table chair &c & 130 Roopees per Month as pay next month we go out and encamp on the esplanade – I had a very happy passage out every one of the officers & passengers were my friends and now the officers and passengers come to call on me the capt. was to come to day to call which is a very high compliment paid to a cadet. The other two cadets had not a single friend on board. And now Capt Marshall⁵⁴⁸ (who has the care of the cadets) and all the people to whom I had letters [c.o.] have been very kind indeed to me. I thank you for your letter to Mr Money he has told me what was in it – Since I arrived I have been dining breakfasting &c every day yesterday I went out to the country with Mr Erskine⁵⁴⁹ in his carriage where I was introduced to Mrs Erskine &c

We rise at 5 every morning to drill we breakfast at 8 and dine at 3 drink tea at 7 and the gates are shut at 9 we study two hours at the language every day and are all very comfortable and happy. Be so good as remember me kindly to All my relations & friends I have a small favour to ask of you that is to send me by any opportunity a seal with my arms on it. it is a small thing but a thing which every gentleman ought to have I expect to be here till April next before I join a regiment. Our dress is a plain round hat with cockade and feather red jacket with sword belt and sash white jane trousers and gaiters When ever you write to any of my brother's be sure to remember me most kindly to them as I can not always know where they are or I would certainly do it myself Are there any young pigeons come into the world yet or any more young Grahams when you write me I expect you to give me all the news – yesterday morning I was introduced to Capt Kirkpatrick⁵⁵⁰ of the Henry Addington by Mr Money and old friend of yours - I hope [c.o.] Mrs Graham's quite well remember me kindly to your Mother Sisters &c

Capt Moray is not here he is at Surat⁵⁵¹ but I will forward his things as soon as possible

I add no more at present my Dear Sir -

Your most afft Cousin

William Stirling

In the addington they had a Cadet⁵⁵² on board a Son of Sir John Stirling who was killed at the Cape -
there are only 11 of us all together here - WS

I went to the country with Comr Dundas⁵⁵³ and spent a very happy evening with Miss Dundas⁵⁵⁴ and

2 Miss Pitcairns⁵⁵⁵ who came out in the union -
WS

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Per Carmaerthen Falkirk
Nth Britain

Stamped: JA27 LONDON
JAN 31 1812

Letters from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 13-14

H M Ship Dreadnought
August 22 1811
Wingo Sound
Gottenburgh

A Great length of time has now elapsed since I heard from you which is greater than I expect as the last intimated Mrs G being in a fair way of presenting you with a little Boy, which I hoped I should have had the pleasure of congratulating you on your present and safe Delivery, I perhaps may do so now altho you have not informed me

I myself should have wrote to you some time ago but day after day expecting my time of servitude from the Navy board, and not receiving it, induced me to waite no longer, and I have ammended up my time by Certificate's received from the Capt. in that I had sailed with, and found that I had served my stated time 6 years, and upwards, and this day Passed my Examination

(before Capt. Linzee. Atkins⁵⁵⁶. Serrelle) for a lieutenant. I can only say that Capt. Linzee has behaved to me in the most handsome and liberall manner that could possible be, informing the Capts. of my ability's saying that I had served with him nearly 3 years and he flattered himself that there was not one single point of duty or services that I was not capable of performing and sooner would he have me as a lieut. in his ship than some that at present are in his, which I thought was very handsome

Now Graham is the time if you have any influence with the Admiralty or any of those branches that comes from it to use there Intrest in procuring me a Lieutenancy. Pettycoat Intrest is the best, if you have any that way. I think Lady Pultney⁵⁵⁷ has as much that way as any that I have heard you speak of, If you can make as my Intrest of your own as to do it so much the better but the sooner the better.

At the Admiralty they are not very oblidging in giving Comissions on the home station altho they give what they Call Admiralty Recommendations which is the next thing to a commission, only waiting for the breaking, of invaliding, death of some officers to put you into his vacancy

If there is no possibility in getting me [c.o. promoted] a Commission at once I should be very happy in getting one of those Admiralty Recommendations which is the very near the same thing, only I shall be obliged to waite my turn for promotion as there is always number on board the Filay [unclear] Ship off every station which may be for one year or perhaps only a month or two, but however (beggars must never be choosers and I submit to any thing that you can procure

We are laying here doing nothing but looking at one another altho the Smaller vessels are dayly sending in Prizes and getting dreadfully thrashed by the Gun Boats of the Enemy, we amuse ourselves by performing plays when we get them ready which is one [torn] which in some measure passes away the time more pleasa[torn] it would otherwise, if nothing to do. We have here one of the most unhospitable looking places that you ever saw, nothing but one continued group of Rocks and Islands beautiful rural Scenes to be seen here indeed. Capt. Linzee has offered to let me go home to see if I can get myself promoted but I believe I shall decline going to Scotland altho I may take a trip to town when we come to England which will be in 2 months time or about that Be kind enough to write to Capt. Linzee and return him your warmest thanks for his kind attention to me. I cannot myself find words adequate to the task, and to breath those sentiments of gratitude which I could wish is impossible for me who is so young in the world [c.o.] by undertaking such a task I shall feel very accordingly Oblidged he has told be at present he can do nothing to faciliate [unclear] me in my Promotion as he has no Intrest with the present ministry, as I have you and your friends only to depend on for my future prospects, which desiring to gain, It is customary when we pass that we send a Certificate of our passing to the Admiralty, one to the Admiral and one to our friends to enable them to the more easily to procure promotion and I have herewith enclosed one to you

I shall anxiously look our for a letter from you to inform me where you intend to place your intrest and how long it will be after that, you will be able give me any hopes of getting that ship I have so long been striving to gain

I suppose you have very good crops this year down with you as we have have very fine weather from this summer. I shall conclude by wishing you every kind and good wish health & every blessing to Mrs G and your mother Sisters &c &c & remember me to Mrs Dow & all the other [unclear] Dow thereis

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
near
Falkirk
Scotland

Stamped: SEP. 5 1811

⁵⁵⁸Pursuant to an Order from Sir James Saumarez one of the Vice Admirals of the Rear & Commander in Chief In [unclear] we have examined Mr Charles Stirling who by Certificate appears to be be more than Nineteen Years of Age & find he has gone to sea more than Six Years in the Ships and [unclear] Qualities undermentioned Vizt

Ships	Bounty	Where Born	Age at entry	Entry	Quality	Discharge	Cause of discharge	Time Y M W D
Jason ⁵⁵⁹		Jamaica	24 Dec 04	04	1st Class	1 Dec 05		12 6
			2 "	05	Midm.	22 Mar 06		3 3 6
Amelia ⁵⁶⁰			23 Mar 06		"	31 Jul 06		4 2 5
Zealand ⁵⁶¹			10 Jan 07		"	25 Jan 07		2 3
Inconstant ⁵⁶²			30 "	"	"	25 Apr 08	1 3	2
Barfleur			26 Apr 08		"	9 Dec 08	8	4
"			10 Dec 08		"	16 May 09	5 2	4
Triumph			17 May 09		"	7 Aug 10	1 2 3	6

Caledonia	8 Aug 10	"	5 Sep	"	1	1
Dreadnought	6 Sep	"	29 "	"		3 3
"	10 Nov	"	21 Aug 11		9	1 6
[none]					6	2 4

He produceth Logs kept by himself in the Barfleur Triumph and Dreadnought and Certificates from Captains Champain, Ball Dickson McLeod and Linzee of his diligence and sobriety: he can splice knots, reef sail, work a Ship in sailing, shift his tides, keep a reckoning of a Ships way by plane sailing & bearcalm [unclear], observe by the Sun or Stars and find the variation of the Compass, and is qualified to do the duty of an Able Seaman and Midshipman

Given under our hands on board the Dreadnought
in Wingo Sound 21st August 1811

J N Linzee [sig]
D. Atkins [sig]
Jn. Serrell [sig]

Captain HMS Dreadnought
" " Defence⁵⁶³
" " Helders⁵⁶⁴

MS. 10952 ff. 16-17

H. M Ship Dreadnought
Wingo Sound Oct 10 1811

Dear Graham

I wrote to you about 6 weeks ago, informing you of my having passed, & likewise enclosed one of my passing Certificates to you, [c.o. that] but from your long silence, I rather suspect you have not received it, I have been looking very anxiously for a letter from you, by every Packet, that arrives here, to acknowledge the receipt of that one, but alas all my expectations have hitherto proved hopeless

But I hope if you received my letter, that there will be no delay on your part, [c.o.] to facilitate me in procuring a Commission, which I am intitled to from my Service's, altho it goes more by Intrest that any thing else, I know there is but very little hopes of obtaining one at home, but by going abroad, either to the East-Indies or West, I should be able to get a Commission there, which

I have no Objections to provided they will make me as soon as I go there, but they some times keep young men out there a length of time before they do any thing for them, and when sent by an Admiral acting, they will not confirm them to there appointment,

I am extremely sorry to say, that the service now a days, has arrived to that degree, where instead of rewarding merit, it has now with the greatest difficulty let yousbe [unclear] ever so deserving, they will be pleased to smile on you, and after all what is a Lieut. in the Navy, his pay is 110£ per annum, he ranks with a Capt. in the army, who receives 200£ and upwards, if it was not from the rank in life, I would almost remain in the servile station of a Midshipman.

There are such a number of old Admirals round the Lords of the Admiralty, and always oppose's what ever good is going to be made for us, these men [c.o.] enjoy good sinecure places, and they do not feel for poor Officers, and say "keep them poore and they will serve you" That fullfills the old Proverb "One half the world do [c.o.] not know how the other lives" it were a great pity but these old Rascals (if I may use the harsh term) had made there exit from the stage, and we should be a great deal better off

We expect to sail to England in a Month or six weeks with a Convoy from this place, It is almost incredible to [c.o. think] see the number [unclear] of merchant vessels that trade off here and all under foreign Colours every port is an enemy's and yet we never molest any but the danes who it seems are our inveterate enemys and sometimes play the very devil in a convoy when it is calm, the Swedes supply us with fresh beef and vegetables and yet they will not let you go on shore, A Curious kind of Warefare,

Give my kind Compliments to Mrs Graham Mrs. H And at Strowan & the little ones, I dare say Mrs. G has by this time [torn] you will another little one who I hope does well

I Suppose you have not heard from William yet

Tom is very well you told me in your last at Portsmouth

I shall conclude by wishing you a good harvest and fine weather to gather it in. We being nearer the Comet⁵⁶⁵ than you, we have a better view of it. I have been watching its Course from its first been seen here, which was nearly a month before you in England I remain Dear Graham

Yours &c &c
Chas Stirling

Addressed to: Thos Graham Stirling Esqr
Airth Castle
near Falkirk
Scotland

Stamped: 23 OCT 1811

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 86-87

Palermo Bay Octr 28th 1811
H.M.S. Victorious

Dear Sir

I have been waiting these twelve months past in constant expectation to hear from you. Whether you have not written to me at all or whether your letters have not arrived I cannot imagine, but I believe the latter opinion to be the most probable; how has J. James received letters from home so frequently & how have ours arrived so safe in general?

I was happy to hear by a letter from Mrs McDowall that Mrs Graham had presented you with a Son, I hope she is doing well. You will soon have a large family.

The Victorious is now laying Guard Ship at Palermo bearing the flag of Admiral Freemantle⁵⁶⁶ a very clever man by all accounts; he does not trouble himself much about the Ship, & lives constantly on shore. Capt. Talbot is well acquainted with the whole court at Palermo, he dines every day with some of the Royal Family of which he is very proud I assure you.

J. James & I drew a bill between us of £50 dated the 17th Octr. Endorsed by Capt. Talbot

& a bill of £25 in July last endorsed by James Clyde Purser which I hope will be duly honored when they come to hand.

It is almost beyond conception to think what an exorbitant sum is laid upon every article at this fruitful country, every thing sold at treble the value & you may be well assured no improper use shall be made of that money.

We have extremely hot weather in this climate as you may Imagine, you may expect to find us grown quite Black when we return to England no doubt we are a little sunburnt

I suppose your winter has set in already & very glad to get to a warm fire side whereas on the contrary we are almost scorched with the heat of the sun. I presume you lived at Airth Castle all the Summer, but where to you intend to reside during the Winter? I suppose London will be the place of residence in that season as the Gentry in general flock to the Capital to attend the theatres, Ball Rooms. & all the Public assemblies, No affront to you or Mrs Graham I hope by mentioning that, as you are no longer Single.

I was much surprised to hear of Miss Hamilton's marriage with Mr Dow, but I hope he did not run away with her She has perfectly neglected me. I do not know her address or I should congratulate her on her good fortune.

Where has Charles got to? I shall be happy to hear when he receives his Commission, as it will give me great hopes of getting forward myself & satisfy me to see he so far advances in his situation in life.

I am confident nothing will be wanting on your part to get us on in the world as long as we merit your attention. I am glad to think William has gone out as a Cadette as it was his own choice. I hope our most worthy friend Mrs M. Dow[torn] & her family are enjoying perfect health my acknowledgements of her attention to me be sure to [torn] in all your letters & that I still & will always retain in my mind that deep sense of gratitude I have for her kindness towards me. My duty to my Aunt & the family at Strowan. J. James desires to be remembered most kindly to Mrs Graham & the rest of our friends.

The 6th of this month I entered my twentieth year, time flies very fast, I shall soon be an old Man. J. J. & I are very well we are both happy & contented & only wish you would write to us a little oftener & let me now a little more about my private affairs I mean of Pecuniary matters.

I conclude

Dear Sir

Your affectionate Cousin

Thos. Stirling

We understand Russia has declared War with France

A very good Event for our Nation

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Stirling

Stamped: 25 JAN. 1812

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 226-227

Bombay Octr 28 1811

My dear Sir

I am extremely sorry indeed to say that I have never had a single note from any of my friends since I left England when so many opportunities have occurred I expected letters by the Scaleby castle or Dorsetshire and now when the Moffat and Mills have come I have none either but perhaps by mistake Commissioner and Miss Dundas intend going home before next rains they have been very kind to me indeed I send these few lines to you by the Caroline – Capt Wm Moray is at Surat we are at Bombay encamped [c.o. on the] outside the walls I have had a very polite letter from him offering to do anything for me that lays in his power by the first opportunity I shall send you some thing for Mrs Graham and Sisters

I need not say much in this letter for the Ship is never expected to reach home Sir James Macintosh and a few more of our greatest men are going home in her
be so kind as write to me for you know that it is a great gratification to receive letters from our friends

I remain
Dear Sir
your Afft Cousin
William Stirling

If you dont know how to direct to me) care of Capt Marshall in charge of the Cadet Establishment altho' I have left it I can always be found

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq
Airth Castle
Falkirk

N Britain

Stamped: AP 30 1812

Letters from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 18-19

H M Ship Dreadnought Decr. 23 1811
Spithead

Dear Graham

I have the pleasure to announce our safe arrival here from the Baltic after a tedious passage of 9 Days and experienced the most dreadful weather I ever met with during my time at sea, from our first starting from Wingo (where we have been laying all the Summer) nothing but one continued series of Gales, untill our arrival here

Dear Graham I wrote to you severall times when in the Baltic but never received any answer from you which make me think you never have received mine or I am sure you never would have delayed writing to me after the anxious entreaties and solicitations I made of you

I informed you I had passed my examination for a Lieut. and likewise enclosed to you one of my passing Certificates which you

you may have probably received but from your silence I have concluded that you most certainly have never received from [c.o. you] me any letters or you certainly would not have delayed in endeavouring to facilitate me in my promotion which was the principal subject

I have no doubt but I will have to go abroad before I be able to get that step which I hope for. I have no objections to go abroad, but before I go I must have an Admiralty recommendation and that must be got through Intrest. I believe Lady Pultney has so much influence with the upper house, as any of your friends I intend to go to town very soon myself and see what is to be done in that way and if you write to Lady Pultney to use her Intrest [c.o.] in my behalf I will wate on her in town & put her probably in the way of succeeding.

We have just received orders to proceed to Plymouth to regist. the Ship where we will most likely remain all the winter. Capt. Linzee has repeatedly enquired after you & has told me if my friends

cannot do any thing for me he weell send me to the west Indies to Sir F LeFory⁵⁶⁷ and if Lady P can add any thing to the recommendation I shall have no objection to go but not unless I can procure some little recommendation or I may remain there most likely for severall years without

being able to advance. As I have you and your friends only to trust too I hope you will exert every power you can in procuring that step that I have been so long looking forward to get. I shall put every confidence in you in procuring for me what I want and if you cannot succeed, I shall quit the Service and try some thing else, and see how I shall succeed in that

I shall conclude by wishing ever happiness imaginable to you and your fami[worn] give my kind Compliments to Mrs G Stirling Aunt S Miss Gs Mrs Home &c &c and all our friends and happy Christmas

I remain Dear Graham
Yours &c &c
Charles Stirling

Addressed to:
Suposed Falkirk

Thos Graham Stirling Esqr
Airth Castle
near
Falkirk
Scotland

Stamped: JAN 21 1812 plus two others

MS. 10952 ff. 20-21

51 York Ts, Baker Street
Janry 20 1812

Dear Graham

I wrote to you on our arrival in England which no doubt you have received long ago puting you in mind of me but I find you not intirely forgot me. I have just come up to town for one week with an idea of waiting on Sir Peter Murray⁵⁶⁸ but to my great Mortification I find he is not yet come up and therefore must return without seeing him

I have now something to ask of you. I am now 22 Years of age and am arrived at that time of life to be capable of judging for myself and distinguishing good from bad. I therefor have to solicit an augmentation in my yearly income. it intirely rests with you notwithstanding the will of our late Uncle, you are the only person to whom we have to apply for and, as you are the only [c.o. person] one who interests yourself in our behalf and to you candour and good will I intirely depend on that head, there is no one to call you to an account about giving me an increase of income whether at 22 years of age or at 24 so I must wait with Patience until I hear from you and on your Generosity and liberality I will Intirely depend

The Dreadnought being an old Ship and in want of great repair she is ordered to be paid off and all disposed of as the admiral thinks fit but Capt. Linzee may put me into some other vessel, with some of his friends, if I cannot get appointed before

I yesterday waited on Lady Pultney who received me with the greatest marks of kindness I asked

her if she could at all assist me in the Cause. She does not know [unclear] York but she thought she would be able to assist me through the medium of some of her friends She gave me a kind invitation to dine with her and was very happy to see me

From Begbie I learn you have added another youth to the family which I congratulate all Mrs G Miss's G & Mrs Home how does Mrs Dow get on I shall conclude by wishing you every happiness that this transitory life can afford

I remain Yours truly &c

Chas Stirling

We narrowly escaped the same fate
of the St. George⁵⁶⁹ & other Ships

being in the same Gale with them and passed within 9 miles of the same sands as the Hero was wrecked and by our reckoning was an 48 miles from them

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling Esq.
Airth Castle
Falkirk
Scotland

Stamped: JAN 25 1812 and 20

Letter from James Begbie to Thomas Graham Stirling

Graham Papers SAA

Old South Sea House

4 March 1812

My Ally

In addition to the items I gave you that had been pd for Wm Stirling put down. Bill from Bombay to Captn. Rankin £50 & Welch & Stalker's⁵⁷⁰ Acct for outfit - £77.17.9 -

Charles Stirling is just come to Town – Lady Pulteney has written to Lord Keith⁵⁷¹ about him who has offered to take him on board his flag Ship which Chas. will accept - I suspect if he is in the Channel Service it is not a small Sum that will keep his packet - I wish therefore you would let me know the extent I am to go – hitherto he does not seem to have gone beyond bounds but then I know he had a lucky hit at Cadiz which kept him afloat -...

I presume you are so gay at Edinr just now that you Can attend to nothing else but Such things as my Lady Racketts at home – Otherwise I would ask you your

opinion of the state of the Country - I am very gloomy I assure you for tho' I detest the two Lord G's – yet such an administration!! Percival⁵⁷² can never stand - I do not well know what to think about the Company's Charter⁵⁷³ – it is evident that the Directors are now much more alarmed than they were some time ago – they have had Secret Courts every day each week, and it is evident that the India House can never stand against every Adventurer that would immediately embark in the Trade were it to be laid open – You for your Stock – for Our Ship – The former may fall but we hold the Company bound for Six Voyages certain so I have not the least fear on that score whatever may be the consequence -

You will have received a letter from Sandilands - I never knew him write in such spirits, and well he may for with Common Management he must make a Capital voyage, and then in such luck being

to be dispatched so soon from Calcutta -

The Convoy was appointed for the 1st Decr. & was to come all the way with them – The Ships would be prodigiously rich as their Cargos would Consist entirely of Raw Silk & fine piece goods -

.....

Wigram is humbugging as usual about the Windham - I cannot think he will succeed as he expects

-

My Love to your Wife – When is Master Tommy to have another Sister -

Very affy yours

J Begbie

I have not advice of the Madiera being Shipped on Board ? Rose – if it is not I shall blow them up in heaf[torn]

Addressed: Thomas Graham Stirling of Airth sent c/o James Dundas Esq., St Andrews Square
Edinburgh

Letter from Charles Stirling to James Begbie

MS. 10873 ff. 30

H M Ship Christian 7th⁵⁷⁴ April 6th Spithead 1812

Dear Begbie

I received your letter yesterday and was very glad that you had sent me a note of what money I had drawn on you for. - That Bill of Evans's whas drawn in June last when I was up the Baltic and as I imagined was part of last years account but it appears it was not presented for payment untill the begining of the present year and you have put it down to this years account which I never thought was the Case but always concluded it had been payed as part of last years account. But since that is the case I believe I had not drawn for the full amount of last years quantum

so if you will allow me I will draw for the residue at such proportions as will best suit, but at all events I must have some money at present as I am about to leave my present ship to join the San Joseph⁵⁷⁵ - In consequence of the Flushing fleet making a move we are all hurry and bussle to sail for that station to hoist the flag of Admiral Ferrer⁵⁷⁶ instead of Adm Durham⁵⁷⁷ who is to hoist his in the Bulwark and is reported to take the Command at the Cape of Good Hope, we sail tomorrow for the Downs and from thence resume our station in a day or two after. I yesterday heard from Lady Pulteney and promises to speak to Adm Hope⁵⁷⁸ for me. I wrote to Lord Melville⁵⁷⁹ myself stating my services, being a protegee of his father with a long list of &c &c but have not yet received any answer but expect to morrow to hear from him.

Let me know about the money affairs as I want it so much
you may write to me here as we may not probably be able to sail so soon as tomorrow as the wind is not Easterly - believe me

Yours &c

Chas. Stirling

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 22-23

H. M. Ship Christian 7th 18 April 1812
at the Downes

Dear Graham

I have received both your letters and should have answered the first ere now, but having been very unwell, and confined, having caught a very violent cold. but I have now quite recovered and doing well. Your 2d letter I received this Morning, & I must confess was rather surprised at his Lordship's having transmitted my letter to you, I wondered how it was that he never acknowledged the receipt of my letter, and I thought it must have miscarried, and was again going to write to him, on the same subject. I hope by my writing to him has not at all protracted my promotion, but having seen Mids get forward from applications of their own, I was induced to try likewise to see what could be done, but the result it appears

has not been determined yet - I had a letter from Lady Pulteney the other day, and she has promised to speak to Admiral Hope (one of the Lords of the Admiralty) about me, he is a most intimate friend of hers, his application & yours &c will no doubt be able to succeed, in the end. I was intirely activated by an anxious wish of obtaining the Lieutenancy at once, or most probably I should not have taken that rash step on myself without first consulting you on that occassion. I hope your apology to his Lordship will quite dissipate all my fears of having offended his Lordship. I only wish it may have the disired effect and your application may be as successfull as your wishes are, which I dare say are not a little sanguine

I still am in hopes of joining the San Joseph yet, which if you should fail in your applications might be of some use to me, as being in the Commander in Chiefs ship. Admiral Durham has left this ship intirely now and hoisted his flag in the Bulwark and is reported to take the Command at the Cape of Good Hope he has left the whole of his followers here untill a better opportunity offers for joining him which may not be for some time, as this ship sails very soon for Flushing

I was very happy to find by your letter that I had not incurred your displeasure so much as I imagined and likewise was glad to find that your liberal hand was yet stretched out to assist me. I shall in future observe the utmost economey in all my expenditure. I had writen to Mr Begbie nearly 10 days ago [c.o.] to know if he would except a draft for 10£ but I suppose he has writen to you on that score. I really wanted it, on joining a Ship without money to Pay for your mess is a thing so disagreeable that [c.o.] I cannot convey to you the true sense of it

I was likewise glad to find that our friends in Scotland were well & the Small Craft getting on clearly

There is a Capt. Ball⁵⁸⁰ joined here, on the Admiral Capt. leaving he is my Old Capt. in the Zealand when I was there. I was recommended to him by my friend Capt. Champain⁵⁸¹ and I have writen to him to put him in mind of me again - I shall conclude by sending my best wishes to all friends Aunt Mrs G your Sisters & Mrs Home

Believe me Yours &c
Chas Stirling

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
near
Falkirk
Scotland

Stamped: 20 AP 1812

Letter from William Stirling to James Begbie and on to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10873 ff. 31

Bombay 18th April 1812

My dear Sir

An opportunity offers to send letters to the Mauritius by which I suppose they will very soon reach you - There is very little news here but what I hear I shall endeavour to give [c.o. it] you. I am just recovering from a bowel complaint which I have had these 10 weeks very bad indeed. I am living with Mr Wedderburn⁵⁸² who Mrs Patk Stirling was kind enough to give me a letter to As soon as he heard I was so unwell he came directly and asked me to live with him which the Doctor's strongly recommended. We have had a good deal of War going here 6 or 7 black fellows have been executed and afterwards hung in chains. I am now posted to the 1st Battn. 9th Regt. N I attached at present to the Poonah subsidiary force now at Poonah. I have been obliged to get 2 months leave to remain at the Presidency for the recovery of my health but will leave this to go to my regiment about the 1st of May. We have just heard of the Africaine frigates arrival at Ceylon and that of the Owen Glendower at Madras they bring very little news. Enclosed I send letters to my brothers do they still continue at sea if they do pray to get them out on an Indian station the Men of War have got a little prize

money here about Java the other day the Hussar made a most valuable capture (laden with Spanish dollars). I was obliged to draw for 400 Rs to fit myself out for my regiment for which I gave Mr Money⁵⁸³ a bill on you he is the partner in Forbes⁵⁸⁴ house which cost me a great deal more which I had saved from my pay Write by every opportunity and remember me to Mr and Mrs Graham Mrs Graham Senr. Miss Grahams and all the rest of my friends. When I wrote you last I told you of an expedition which sailed from here it went to Thattywar where they took Nowuggar the Capital of the Jam Rajah there is no news except in China the cotton is selling for prime cost or under it. Direct to me Ensn. WS 1st Battn. 9th Regt. B.N.I. Poonah Bombay be so good as tell Mr Graham my address I add no more at present my dear sir

Yours very Afectly

William Stirling

last night I shot some flying foxes

[another hand] I think the above may interest you So I send it - I trust you will make out a jaunt to Town this Winter -

Adieu very affy yrs

J Begbie

Octr. 27th

I hope you have voted for Old Will. Chs Stirling is at Cadiz

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 24-25

Royal Hospital Plymouth
May 21st 1812

Dear Graham

I wrote to you previous to my leaving the Christian the 7th which I suppose you received long ago, you have never yet told me the result of your second application, but I suppose it cannot be of any moment, or I dare say I should most probably have heard something about it ere now, I see his Lordship is making Lieutenants and Capts. every day which appears by the Newspapers but what claim they have on the Service I cannot pretend to say but I suppose good interest at present is the best one

I wrote to Lady Pulteney the other day and informed her that I was here and had been very ill and likewise I informed her there is a

promotion to take place on the 12 Augst being the anniversary of the Prince Regents Birth Day and likewise one on the 4 June and to intercede with Admiral Hope to get me placed on either of the lists, for the promotion on the 4 of June if possible, but I have not yet heard from her, she has hitherto interested herself very much about me, and we keep up a Correspondence together, but I have of late been shifting about that she has not been able to find me out. I hope Lord Melville will not intirely forget me on those days & I hope you will freshen his memory up which I dare say is rather confused. I have heard that he will not make Lieut at home unless they have been engaged in some particular Service, be that as it may, but his Lordship should not forget the long, painful, and arduous, 6 years that we have to serve which I think is of itself sufficient to intitle any one to a Lieutenancy

You may probably wonder what I am at an Hospital for, you may conclude no good, but I can assure you that on board the Christian I caught a very violent cold and inflammation in the lungs and having had occasion to be bled the operation was performed by an Ignorant Scotch Doctors Mate who it appears had

bled me with a Lancet that had been opening Tumors, Abcess &c and the consequence was that in 3 days an Abcess of the most virulent nature made its appearance, inflammation from the wrist to the shoulder took place and I was in the most excruciating pain for nearly a fortnight and at one period the Surgeon's were rather doubtful whether I should not lose my arm or not but however at length the inflammation began to subside, the Abcess was cut but it has since formed, & bursted, and now in a fair way of recovery. I most probably will be here for a we[torn] longer & then I join my Ship. but whether it is the Admiral [torn] or Lord Keith I have not yet determined, but I wrote to Lady Pulteney to send me an Introductory Note to His Lordship which I suppose she will, if she does I will join My Lords Ship which will be preferable to Durhams

Begbie tells me that my Brother Tom is come home and is going to pay you a visit down in Scotland. I suppose he lost all that fun with the Victorious and Rivoli⁵⁸⁵. I think it would have been more to his credit if he had been there than wanting to get home if I had but the Lieutenancy I would not be very anxious to see England 3 or 4 years for I find every Country I yet have seen (Portugal excepted) better than England

Give my Best Respects to Mrs G Aunt Mrs Home⁵⁸⁶ and all other friends. Should Tom come down, desire him to write, the Young Dog has never written to me since he has been to Sea which does not shew a great deal of Brotherly affection. William Begbie tells me is well which I am glad to hear I hope the Country will agree with him

I remain Yours &c &c
Chas Stirling

PS When you write Direct to the Care of Mr Gilbert⁵⁸⁷ Fore Street Plymouth Dock he will be able to find me whatever ship I join

Yours &c &c
C Stirling

Addressed to: Thos Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk
Scotland

Stamped: MAY 30 [unclear] 1812

Letter from James Begbie to Thomas Graham Stirling

Graham Papers SAA

Old South Sea House
2nd June 1812

My Dear Graham, I congratulate you with all my Heart – What Another Son? I really did not expect it so soon, and if you had been wise you would have betted on your own head against Carsy⁵⁸⁸ – My Love if you please & best wishes to the lady - I received your last letter of the 19th & shall take care of your Acceptance to Chalmers - I meant to have told you that I had got the balce of Stewarts money & that if you want £1000 or £1500 let me know – I am not for you selling the India Stock but I am a little a a loss what to think of the situation of the Company – The marquis you know has no great partiality for the Directors but I have every hope of his abilities & Talents & I am sure he will exert them for the benefit of the Country – You will

See that he has got a Check Blanch, & Canning will no doubt be at the Head of the House of Commons where he will shine

I am most sorry for Chs. Stirling but I have not in my Power to assist him in the least in his promotion – It is Parliamentary Interest alone that will do it. Motteux⁵⁸⁹ told me that he had long applied for promotion for a nephew of his own but at last was obliged to give it up as a bad job - I shall ask the K – to see if Jas. Drummond can do any thing & Lucky S – will push your Bravity Cousin – Tom S – is I suppose by this time with you - He seems a very fine lad -

The Rose turns out a grand Ship, tho' she has not quite brought her Chartered Tonnage – Sands. would at least clear 10M. if he could calculate the Rupee at 2/6 – but he has brought about £10,000 – Indigo and it will not be brought in for sale before May next

year – he has left 30,000 Siccas behind – This will make the ready a scarce article for a while, but the Indigo being laid in low I do not despair of his making ?ltingly in saving remittance by it - I wish he may be prevailed on to go again – If he does not he will repent it often & long - I saw Jameson⁵⁹⁰ a few days since I have been urging him to bring up his Drawings for the examination of Genl. Kyd⁵⁹¹ but I rather think he feels himself not quite at home in that branch as yet.

What think you of Lindsay's Advertismt - I think well of it – You must supporte the Prayer of it with all your parliamentary Interest -

Mind make it a Stipulate when you Vote for your Member – Lucky S – arrived Sunday. The K lost his Trunk on the road, but it found him out yesterday – Bless you - Prays your ever affectionate

J Begbie

No Madiera come home in the Rose, at which I am very angry for two Pipes could have been Manifested in my name fraught free -

They had written it seems to sent it home in one of the Madras Ships
[addressed: TGS Airth Castle]

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 26-27

Plymouth June 16 1812

Dear Graham

It is with great pleasure I have to inform you I yesterday received orders from the Admiralty to proceed to Lisbon incidently on promotion which no doubt his Lordship has informed you of ere this. but I hope you will not be content with that but keep still pushing on. I may probably be there for some time before I am made as I know severall Young Men [c.o.] who have been there for this last 12 months is not yet made. there is such a number out there at present that I shall have to waite my turn which will not be for some time to come there is only one ship of the line and a few frigates on the station and what chance can I have there. there will be a very large promotion take place on the Prince Regents Birth Day the 12 Aug and I hope you will exert yourself and get me included in that one, or before if his Lordship is at all inclined to oblige you which no doubt you and him are on good terms

Dear Graham how to Compensate to you, or return you thanks for your ever kindness to me is so arduous a task for me to undertake that really I cannot find words adequate to convey to you my sentiments on that subject but I hope you are sensible that I must feel a certain degree of fraternal kindness for you but I am sorry to again beg your assistance. you must be aware that in changing ship so often has been of very great expence to me and has run away with the whole of the money I had, and now changing my Coating Epaulet &c will no doubt be atended with some additional expence. which I hope you will grant me some additional monies to supply those defects. I am sorry to ask so soon again for your assistance but I trust you will aid me now

When I get made I may not be so troublesome to you, which I hope will be soon I waite here now for a passage to join the flag ship at Lisbon there is a vessel Daily expected to sail and most probably I will go in her. I have heard the Impetueux⁵⁹² is the flag ship at Lisbon, but however if you direct to the flag ship it will find me. I hope all our friends are well in Scotland⁵⁹³

I am Yours &c &c
Chas Stirling

do not forget to pay postage

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq.
 Airth Castle
 near
 Falkirk
 Scotland

Stamped: JUN 22 1812

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 88-89

Chatham Augt. 8th 1812

My Dear Cousin

I arrived in London early on thursday morning & though a good deal fatigued, a few hours rest soon brought me to. I delivered your letter to Mr Begbie & had the pleasure of dining with him with a few strangers and John Stirling. I arrived at Chatham Friday 3 Oclock but was too late for the Wherry Boats, however it was fortunate enough, as I had the satisfaction of dining on board the Victorious with the Officers who treated me most kindly and seemed highly pleased to meet together again

I saw J. James also, he seemed to have a little doubt whether he would get leave of absence or not, but I advised him to ask immediately & assured him as the others had obtained it he certainly would obtain it too. I discovered a wonderful change in him as soon as I saw him, he has grown stouter, taller but indeed fallen off in his looks greatly.

He expects £100 Prize money for the Rivoli but the Silk vessel is liberated.

The Accounts I received of the action greatly exceed any thing I could have imagined. Duncan & Napier⁵⁹⁴ are both on the same station, the Latter being an intimate friend of yours I certainly will join him if I can,

I set off in a few hours for the Nore Where the Namur⁵⁹⁵ is Guardship I am quite in the Fidgets expecting a rap on the knuckles

I shall write more largely by and bye when I hear of any future destination. My passage up cost me £12 exactly

Give my Duty to My worthy Aunt & kind love to the family at Strowan & other friends. I sincerely hope you have been in perfect health. I conclude

My Dear Cousin

Your affectionate Cousin Thos. Stirling

Addressed to: T.G. Stirling Esqr.
Strowan House
Crieff

[Stamp unclear]

Letter from David Finlay⁵⁹⁶ to Messrs. Stirling Gordon

MS. 10952 f. 72

Copy Letter Mr Finlay – to – Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co
Triplicate Original P the Montague Packet
Duplicate P the Swallow Packet

Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Co

Ardoch Penn Soho St Anns
8 Augt. 1812

Gentlemen

The preceding is a copy of what I had the pleasure of addressing you on the 31 Ult. & I have waited until the last moment and after all been disappointed in the payt I expected, having only this morning recd. £200 instead of £300 Sterg. Inclosed you will receive Wm. Fowle Holt's⁵⁹⁷ 1st Bill of the 28 Ult. at 90 d/d in my own favor on Messrs. Deffell & Son of London P £200 Ster. which I have little doubt is good: but Mr Holt has sent me along with it as a further security indorsed bills

of lading (of wh the 1st is also inclosed) for 7 Hhds & 5 Tierces of Sugar P the Ellison Captn Symes and wh he wrote me are insured and of excellent quality. In the event therefore of the smallest demur on the part of Messrs Deffell to accept their Bills you will please direct yr Correspondent in London to dispose of these Sugars to the best advantage on my acct and when in Cash to credit me with the nett proceeds and debit me with the last years Supplies for Ardoch Penn and myself. I shall endeavour to remit you further by a future Conveyance but I have never recd a Syllable further from Mr Dundas and as I wrote him from the diminution of ½ of the Cows & followers in the Pen in 1809 for the purpose of giving rest to the Pastures the proceeds have been and must be for some time longer, a mere trifle; indeed for the 7 years preceding they were not above £300 a year & since that by the reduction of the Stock by Mr A. Stirling as I said before; and a Stop to Jobbing the Negroes, the Penn cannot of course do more altho' this resting System must increase the nett proceeds ultimately. - Inclosed I beg to trouble you with Duplicates of the list of Supplies forwarded in my last – respects & I remain most respectfully. - Gentlemen - Your Faithl & obedt. Sert.
(signed) David Finlay

P.S. My reason for troubling you with Duplicates is the Declaration of War by the United States (just recd) At. Great Britain wh I presume will be of short duration but will most likely cause our coast to be infested wt. Swarms of Privateers -

Letter from Lord Melville to Sir Andrew Hammond who forwarded it to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10955 ff. 69 & 71

Lord Melville⁵⁹⁸ presents his Compliments to Sir Andrew Hamond⁵⁹⁹ and has much pleasure in acquainting him that Mr Charles Stirling is promoted to the Triton Hospital Ship at Lisbon
Admiralty
13 Aug 1812

Sir Andrew Hamonds Complts. to Mr Graham Stirling, and has great pleasure in forwarding to him the account of Mr Charles Stirlings Promotion

Terrington Lynn
18th Augst. 1812

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 90-91

H.M.S. Royal William⁶⁰⁰
Spithead Augt. 31st 1812

My Dear Sir

From an idea that you will be desirous to know concerning my proceedings I consider it my duty to write to you immediately to inform you of the same. I sent a few lines to Airth on my arrive at Chatham; I fell in with John James in whom I perceived a great alteration for the better; I dined on board the Victors. with my old officers who paid me the utmost attention. I joined the Namur next

day & on speaking to Capt Austin⁶⁰¹ about my intentions he disapproved of them very much as I was not positive whether Capt Duncan⁶⁰² would take me or not but I assured him I was resolved to pursue my plans as I had no doubt Capt D. would get me a ship if he were unable to receive me himself

I remained ten days in the Namur, Where I had my chest sent to me, I found a great many of St Peters mariners⁶⁰³ on board for in shifting my shirt the dirty one was stolen & my black silk Handkr. also.

I sail this week in the Pompay⁶⁰⁴ for the Mediterranean. I have every reason to expect a quick passage as I believe we go single. I have not written to Charles as I am told he has gone to the Mediter. but I suspect the Pompay will put into Lisbon where I shall most probably hear of him or see him, which will be highly gratifying to me.

I sincerely hope you have been doing well as well as the rest of the family & the little Children also, particularly sweet little Tommy, no doubt he can walk & talk now. I am sure it will be a relief to the nurse when he does.

I hope when I return to England I shall have the Epaulette on my shoulder,

Give my duty to My kind Aunt Miss Jean & Miss Graham. As I must conclude excuse the brevity of the Epistle I beg.

My Dear Cousin
your affectionate Cousin
Thos. Stirling

Addressed to: T. Graham Stirling Esqr.
Strowan House
Crieff

Stamped: SE 5 1812

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 28-29

H M Gun Boat No 1 Cadiz
Sept 18th 1812

My Dear Graham

I had written to you on my arrival here, which I suppose you have received long ago, as it is upwards of 6 weeks since I wrote, in it I believe I informed you of my having received an order from Vice Admiral Marting⁶⁰⁵, to act at a Lieutenant and to command the Gun Boat, which I now do, It fortunately happened the Siege was rose after I had been here about 3 weeks and in consideration of past Services in the Flotilla the Admiralty have promoted some of the Officers; and myself was to be Confirmed to the date of my Acting order, but there unfortunately happened to be some errata in my time, when I passed & the Lords of the Admiralty sent out

an Order for me to pass my Examination once again which I did 4 days ago. and your friend Capt. C. Fleming⁶⁰⁶ was one of the Captains who Examined me, but having passed before, it was nearly a form which was indispensably necessary. I hope I shall shortly get my Commission from the Admiralty, as I am at this moment very critically situated The seige being rose, and [c.o. all] the

Gun Boats will all be payed off as there is no further use here for them. I shall be obliged to return to my former Ship as a Midshipman should I not get Confirmed which would be very galling after enjoying the prestige of at Lieut. and Commanding a Vessel more especialy in so dangerous a place exposed to the enemys shot every hour, besides contending with our elements

When I received my orders from Admiral Martin I took the liberty to draw for Five Pounds on you and yesterday I have again drawn for Ten more which I hope you will accept and pay, I have a quarterly Bill due to me (my Pay) in two Months time and after I receive one

of those Bills I shall then be what I call established. I find in a Gun Boat that it is more expensive than if I actually belonged to a Sea-going Ship, we are here continually in Port, have every inducement to visit the Shore and hourly Visitants on board, the Cortes⁶⁰⁷ having expressed there approbation of the Zeal Valour &c &c shewn on the occassion and have said the Country intirely owed their freedom to the British Flotilla and every person of any Rank, was very anxious to r[torn] deliverers of this Country which naturally draws us into [torn] expense than would otherwise happen. The Cortes of Spain (Resident here) were on Board the Flag Ship in great Pomp yesterday to Return the Admiral officers and all employed at this place there Thanks and at the same time expressing their high oppinion of the Flotilla who they intend to represent to the British Government as worthy of their Countenance

Dear Graham I hope in this that you have found some little Consolation⁶⁰⁸ among your Mother and Sister and as I said in a previous letter, we shall all meet hereafter in an other and a better world where the joys and comforts are eternal and under that we should endeavour to bear misfortune with great fortitude and resignation knowing there is a good

and great God who always attends us and every thing he does must be good. altho it may at the same time grieve us

I received Christian's⁶⁰⁹ letter at Lisbon which I was very thank full for, and Give her my kind Love, for her goodness in writing to me, and likewise to all our friends Round about, We daily expect to Go to Gibraltar to be payed off as there is no further use for us. It's not known whether they will afterwards employ us again but we retire on half Pay if such is the Case I will pay you a visit if you have no objections

I remain Dear Graham
Yours affectionately
Chas Stirling

PS. I hope you will excuse the wafer
not being able to procure any other
C S

Addressed to:

Thos. Graham Stirling Esq.
Strowan
by
Crieff
Scotland

Stamped: NOV V 1812

Letter from Lord Melville to Sir Patrick Murray for forwarded it to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10955 f. 95

With Sir P. Murrays best Compliments to Mr Graham Stirling
Ochertyre

20 October 1812

Lord Melville presents his compliments to Sir Patrick Murray⁶¹⁰ and has the satisfaction to inform him that he has directed a commission to be made out for promoting Mr Charles Stirling for whom Sir Patrick Murray is interested, to be a Lieutenant of the Gun Boat No 1 which has lately been employed at Cadiz

Admiralty

15th October 1812

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 92-93

H.M.S. Trident⁶¹¹ at
Malta 10th Decr. 1812

My Dear Sir

I hope this will be delivered by Mr John McMurray my most intimate friend whose kindness I have experienced in a great degree. This young man has been a short time in the Navy, but that line of life not corresponding with his talents & Inclinations, has expressed a strong wish to join some other Militia Regt. at home for the immediate purpose of learning his duty & then to enter the Regulars: I have therefore taken upon myself (as a testimony of my gratitude) to recommend my friend to you that he may be placed in a situation for forwarding his views in life. I assure you I feel highly interested in his welfare for he is a young man deserving the notice & attention of any one with whom he is acquainted.

I am confident you will be happy to embrace the opportunity of doing such a favour & I am sure you will fear no trouble. His parents are most

Respectable & are well acquainted with the Characters of the families of Walkinshaw & Castle Semple. I indeed say nothing further I am sure nothing will be wanting on your part. I shall always be happy to hear of his proceedings.

Remember me to all our friends I sincerely hope your young family is doing well.

I remain

Your most affectionate Cousin

Thos. Stirling

PS. He can produce certificates from his Captain & Adml. Bayles⁶¹² of his good conduct Sobriety & attention to his duty. A personal interview will perfectly satisfy you. I remain

Thos. Stirling

[another hand: Thos. Grame Stirling Esqr.

Sir if you would have the goodness to answer the above letter please Direct to Thos. McMurray
Glasgow 15th March 1814

Post office Court

Glasgow]

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

[c.o. Pr favor of Mr T McMurray]

[not stamped]

Letter from David Finlay to James Dundas

MS. 10952 ff. 60-61

Ardoch near Soho, St Ann's Jamaica
27th January 1813

James Dundas Esquire

Sir,

A very considerable period hath elapsed since I had the honour of addressing you, principally owing to a Wish not to intrude upon your time, as it appears from my never having been favoured with any Letter from you in reply to numerous & lengthy representations I had conceived my duty to make you on the Subject of the Property, that you are occupied by much more important business. With a View to avoid giving you this trouble, I have generally in my Letters to our Friend Mr Archd Stirling, and my Brother Alexander requested them to communicate to you such observations as I had to make on this Property and which I hope they did.

Matters in general have turned out in a great measure as I predicted in my first letter to you. I am very happy to have it in my power to say that excepting one fine boy aged about 12 who died suddenly last month of Tetanus or locked jaw, we have lost no negroes of any value since my last communications – Several old & worthless people have however paid the debt to nature, and their deaths are rather a service than a loss, in as much as it Saves clothing, taxes &c. Many of the negroes are getting infirm & the Women appear to breed very slow indeed, owing more to bad habits and disposition than to any other cause – As to the Stock our losses are infinitely smaller than in any former years, but the droppings or increase have been very circumscribed owing to a particular failure in the Bulls last year, & the year before, and many of the Cows being old. I received 53 and have added no less than 21 young

young Cows making 74 in all at present: last year they dropped 47 Calves, and this year I hope they will be near 60. This last year hath been a miserable one every where for Sales few Planters having the means to pay: our's do not exceed £500 Curry but this year I trust they will be very respectable. I remitted in July last £200 Sterling to Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co, but Mr Holt from whom I received it has fallen very short in his Payments, and owes a considerable balance now, which puts me to the greatest inconvenience in paying the Taxes & other contingencies – If I am not much disappointed I think the Penn will net as much for the 4 years it will have been in my possession at 31st Decem. next from Sales of Stock as it did the four years preceding: but I exclude the money arising from jobbing, during that period, as our Gang have been constantly employed on the Property and very labourious work they have had. The Stock are much improved, and so are the pastures; but still my Friend Mr Stirling's idea that they have seen the best of their days is a very just one, and as a proof of it were the Trustees inclined to Lease it to me during the remaining minorship of the young Gentlemen, I could not venture to offer more than £400 curry a year for it,

and even then I fear my gains would be little or perhaps nothing. On this Subject I wrote to Mr Stirling on the 31st July last and he probably mentioned to you my proposal therein. The contingent charges during my management have [c.o. not] been considerably less than at any former period, still with every species of economy they are not less than £800 curry a year which you will observe by

and proceeds for the 4 years previous thereto, and for the 4 years I have conducted the Property (after the Sales of this year) by my friend Mr Macdowall Grant of Arndilly⁶¹³, who I believe intends quitting the Island in the 1st or 2d fleet – I Shall have occasion to make a very [c.o.] tolerable remittance this year I trust – but at present I am considerably in advance owing to our trifling Sales and tardy payments: and this is not Surprising, when it is considered that fully half the breeding Stock & followers were Sold by Mr Stirling in 1809, to give rest and relief to the Pastures: The Property is incapable of maintaining more than 50 to 60 Cows at most, and I shall have to fatten for the Butcher 8 or 10 of the oldest & worst Breeders this year. - From the circumstances of there having been no white Carpenter for 8 or 9 years employed on the Penn, I have been obliged to employ one as most of the gates are broken & rotten, & the rest in want of repair, there being upwards of 30 in the Penn – altho' many of the pastures are so rocky & poor as not to be worth Gates. The dwelling House has not been Shingled for near 20 years, and the consequence is, that it would soon go to decay, which would be a pity as it is a tolerably good one, but from the rotten-ness of the roof it is scarcely habitable. These & some other minor jobs such as repairs to the Hospital negro Houses &c I have engaged a good Carpenter to do, and have put two young negro men with him for instruction, which is very necessary here. I at present hope that I shall not require his Services above 3 or 4 months, as there is no getting good Tradesmen in this Country without large Salaries. -

In one of my former letters I stated to you that a Woman named

named Miss Ash (now Mrs Longbothom) and the Mother of the Heirs to this Property has been continually applying to me respecting a Legacy of £200 currency left her by the late Chas. Stirling to whom Mr Alexr. Macleod of Muiravonside⁶¹⁴, and my Father are the only Surviving Executors. This Woman after living in Keeping with several Persons was used very ill by one of them, in consequence of which on the Representation of the late Mr Robt. Stirling⁶¹⁵ to the deceased General Stirling, he gave orders that a small House should be erected on a Spot of 10 acres of Land at the extremity of the Penn, which should be for her temporary accommodation, or, as long as she resided upon it singly. She has other Children, and is worth I am informed at least £3000, and last year married an Overseer in the neighbourhood, when she left this place, and has since Kept a Tavern in the Vicinity where I hear she makes £4 or 500 a year. I have considered it my duty to State these things, as it occurs to me she has by this marriage and departure from the place, forfeited the General's bounty, and her right to the occupation of it; and that were he alive he would order it to revert to the penn. As she has been trespassing too on our adjoining Land and is still keeping 2 or 3 horned Stock here, as she did by Mr Stirling's permission, I must request the favour of your instruction whether I am to continue her in possession as heretofore. I suspect her Husband has put it into her head that I want to dispossess her, which it is not at present my intention to unless the Trustees instruct me to the contrary. She talks rather lofty now, and is threatening to commence a Law Suit for the recovery of the Legacy with 18 year's interest as she says. This last she cannot recover in a Court of Common Law, and I doubt extremely if even the

the Court of Chancery can award interest in such a case: which is Simply this. Mr Stirling died in 1795 very much in debt. The Creditors both in Mortgage & on open account then put their demands on judgement that they might bear interest, all of which were Subsequently paid by the acting Executor Mr Henry Hamilton – This Miss Ash neglected to do & therefore her demand is not upon

interest, but either Some Crafty Attorney at Law, or other illinformed person has advised her to prosecute which induces me to write thus fully of the Subject. I believe this £200 is the only old Claim still unpaid against Mr Stirling's estate, and I humbly conceive the best plan would be for you to Send me a Letter from Mr Macleod & my Father – Doctor Finlay of Picardy Place⁶¹⁶, authorising me to pay the £200 curry out of the first monies that may come to my hands, and thereby have done with her. These matters Mr Archd. Stirling is well acquainted with, and I have no doubt will concur with me in opinion, and nothing but this Specimen of the Woman's cunning & covetousness in trespassing on the Penn Land without asking leave, and demanding interest which is uncoverable, in return for my indulgence in permitting her Stock to remain here, perhaps without any right, forces me to represent this affair and to entreat the instruction of the Trustees without delay on this Subject.

I trust you will also pardon me for once more repeating my earnest Solicitation to hear from you, as a person in my Situation feels very awkward in never having a Letter from his Constituents; and I conclude by assuring you that

that I have experienced no small anxiety responsibility & even drudgery for upwards of two years past for the benefit of the Heirs, and that I shall cheerfully continue my Exertions in the hope that my Conduct will in all respects be approved by the Trustees

With the greatest respect, I remain,

Dear Sir,

Your most obed. & hble Servant,

David Finlay

Addressed to: James Dundas Esquire
Writer to the Signet
Edinburgh

Nymph Packet

Stamped: MAR 28 1813

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Gordon Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 30-31

H M Gun Boat N:1 Gibraltar Febr 20 1813

Dear Graham

I have written to you no less than four different letters, since I have been promoted, to a Lieut., and has never received one from you in return, which has really caused a little uneasiness to me, in them all, I have returned to you, in the abdent manner that I possibly could, my most sincere thanks, and acknowledgment, for your kindness, and benevolence, towards me, in procuring me that step in life which I now hold, and I hope and trust that I shall always conduct myself with that degree of propriety, [c.o.] to merit, your further assistance thro. the different steps of life, and I hope in canvassing my past conduct, since I have been under the shaddow of your wing, you will have no cause to find fault, but on the contrary applaud

Lady Pulteney has likewise endeavoured to facilitate me, in obtaining this late important step, and has likewise said she would court her intrest in my behalf, in getting me advanced thro. the different

steps of my proffession, for which I have likewise returned to her, my most greatfull
acknowledgment, for her past favors

Dear Graham having now been with my old friend Admiral Linzee and having very often
occassion to go to Tangier (a Town belonging to the emperor of Morroco in Barbary) for the Admirall
to bring him stock &c &c as it is a very Cheap place

There is a young Lady the daughter of the American Consul (who is a Scotchman and comes from
Aberdeen) whose name is Mr Jas. Simpson⁶¹⁷, who has intirely won my affections I believe it
appears reciprocated. she is about 19 years of age and poseses every thing that can make a man
happy She cannot boast of a great deall of beaus but is amongst the middling has every
accomplishment with her, she is aimiable, aff[illegible], and agreable and one of the most sweet
tempers that can possibly be, Her father and Mother has treated me in the handsomest manner that
can possibly be and is perfectly aware of my intention if it should meet your approbation should I
be fortunate enough to receive her fair hand the Old Father I have no doubt would give her some
thing handsome as he is a very rich man having formerly been a merchant at Gibraltar and there
amassed a good deal of money, and his Consolship is worth about 1,000 per annum

As I never Could commit myself so far as to do an act so contrary to Justice, I now ask you as a
Relation, a friend, and Guardian on this important subject, I have not yet asked the Lady nor
proposed her marriage, she may be engaged for what I know, if I were fortunate enough to be
honored with her hand I should conceive myself one of those who [c.o.] are really happy. I have
likewise to ask you to inform me what I have reasonably to expect when I become of age as I
should be sorry to deceive the Father by misinformation and lead him and myself into an error, I
hope when I so put the question to the Lady I am vain enough to believe I shall not be rejected she
has I believe two Beaux's already, but not so mad as myself

I shall not act to precipitably on this head but will waite untill I hear from you which I hope will
[above in bold: not] be long

I will [above: not] do anything but by your approbation

I now belong to the San Juan⁶¹⁸ with Admiral Linzee but lent into the Gun Boat we all live on board
the Ship and really we find things very dear here and in exchange for our bills on Government we
have to pay 5 or 10d for every dollar and pay the same away at 5sh which is a greavance that
government will not remedy, Jas. Stirling⁶¹⁹ is on this station and very often see him. I cannot by
any Chance here from my Brother Tom nor in what Ship he is on

Give my Best respects to your Mother Sisters in short all our friends in Scotland and believe me

Dear Graham

Yours ever [illeg.]

Chas. Stirling

The lady of whom I writing
about has two Brothers with whom
I was school fellows with
at Greenwich⁶²⁰ they are both
in the Commissariat

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling Esqr
Airth Castle
near
Falkirk
Scotland

Stamped: APR 4 1813

Letter from Rebecca Longbottom to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 f. 206

Moneague St Anns March 11th 1813

Sir

I beg you will please to excuse the Liberty I am taking in writing to you a second time as I doubt you did not receive my first letter wherein I requested the favour of you to Inform me how my little Boys was, and would esteem it a most particular favour if you will be so Obliging as to Inform me where my Eldest Son Charles Stirling is; I have wrote to him but am at a Loss to know what Ship to direct it to – If I am not giving you too much trouble will beg the favour of You to forward my Letter to him. I should also be extreemly Obliged to you if you would

be so good as to speak to the Executors of the late Charles Stirling to pay me the Legacie left me by Him I am with Greatest Respect Sir Your Most Obead Humle Svt

Rebecca Longbotham

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Esquire
 of Airth
 near Stirling
 North Britain

Pr favour of
Mr David Dick

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 32-33

H M Gun Boat N:1 Gibraltar April 7th 1813

Dear Graham

A length of time has now elapsed since I have had the pleasure of receiving from you a letter, and I have written to you severall times which makes me conclude you could never have received them as I am sure you would have written to me, In them all I have endeavoured to return to you my most grateful acknowledgments for your kindness in procuring for me that step in life I now hold, and believe me Dear Graham, the Kindness and benevolence I have experienced from you shall never be obliterated from my mind, and I am only sorry that I cannot find words adequate to convey to you my mind on this subject but I am aware

your perspicuity of judgment is such as to judge how greatful I must feel to one who has procured me my promotion

I wrote to you when I was at Cadiz last Month (I believe) on a very important subject to me, which I hope you have received. should you not I will here tell you, having very often to go to Tangier with dispatches for the Admiral &c &c and on my own account, There is there a Young Lady Named, Helen, Anne, Simpson, the daughter of the American Consol at that place who has

intirely won my heart from me she is without exception one of the pleasantest Girls that ever I have met with, she has every accomplishment with her, she Speaks French, Spanish, English she Draws Sings and plays on the Piano Forte she is about 19 and rather ordinary but her Mental accomplishment are such to do away with every other defect, [c.o. has] not the least degree of pride and quite domesticated, knows house keeping perfectly, having learnt from her mother now Graham I Want you signify your approbation should I ever put the question to the Lady which I have not done yet but almost signified my intention and at the same time let me know how my finances stand, for is it a foolish plan to Marry without

Competency, as the old proverb says "when poverty comes in at the door love flies out of the window",

Her father was formerly a Merchant at Gib and having some intrest in America got the Consolship there which I believe is 8 or 10 Hundred a year I dare say the little I have got & the little her father will give her may enable us to keep a small establishment, her fathers friends live about Dundee or some where about that, I shall perfectly weigh matters before I do any thing, and see a quantum sufficit, provided on her part if my own will allow which in a great measure the match Depends I have just returned from there with the Gun Boat after have been 3 weeks at that place we have had very bad weather so [torn]uch so that That [c.o.] Gun Boat had to Cut from her anchors & ran on shore to save the lives of the Crew and myself in consequence of that she is so damaged as to be laid up and I am to another which is to be N: 12 and I am to Call her N:1. I wrote to Lady Pultney [above: some time back] to get me in a frigate, but I am almost sorry to leave my Dear behind, I had not then the pleasure of the Ladys acquaintance when I wrote. I hope you will write to me immediatly and let my fate be determined. Give my kind Compliments to Aunt & Your Sissters and all Friends at Strow and about & believe me

Yours &c &c affectionly
Chas. Stirling

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
near
Falkirk
Scotland

N:1GB

Stamped: GIBRALTAR 3 MAY 1813
MAY 11 1813

Letter from Stirling, Gordon to James Dundas

MS 10952 ff. 19-20

Glasgow 28 April 1813

James Dundas Esqr.
Sir,

We are favoured with yours of yesterday. In answer, we beg to say that Mr David Finlay did not remit us any Bill & for your information We annex a Copy of an extract from his Letter to us of the 31st July last, which was the only Communication we have had from him on the Subject

We are respectfully,
Sir,
Your mo. ob. Serv.
Stirling, Gordon & Co

P Turn

“I would have forwarded the inclosed List of supplies last month, but was waiting for a Bill of exchange in payment of Stock sold last year to a Gentleman in Trelawny, who has disappointed me, but faithfully promised to send it in time for the Montague Packet to sail the 10 Proximo, & I have no doubt it will be in time for the Middlesex or Robert”,

Addressed to: James Dundas Esq
C.S.
Edinr.

Stamped: APR 29 1813

Letter from Thomas Graham Stirling to David Finlay

MS. 10952 ff. 64-65

[rough copy of letter sent to David Finlay at Ardoch – not complete]
Airth Castle [c.o.] May 1st 1813

Having been named by the Trustees of the late Sir Thos. Stirling Bart. My Uncle, to take the charge of the Children of Mr Chas. Stirling (now the Pprs of Ardoch Penn) along with Mr Jas Dundas, he has handed me you Favor of he 27th Janry to reply to & indeed to write to you generally on the subject of the Penn – And in the first place I must premise, that having consulted with Friends well informed on the subject as to your plan for the improvement of the [c.o. Estate] Pastures, they did approve of it, & therefore it was not thought necessary to say any thing further on the Subject, but to allow you to proceed in it [c.o.] A letter which I had for you about ten Months ago, I have now have reason to believe [c.o.] was mislaid – The Chief point which I had then to state to you was, to forward for the information of the Trustees authenticated Copies of your Crop accts for every year since you have acted as Attorney for Ardoch,

accompanied with you Annual Acct. Curt. And I have now to say that these must be sent home annually with returns of Negroes & Stock and you will be pleased to write to Mr Dundas or to me directed at his house and to be opened by him every three Months stating your proceedings and the casualties on the Penn -

Mr Archd. Stirling had made no communication of the Subject of leasing the Penn, and the Trustees have no thoughts of doing it - + (2d) It may be [c.o.] right to pay Mrs Ashe the Legacy and [c.o. application] you mention enquiry shall be made [c.o. about] as to the [unclear] to the remaining Exors. Of Mr Chas. Stirling [c.o. on the subject], - but it will be proper to state to her that it is just taking so much from her own Children,

who you must be aware [c.o. have not enough remitted] are not receiving sufficient remittances from the Pen for their support [c.o. them] as Gentlemen – Tell her, that altho' in me they have met with a Protector who have treated them as my own Children and [c.o. that] they are deserving of

every encouragement [c.o.] [inserted: having a Family of my own & many other claims upon me I cannot [illeg.]] - The eldest Charles I have got made a Lieut. in the Navy – Thomas is a Midshipman with the Honble. Captn. Duncan and Willm I got appointed to the E I Comp. Army at Bombay – Endeavour to show her that she ought to support them instead of injuring their property, and I trust she will not longer insist on the payment of this money – The Trustees will of course approve of your continuing to the Mother of their Wards, the indulgence

already granted [c.o. by the late Sir Thos. Stirling] her in the Penn; but on the same grounds she out not to [c.o. insist upon] avail herself of it if she does not require it – (3d)

I shall expect to hear from you at the prescribed times with the full statement of your accts. &c and if any answer if required I shall write to you, [c.o. but] and at all counts [c.o. you] & shall [c.o. hear from me] do so once a year -

I am &c &c
T.G.S.

+ Upon application [above: (2d) to Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co. [c.o. on the subject of the £200 Bill of Mr Holt] abt. Mr Holts Bill for £200 which you [c.o. say you] mention having remitted them in July last, they say no such Bill had come to hand – There must be some mistake here which [ends here]

Letter from James Begbie to Thomas Graham Stirling

SAA

London May 12th 1813

I have long intended writing to you but I have been lazy - I was afraid to tell you that I had received lots of money for you but you would have had a long pull at me, however I shall stow away your bill for £300 and on the 27th last Month I bought for your sisters 652.3.6 3 P Ct Consols (which makes the sum now in their names 2000) & for which I have charged you £388.1. Stg _ this I think is about what you desired me to do -

I have sent the Indigo which belongs to you & me to Heligoland on a Speck – it was so long in the India House that it became blown upon and nobody would look at it, however I hope it will sell where it is gone - I have still almost all Sandilands's in hand and wish I may save myself by it

The people were all Sky High about it three weeks ago but in consequence of the French threatening Hamburg it is

now flat - I shall watch the first favourable impression but if you want coin let me know as I can easily raise the Wind – Government Stocks are falling, but India Stock that was at 162 a fortnight ago was yesterday 168/2 This looks favourable for the renewal of the Charter -

John⁶²¹ went out to the Pheasantry yesterday till tomorrow - I really feel anxious about him as you can be - I do not think that any House of respectability would admit a Partner unless it was one who was competent to take a Share of the trouble and direction of it – this is the great point that John has to contend against for certainly he would not be of any use to a general mercantile house for a very considerable length of time – if indeed he had a prospect of bringing an accession of business to the House that might alter the question, but I am certain it is not the loan of £10,000 at an interest of 5 P Ct that would make him acceptable to a House of respectability. My Commission business as I told you was managed with very little trouble and it is by no means sufficient for two - I have found the Underwriting concern lately very well worth attention, but you know so well my Sentiments on

this subject that I need

not say any more at present – however a case is now under the consideration of the Judges which it is thought will be decided for making Underwriting a Legal Partnership – if this shall so happen it would do away a great objection which you know I have already felt and Smarted for -

I have been dancing attendance for this last week in expectation of our Walpole⁶²² cause being heard, but it possitively comes on tomorrow night before Sir Wm Grant – The opposite Parties are confident that Sir William will dismiss us with the expense of all the costs upon our own hearing, but Mr Hart our leading Council tells me that though the Charter parting be a strong point in Law against us, yet he hopes & thinks our Claim in equity will have very great Weight – the [torn] will hinge upon one point – whether we shall be able to fix the Company with the Acceptance of the Cargo at Margate, or that they took it as from a wrecked & abandoned Ship -

[pipe of madeira – friends]

[Addressed TGS Airth]

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 34-35

H M Ship San Juan Gibraltar
June the 1st 1813

P.S. Do not fail in communicating to me your sentiments on the subject I have mentioned, and that with as little delay as possible, as I really am quite impatient to hear from you adieu Yours

C Stirling

A Brother of Adam Wilson⁶²³ is here a Merchant who has behaved with great attention and kindness to me

Dear Graham

I have this day received a letter from you with one enclosed from my Brother William for which I return you many thanks for your kind letter, I find you have at length resumed your former functions in life, and that your mind is a little more tranquilized, than it had, for some time previous which I am sure could not fail to be so, when in the excellent society of your dear Mother and Sister's, which give me great pleasure to find it so _ I have written severall letters to you lately, but you have not acknowleged the receipt of one of them, on a Matrimonial subject In them all I have informed you that I had fallen in love with a most amiable, and sweet Girl, she is the daughter of the American Consul, at Tangier, who is a most respectable Gentleman, and was about 20 years ago, a merchant at Gibraltar and having made a tolerable Quantum, got that situat. from Genl. Washington, as his wifes Mother was related to that great personage, his Name is James Simpson and his only daughter Hellen Ann she is really a very fine girl and I think make a most excellent wife. she is what (I call quite domesticated and

has not the least degree of pride, she is about 19 years of age and posses's every accomplishment that adorn's the fair sex

Now my Dear Graham as I never could take upon my self a step so inconsistant with propriety, I fairly and candidly leave it to your decision, I am much attached to her and I concieve it is reciprocal and would with to marry her, but in the first place I wish you would be kind enough to inform me how I stand with regard to pecuniary matters, I do not doubt but her father would give

her some thing handsome, but I cannot rely on that, so it would be necessary for me before I offer my heart to the lady to know how I stand on that ground

I cannot write to you [c.o.] without still returning you my most sincere and grateful thanks for your kindness towards me in using your interest in our behalf in procuring me the Lieutenancy, Lady Pulteney has certainly arrogated to herself a good deal of the Merit of getting me this important step but assures me she will still push me ahead if 'possible', I have not heard from her for some time past but the last time I heard from her she inclosed to me a piece of a note written by Adm Hope⁶²⁴ [above: one of the Lords of the Admiralty] to here where he says he will be happy to push me on when my time is up 2 years Lieut.) but there may be so many changes take place before that period elapse's that one cannot place any confidence in promises of that kind

Every Packet that arrives brings us tidings of great Battles in North which generally [unclear] in favor of our allies, which

certainly is glorious News, but our Naval department [co.] to go to wreak dreadfully in America, if is [sic] was not for the attraction here I most certainly would apply to the Admiralty to suspend me from this ship and appoint me to a more active one

I informed you of my having lost my Gun Boat in one of my former letters which I supposed you must have received, I shall get into another in a week or ten days time much finer than the former one; James Stirling has been here for 6 weeks past in the Blossom⁶²⁵ refitting, and we have been much together. he is grown a very fine young Man, he sailed a few days for Malta

I have written to Tom in the Imperieuse⁶²⁶ some time ago but cannot hear from him, William has written me a very fraternal letter and seems to have improved considerably, he says he h[stamped over] very ill for some time past but has perfectly recovered, his le[stamped over] dated April 1812 so it is upwards of over 12 Months old, but it is pleasant at all times to hear from ones friends notwithstanding the antiquity of dates; My friend Ad. Linzee is as fidgety as ever nothing but hurry and bustle from Morning to Night. I wish I could get clear of him as I know he cannot serve me in any point, it is constant misery on board here, the weather here is intensely hot and he keeps us running from one end of the Rock to the other with Letters &c &c about a dozen times a day. I should not be astonished if he continues thus I will be obliged to invalid and go home - give my kind love to your Mother and Sisters and believe me

My dear Graham Yours ever faithfully
Chas Stirling

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling Esq.
Airth Castle
near
Falkirk
Scotland

Stamped: JUL 16 1813

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 228-229

[bottom: Camp near Poona 29th June 1813]

My dear Sir & Friend

I have been waiting this long time for the Java Frigates arrival at Bombay from England but we have given her up as lost and by the Carmarthan Indiaman. I wrote you from here to assure you of my sincere sorrow for the heavy loss you have sustained by the death of Mrs Graham in which your friend Mr Money joins me and begs that I will remember him very kindly to you I hope your Mother and Sisters are quite well and have been so for some time past We have been put [unclear] on the alert here for some time past the Maharatta Jaghisdan lately [unclear]

to the Peishwa has come here to settle some business with him but they dont seem to agree well and it has been supposed that he would or perhaps could make an attack on Poona (the capital) where we are now encamped The guards have been increased and the sentinels ordered to be most careful not to admit any one into camp before they give a proper account of themselves – The Gurkawans Subsidiary force consisting of the 2d Battn 1st Regt. Left using 2d Battn 9th Regt. (commanded by Lieut Pedler) 300 men from H M 56th 3 squadrons H M 17th Drags. 10 [unclear] companies from Baira [unclear] with the N Cavalry [unclear] all under the command of Colonel Holmes Bbay Est. with the Compys European Artillery with a [unclear] troupes consisting of 2 – 12 prs. & 2 – 24 prs. March immediately after

the first fall of rain (none having yet fallen in Guzerat) to Ca [unclear] the place of rendezvous from whence they go into Jhally was to try what their Bayonets can do against the Arabs & Patans who seem very resolute -

You must have known long ago that I belong to the 1st Battn 9th Regt. B.N.I. [unclear] we have been here at the Quarters of the Battray since Febr. 1812 but our [unclear] Flank companies to [above: the Grenadiers] which I belong marched with some others and formed a Flank Battn. together with the Subsidiary force from Seroor [above: amounting to 9070 men] to the southward to attack some refractory gentlemen but as we were just going to [unclear] camp there to show we [unclear] thought it better to come to our

[page illegible]

I have been now nearly 2 years an Ensign and have only got 3 steps I am now [unclear] I may think myself lucky if I am a Lieut in 4 years more 6 and 7 being the common [unclear] thing now for an Ensign. We have had all the news from Russia by the Chinese fleet likewise our land dispatches which was so good that we could not believe it at first. We were likewise surprised to hear that the Americans had been so successful Charley my brother used to say he should like an American war to get some prize money but I think if he gets into such a Frigate as the Macidaman [unclear] or Gueriare [unclear] he

will better take care of himself – I was sorry to hear by Miss Graham's letter of last year that Tom was not on board the Victorious where she had so fine an engagement and think he was very forgetful not to give me a single line to ask me how I got on & wish you you would give both of them a good lecture I have never heard from either of them since we first parted altho' I have at least wrote a dozen times -

We have had a good deal of rain in the Dekkan this year altho it has only set in about a fortnight ago – I suppose Ralph & Willy Dundas have been enjoying themselves in the country this year have they

caught any fish in Strowan Basin or Airth Mill stand the [unclear] or sail [unclear] places we have elegant shooting here – plenty of wild ducks, quail, partridges, hares and snipe in great abundance the property of whoever likes to kill them as it is contrary to the religion of the Hindoos to kill any animal unless for their own use very few are killed except by the Officers from Camp – We have

sometimes Hunting and shooting parties the ladies going out too pass the day with us we have in our regiment a large society of ladies 15 married men and we each [unclear] to be married soon after

We at the bottom of the Subalterns wish they would [unclear] put all the married men into the invalids as noneffective for they get too many indulgences [unclear] them – I hope the Miss Erskines are quite well remember me to them – Which Regt. is Day Macdowall in I hope he come to India for he must never be so well off at home. Salam to all old Friends I will see you all well I hope in 8 years more -

We are going to have a new Regt. Of Cavalry in this Establishment. I applied to Mr Money he says he will do every in his power but I don't expect any thing of the kind unless I am on the spot to bore and plague him every day about- that is the only way to get on in this part of the world but if I cannot get one without that I'll leave it alone and be content with what I have got for we have no reason to complain.

I expect to hear from you soon & believe me to be ys very truly

W Stirling

Ensign [unclear]

Camp near Poona 29th June 1813

I saw by a Perth newspaper the marriage of Miss Moray [unclear]

[illegible]

I mentioned in the enclosed that I had seen the marriage of Miss Moray⁶²⁷ Altho' I did not expect it I [unclear] your anniversary in the papers which was the Perth Dundee & [unclear] Advertiser which my friend Mrs ...nyce [unclear] lent me – I read many things in this which make me think of my younger days again such as an ...[unclear]...by the magistrates &had the right rod of thefar from them Inot to say that I ...to pay what Ias a good friend of mine Dr Carnegie or rather Mrs C: of this establishment) at this place Boregaporehas got very good library which I take care to profit by as much as possible as it is perfectly at my servicewith the above Mrs Carnegie and her younger Sister Miss Pitcairn

who came from Dundee I know many of their acquaintances at home as do I some of theirs – I was nineteen on the 5th of this month [5.6.1813] The Resident Honble. M Elphinstone⁶²⁸ a Brother of Lord Elphinstone a neighbour of yours has been very kind to us all he often asks me questions about Drummond Castle Falkirk &c but I can tell him very little about the latter we all dined their on the king's birth day and some of them kept us up until gunfire in the morning we sat down about 40 people after we had [illegible]thing with three times three – he is a very good man he is always sure to pay the greatest attention to the young officer there

yr [illeg]

W Stirling

Letter from Henry Longbothom to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 f. 209

Friendship Moneague July 15 1813

Sir,

I Beg leave to inform You I have seen Mr Finlay from Ardoch who informed me of His having Received your Letter wherein you mentioned of your having provided for the Three Sons of the

Late Charles Stirling for which Mrs Longbotham desires me to return You Her most Sincere thanks myself Also for that part wherein you are good enough to enjoy and Remain on that part of the property called Friendship. Mr Finlay mentioned to me it was Your wish that Mrs Longbotham should not Insist upon taking the Legacy left Her by the late Chas Stirling, but rather

to let the Children enjoy it. If the Children where in want she would no doubt do so. But she wishes to have the pleasure of distributing it herself. But as Mr Finlay

P.T.O.

Informs me they are to be supported from the Property which I am very possitive will very Handsomly maintain them if properly managed and more than that. It is well-known that Ardoch is capable of Remitting Five Hundred Sterling a year perhaps more. I trust you will excuse my freedom for troubling you with so long an Epistle. But considering myself somewhat Interested in the welfare of Mrs Ls Children – If it as Intruding to much on your goodness Mrs L. could wish her Eldest Son was under some one destined for this Station that she might once more have the Happiness of seeing Him. I am with the greatest Respect

Sir Your very Obed Huml Sert
Henry Longbothom

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
of Airth
[c.o. North Britain
Strowan Crieff]

Paid to Crieff
At home at Airth Castle

By the Middlesex
Capt. Barkle

Stamped: GLASGOW 11 OCT 1813

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 66-69

Duplicate Original P the Hinchinbroke Packet

Sir! Ardoch Penn, Soho, St Ann's Jamaica
17th July 1813

I am obliged as well as honoured by the favor of your Letter of the 1st of May, which I have just received, and shall defer replying to in detail until I have a little more time to do so.

My Brother Alexander⁶²⁹ of York Place writes me of same date that Mr Dundas being unable to reply to my Letters respecting this Property, owing to his being unacquainted with the Subject had handed then to Mr Graham of Garten who is an excellent Character & competent Judge of the business; and if you will have the goodness to apply to him for my Various Letters I speak of, you will be able to form a pretty correct idea of the very unpropitious situation in which I found things here, particularly the bare and worn out State of the poor old rocky Hills – and the aged & distressed

State of the Negroes &c; and I shall take much pleasure occasionally to communicate with you upon these matters. Every thing that can possibly be done on my part for the good of the Heirs has, I beg to assure you, been exerted both from inclination and duty; but the death of Several of the Workers by that dreadful disease the peripneumony pleurisy, previous to my taking the active management; the reduction of half the breeding Stock by my friend Mr. Archd. Stirling to relive the pastures; & the total Stop to jobbing out the negroes have been of course much against me as to the profits of the Penn; and the contingencies are but little less than former

former years, owing to the rise in every thing here and at home. In future years however the Penn ought from this System to nett considerably more than it has done from the increased quantity of food upon it arising from the reduction of the Stock, & the laborious business of re-establishing Guinea grass from old tough Commons of which there are but very few that will admit of this Sort of improvement; three fourths of the land being very steep and full of Rocks, which my friend and your Relation Mr Macdowall Grant of Arndilly⁶³⁰ had a Specimen of when he called here. The Island in general has, I am distressed to say been reduced to the miserable State of dearth & Scarcity of food by the failure of our periodical rains in May, and we are now completely parched up, and our Ponds dry, a thing not Known for very many years back; and as July to August are generally dry Months, unless we have Speedy relief by rain the consequences I dread to think of more especially as there appears but little probability of an amicable termination to our Hostilities with America. - Our negroes & Stock here I am happy to Say have not yet begun to suffer, but in many neighbouring places numbers have perished. -

I have uniformly kept my accounts with the penn and Trustees in a regular Set of Books for that purpose, and as soon as the accounts of the present year are settled (being made up to the 31st of December in every year) it is my intention to transmit my annual accounts current for the four years with a comparative Statement of the Sales & Contingent expences for

for the 4 years preceding, to enable you to form a correct idea or View of what the place has been doing for eight years past. These shall be accompanied by copies of the Crop accounts Sworn to & recorded in the Secretary's office of this Island during my management, with the lists & the increase & Decrease accounts of the Negroes and Stock.

The month of August being the usual time that the Planters pay for their Stock, I hope to be able very soon to make a remittance of £300 to £400 Sterling, and Should be glad to be informed whether it is your Wish in future that I should remit the money directly to you or to the House of Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co – (there) are at present Stock fit for Sale, or very nearly so, to the amount of about £500 Sterling; but there is Seldom any demand until the end of the year, when the Mills go about for the new Crop – and as it is generally pretty well ascertained that Stock will rise by that time considerably, from the improved State of the Sugar & Coffee Markets at home I do not think it could be altogether fair to accept of the old prices did a purchaser even offer now, under such a nearly certain prospect of advance. -

I can not divine what can have occasioned the miscarriage of Holt's Bill p £200 Stg on Messrs Deffell. I sent the first to Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Co by the Montague Packet, and the 2nd Bill by the Mary Ann Packet – The 3d & last is Kept here as a Voucher. Being in some doubts as to the Solidity of the Bill I made Mr Holt secure it by giving me indorsed Bills

Bills of Lading for 5 Hhds & 7 Tierces of Sugar which I also forwarded with the Bills. Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Co. hath neither acknowledged the Bills, nor the letters that contained them, tho' I sent duplicates. This may be owing to some oversight but I have wrote to Mr Holt to inform me if he is advised of their being accepted and his reply will regulate me as to sending you the 3d Bill by the next opportunity.

There are at present on the Penn 83 negroes and 204 head of Stock. Several of the former who

were Workers some years ago are now unemployed from Age & infirmity, and a number of Superannuated people totally useless to the Property -

I have communicated to Mrs Longbothom what you are pleased to observe respecting her Legacy; and although She seems not disposed to give up any thing; yet She requests me to inform you that She feels grateful to you for taking notice of her, and to thank you for your kindness in continuing the indulgence hitherto granted her upon the Property. It gives her, as well as myself, great pleasure to hear that the young Gentlemen are so deserving of your protection & patronage, & I also feel extremely happy to learn their health & Welfare – I Sincerely wish them every health & prosperity, as does their Mother.

Mr Alexander Maclead of Muiravonside, and my Father Dr Finlay of Picardy Place, are the only Surviving Executors of the late Mr Charles Stirling, and their formal consent will I conceive be necessary to authorise the liquidation of this Legacy which

which, as the estate was supposed to be insolvent at the time of his death, occasions, in my mind, a doubt if it is recoverable.

Please excuse this hurried Letter as the post is on the eve of departure

I have the honour to be Sir,

With the greatest respect,

Your very faithfl. & mo: obed. Servt

David Finlay

On this last point Mr Dundas
can probably direct us so as to
regulate future proceedings D.F.

Thomas Graham Stirling, esquire

Saint Ann's Jamaica 7th Sept. 1813

Sir!

Having just received accounts of the loss of the Hinchinbrooke Packet I have taken the liberty to annex herewith a Copy of what I had the honour to address to you on the 17th of July. -

I have infinite pleasure in acquainting you that Since the date of my last we have Experienced Very abundant Seasons which have literally saved the Island from famine – Every bit of ground provisions on this Property, were burnt up, and I am at present purchasing in Small Quantities for our Support, & I fear shall be forced to continue to do So until November when these rains I trust will afford abundance – Some of the Neighbours who have newer & better land are not so ill off - but out Pasture & Provision land being so much worn

worn out, it of course is much more affected by drought than Virgin Soil – In this & everything else I attend to rigid economy.

I have hoped to have sent Messrs. Stirling, Gordon & Co. a remittance on account of Ardoch by this packet; but tho' promised different payments for Stock sold last & this year, on the 25 July, I have not as yet received a farthing but am faithfully promised Bills in time for the packet to Sail the 20th inst. this being forwarded by one of our Frigates going to Bermuda. By this opportunity I have sent a Duplicate of my Letter to Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Co of 8 Augt. 1812 which covered Mr Holt's Bills, and by the Ship this goes in I forward to these Gentlemen the third & last Bill as Mr Holt has promised to send me a Quadruplicate as my Voucher here.

I trust the Sales & remittances in future years will be much better than those hitherto – there are Still a good many old Cows on the Penn, almost too old to breed, & which I propose Selling off, &

replacing by young Heifers, of which I have added to the old Cows since my coming here, upwards of 25. - Nothing can so much conduce to the benefit of the Heirs of this Property as the Keeping down the number of Stock for some years longer; and nothing would give me greater pleasure than were it in my power in a few years to produce from it average returns of £800 to £1000 Curr per annum, & which I trust will yet be the case, provided the penn is Kept down as to numbers – 'till in a few years more, perhaps, we may

be able with propriety to keep up 80 Breeding Cows – There are two circumstances much against the recovery of the old Hills - 1st the inclosures are very small and from the necessary quantity and age of the Stone Walls or Dykes, Vast numbers of gaps happen & requires much labour to rebuild them after heavy rain or Storms when the Stock ramble into them promiscuously – 2dly then now a number of petty Settlers whose Cattles on these occasions find their way in notwithstanding the most vigilant attention

The Negroes and Stock are very well at present but 3 of the former have absconded for the first time Since my residence here: they generally return or are apprehended in a few Weeks; and those who are runaway at present are lazy Worthless Fellows and old Offenders – When an Owner lived here he was seldom without runaways which Mr A, Stirling well knows -

Should I succeed in receiving the Bills I expect, I shall add a postscript to the Duplicate of this Letter by next packet in the Subject, and in the meantime I have the honour to be

Dear Sir!

Most respectfully,
Your very obedt. Servt.
David Finlay

N.B.

We have had two Storms or partial Hurricanes since my last, which have not here done much more mischief than destroying plantain Walks & blowing down Walls &c D.F.

dressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq
of Airth Castle
near Crieff
by Stirling

Stamped: DEC 29 18...

Letters from David Finlay to Messrs. Stirling Gordon

MS. 10952 ff. 72-73

Ardoch Soho St. Anns 7th Sept 1813

Sirs

I have been duly favored with yr various letters of the 20 Jany, 20 Feby and 1st May the first covering Invoice and Bill of Lading for the Annual Stores for the propy amounting to £103.18/ wh were all correctly landed excepting one of the smallest Decanters in Box No 8 (cash 6/-) there being only 3 in the Box in place of 4 as charged: it can be sent wth the Supplies for 1814. Every thing was in very good condition, except the Herrings occasioned in some manner no doubt by the long detention of the Middlesex at Cork but chiefly owing to a mistake in the Capt'n sending them down to Dry Harbour where they remained some weeks – the consequence is the loss of the Pickle in

most of them, & the fish mashed into Pickle in others – From our having recd. these Supplies so late in the year if our next Stores arrive by one of the later Convoys to sail in Feby or so, they will be in time enough – I now inclose

a List of them wh is curtailed as much as possible. Still it is too much but the land is so poor and worn out as to be unfit for corn for Hogs & Poultry wh obliged us like the rest of our Neighbours to import Salt provisions & there is no keeping Negro Servants from constantly breaking glass & crokery Ware – I was truly sorry & now a little surprised to find by a letter from Mr Graham Stirling of Airth Castle that the 1st & 2nd Bill drawn by Mr Holt p £200 never reached yr hands & indeed I have had no letter from you acknowleging rect of my Letters of the 8th of Augt. Wh induces me to fear that both Letters and Bills miscarried – I now therefore prefix a copy of the Letter and inclose you herewith the 3d & last of the Set of Bills Mr Holt having promised to send me a quadruplicate of the Bills. I trust one of the former may have reached you ere this – This letter will acct for my not sending you a small bill to cover the small bill against myself p £17.5/ Stg. and I am again disappointed in Bills this year to the amot. of near £400 wh were promised me at the 25 July last - & for a part of wh I have little doubt of receiving a Bill in time for our packet to sail 20th inst. - The few Supplies I wrote for & took the liberty of sending you a list of (with the exception of the riding Saddle for myself) wd be very acceptable & I shall of course remit a Bill for them on rect. of the things shd it suit yr conveniency. I credit you with the Supplies for the Penn & myself and debit you with whatever Bills I transmit – But in future I propose purchasing a Bill for the Exact amt of my own things and generally to have a little money in yr hands to ansr these purposes – I have wrote Mr G. Stirling fully on the Subject of this property, wh tho' improved as to quantity and quality of grass, requires one or two years more of the same system to make the Proceeds somewhat respectable & insure decent returns Ultimately and which I flatter myself – if prices mend – will be the case ere long – Would it be agreeable to you to ship Supplies in future for Riverhead⁶³¹ penn under my care & adjoining this It belongs to a most respectable Lady perfectly unincumbered and of the same extent and Value as Ardoch – The convenience of shipping them in one Vessel is one cause of my mentioning the matter -

I remain &c

(signed) David Finlay

To Messrs Stirling Gordon

P.S. The Cork Supplies were all delivered very satisfactorily D.F.

[continuation of above]

(Copy) Original the Express Packet St Ann's Jamaica 17 Sept 1813

Gentlemen -

Being absent from home for a day or two I regret that it is not in my power until next Conveyance to furnish you with a copy of my last respects P the Argo man of War – It contained the Annual List of Supplies for Ardoch also 3 of Mr Holt's set of exchange in my favour on Messrs Deffell & Co P £200 – The present serves to cover Mr Chas Campbells 1st Bill at 90 d/d in my favour on Messrs Vaughan & Longmore of Bristol P £200 Stg dated 14th inst. which I will thank you to credit in the usual way at maturity and if you cd conveniently Ship me the few articles I wrote for excepting the Saddle I wrote for myself.) you will confer a favor upon me. A Duplicate of the List of Supplies shall be forwarded by next oppy: and I flatter myself wt the hope of more considerable remittances on acct. of Ardoch the ensuing season.

I remain &c (signed) David Finlay

Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Co.

St Ann's Jamaica 14 Octr. 1813

Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg leave to subjoin copies of my respects of the 7 & 17 Ult. and having nothing further to trouble you with at present than to inclose you the 2d Bill on Messrs Vaughan & Longmore and Duplicate for the

Ardoch Supplies therein mentd – requesting your kind attention thereto

I remain &c signed David Finlay
To Mess Stirling Gordon & Co.

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 70-71

[Duplicate of the letter dated 7th September 1813 – Original p the Argo Frigate]

[rest of duplicate]

Saint Ann's Jamaica 14th October 1813

Sir,

Referring you to the preceding copy of the letter I had the pleasure to address to you on the 7th Ultimo I have now only to advise you of my having transmitted to Mess Stirling Gordon & Co by last packet Mr Charles Campbell's 1st Bill dated the 14th Ult. At 90 d st on Messrs Vaughan & Longmore of Bristol p £204 Sterling equal to £285.12/ Curry on account of this Property, on which things continue to go on in the usual way -

Nothing further occurring to trouble you with at present I have only to add that I will at all times afford me sincere pleasure if I can be of the smallest use to yourself or any of your friends in this Country, in which event I hope

you will freely command my humble Services. -

I remain, with the greatest respect,

Sir!

Your obedt. & faithfl. Servt.

David Finlay

Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
of Airth Castle near Crieff

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
of Airth Castle
near Crieff
by Stirling

p Chesterfield
Packet

Stamped: DEC 29 1813

Letter from Stirling, Gordon to James Dundas

MS. 10952 ff. 21-22

Glasgow 18 Decem 1813,

Sir,

We beg to acquaint you that we have received a Letter from Mr David Finlay of the 17 September enclosing a Bill for £204. on account of Ardoch penn, as the Bill has been accepted the Amount, at maturity will be placed to the Credit of the Penn. Mr Finlay mentions having sent us in another Letter a Bill for £200 on Deffell & Co but which Letter a Bill has not come to hand. He also mentions having forwarded the Annual list of Supplies for the Penn but which had not reached us. As all the Ships of the Season have sailed

We are afraid that when it does come We shall not be able to execute it

We are, Sir,
Your mo. ob. Servt
Stirling, Gordon & Co.

James Dundas Esqr. W.S. Edinbr.

Letter from James Begbie to Thomas Graham Stirling

SAA

London Decr 24th 1813

My Dear Tam,

I am sure you will rejoice most heartily at the trump we have gained over the Company, but what do you think must be my feelings – After such trouble such anxiety – Our Case was probably the most complete one that was ever made out and we have much to thank Freshfield for – there was not a point upon which he was not most completely prepared and Lens⁶³² did do us Justice in Court - I hope to get you a Copy of his speech How he lashed the Company on the £500 Bond, and he carried the Jury on the 1st Issue seemingly decidedly with him, when that Old fool Mansfield stopped him short and said he must hope his Cause as the the Law was established against him (which bye the bye is not the fact) he instantly shifted his ground from the Charter Party and came for a Compensation for Freight from Calcutta to Margate – Guess what my feelings were at this moment – the Company went to make us refund a sum of money of above £15,000 which has been Paid to the Ship for Impress – Demurrage⁶³³ in India War Contingencies &cr. & which by Charter Party we were liable for, and when Sir James Mansfield addressed

the Jury I gave up all as lost – it was a most shameful address, which our Counsel kept saying was not founded on law nor on fact, but what was worst, the Old fellow advocated every Point that made in favor of the Company, and passed over every thing that was for us – He was being it seems the Company's Counsel – You will see a Short account of it in the Morning Herald but I hope to get the trial published at full length -

We have got everything that Freshfield sought for (The 2nd Issue answers our purpose as well as the first) except being made liable to the charge of £3000 - I shall send Luck tomorrow the Copy of the letter Freshfield has made me send to the Court on that subject, which will shew you how indefatigable he is for us, and I think we must get it remitted – Never mind double postages now adays - I do not know what we shall get but our Law expenses must be very heavy – Willy made a

most ridiculous figure in the Witness box – Serjt. Best turned round to me & said it is not often we see such a fool that comes from the other side of the Tweed -

Now I do expect a letter of congratulation from you, and the Rose too expected home so soon – in short you must come up and see what a happy creature I am – Pat was in Court the whole time - I give Widdr. & he a bottle of the Auld today – As for John he is more than transported I shall leave him to finish as I have no more time. Adieu. Most affectionately yours

J. Begbie

Sandilands cannot fail to make a great voyage -

Heck Since I wrote the foregoing I have been in such a fusicking – On going to Lloyds the first thing I saw on the Books – The Essex America frigate has taken a large homeward bound India Ship and was in company with her off the Azores on the 29th Octr. I did not at first advert to the date but it is impossible the Rose could have been on this side of the Cape by that time - I mention the circumstance merely that if Mrs S- should see the thing in the newspapers she might be uneasy – The Essex coming from the Eastern Seas there is now nothing in the Shape of an Enemy there - [in another hand – looks like Mr Drysdale's hand above] Extract from Mr Freshfield's Brief – Capt. Sandilands & the Crew of the unfortunate Walpole, while at Margate rendered every assistance in their power to work out the cargo, & acted entirely under the orders of Capt. Bolderson the Company's accredited Agent – It was impossible any one could be so unfeeling as trouble the Captn much on a point, which must so forcibly recal to mine a sense of his great & aggravated misfortune”.... Serjt Lens said -

Is this great East India Coy. who declare themselves above any Law, usage or custom, to oppress & ruin an unfortunate individual, who has spent his life in their service – who while he held the law in his own hands by possessing their goods, acted in the most liberal manner – It is impossible & even should a Verdict be given this day the for Deft. I feel confident, the fortunes of my client can never be crushed by a Coy. whose proceedings are the least marked by Justice.

Addressed: TGS Esqr of Airth, Kippenross House Dunblane [c.o. Strowan Creiff]

stamped Dec 24 1813

If absent to be opened By Mrs Sandilands

Letter Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co to James Dundas and forwarded to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 f. 73

Sir

Glasgow 7 Jany 1814

We are favd. wt yrs of yesterday We shall ship the Supplies for Ardoch penn in the course of next month altho' we will not get them delivered at the port most convenient for the propy – We beg to refer you to the inclosed letters from Mr Finlay to us. The Bill of Holt's on Deffell & Son for £200 wh Mr Finlay refers to was returned to us yesterday noted for non-acceptance. We have this day written to Deffell & Son to know what has become of the 7 Hhds 5 Tierces Sugar P Ellison – We are averse to complying with Mr Finlay's request in keeping Ardoch Penn Acct. in his own name he already owes us a small sum but wh we do not wish shd. be increased We think it wd ansr all parties much better that Mr Finlay sht make all his remittances on acct. of the Penn directly to the Trustees, & that we shd merely send out the Supplies the list of wh we ought to receive in August or September at latest -

We are &c

Signed Stirling Gordon & Co.

P.S. We shall be glad to have the inclosure returned in a few days. -

Edinr 8 January 1814

My Dear Sir

I have been favoured with your letter of the fourth inst And Communicated your instructions concerning Ardoch Penn to Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co. - This morning I have a letter from these Gentlemen on that subject of which and the inclosures I prefix you Copies -

Agreeable to your desire I inclose rects. For the Signature of Mrs Graham & the Misses Graham of their half year's Annuities due at Martinmas last. When they are returned I shall send Mr Brown a receipt for the amount as a payment from Strowan Rents -

[continuation of above]

Bessie⁶³⁴ will have given notice to her mother & Sisters of our Son Williams⁶³⁵ Chance of going to India. - At a future time I shall be glad of your introductions to any of your friends in the Country to which William may go in he favour. I remain

Yours most truly
James Dundas

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq
Strowan
Crieff

Stamped: JAN 8 1814

Letter from William Jameson Graham to Thomas Graham Stirling

SAA

Kiddepore Janry 10th 1814

Dear Sir

I hope you have received my letter from Madrass by the Rose, in which I mentioned my having been obliged to draw the sum of 100£ from Capt Sandilands & as I did not immediately settle with Mr Kyd⁶³⁶ what salary I was to receive I have drawn 50£ more from Mr Drysdale which I hope you will have the goodness to discharge.

I have now made and agreement with Mr Kyd that I am to receive One hundred rupees a month as long as I continue in his house, and when I leave it, (which I am sorry to say is soon to take place

on account that Mr K wishes to reduce his table) I am to have One hundred & fifty which I think is a very fair salary considering the disadvantage I labour under in not knowing the language, and which I hope will be quite sufficient to supply all my wants.

I am very sorry that Mr James Kyd is now going to Europe, and will arrive at the same with this letter, he is going in a New Ship called the Genl Kyd⁶³⁷ which we have just launched, and is considered to be as fine as ship as has ever been built here; Mr J.K. has expressed a wish if he possibly has an opportunity of paying you a visit, and, for as many obligations as I feel myself under to you, you will greatly add to them by paying him a little

attention, for their kindness to me, but particularly by Mr J.K. He has not used me as an assistant

only, but in those things in which I was deficient he has given me ever information far as time would admit - I have been employed ever since my arrival here in building a new ship between six & seven hundred Tons, without any other assistant, I laid the keel & put the ship in frame & I am happy to say I have given my employers satisfaction. I did not think when I left England that I should have to work so hard as I now do, I would much rather take my birth with a gang of men and work with my tools, then, I had a little asst. but here I have none as we continue working every day Sunday or Monday it is all the same

and what I am sure will very much shock your worthy mother I have never seen the inside of a church since I left England.

I delivered your letters to Mr Colvin & Mr Seaton and received a very flattering reception from both of them, and have called twice since then, but have neither seen or heard from them.

You will be a little surprised to hear that we are going to build a Seventy four at Mr Kyds Yard, it is to be built by subscription by the principal inhabitants of Calcutta in One hundred shares, with the Idea of taking home of a cargo of Companys goods, and the Ship to be sold to Government. -

I hope to hear from you very soon, & hope that your honored Mother & Sisters, and all your family have been quite well since

I left England, be so good as give my most respectful love to them all & believe Dear Sir

Yours Sincerely
Wm Jameson Graham

Addressed: Jameison

Thos Graham Stirling

[co. Airth Castle] Strowan Creiff

stamped: AU 24 1814

Letter from Margaret Pulteney to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10951 ff. 176-177

Torrance⁶³⁸ Janry 11 [1814]

My Dear Cousin

I had the pleasure to receive your letter of ye 2nd Janry about a week ago & should have answered it my return of Post but was much engaged at that moment with Company which prevented me -

I did not fail to write to Sir Alexr Cochrane⁶³⁹ in favor of Charles Stirling but contrary to his usual attention & Sailor like Gallantry have got no reply which very much surprises me & can only account for it from some particular hurry of business I should like to know if Charles Stirling

has gone to London & whether sending him a letter of introduction to Sir Alexr would be of any use or to my delightful friend Admiral Hope who I fancy is still one of the Lords of he Admiralty We had indeed a most famous merry party at Panmure⁶⁴⁰ I have not seen the like since the days of Yore when the Partiarcheal parishes of Airth Ardoch & Cardross use to sojourn together these were happy days but every one has their turn & we have had ours --- Mrs Moray & Margaret have been with me since the 7th & remain till the 19th Charles Stirling came to us for two days & brot Coll: Paterson & Sir Gilbert Stirling⁶⁴¹ so we have been quite gay

Is Mr White an acquaintance of yours, he has also been here & quite delighted with the beauties of

Torrance he was particularly struck with the Glen said he never was more gratified with any thing in his Life & in short that he could make it one of the prettiest places possible & put Moray in the proprietors pocket from the thinning of the Woods which I think will encourage Anne to begin her operations of improvement - what desperate severe weather I think it will almost deter you from moray forever as you mentioned the notes for your return to Airth Castle I will direct for you accordingly - my Sister niece & daughter unite with me in fondest love & duty to my Anne & to yourself Christy & little ones wishing you all many happy returns of

the Season & with a tender adieu believe me

My dear Cousin

Yours afftly

Margt Pulteney

We shall be most happy to see you here & if you will bring Christy with you it will be a great additional pleasure to me

When you have occasion to write to me calculate it so that you letters may arrive in Glasgow either Wednesday Mornng or Saturday Mornng these being our only sure day of receiving letters

addressed: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqe
[c.o. Airth Castle]
Strowan
Creiff

Letter from Thomas Graham Stirling to David Finlay

MS. 10952 f. 74

Copy

Airth Castle by Falkirk Jany. 26th 1814

Dear Sir

I have to acknowledge your favors of 7th Sept in Duplication & 14th October 1813 – I have also before me your in Triplicate to Messrs. Stirling & Gordon of 8 August 1812 your to same of 7th Sept. 1813 of 17 Sept. 1813 in Copy & of 14 Octr. 1813 - I have only to regret that the season's and other circumstances have been so adverse to the Penn and to express a hope that you will use every means in your power to make it more productive and by a strict economy to reduce the expenditure – I must press upon you the necessity of forwarding the accounts and other documents without delay that ye state of affairs may be laid before the Trustees – You will please to address to me at Mr Dundas (to be opened by him)

I sent you a Copy letters from Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co to James Dundas Esqr for your information and Guidance and also Copy letter John Deffell & Son to Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co. - You will have to remit to Mr Dundas an Account Ardoch Pen in future – I hope you will recover both Principal and Interest from Mr Holts, the transaction appears to me a very extraordinary one – The Young Gentlemen are all well Mr Charles is not with me I have nothing more to add but remain Dear Sir your Most Ob. Hble. Servt.

Sign) Thos. Graham Stirling

PS you will see the necessity of not mixing Private Accounts with those of the Penn

T.G.S.

To Mr. D Finlay

Subjoined

Copy letter Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co to J: Dundas
dated Glasgow Jany 7th 1814
and

Copy letter John Deffell & Son to Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co. dated London 18th Jany 1814

Letter from Margaret Pulteney to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10951 f. 175

Torrance Febry 6th 1814

My Dear Cousin

The day after dispatching my last letter to you I received a letter from Sir Alexr Cochrane which gave me no hopes that he could give Charles any desirable situation either on Board his own Ship or any other so I wrote to my amiable friend Admirable Hope from whom I receive a most kind flattering & satisfactory reply last night which I cannot resist enclosing to you altho it should cost you double postage - I hope Charles will be satisfied but as Admrl. Hope says I have done my part & can do no more - if Charles is still with you

& short time & convenience will admit of it we should be happy to see him at Torrance for some days. I hope my dear Aunt Christy & your sweet Children are all in good health to all of whom we

write in kindest love believe me my dear Cousin

Yours affect.

Margt. Pulteney

preserve Ad. Hopes note and return it to me

addresssed: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqe.

Airth Castle

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 36-37

H M Ship Spencer⁶⁴² Portsmouth
March 14 1814

Dear Graham

I now sit down to give you all the news relating to myself since my departure from you, On my arrival in London I of courseon ..for my appointment which I received paying the usual payment a Month tacked to it desiring me to proceed immediately to join my ship on pain of being suspended which I did not approve of and immediately waited on Admiral Hope with Lady Mary Murry's⁶⁴³ Letters, who received me very kindly, the first question he asked me was "is there any thing you want" which I hesitated in replying " but he said she was equal to any frigate and he had spoken to Capt Raggett⁶⁴⁴ in my behalf which I thanked him for & desired I would join immediately which I

of course did, & found the ship perfectly rigged with a Complement of 641 Men a most excellent Mess and

without exception the finest set of Officers that ever was appointed to one ship, all young men and unmarried which is a very great blessing, no Parson, and our Old Capt. is as good a fatherly Old man as can possibly be. he does every thing in his power to render our situation's happy and comfortable, I find all the Lieuts. here are all going out with recommendations to Sir A Cochrane and all appointed to this ship as his own is full, I wish Lady Pulteney had sent me a letter to Sir A. and likewise to Lord Cochrane⁶⁴⁵ as it might be attended with some benefit, at all events no harm I do not wish to leave this ship, but it might be of service to keep the Admiral in mind of me, the only thing the Admiral could serve me before my time is up would be to give me a small vessel which if a very firm one I will readily accept, my Brother Officers have all calculated on taking about 5 or 600£ Prize Money which if we do will lend a helping hand, we have come round here for our Main Deck Guns & collect convoy for Canada There is a very strong reinforcement gathered here, about 600 seamen to man Gun Boat on the lakes and 2 Marine Battalions near 2000 men we expect to sail very soon as all the flotilla Officers are summoned on board there respective ship and prepared to sail

We have six Lieut. in this ship and I am junior but I have charge of a Watch, we were three days in coming from Plymouth, foul winds &c [unclear] Crashed [unclear] upon her & nearly lost main top Mast in the Midle [unclear] new rigging and stretched very much She sails remarkably well and I can assume [unclear] Fitted out in a superior style our Mess is splendid beyond conception Silver (on the strength of Price Money) and is most pleasant and a grand [unclear] set of Mess mates not one above 30 years of age and all great fornicators [unclear] so I have no doubt but we will do some thing should an opportunity offer our boats are all very firm and all carry great Guns, which is [torn]t allowed but on particular occasions so you may see we are [torn] and to humble the pride of Jonathan, [unclear] I will write [torn]dy P today and return her thanks for her Kindness & solicit a letter to Sir A & Lord Cochrane, give my kind love to your Mother Sisters & Children & remember me to all old friends, tell Jeany⁶⁴⁶ I will not forget her boots when I get to America notwithstanding the prospect that is before us concerning the batt. [unclear] . I am Dear Graham

Yours truly and Affectionatly

Chas Stirling

I have this moment received your not accompanying a letter from the Admr
I had joined my ship some days however [unclear] with writing there letters to me
I shall write & tell them officially of my having done so
Write me and tell me all news [unclear] happy to hear all well

C Stirling

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling
Airth Castle
near
Falkirk
Scotland

Stamped: MAR 18 1814

Letter from John Deffell & Son to Stirling, Gordon

MS. 10952 f. 23

London 7th April 1814

Gentlemen,

Enclosed we return to you Protested for Non-Payment W.F. Holt's Bill, upon us for £200 – Messrs Wedderburn & Co have paid us the Notary's expences on the same -

We remain very Respectfully,

Gentlemen,

Your most Obt Servts

John Deffell & Son

Messrs, Stirling, Gordon & Co

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 231-232

[illeg.]

Camp near Poonah 8th April 1814

My dear friend,

I have just returned from Outpost where I have been commanding for four months past distant from our Head Quarters 115 miles. I have no sooner returned than I am ordered to march with my Grenadier Company on immediate service but where I cannot exactly learn reports say to Hindoostan where Meer Cawn⁶⁴⁷ is at the head of 70,000 men threatening our frontier we shall join the Hyderabad Subsidiary I suppose at Jaulnat⁶⁴⁸ (near Assaye⁶⁴⁹) or as others say at Jaffierabad⁶⁵⁰ but I think the former most likely. On the beginning of next

year our Corps will be relieved from the Deccan when we shall most likely go to Surat (the best Station in the army) but at there is to be a war in Cutch⁶⁵¹ people seem to think that we shall form part of that force which I hope is true as few Europeans have been in that Country – At present the prospects of the Army are bad actually in Bombay & other garrisons they have not men for the common duties of a Peace Establishment & they wont even give us another Regt. We expect some addition to the Cavalry which we are much in want of not a single Regt. on the Establishment the 17th Dragoons⁶⁵² are a great eyesore or Gargancastle [unclear] – They talk [above: the common report] of cutting our allowances on the three presidencies the consequences are plain enough: I am afraid dreadful. Since I left Scotland I have grown so much that you would

hardly know me I am 5ft 11¾ when I saw you I was nearly 5.6 I have been in the Grenadiers for 2 years past -

We heard all the last glorious news by over land dispatches – I hope all my friends are in health & spirits – Remember me to all & I remain

My dear friend

Yr very Afft

W Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.

[No address or stamps]

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 38-39

H M Ship Spencer off Cork 9th April 1814

Dear Graham

I wrote to you some time ago giving you a short detail of my proceeding's which I hope you received, since that I wrote to Lady Pulteney thanking her for her kindness in my behalf and I further solicited from her a letter of introduction to Sir A Cochrane, but I have not yet heard from him. I have to request you would further urge him to send me one, as it might be of essential service to me and likewise one from yourself which would all tend probably to my advantage, we sailed from St Helens 6 days ago and have been banthered [unclear] with foul winds untill 2 days [c.o. ago] last we have come here to take some troops out to Halifax which are intended to act with the Navy along shore and likewise the Marine Battalions follow us, we have been supplied with two field pieces & a Howitzer for the seamen and we are all full of fight determined to prosecute the war more vigorous than heretofore
there is going out in our Convoy the crews of two frigates

and two Brigs intended to be put up on the lakes there are likewise 150 artificers for the new dock yards they intend to establish. 600 seamen to man these vessels and warlike stores of every description is going out under convoy, I hope on our Passage out to pick up a prize of two. our ship sails remarkably well, so much so, as to beat 3 frigates that are going to Quebec with us. I am much pleased with her, we are very happy and just do as we like: I shall close this by further begging you to send me those letters as quick as possible to Halifax. (mind pay inland postage)

Give my kind love to your Mother and Sisters, and all friends in Caledonia, Give my best respects to Lady P. When you write

I am
Dear Graham
Yours ever truly & affection
Chas. Stirling

I understand the ladies in
America are very Beautiful
don't be alarmed if I lose my heart

Addressed to: Thos Graham Stirling
Airth Castle
near
Falkirk
Scotland

Stamped: []MOUTH AP 26 1814
MAY 1 1814

Letter from Henry Longbotham to Thomas Graham Stirling

Moneague St. Anns April 20th 1814

Sir

I Beg leave to trouble You again on the Subject of my Demand Against Ardoch Penn in this Island the Property of the late Charles Stirling Esquire. I hope You will not think me troublesome. But as I fear great hopes are entertained that the Children will ever reap any great Benefit from the Property I consider it would be wrong in me not to endeavour to get the Small Legacie So long been due and I most earnestly Intreat you to Request Mr Finlay to send His Son Mr David Finlay an Order to pay the Sum to us thro Ardoch, as I would be truly Sorry to put the Childrens Property to any Expence But on the

P.T.O.

Contrary, would wish to Render them every Service in my power. I hope you will please excuse the Liberty I am takin and trust You will be so good at to Return me a few lines by the Next Packet I am Sir with the greatest Respect Your

very Obedt Huml Servt
Henry Longbothom

P.S. Mrs Longbotham & Self would be truly happy to hear of her Sons Charles William & Thomas Stirlings

Thos Graham Stirling Esqre

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
of Airth Stirling
North Britain

Inland postage paid

Pr Packet

Stamps illegible

Letters from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

Hampstead⁶⁵³ St Mary's Jamaica
3d June 1814

Dear Sir,

I lately had the honour of receiving your favour of the 26 January, and by the last packet and Fleet requested Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co to inform you of the very severe drought we have experienced at Ardoch, being then myself indisposed. Happy am I now to add that this calamity has been succeeded lately by very fine rains, and when every thing now begins to wear a very different aspect -

I am over here at present, about 20 miles from Ardoch partly for change of air in consequence of a recent attack of indisposition, and partly doing a little writing business for my Worthy Friend Mr

Archd. Stirling. I return to Ardoch in about a Week, where I have a very good young Man, whose Steady & prudent conduct, when I am obliged to be absent now and then, warrants my entire confidence, as his qualifications are in all respects good.

I have attentively considered all that you are pleased to communicate to me regarding the unfortunate business of Mr Holt's Bill. On that Subject I have given my Sentiments fully to Messrs. Stirling, Gordon & Co whom I have requested to communicate the same to you – and I trust they will lose no time in forwarding the Bill should Mr Deffell really decline paying it when due, in which event the only

only resource left will I fear be a Law suit, and I hope there is not a doubt of its being recovered, as the Man is perfectly able to pay.

I am very sensible that the remittances from the Penn have been very small: but from its impoverished State, and the reduction of Stock in 1810, it is not really I believe in human power, at present, to make it otherwise. The failure too of Purchasers have prevented my making remittances. One debt due by the Honble. Mr Geo: Pinnock, a Member of the Council, whose persons are protected, for Stock sold him in 1812, I have never been able to get a Shilling of (altho' he is a man of good Estates) 'till yesterday. It amounted to £226 currency. His properties have certainly made very bad crops of late, and I believe he has had enough to do with his means – Inclosed you will please to receive Messrs J: T: Harris's Bill dated the 1st inst. in my favour at 90 ds St. on Messrs John Burke & Co. of London P £150 Sterling which I have no doubt will be duly honoured the drawers being one of the first Houses in Kingston – and prove a seasonable remittance, for I confess I did not expect it having been dunning these two years nearly for it. - The small balance and the interest will be settled, I hope, by the 1st of August. -

I have not been able to sell a Beast this year, except a few old Cows &c. to the Butcher. We have from £800 to £900 -

worth of Planters Stock on hand, and I am not without hopes of a purchaser for some soon; and if so I remit the moment I can get the Bills. - I expect however at all events to send you another Bill for £150 Sterling by the August Packet, and if I can persuade people to pay early for the Stock now in hand you may rely on my doing so -

The negroes and Stock are much as usual at Ardoch Not a death this year. Many of the Cows being old I have been a good deal disappointed in their droppings of late. I have a prospect of getting a tolerable job in the neighbourhood soon of cleaning pastures which I hope will add to our net proceeds about £200 -

Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co have Shipped the annual Supplies in the Atlas which ship is not yet come down from the East end. As to quantity, I curtailed the list more than in any former year, but the increased price of negro Clothing, ironmongery, herrings &c. are so enormous, and the proceeds of the Penn at present so inadequate to such expences, that I have determined to send for no supplies at all for next year, and endeavour to make them serve for two years in place of one and thereby add £200 Sterling to the net proceeds for next year. This I also requested Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Co to communicate to Mr Dundas or yourself

As I shall soon again of the pleasure of addressing

you when I transmit my Accts. & Lists, one or two disputed accts preventing the former from being closed at present, -

I now conclude, with much respect. Dear Sir

Your faithful mo: obed: Servt.

David Finlay

Please excuse haste having just learnt by my messenger from Town that the packet is postponed.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
(of Airth Castle by Falkirk)
To the care of James Dundas Esquire W.S.
(and to be opened by him) Edinburgh

P His Majesty's Brig Vesta

Stamped: JUL 13 1814

[Duplicate Original P Vesta Man of War Hampstead St Mary 3 June 1814]

[cont.]

Ardoch, St Anns, Jamaica
3d July 1814

Dear Sir,

On the 3d Ultimo I had the honour of addressing you at some length, and now beg leave to

4 [original page number]

to annex a Duplicate of that Letter. It covered a Bill of Exchange drawn by Messrs J.T. Harris & Co on John Bourke & Co. of London P £150 Stg on account of Ardoch Penn which I hope will be duly honoured – The 2d of that Bill is now inclosed

Since my last respects, I have been constantly here where the negroes and Stock continue well. The breeding Cows are putting on a more favourable appearance for a good dropping this year. - and I trust my hopes in that respect will not again be disappointed; more especially as I have much satisfaction in reporting to you a very great and evident improvement on our old Hills. They are now, at least a number of them, getting on a very tolerable Sward of Guiney grass, not a pile of which was upon them two years ago: - and the Seasons have been delightful of late here, tho' in many other places very Scanty. This increase of grass is entirely owing to the very easy feeding they have had – from the small quantity of Stock upon the Penn: - also frequent cleanings, by which management the dormant seed of that extruded in any plant the guinea grass revives: it is then necessary to be remarkably Cautious in not over feeding it until the gy grass forms a Stock or Stool to keep down the natural grass, when it may with propriety and Safety, be cut down lightly 3 times a year, or in good land 4 times a year. - I still flatter myself that ere long, the proceeds of the property will be equal to what I formerly mentioned; and that altho' they have been so small (which caused me much anxiety) for the last five

5 [original page number]

five years, owing to half the Breeders being sold off in 1809 & 10 to save their lives for want of food – the Heirs will yet have reason to thank me for the System I adopted in bringing round or recovering as far as possible a poor worn out property; and there are several of Mr Archd. Stirling's friends resident in this Quarter, who can corroborate, if necessary, what I now represent to you. My Accounts are all perfectly clear, but I would much rather have them accompanied with those of the present year, that a distinct and fair View of what the penn has been doing for the last 5 years may be laid before the Trustees; which will enable them to judge more correctly of my management by a comparison of the proceeds of the five years preceding -

I am likely to have a good deal of trouble about the recovery of the debt due the Penn by Mr Holt. The whole of the Voluminous correspondence with all parties on that Subject I have sent to my Uncle Mr Robert Finlay⁶⁵⁴, who has had great experience as an Attorney at Law; and he with Mr John Shand⁶⁵⁵, one of the first characters in this Country, and whose opinion in matters of this sort I consider at least equal to the Gentlemen of the Bar; conceive that Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co did

not exert due diligence in demanding & receiving the Sugars; as no persons could have any right to receive them, nor the Captain to release them without a Bill of Lading. Now the

6 [original page number]

the first and 2nd Bills of Lading having most unfortunately miscarried – I cannot coincide with these Gentlemen that Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co are to blame at all. For how could they demand them without the Bill of Lading? They also think that an action will lay against the London Dock Company, and the Owners of the Ship Elliston for delivering these Sugars without the necy proper authority Vizt the B/Lading, and that Mr Deffel had no legal right to them. They are also of opinion that Holt is not worth Suing, and he has been nearly ruined of late; but that the money and interest is perfectly good by proceeding against the parties I mention – I have thought it proper to direct my Solicitor to State a Case briefly, for the opinion of Counsellor Hinchliffe⁶⁵⁶ our most eminent Barrister here, particularly in the “Lex Mercatores”, and Judge of our Admiralty Court; and this, with his opinion, I shall forward to Mr Dundas by a Man of War to Sail almost a fortnight hence, and which will guide him as to the Steps to be pursued at home for the recovery of the nett proceeds of these Sugars, & the interest which will amount I suppose to probably £300 Sterling. As to myself I must stand acquitted of any blame whatever; and these Gentlemen consider that I have acted perfectly regular from first to last, and had the Bills of Exchange, and Lading got home all would have

7 [original page number]

been right -

I mentioned in my last that the Supplies having arrived at so late a period in the year, there will be no necessity for ordering out any till May or June 1815, which will be a Saving to the Penn of £200 Stg, as with due economy they will last till that time and I trust there cannot be a greater advocate for it than myself. Having at last got the penn into high condition, it is my intention to job out the negroes at Goshen Penn⁶⁵⁷ in the same sort of Work for three or perhaps four months, which I trust will produce to the Heirs a clear profit of £200 Sterling & which I hope to remit in the months of Jany or Febry next. The taxes this year are considerably upwards of £100 owing to an additional poll tax of 2 dollars per head on negroes. The other contingents are nearly the same as usual. Doctors Bills, taxes Salaries &c &c being annual. -

I fully expected a Bill to go by this packet in part of some Cattle I sold to Hyde estate in Trelawny in December last – but I have this moment received a Letter from Mr Peterkin saying I may rely upon them on the 25th inst. and I trust they will be received in time for the Man of War

With much respect, I am,

Dear Sir,

Your faithful & obed: Serv:

David Finlay

Thomas Graham Stirling, esquire

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling, Esqr.
(of Airth Castle)
To the care of, & to be opened by,
James Dundas, Esquire
W.S.
Edinburgh

P Swiftsure
Packet

Stamped: SEP 6 1814

Letter from John Corsar to Thomas Graham Stirling

SAA

Duplicate

Calcutta 27th July 1814

My dear Tom

you see I take the liberty of addressing you as an old friend, and I flatter myself my hand writing will recall some pleasant old times to your recollection.-

James Colvin received your letter some time ago by young Jameison, who seems a very fine steady fellow, he has been since his arrival here working in Kyds yards, who speak very favorably of him, and I have no doubt he will do well and probably there may be an opening for him in some Establishment of his line, when trade shall again take a favorable turn here, which our late accounts from Europe give us some reason to look for but events have taken such strange turns, and windings and such unexpected changes that, it is difficult to form any calculation – we must therefore patiently wait the result of the present struggle on the Continent and let us go on quietly, and endeavor to make some provision for the rising generation, before we get too old - I need not assure you that I shall have much pleasure in promoting Jamiesons Views as far as we can, at present he can do no better than remain in the good school he is in, he has applied for,

and received Sa. Rs 400 – on your account – and Cornet John Chalmers who a few years ago, brought out a Credit from you for Sa. Rs 1000, and received the amount has lately repaid it, which is passed to your Credit, and I shall keep it here to supply any little further calls Jameison may make.

you will very soon see David again at home he left us in March last, to occupy another seat in Bruce Bazett & Cos House vacant by the death of de Ponthiey⁶⁵⁸ – Mr. & Mrs. Colvin are both very well, he was unwell lately, but in place of going to Europe took a trip up to Agra, & returned looking much better than he has done for a long time – James and I are holding it on pretty well, like old Ships beginning to complain now and then, and will require a little recruiting by and bye, when times will admit of it. As for me I fear the largeness of my family will for a Considerable time at least keep me here, I have two Girls and a Boy at home, and three more of the latter here, and we shall I fancy have another before long

I was disappointed in not seeing Sandilands here last voyage, he must have had an unpleasant stay in St Helena, I presume he will not come out

again. - As for the little man I fancy he has taken offence at me, for I wrote him a letter some time ago. - and he has never taken notice of it- If however I should be mistaken in my supposition remember me to him very kindly when you see or write to him

If you should be inclined to write to me I shall be very happy to hear from you – your two Boys I trust are quite well – All the Colvins join me in kindest remembrances to you and with my best wishes for your health and happiness

I remember My dear Tom

yours very sincerely

John Corsar

TGS c/o Messrs. Begbie & Donaldson London

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 94-95

H M S Imperieuse
Sheerness Augt. 4th 1814

My Dear Sir

So Busy have I been of late that I scarcely have had one moment of time to myself. Clearing a Ship for Dock you must be aware is a duty to which every body must attend. Therefore I beg you will admit of that as an apology for my silence since the Imperieuse arrived in England. I follow Capt. Duncan into the Glasgow⁶⁵⁹ of 54 Guns a fine Ship capable of coping with any American Frigate & as she is destined for that Station you may soon here of our towing one of them into Halifax Lieut. Stirling Prize master; Such an affair I have not doubt would give you as much satisfaction as myself. I may see Charles there, it is nine years since we parted & according to our long separation our meeting will be proportionally

agreeable. It is my sincere wish that he may gain another step before he returns, with the assistance of his good friends at home

I envy you your sporting excursions this season but do not be at all surprised should I join you in them for I am determined to retire to the country for a few weeks to gain a polish to my manners from Miss Jean & to clear myself of that continual sauciness which appears at Sea & in Sea port town.

What induces me most is the kind treatment I received from every one last time I was home.

I have a shawl for one or two of my friends & a sabre which I gained at Leghorn for you if it be not too unweildy to carry about: I value it much as I killed the owner myself. All the time I have neglected to inquire after our worthy friends but don't think they are ever out of mind for I was quite anxious to hear of my good Aunt worthy Mrs McDowall & every body besides till Jean's letter assured me that they & yourself were perfectly well, such an assurance cannot fail to please when one is so much indebted as I feel myself. I had nearly forgot my amiable friend Mr James, I wish to know where he is, had he quitted the Sea? Mr & Mrs Dow are still living comfortably in Sterling I have no doubt, perhaps a trip to Strowan or Airth by turns forsaking the hurry & confusion of the town to take [unclear] the

retirement of the Country, a pleasing vicissitude to old Folks. It was the 16th of Feby 1809 I joined the Victorious about six months longer to serve & I hope I will do credit to myself when I pass my examination Capt. Duncan is a fine fellow I need say nothing more of him.

I fell in with Capt. Napier, he wished to know the reason I had not joined him Capt Duncan & he had a little conversation of the Subject but the former soon got the better. Pray write immediately & you will gratify me much. I hope you have no objections to my trip to Scotland if I can go I shall lose no time by it as the Ship does not Sail for a considerable time I wrot[torn] Miss Jean the instant I received her letter Pray write to me soon & give me all the news at home. Remember me cordially to all our dear friends & to Mr Cruikshanks⁶⁶⁰

Probably you have heard of the loss of James McDowall of the Armada⁶⁶¹ he was overtaken in a Gale when in a Prize & has not been heard of since probably he reached some shore but it was neither France or Corsica. If you have not heard of it dont divulge it I beg as intelligence may have reachd home of his safe arrival. I saw him about a fortnight before we were employed on the same expedition at Leghorn. T.S.

Addressed to: [c.o. Thomas Graham Stirling

Airth Castle
Falkirk]
Dunkeld

Stamped: AUG 2 1814 & AUG 9 1814

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 82-85

[Copy Original p the Swiftsure Packet Ardoch St Ann's Jamaica 3 July 1814]

[Copy continued]

Saint Anns Jamaica 5th August 1814

Dear Sir,

I beg leave to subjoin a Duplicate of the letter I had the honour of addressing to you on the 3d Ultimo, since which nothing of any moment hath

hath occurred here, nor have I been favoured with any Letter from you. Agreeably to my last communication Such of our negroes as can with propriety be spared from the Penn have been cleaning Pastures of Goshen Penn for ten days at the rate of hire of 2/11d each per diem, and the Seasons still continue highly favourable -

I have now the pleasure to transmit to you herewith the 1st of a set of Bills of exchange drawn by Alexr. Peterkin⁶⁶² Esqr of the 2nd inst at 90 d St on Edward Clarke, Esqr in my favour, and indorsed by my to James Dundas, esquire or yourself p £218.15.7 Sterling in account of the sale to Mr Peterkin mentioned in my last. This makes on account of Ardoch £368.15.7 Stirling, equal to £516.5.10 Jamaica currency. I have pretty certain hopes also, as far as fine promises can be relied upon, of sending you another Bill in October or November next p £100 or perhaps £150 [c.o.] - Sterling, more, having sold some Cattle to Preston estate in St Mary last Week, amounting to about £250 this money. - These remittances will leave the Penn rather considerably in my debt, which will more fully appear when my Budget of account & other Documents arrive which shall be I trust in January of February next; as I conceive it necessary for the reasons stated in my last that the accounts of the present year should accompany their predecessors. -

Since

Since the date of my last, my Solicitor has written me that the case intended to be made out for Mr Hinchliffe does not appear to him to be very necessary, the business being so clear – and it would be putting the Heirs to the expence of £15 to £20. The 3d indorsed Bill of Lading which shows evidently that the Sugars were not consigned to Deffell but were Holt's own property, is the Document on which the Action against the Commissioner of the London Docks, at home must be brought. But Mr Dundas will be a better Judge probably whether an action will lay against the Owners of the Ship Ellison Messrs Boddingtons, Phillips, Sharp & Co. of London⁶⁶³ and the Captain for delivering these Sugars without the Bill of Lading, or against Messrs Deffell & Son who have the Property. This 3d Bill of Lading being so important a Document, I conceived it to be imprudent to risque it in any Vessel, without an authenticated copy to be taken before a Notary Public, and my Solicitor only returned it to me last Week for the purpose of transmission by this Conveyance. I lost no time in Sending it to Kingston for this purpose, and expected it with the

notarial Copy to day, but it has not as yet come to hand, and this is the last day for writing packet Letters. As there is a King's Ship to sail very soon however, I shall not fail to send it by her, with Copies of my Solicitors Letters to me upon the Subject. Should the net proceeds & interest be recovered from Deffell there will be a balance to

to be paid to Holt, as the Sugars with probably amount to more than the Bill, and I have not a doubt of there being so recovered.

The negroes and Stock here are all well at present – Nothing further occurring to me to trouble you with at this time,

I conclude, with much real respect,

Dear Sir,

Your most Obedt. Hble. Servant,

David Finlay

Thomas G: Stirling, esquire

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
of Airth Castle
Falkirk

To be opened by James Dundas, Esquire
W.S.

Edinburgh

p Snake Packet

Stamped SEP 21 1814

JAMAICA 7 AU 1814

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 40-41

H M Ship Spencer Off Boston Town
Augst 22. 1814 America

Dear Graham

I received a few days ago a letter from you dated as far back as April 23d, but however, I was glad to find you, and all the family well, up to that date, You mentioned in your Letter that Lady Pulteney had sent me some letters to Sir A Cockrane, but I am very sorry to tell you that I have never received them, let me beg of you to write to Lady Pulteney and request her to send me an Introductory one, to the Admiral as soon as possible, promotion on this station has hitherto been very Rapid, and I have no doubt but by these letters, I might get a step, ere the dispute between America and England is adjusted My time will be up in October (2 years Lieut.) and then I will be eligible for promotion so you may perceive by that, I am a little anxious about those letters, Tom Cochrane⁶⁶⁴ (your friend) is on this station but I have not seen him yet or I should have solicited his assistance, as being an Old Shipmate We have been Cruising in this Bay for these 3 Months past and have not been able, to to anything, we are Blockading a 76 Gun Ship and a frigate but there is no chance of them coming out The mode of warefare that is carried on here is truly pityfull

Burning, Sinking, and destroying is the order of the day. Men driven to the last extremity. who were once rolling in the midst of plent [sic] and affluence are now obliged to go in small boats allong shore with the most wretched and miserable cargoes, we must then in our boats at night, bring them

to the ship and there demand a sum equall to 2/3rd of his value, the Poor wretch pleads poverty, but will not be listened to, he is sent on shore to collect money enough for his ransom, he still pleads poverty, and we still remain deaf, to all protestation, and oaths the man make to his incapacity, we tell him he must go and try for money, and we give a day or a few hours to him for that purpose, he goes and sometimes we suceed, but too often fail, and when he comes without money he has the mortification to see the last remains of his poverty in a moment set in flames, and the poor Man with his Wife and family are hurled into the greatest misery, by this means we have collected about 3000 Dollars amongst the squadron and my share comes to 12 Dollars which we keep untill we arrive in port and then distribute, we had at this moment a schooner of 26 tons in tow, laden with firewood and Bark going coastwise, and the Master & Owner has been on shore for these 2 days for his ransom 800 dollars, he came off yesterday and pleaded poverty, his wife on her death bed, and his son obliged to go to Canada as soldier, he went down on his knees and implored us in the Name of every thing sacred to let him off for one hundred, but we have got so callous and hard-hearted that we remain Inexerable, and Inflexable to all intreaties, we sent him on shore again not to come off without 600 at least (mitigating 200) or he should see his vessel Burnt, the Poor wretch is gone but whether he will return or not I cannot tell, Three days ago we met a fellow that we Ransomed once before, he had a second cargo in, of sundry in Potatoes, Aples, Pears, tea, tobacco, &c &c we brought him alongside and took every thing from him, some of his sails, and turned him adrift to go wherere he can fetch, (be it known to you when we ransom he is not allowed to come out again but only to go in, and if he does he is again ransomed or burnt). Since I have been here I have learned a business, that as it is now peace may be of use to me, that is house Robbing, I have now got quite an adept at it, some nights ago I had a party of boats on shore, Robbed a Mans poultry yard, brought off some sheep, pigs &c &c and came on board very quietly unmolested we have it in agitation to stop the Mail coach that passes

within half a Mile of the Beach and Rob it of its contents then lett it pass, with its passengers, So you may judge from the discription I have given you, the Wretched, Miserable, War that is carrying on here⁶⁶⁵, Write to me soon as possible and let me know how your Mother Sisters & family are, and do not forget Lady Pulteney & my letters, likewise let me know how my Brothers are & what Tom is going about - we go to England as soon as the War is finished here, Halifax is a Miserable place, the Admiral Rendesvous at Burmuda in the Winter we have not joind him yet but hope soon

I did not see James McDowall but sent his letters to him

Remember me Kindly to all our friends and

Believe me Yours Sincerely

Chas Stirling

Direct to me at Halifax you
must pay postage

IMG14062011135317

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr
 Airth Castle
 near
 [c.o. Falkirk]
[inserted in another hand: Suposed Falkirk]
 Scotland

Stamped: OCT 13 1814

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 86-88

[Duplicate, Original p the Snake Packet - Saint Ann's Jamaica 5th August 1814]

[Copy continued]

Saint Ann's Jamaica 27 Sept 1814

Dear Sir,

I am sorry that owing to the indisposition of Councillor Hinchliffe I was prohibited sending by last packet the case I conceived is necessary to have prepared for him with his opinion regarding Holt's Bill and Sugars – I now beg leave to inclose it to you, copied close to save postage, for the guidance of Mr Dundas and yourself in the Steps most proper to be pursued against the House of Deffell & Sons or the Owners of the Ship Elliston, and it is the opinion of every Man of business I have consulted on the subject, as well as my own that there cannot be a doubt of your recovering the net proceeds of the Sugars with interest, as these Gentlemen have evidently laid hold of Sugars they had not right to, and of course in their own using. To a Gentleman of Mr Dundas's experience in the Law it would be presumption in me to say any thing further on

on the subject than that I should sincerely hope on seeing the Opinion of so eminent a Barrister as Mr Hinchliffe who is Judge of the Court of Vice Admiralty of this Island, and in the first Business, the parties would settle the business in a Satisfactory Way without resorting to a Suit. I just beg to observe that the two most eminent & Oldest Solicitors in London in Jamaica appeal causes & other business are Messieurs Shawes & Le Blanc of New Bridge Street Blackfriars Bridge – and Mr Richard Grant of Russell Place who I have no doubt will readily undertake this affair -

With the case I also send you under this Cover the 3d indorsed Bill of Lading, of which in case of accidents I have judged it expedient to have a notarial Copy taken, equally valid in Law and which I shall forward to you should you advise me that the original has not reached your hands.

I have very sincere pleasure in saying that the Seasons continue excellent and every thing on the Penn going on as well as I could wish – the negroes and Stock being all well and the former at Work at the job I mentioned to you. The future remittances you may rest assured will be very respectable considering the Poverty of the Land.

With this I likewise send you the 3d of Mr Peterkins Bill p £218.18.7 Stg mentioned in the preceding Duplicate of my last – and my Friend Mr Cuthbert⁶⁶⁶ has

has promised me a Bill in November on account of the Stock sold to Preston Estate.

With much respect, I remain,

Dear Sir,

Your most obed. hble. Servt.

David Finlay

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
of Airth Castle by Falkirk
To be opened by James Dundas Esquire

W.S.
Edinburgh

By His Majesty's Brig Ringdore

Stamped: NOV 13 1814

Letter from Rebecca Longbotham to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 213-214

Moneague Novr 9th 1814

Sir.

I Beg leave to trouble you on a Subject with naturally concerns me as Mother of the three Stirlings I feel very Anxious to hear from them as well as to know if any of them have any Idea of Coming to this Country. The Property left them by their father and now under the Management of Mr David Finlay whose health I am Sorry to Say renders it Necessary for Him to be at this present time under the Hands of Medical Gentlemen and

the Climate at this Season being very unhealthy Renders it doubtful of this Gentlemans ever being Restored to his former Health. should any thing happen to Mr Finlay The property must Suffer Inconsiderably by not having some one to take Immediate Charge of it I would most earnestly recommend Your Seeing Mr McCloud⁶⁶⁷ as One of the Executors to Consult what is most right to be done. I trust You will excuse the liberty I take

P.Turn over

But as its the nature of a Mother I wish their Affairs in this Country to be in a fair way So that they may reap some benefit hereafter. I am well aware of the numerous Obligations they are Under to You for the many past favours – and I hope they will ever prove worthy of them. As I am residing so near the property my Husband whose thirteen Years residence in this Country as a planter would be extremely happy to Attend to these Concerns should it meet Your approbation. I shall feel greatly Obligated to you to be so kind as favour me with a few lines Informing me how all my Boys are as Mr Finlay mentioned to me some time ago that you had not heard from William who was gone to the East Indies, be pleased to give my kind love to them and Accept my Sincere thanks for your Kindness to them and I remain Sir with the greatest Respect Your most Obt Huml Svnt

Rebecca Longbothom

Thos Graham Stirling Esquire

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
of Airth near Stirling
North Britain

Single Inland postage paid
per Packet

Stamped: ...A.. 11 NOV 1814

Letter from Thomas Graham Stirling to David Finlay

MS. 10952 f. 91

[copy]

Airth Castle 24th Novr 1814

Dear Sir,

I have now to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 3d July with the duplicate of yours of the 3d of June and the 2d of a bill of exchange drawn by Messrs. J.T. Harries and Co. on John Burke & Co. London for £150 Sterling on account Ardoch Penn which has been duly honored – Also that of the 5th Augst 1814 with the first & a set of bills of Exchange drawn by Al. Peterkin a 90d/St on Edwards Clarke Esqre in your favor and endorsed by you to Jas. Dundas or myself for £218.15.7 Sterlg – These remittances have been very acceptable as considerable advances had been made for the young men -

The favorable accounts you give of the penn are very agreeable and from the conversations I have had with our friend Mr Archd. Stirling I find you have done much on it

I had hoped to have received

the accounts by this time as I cannot well call the Trustees of Sir Thos. Stirling together until I have them

I shall look for them soon -

Mr Dundas and I both think we should endeavour to obtain a settlement with Mrs Longbottom as soon as you can conveniently she has been writing to me on the subject, it will not be necessary to trouble your Father or Mr MacLeod further on the business, and whatever arrangement you may make will be approved of. She ought not to take any thing from her children but if she insists it will be better to pay the principal sum than have any Litigation, I presume that is all she can ask -

The Lieut Chas. Is in the Spencer 74 in America, Thos. a Midshipman in the Glasgow with the honble Capt. H Duncan, on the same Station Willm an Ensign in the East India Co. service at Bombay, I heard from them all well very lately, I have nothing more to add

but remain dear Sir

your very obed.ly

(signed) Thos. Graham Stirling

David Finlay

Copy of a Letter from Thos. Graham Stirling Esq. to David Finlay Esqre. 24th Nov. 1814

Letter from Thomas Maclean to Thomas Graham Stirling

SAA

Madras 1st October 1814

It is very long, My dear and much respected Friend, since I had the pleasure of hearing from you. - I have however had most convincing proofs, that you have not forgotten me, and that I still hold my place in your regard. - My mother has written to me of your unparalleled goodness & kindness to her and her Family, during my poor Father's illness and of your subsequent attentions -

...

I wrote you a very long letter by your friend Capt. Sandilands, about this time last year - I was most happy to learn by the last arrived ships, that the "Rose" had

safely reached England on the 2nd of May – Their detention at St Helena, must have been extremely annoying to Capt. Sandilands at the time, but every thing has, I hope, been ordered for the best. We shall see Capt S. no more, I presume in India – General Abercromby⁶⁶⁸ embarks this evening on board of the Asia, and will sail during the night.....[Elliott family arrive ill] ..I have great reason to regret the General's departure – He was very much my friend, and has often told me, that he only wanted the opportunity to serve me. - He has made a very popular Governor, both among the Europeans and the Natives -

...He must have made a great deal of money since he had the Government, as he lived much retired, and the greater part of a Governor's expenses are paid by the public. - He will I suppose settle in Scotland.

The changes in the Society of Madras have been so complete since you were here that there is hardly one of the old Residents left. - I see your friend Mrs Hart frequently in public. - She is a complete skeleton and has in general very bad health. - Her husband appears exactly the same man that he was 11 years ago. I recollect you were in the habits of intimacy with Boswell, who was medical Store Keeper when you were last at Madras. - He has been our neighbour these last 2 years. - He talks of going home by the Spring Fleet, and you will no doubt fall in with him. - He has been suffering much lately from the Seringapatam fever. - Doctor Watson is as stout & well, as any man in India. - We hear very frequently

of your old friend Blunt, who is settled as an Indigo planter near Moorshedabad. - Mrs Blunt took a great fancy to my wife when she was here, and writes very often. - Blunt is I hope doing well, and is in good health. The indigo planters will all make their fortunes, not that we have peace all over Europe. - We have nothing like a warlike appearance in India. - The power of the Marhattas is now so completely humbled, that they are not likely to give us much disturbance. The affairs of our Honorable masters are in the most flourishing state. -

We have had only one private adventurer, under the new Charter, arrived at Madras, and I do not think that he will again visit India, for he cannot dispose of his Cargo which consists chiefly of wines, hams & cheeses, as he expected. -

What strange ideas seem to have been formed at Home, regarding the trade to and from India. -

I told you in my last letter that I had sent Home two of my little ones, and Mrs Maclean is now preparing to leave me, with the rest of my babes, in February. - Her health has been much injured by having so large a Family so quickly. - and she begins to feel the effects of the Climate very much, especially within these last 12 months. - She intends making Bath her Head Quarters, and as you sometimes visit that City, you will most probably fall in with her. - Should this prove the case, I know you will not fail to see her. - She is prepared to meet you, as an old friend, and I do not hazard

too much when I say that you will not fail to esteem my beloved. -

You will have had William Moray long since among you. We have heard of his arrival at St Helena, and have made happy [sic] in learning of his perfect recovery, but he has not written a line to any person at Madras. - He is a very indolent Correspondent. - I have written a long letter to him by the present opportunity. -

I shall hope my letter by the “Rose” will give me the happiness of a few lines from you. - Capt Sandilands promised that he will use his interest with you to make you write. -

My Mother mentions the great attention that you had shewen to my Brother James. - I hope poor fellow, that he has been able to get into some line in life. - I have been so fortunate

as procure an Ensigncy for my younger Brother John, in the 56th Regt. in this Country, & I hope he

will be able to come out by some of the Ships of next season. - I have sent him as much money as I could spare to fit him out, & I have told him that it is more than I had when I began to prepare for my voyage -

On that occasion again, what do I not owe to you? -

addressed: TGS Airth Castle

stamped: FE 11 1815

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 93-94

[top in hand of TGS] Sent the Bill enclosed to Dundas May 2nd

Ardoch Penn, St Ann's Jamaica 22nd February 1815

Dear Sir,

I have much pleasure in acknowledging the favour of your esteemed Letter of the 24th Novemr. by which it is a great satisfaction to me to learn that my humble Endeavours to improve this old Property and thereby serve the Heirs of my late Worthy friend Mr Chas. Stirling, have met the approbation of Mr Dundas and yourself.

It somewhat surprizes me that you do not acknowledge the receipt of a Letter I wrote to you under date the 27th of Septemb. by the Ringdove Sloop of War; tho' I am happy to perceive by the Papers the safe arrival of that Vessell; and I sincerely trust that the troublesome business alluded to in that Letter, for the strong reasons therein mentioned, will be speedily and amicably Settled with Mr Deffell; and I shall anxiously expect the particulars of the Settlement that I may be enabled to adjust matters with Holt in a clear manner in this Country

Since my last, I have been but a bad Correspondent – But there was not, and indeed seldom is, any thing to trouble you with of importance, out of the usual routine of the business of a Penn – Matters still go on well, and the negroes and Stock in good order. The only circumstance that frets me a good deal, is the Cows having dropped rather indifferently for the last two years, only 33 Calves last year, tho' I fully expected 50. This is rather strange considering there are 65 Cows

Cows on the Penn, and always 4 fine Bulls if not 5 – The present appearance for a good dropping is more favourable than last year, but hilly old Penns are much against fecundity

The accounts current and Lists of Negroes and Stock to 31st Decemr 1814, I propose sending to you by Mr Alexr. West Hamilton⁶⁶⁹ of St Mary's, one of the Sundrum Family; and if I can get the Captain of the Ship to carry you a Turtle I shall endeavour to do so. He sails with the April Fleet.

In payment of a Spell or 8 Steers I sold to Preston Este in St Marys in August last, I received the other day a Bill drawn by Messrs. Jas. Turner Harris & Co on Messrs. W. P. Lett & Steele of London P £150 Sterling in my favour dated the 11th inst. the first of which I now beg leave to inclose on account of this Property; and I have every prospect of making further remittances, betwixt this and the month of June next, to the amount of from £300 to £400 Sterling more on account of some Cattle sold in Decemr last to Sir Simon Clarke's Estate in St Mary's; and for labour of the Penn Negroes jobbing out in Goshen Estate last Fall, which they did to the extent of nearly £300 currency. The moment I can get the Bills I expect, they shall be sent you as I would prefer the Penn being in my debt to the contrary.

With respect to Mrs Longbotham's demand, I am really at some loss what to say – She has a very excellent Mountain Settlement with a gang of negroes, besides the place belonging to this property,

which she has rented to a free black Person without even consulting me or asking my permission so to do; and which would never have been permitted by the late General Stirling had he been alive. The mean Fellow who married

married her (after having been a Mistress to different people) is equally covetous with herself, and keeps the Tavern here, by which they make I am told £3 or £400 a year, and half as much more by the Mountain & negroes. This man married her solely on account of her Money of which she is said to possess about £4 or £5000 currency; but I do not believe it can be so much. - In conversation with him the other day, he told me he had taken Counsel's opinion about the Legacy, and was advised that not only the principal Sum of £300 but all the interest was recoverable by Action at Law. Of course the Int: will amount to as much as the principal as it is 20 years since Mr Stirling died. I shall lose no time in consulting my Lawyer on the Subject, altho' I am nearly certain that the Princ: is all she can legally claim; and do the best I can for the benefit of the Heirs in the Settlement – Should the Woman prove so lost to all sense of feeling and affection for her Children as to insist on both princ: & Interest (which she is not in want of either, & not likely to have any progeny by Longbotham) I would recommend to you instantly to instruct me to take possession of the little place here of 12 Acres, as it was given her merely as a temporary Asylum, and an indulgence on the part of Sir Thos Stirling. Now this artful Man may set me at defiance, and say, “as Mrs L. has had quiet possession of the place for 8 or 10 years, I shall endeavour to make it hers permanently by defending an action in Ejectment”; & probably dispute our right of possession. We cannot be too guarded with persons of this Stamp; and I consider it my duty to be thus explicit, to prevent the claim of the place not reverting back to the Heirs, being laid on my Shoulders. I can easily get a Tenant for it if required.

I am very happy to observe by your Letter that the 3 young Stirlings

Stirlings are still employed in the Navy & Army & I trust Mr Thomas will soon be promoted to a Lieutenancy. My Friend Mr Wm. Stirling⁶⁷⁰, Kippendavie's Son, wrote me last year that Thos. had an idea of coming to this country; but considering all circumstances; the mother particularly, (a delicate point;) I doubt much if he would like it, or if it would be attended with any good consequences to their mutual interest -

There are now 188 Stock of all descriptions on the Pen; and as the grass is improved both as to quality & quantity it is my intention

To increase the number of breeding Cows next year to about 80 or 85, which I trust will insure tolerable proceeds ultimately. The number of negroes is still 84 & there are at least 10 of that number so worn out & useless with age & disease that they would be much better in their graves both on their own acct. and that of the Penn. The Working and young people are generally remarkably fine negroes, well contented, and apparently perfectly happy, as far at least as their lot will admit of – With the highest respect I remain, Dear Sir

Your very faithful & obedt. & hble Servants

David Finlay

Thos. Graham Stirling esq:

[Faintly written on the side]

P.S. I put in last year a new pasture of about 15 acres of guinea grass and fenced in with substantial Stone Walls – I intend establishing a similar one this year. D.F.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling, Esquire
of Airth Castle
[c.o. by Falkirk]

North Brittain

Strowan
Crieff

P Francis Freeling Packet

Stamped: JAMAICA 27 FE ...
MAR 16 ...

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 96-97

Fountain [unclear] Dock
March 10th 1815

Dear Cousin

I again write to you on the subject of Promotion not that I imagine you will delay a moment in pushing forward your Interest but from an idea of anxiety & solicitude natural to people in the like situation whose future views depend so much on a stop that would almost make them master of themselves & render them in a manner independent of everyone. Preferment in Peace must be slow is obvious therefore you must be aware how necessary immediate proceedings are.

It is generally understood another promotion

is about to be made in the course of this month. I intreat you to get me included if possible & you will do me a more effectual kindness than I should be capable of expressing. Omitt not this opportunity or all is lost.

It is so very long since I heard from Scotland that I am perfectly ignorant of how you are of where you are & in what manner you have been employed. We have had mild weather in this part of England during the season but I doubt much whether you have enjoyed the same in those Hyperborean regions where you reside. We suffered much at Sea & what is worse than all nothing to be made; the Endymion was lucky but I grieve it was not the Glasgow.

I fear the war will too soon terminate but only give me a Commission & I shall be satisfied.

Have you heard from Charles or William lately? I met a young man yesterday who left my brother two months ago in perfect health & at the same time gives a very good account of him he expects the other swab⁶⁷¹ it appears, but I am inclined to think he will be disappointed in that hope.

I pray you give my duty to my Aunt & remember me most affectionately to all dear to us. I shall be anxious to hear soon from you to know how you have been disposed of late. I am now called to go on H M Service & when Duty calls we must obey therefore I must conclude

My Dear Cousin
Your affectionate Cousin
Thomas Sterling

Addressed to: Thos. G. Stirling
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped:DOCK

MS. 10952 ff. 98-99

H M S Glasgow
Plymouth Harbour
April 18th 1815

My Dear Cousin

Fully confident how much interest it requires to obtain Preferment at the present crisis & at the same time aware that nothing has been wanting on your part to provide for me I must content myself for a while with my present situation in the full assurance that at a future period & in a more favourable opportunity you will again exert yourself in my cause.

The only thing that can be done is to get me on the Admiralty list if possible

for promotion will be rare but off that list the the sooner the better for there will be numbers applying to get their names on it therefore you must succeed as I shall be miserable I am now in some degree of suspense as I am ignorant how long I shall have to remain a midshipman.

Pray how have you & all [c.o. The] our dear friends been lately? By last accounts I was gratified at hearing the good state of health my good old Aunt & the Misses Graham had enjoyed during the rigours of the Winter.

I am really anxious to hear from you but I account for your silence by reserving the news to astonish me, which I suspect must be favourable.

How pleasing is the success of Bouneparte to us fighting characters, I foretold this long ago & Miss Jane knows it well She Boasted at his downfall that she foresaw it but were I at home

I should talk to her a little on that subject.

The Glasgow has been docked in order to add a little more false Keel which in my opinion will add to her sailing

Our destination is not determined upon as yet but it is generally expected the Mediterranean will be our station

I certainly hope that Murat ⁶⁷²will prove a formidable enemy. The coast of Italy is a good cruising ground particularly at the commencement of a War

do write to me & assure me that you have filled up a Blank on the Admiralty list with my name. Then I shall be happy.

Allow me to conclude by thanking you & all my friend for their kind wishes for speedy promotion & Love & duty to all also. I shall write you soon I remain

My Dear Cousin
your ever affectionate Cousin
Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thos. G. Stirling Esq.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

Stamped: PLYMOUTH AP 19 1815
APR 24 1815

H M S Glasgow April 30th
Plymouth Harbour

My Dear Cousin

I wrote you a few lines the other day on the subject of the Promotion but fearing my letter has not reached home I trouble you once more with the same earnest solicitations & wishes for your constant exertions in my behalf.

I am convinced no promotion is to be obtained at present without the greatest Interest or as the reward of Wounds or great Services but as an extensive one is expected soon I trust your application will not be neglected nor your labours in vain. Unfortunately I have never been in the way of particularizing myself if so depend upon it I would not have allowed the opportunity to escape

The plan to be adopted is to get my name on the Admiralty list as soon as possible. Do apply to Lady Pulteney Sir G. Warrender⁶⁷³ &c & other friends to get that done for I am well assured that is the only way to succeed.

I am living in a state of great suspense not having heard from any body this month past & totally ignorant of your hopes concerning my dearest object.

Pleased at the prospect of a fresh war I wish Buonaparte every support from his loyal subjects in order to give us plenty of employment, & plenty of broken heads by way of paving the road for my preferment I don't mind how many are broken so long as I fill a vacancy

We are in daily expectation of the declaration coming forward. The Glasgow is perfectly ready for the first start is a prime sailer & a heavy ship as

we have little to fear from a ship of the line in any Weather, but we shall have a Squadron of three or four frigates under our orders to scour the Channel & the Bay of Biscay. May we take plenty of prizes & make sums of money!

I trust our friends are all well

be assured nothing would gratify me so much as a satisfactory letter from you therefore do comply with my request & I shall be satisfied.

I am looking out anxiously for this Spen⁶⁷⁴[paper crumpled] from America. I shall experience great pleasure at the meeting on account of our long absence I am sure we shall both be delighted.

You are acquainted with my sentiments

do your endeavours

there is no time to lose

T I remain

Your ever grateful Cousin

Thomas Stirling Midm.

Remember me to all our dear friends.

Addressed to: Thomas G. Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: PLYM DOCK AP 30 1815
MAY 5 1815

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 95-98

[Duplicate Original p Francis Freeling Packet Ardoch St Ann Jamaica 22d Feby 1815]

Saint Ann's Jamaica 7th June 1815

Dear Sir,

Since my last respects of the 22d Feby I have not had the pleasure of any of your esteemed favours, and am of course Still in the dark respecting that unpleasant business with Mr Holt and Mr Deffel; but I flatter myself with early advice from you of it's being satisfactorily settled, in which case I shall have a considerable Sum to refund Mr Holt vizt the difference arising betwixt the protested Bill with its expences and interest; and the net proceeds of the Sugars.

Nothing very important hath occurred since my last except the loss of a fine Infant very suddenly; being well at night and dead in the morning.⁶⁷⁵ The Weather has again been most distressingly dry, one vernal periodical rains having in great degree failed; but we had a heavy rain last Week, which is creating Verdure & helped to fill out Ponds. The Cows are dropping rather better this year, and I mean to add considerably to the old number; for altho' the Proceeds of the Penn, from its recent very base Stock, have been very small indeed; yet from the diminution of the Stock the grass has come forward, and will enable me to put more Stock upon it: the Proceeds must therefore gradually increase & the pastures improve, as far as can be expected from old and poor Soil, provided the greatest caution is observed in

in feeding them lightly....

I expect at the usual time of payments next month as I said before, to make a considerable further remittance as W. Laing has put off the payment of our jobbing account against his Estate till that time. Last year we jobbed out £297.4.2 this money upon his Penn; and this year about £160 but he suddenly put a large strength of negs on his Property and jobs no more – yet I am not without hopes of another job next year in this Vicinity, altho' it is too far from the Sugar Estates to render it very convenient to us – My last Letter covered a Bill P £150 Stg and I am in expectation of Sending you another Bill for Stock sold Warwick Castle Estate in Decemr 1814 before the 25th July next.

Agreeable to what I stated in my last my Accounts current and all the Lists, which are bulky, will be forwarded by Mr A. W. Hamilton, who I now understand Embarks with the Middlesex for Glasgow, and of which he is part Owner, but whether She is fixed for the June or July Convoy is not yet I believe decided. -

There are so few occurrences of moment happen on a Pen that I have really nothing to add, except that the Negroes and Stock are perfectly well. Many of the former who have had old, incurable, venereal Ulcers still continue as formerly -

I sent by last packet to Messrs Stirling, Gordon & Co. the usual List of negro clothing and other supplies required for 1816, those sent out in 1814 I made to serve for both that year

year and this, with a few indispensable articles purchased as cheap in the Islands, and which make a saving of £200 Sterling to the Property.

Rest assured of my continued and best exertions for it's increasing benefit: And should it be sold some years hence according to the late General Stirling's Will, the System I adopted in keeping few Stock in it, and improving & replanting some pastures, & resting others that were too rocky & steep to admit of this mode of cultivation, must, I feel confident, enhance the Value of the Penn to a

purchaser, at least one third of what it would have fetched in its former miserable state in 1810. Perhaps a Valuation of it by two respectable & competent Judges would be an acceptable document to the Trustees -

With much respect & esteem

I remain Dear Sir,

Your faithful & obedient Servant,

David Finlay

NB. Should you chance to fall in with my good Friend Mr Macdowall Grant of Arndilly I beg to trouble you with my kindest regards to him & those of Mr Hall & would be glad to hear when we may expect the pleasure of his return to Jamaica -

Thomas Graham Stirling, esquire

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
 of Airth Castle
 near Falkirk
 North Britain

P Manchester Packet

[no clear stamp]

Letter from David Finlay to Henry Longbothom [copied to TGS]

MS. 10952 ff. 99-100

Dear Sir,

Mr Pollard⁶⁷⁶ has just now informed me that Mrs Longbothom again has had the presumption to Stop him on the Road (as she used to do with Mr McMillan & Mr Ross) and take him to task about his Conduct as Overseer here, and added that she would write to the Trustees of General Stirling that he ill treated the negroes here...Were she even informed of the facts respecting their rebellious Conduct; such, on her part would be as absurd as unbecoming as in the first place she is perfectly ignorant of their bad behaviour; and 2dly the Trustees would never even listen to any of her communications respecting this Property; which she has, and ever will have, as little to do with as the Child unborn!

Without troubling myself in condescending to further particulars, I must beg to advise Mrs Longbothom once for all to give up the very mean & injurious practice of being a listener to negro Stories; which She has Ever been, since I resided here; and that when she had any thing to say on any subject let it be to myself; as I shall send the first negro who goes to complain to her to the Workhouse for punishment, and thereby endeavour to have a little peace on the Property in future -

Mr Pollard further acquaints me that Mrs Lg told him I never allowed this Penn any Beef before the Butchery here commenced – which she must well know to be a notorious

notorious falsehood, & that the Penn has been always allowed Beef from Goshen, & other Butcheries, for 20 years past, and much greater quantities formerly than at present. With unparalleled effrontery too, Mr P: says she questioned him what hire I allowed the Penn for a Cattleman going of a Saturday for a fat Beast in the Vicinity? With many other equally impertinent questions & before strangers too. Why did she not attack myself? I trust & believe you have more sense than to encourage Mrs Longbothom in Such folly; but you should admonish her to mind her

own affairs, & beware of the Consequences of intermeddling with those of other people; - & farther, unless a satisfactory explanation is made to me of her late Conduct, I must cease all communication with her from this day. -

I again beg to put you in mind of payment of your Beef accots from 1st Augr 1814 to 1st April last often promised payment of and remain

Dear Sir,
Your mo. Hble Servt.
David Finlay

Ardoch

12 June 1815

I beg leave to Say Mr Pollard in beneath Mrs L's notice

M. Hy. Longbothom

Addressed to: Mr Henry Longbothom
Moneague

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 42-43

H M Ship Spencer, Plymouth
Hamoage⁶⁷⁷ Jun 17th 1815

Dear Graham

I wrote to you on my arrival in England telling you of my coming back like a bad halfpenny and begging you to interest yourself in getting me the other step a promotion is inflicted here daily and if you will but use your influence with some of your friends, I should suppose no doubt can be entertained of the result, you need not be astonished at this request however immoderate when recollect a young man ambitious to rise in his proffesion. I wrote to Lady Pulteney to do what she could for me but I understand she is not at home & I conclude she never got my letter as she has hitherto been very attentive in writing me whenever I wrote her

I have met James Stirling⁶⁷⁸ here in Command of his Brig he is quite happy, and has made him the admiration of the whole fleet, she is small but very handsome,

I saw my Brother Tom for a few hours, I should not have known him again, if I had not been informed of his being in the Glasgow, I had not seen him for the 10 years the Spencer is to be Docked here and will be some time in harbour, they are taking our men from us to fit out other ships, which is rather unaccountable as we are an effectave ship (except Docking). I told you how unsuccessful we were in Prize money, I had a letter from James Begbie who told me you all were in Scotland, If you can get me made a Captain I will more probably be able to come and see you, but I dont think, until then

Remember me kindly to your Mother Sister and all the family, as well as to the small Craft.

I told you I never got Lady Pultenys letters to Sir A Cochrane nor I never got but one from you

The Country look'd delightful here, in comparison to America

I shall conclude by relying on you

and I am

Dear Graham
Yours Ever truly & Affect.
Chas. Stirling

Addressed to: Thos. Graham, Stirling Esq.
Airth Castle
near
Falkirk
Scotland

Spencer

Stamped: PLYM DOCK JU 17 1815
JUN 22 1815

Letter from David Finlay to Henry Longbotham [copied to TGS]

MS. 10952 ff. 101-102

Ardoch 19 June 1815

Sir,

When your scurulous false and most impertinent Letter of the 13th inst. Was put into my hand, I was ill of fever, which I only got rid of yesterday; and certainly would take not notice of it were it not to apprise you as you are writing to the Trustees of Genl. Stirling, that those Gentlemen are as thoroughly acquainted with your own respectable character, as they are with that of your Virtuous Wife, who it is very certain that her own Sons would not associate with, were they to come to this Country, as they well know her History also; You are therefore the very last person in the Island, that they would dream of intrusting with their concerns, which appears to be the whole drift of your Letter – to attempt to deprive me of my appointment here is a futile attempt indeed! & from a low Publican too! You had better take care what you are about Sir! Your Epistle has been shown to two or 3 respectable friends of mine, & it has damned you in their opinion, and mine also. After Showing it to a few more, it shall be committed to the only place fit for its reception viz. the Necessary⁶⁷⁹.

To put and end to all communication betwixt you and myself, I shall only remark that whatever lies and nonsense you have the folly to write home, will only be treated with Silent contempt; and a copy of your Letter with my answer, and this Letter shall be also sent home with a complete refutation of all your absurd assertions: for instance that Mr Pollard's Salary will be dissallowed as he Superintends the Butchery – The 3 or 4 hours of a Sunday morning just 3 negroes are occupied with it – Have they not the right to their Sunday? & do not the negroes get from 6 to 10lbs of Beef every Week for their trouble? -

I must again advise Mrs Longbothom to give up her dirty practise of interfering with the negroes, who have always been too indulgently treated instead of Society & which she has often told me herself! - The other night old Betty⁶⁸⁰ got beastly drunk as usual, & abused Mr Pollard like a pickpocket for no earthly reason in my hearing, & for 2 or 3 light Stripes with a small withe that tied a bundle of hogs meat, I hear she has been ever since at the Moneague. For Shame Sir, if this is true -

As to my promise of making you a Payment the 1st of August, it was only in case you gave me a Paper indemnifying the Trustees & Heirs of Chas. Stirling against any future claim of interest,

which I am directed not to pay; & you have certainly taken a pretty method to obtain any favours on that Head.

I shall write home for further instructions by the next packet unless you choose to sign the indemnifications I require -

The sooner you settle your Beef accounts the less it will cost you; and cash must be sent in future when you require that article; as unless you make me a most Submissive and ample apology in Writing for your unpardonable & imprudent Letter, I cannot retract a Syllable of what I have wrote; nor can I have the Smallest intercourse with you, altho' I am neither actuated by enmity not hatred which is the reverse of my disposition, but by pity and contempt

I am Sir,
Your obedient Servt.
David Finlay

N.B. I owe Wm. & F. Hurst £2.15.7h & have Sued Jn. Hurst. Have you any acceptance of mine to Show? You must bring an Action or administer on Mr McMillans bankrupt Estate for the 6/6 & I shall then sue you for £30 odd that Estate owes me

Addressed to: Mr Longbothom
Moneague

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 102-103

Plymouth Sound
H M S Glasgow July 4th 1815

My Dear Cousin

We have just arrived from a miserable & a fruitless cruise on the coast of France all disappointed & in low spirits.

The desperate state of Buonaparte's affairs & consequently the prospect of a general peace have considerably dejected me & given me the greatest concern. I fear promotion is not now at hand for without claims I am well aware how difficult it is to be obtained. A report is in circulation that an extensive promotion is to take place on the 12th Augt. I have earnestly to request you will strain every means that you will exert yourself to the utmost to push me forward & that you will urge your friends to do the same

Do not consider my demands unreasonable they are the same with every young man who pants for preferment. I aspire to something higher probably from a conviction of my own capability in performing my duty & from a confidence which I feel within myself. Our destination is fixed on Lisbon I trust fortune will smile benignant on my head this once & afford me an occasion to introduce myself to public notice & [c.o.] save you the disagreeable duty of asking favours but Fortune is a female & I am no Gallant.

I am proud to state that Capt. Duncan has exerted himself in some measure in my behalf by applying to Mrs Ferguson⁶⁸¹ I hope I shall have reason to celebrate the 12th Augt.

To my great satisfaction Charles & I met tother day in this port We spent a most happy evening recounting old stories & past adventures. Pray how are all the good folks in the North? How have they been since last accounts? You deal out your letters

with such a sparing hand that I find it matter of great difficulty to recollect when you wrote last.

Remember me most cordially & affectionately to all friends but I should [c.o.] fail in respect not to particularize a few these are My good Aunt, Misses Jane & Christian Graham & that worthy & amiable character Mrs McDowall whose kindness will indelibly remain in my mind. James McDowall is still in the Dee⁶⁸² I conjecture, & looking out as anxiously as the rest of us. Charles heard from William a few days ago who is as happy & contented as possible enjoying every convenience & all the sweets of the East.

Charles has been paying me a visit & desires to be particularly reminded to you and all at home. I conclude by wishing you every success in the present cause. Exert your interest exert your power
Adieu

My Dear Cousin
Your ever affectionate Cousin
Thos. Stirling

I shall be in suspense for the result of your entreaties.

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: JUL 9 1815

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 103-104

Saint Ann's Jamaica, 5th July 1815

Dear Sir!

I beg leave to refer you to my Letter of the 7th Ultio and to advise you that Mr Hamilton has altered his intention of embarking with the Middlesex but that shall not prevent me from adhering to my Promise of forwarding my accounts & Lists to 31 Decr last by that Vessel to Sail the 25th inst., and I shall address the packet to the care of my friend Mr Charles Stirling⁶⁸³ who is one of her Owners.

I would not trouble you at present were it not to mention the highly unbecoming conduct of the Man Longbothom of whose Character I gave you some hints in a former Letter; altho' I believe it is scarcely worth my notice; but there is no knowing what lies low persons of that Cast may write with the detractive View of no doubt inducing the Trustees to appoint him in the Situation I hold here... This man has, I learn, been playing Some trick in investing some of his Wife's Property (who cannot read) in his own name, and in Consequence She has been advising him this Step, and also to insist in interest on the legacy by way I suppose of making a terument [unclear] for defrauding her. She has long had a trick of listening to negro Stories & putting Mischief in their heads. They call her their Mistress and she has lately advised some of them, as I learn, to abscond, who had been misbehaving, but were not punished. Indeed my great fault is too much lenity, as the negroes here, Mr A Stirling can inform you are a very ...kified [unclear] Set, altho' then have in general conducted themselves pretty well towards me. Any Stories this fellow may write respecting my management can be easily refuted by several of the most respectable characters in the Parish, all friends of Mr Archd. Stirling, and who can Satisfy you that not only the land, but many of the negroes have vastly improved since I took charge of them. He says he will write the Trustees that I conduct a Butchery

here, & that he will advice them to dispute the Salary of the young man my Book Keeper. The fact is in itself so trifling that I never thought of mentioning it to you, but did so to Mr Stirling that my income being a mere trifle from this appointment, (not more than £140 Stg a year) after many years residence in this Island; that Several Friends, suggested the

expediency of Killing Beef, not only as a means of adding a little to it but being a thing much wanted in the Vicinity and nobody else will engage in it; and as it is a thing very common here in my Situation I did not hesitate particularly as it does not occasion to the Penn the smallest expence or inconvenience. Three or four hours of a Sunday morning by the young man to see the Beast killed & delivered is the whole, & 3 old negroes are employed during that time to assist, Sunday being their own day, for which I give them 6 or 8 pounds of Beef for their trouble besides I give the Sickly negroes part of the offals to make broth. This man feeling sore now that he had not this Butchery, and wishing to Knock it up if he can, having addressed to me a most insolent Letter instead

he has the presumption to make comments on my management – I wrote him in reply that I did not think the Trustees would take the Smallest notice of nay his Letter; and further that were even any of the young Stirlings to come here, they would forfeit the respect of the whole community did they asociate with his Wife or Him whom no decent person Speaks to – As to the Woman she is possessed of very bad quality without one good one, as Mr Macleod, the late Mr Hamilton, Mr A Stirling & my Father all well knew and if you can lay your hand on any of Mr Hamilton's letters to the General you will find what I said before fully corroborated. The Genl. & Sir Wm. detested her very name, & wrote Mr Robt. Stirling expressly that the place she occupied here was only a temporary assylum while she did not live with any person; and I trust I shall escape censure by permitting them to rent it to a free negro which I formerly Stated to you; as I am sure this man will endeavour to make it his own – After all my Exertions, and the benefit the Property has undergone, it would be hard indeed that I should Suffer, in the Smallest degree, in the estimation and confidence of Mr Dundas or yourself, in consequence of any false malicious representations of a low, mean, publican, who married an artful, wicked, abandoned Trollop solely for her money; and who most probably after fleecing her of every thing She possesses, will take French leave of her – But I must intreat the favour of you to caution them to give up the injurious Custom of interfering with myself or the negroes, or we shall be in perpetual trouble with her:

With respect to the Legacy, I told him I would pay the principal according to your instructions, half the first of next month and half the 1st of Augt 1816, provided he would sign an agreement releasing the Trustees and Heirs of Charles Stirling from any claim of Interest therein. This he will not do, but threatens, I hear, to bring a Suit in Chancery for both principal & Interest thereby endeavouring to rob the Heirs of about a £1000 besides the Costs in that ruinous Court; as the legacy is £300 Sterling, and 20 years interest as much more. This would be a Serious thing indeed for the young Gentlemen. You will therefore be good enough to instruct me explicitly, and as soon as possible; of your pleasure on the Subject

& tho' the balance of my account current to 31st Decemr last is £387.4.9 currency in my favour, I shall endeavour to make a considerable remittance in the course of next month altho' I have the taxes and other unavoidable contingencies to pay immediately. - In that case it will be necessary to draw on the Trustees for this Legacy – but nothing of this Sort of course will be done without their previous approbation.

If I can get a good job this Fall the nett proceeds of the Penn this year will be respectable this year My Brother mentioned your Wish to have the accounts which you shall not be disappointed in by the Middlesex.

With respect to what I have wrote in the Chief subject of

of this Letter you will perceive the necessity of it, altho' some of my Friends deem it altogether beneath my notice and I remain

With much respect

Dear Sir,
Your faithful & obedt. Servant
David Finlay

N.B. The appointment of such a Man as Longbotham would be the certain & complete ruin of the Heirs.

[Duplicate Original P Manchester packet
Saint Ann's Jamaica 7 June 1815]

[cont]

In my former letter I find I overated Mrs Longbothom's property by one half & is it all settled on a Son⁶⁸⁴ of hers in Paisley by one Galbraith she live with. D.P.

Thomas Graham Stirling, Esquire
of Airth Castle

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
 of Airth Castle
Strowan near [c.o. Falkirk
 Crieff]
 North Britain
P His M's Packet Osborne 7th July 1815

[written above: To James Dundas Esqr C S
 St Andrews Square
 Edinburgh]

Letter from Rebecca Longbothom to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 f. 207

[out of date order]

Moneague St Anns July 5th 1815

Sir

I have to return You many thanks for Your kind Attention to me in empowering Mr D Finlay to pay me my Legacie, Tho I am Sorry to Inform you that that Gentleman Refuses to pay me more than one half It appears He is fully Determined I shall commence a Chancery Suit which would Inevitably Ruin the Property and injure the future Interest my poor Boys may have in Ardoch. Their Welfare lays near my Heart, and any Attempt to hurt them I consider as detrimental to myself. Under this Consideration, I fervently trust You will be so good as Direct Mr D. Finlay to give me my Due without Recourse to the fatal Steps He threatens to Adopt. Far be it from me to Deprive my Boys of one Sixpence. But rather on the Contrary rather Assist them, and It is to You, I hope they ever will be gratefull. Mr Finlay showed me that part of Your Letter

wherein You was kind enough to permit me to enjoy that part of Ardoch called Friendship Allotted me by the late Robert Stirling Esqr. As well as to receive any little emoluments that could be spared from the Property for which I am truly Obligated to You. Tho I am Sorry to Say I cannot [unclear] before Mr Finlays Strange Conduct towards me He has Threatened to deprive me of House and Home, His meanness is beyond every thing I ever heard off, He has endeavoured to embitter the rest of my Days by his repeated Letter Writing. I am Sorry to trouble you with this long Epistle, but trust you will Excuse me. I beg You will be so Kind as remember me to my Boys and will be truly happy to hear from them, It would revive the Heart of their Drooping Mother Be pleased to Accept my sincere thanks for your Kindness towards them & believe me to be

Sir your Most Obt Humle Servt
Rebecca Longbothom

Addressed: Inland postage paid

Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
of Airth [c.o. Stirling]

At [blotted] nde Dundas Esq
[blotted] St Andrews Square Edinburgh
Per Packet

Stamped: [illeg] 3 1815
JAMAICA 7 JY

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 105-106

Duplicate Original P the Middlesex Capt. Barclay
Saint Ann's Jamaica 23d July 1815

Dear Sir,

Referring you to the preceding duplicate of my last respects, I now beg leave herewith to inclose my annual Accounts current with Ardoch Penn and the Trustees of Sir Thomas Stirling Bart. Deceased to the 31 Decemb last; balance due to me at that date £387.4.9 this money and which I trust, and have no doubt, upon examination will be found correct; in which case you will oblige me by acknowledging receipt of them, and to say if they are free from Error. I have added a few observations to the end of the Accounts which I hope will explain & elucidate them; but should any further explanation be required, I shall of course be ready and happy to attend to them when wanted.

It is only this morning I learnt the Middlesex would positively sail with the present convoy, which departs the day after tomorrow. I have therefore little or no time to add any thing further, except that I have much pleasure in saying our Seasons have been at last highly abundant, and beneficial to us; a great deal of the grass I had planted having died by the dry Weather, and we are now replanting it.

By Longbottom I have heard nothing further since my last, except a few lines he addressed to me saying he had wrote the Trustees that I wished him to file a bill in Chancery; an assertion perfectly conformable to the

falsehood and absurdity of his preceding Conduct as no Person can abhor Law more than myself

from a conviction that

that it is highly injurious to all Parties except the Lawyers themselves; I shall take no further notice of the Fellow until I hear from you.

I am not without hopes of procuring a job soon in this Vicinity for the negroes; and the penn is looking very well; so that I would not hesitate to give £300 a year rent for it, as I once before observed, were the Trustees inclined to lease it for seven, nine or 11 years at my option, (and which it has not netted to the Heirs for some years I believe) no proof of ill management I trust.

You would oblige me by requesting the favour of Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co to Ship our Supplies by the first opportunity, as we are much in want of the Herrings & negro clothing. Have the goodness to excuse my being rather pinched for time, and any inaccuracies that may have crept into this hurried Letter and believe me to be

Dear Sir With the greatest respect & esteem
Your very faithfl & obedt. Servt.
David Finlay

P.S. When you see out Friend Mr Archd. Stirling (whom I am happy to hear has taken a Wife)⁶⁸⁵ please show him my accounts with my kindest regards to him, but he is much in my debt on the score of writing.

Letter from Stirling, Gordon to James Dundas

MS. 10952 f. 26

Glasgow 31 July 1815

James Dundas Esqr.

Sir,

We lately received a Letter from David Finlay ordering the Annual Supplies for Ardoch Penn. We have written him that they would be send presuming that it would be agreeable to the late Sir Thomas Stirlings Trustees that we should do so, but if not, you will be so obliging as to let us know

We are respectfully, Sir,
Your mo. ob. Servts.
Stirling, Gordon & Co,

W.S. Edinburgh,

Letter from Thomas Graham Stirling to Stirling, Gordon

MS. 10952 f. 27

[copy]

Airth Castle Augt 5th 1815

Gentlemen,

Mr James Dundas having handed me your letter of the 31st Ulto to reply to, I have to request that you will have the goodness to order the annual supplies for the Ardoch Pen; [c.o. and value upon Ac.]

You will please value upon Mr. Dundas for the amount I remain
respectfully Gentlemen

Your most Obt. Servt
Thomas Graham Stirling

(signed)

Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co
Glasgow

[same sheet]

Airth Castle Augt. 5th. 1815

Dear Sir,

I have this day replied to Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Cos letter to you of the 31st Ult and requested them to forward the annual supplies to Ardoch Penn – I have also advised them to value upon you for the amount and when their Dft. Appears on that account I beg you will honour it &c &c &c

Signed Thos. Graham Stirling

Letter from Stirling, Gordon and Charles Stirling Junr. to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 29-30

Glasgow 7 Aug 1815

Sir

We have received your favour of the 5th confirming Mr David Finlay's order for Supplies for Ardoch Penn, which we beg to assure you shall be duly attended to & that we shall draw on Mr James Dundas for the same

We are very respectfully,

Sir,

Your mo. ob. Servts.

Stirling, Gordon & Co,

Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr, P Turn,

I am to have no bun[torn] so a horse, or ass will do

Glasgow 7 August 1815

My dear Uncle Tom,

As this is a letter at any rate and my writing on this side makes no extra postage, I take this opportunity of saying that I propose myself the pleasure of waiting on you on Thursday at Airth Castle by the boat, which gets to a place they call 16 at a little before 2 O Clock

I was sorry to hear yesterday at Johnstone that you had been in a bad state of health ever since you returned from the West. I hope you are now recovered. Remember me to all friends & Believe me till death every yours

C. Stirling Junr.⁶⁸⁶

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

Saint Ann's Jamaica 11th August 1815

Dear Sir,

By the Middlesex, Captn. Barclay, I had the pleasure to address your very lately, and then forwarded a pretty weighty packet containing all my accounts with Ardoch Penn, and Genl. Stirling's Trustees to the 31st. Of Decemr. last. Of my Letter I now attach a duplicate, and have the Satisfaction to add that our

our Seasons continue good, and other circumstances of the Penn in their usual Way. The only misfortune we have met with is the death of an Infant of a year old; after a lingering illness of 3 months, which baffled the Skill of Dr Read; and which is unlucky considering [c.o.] how unprolific the Women here generally are. The hooping cough has found its way into the Vicinity where is has not appeared for many years; it is very violent and often attended with fatal Symptoms, so that I shall have nothing but anxiety and uneasiness until this malady disappears -

We have had 30 droppings to this date since 1st Jany and I trust it will be a good year in that respect. The Lists of Slaves & Stock with increase and decrease were ready, but such a bulky & expensive packet it would have made that I am waiting the opportunity of a friend to forward it, being by no means a Document of importance compared with the accounts.

Since my last I have got a little job for our able negroes within 3 miles of this at 3/ each per day; which I consider a very fortunate circumstance as Several others applied for it

According to my intimation in a former Letter I have received a payment on account of Warwick Castle⁶⁸⁷, and now inclose you Mr David Brydon's⁶⁸⁸ 1st Bill of Exchange of yesterday at 90 days sight

on Sir Simon Haughton Clarke Bart.⁶⁸⁹ (the proprietor of that Estate) P £100 Sterling. Sir Simon's business is done at Mr Alderman Hibberts Counting House in London; but he resides at this Estate of Oak Hill near East Barnet in Hertfordshire – Ere long I trust to Sending you another Bill on acct. of our jobbing Labour at Goshen Estate; and requesting the favour of a Letter from you in reply to those I have addressed to you Since September 1814, particularly regarding the Settlement with Mr Deffell, and the business of Mrs Longbothom

I now conclude, most respectfully,

Dear Sir

Your faithfl & obedt. Servant

David Finlay

Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire of Airth

[note in another hand: Tunbridge Wells Sept 17th 1815

Forwarded the enclosed Bill of £100 Stg to Thos. Coutts Esq & Co. to be placed to the Credit of Mr James Dundas]

Letter from Thomas Graham Stirling to David Finlay

MS. 10952 f. 28

[copy – to David Finlay]

Strowan Augt. 20th 1815

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 22d Febr'y came safe to hand with the Bill for £150 Sterlg drawn by Messrs W. Turner Harris & Co on Messrs. W. P. Lett & Steele of London in your favor -

I have also reced the Duplicate -

Yours [c.o. letter] of the 7th June I have also before me – Nothing has been done in the affair of Holts Bill upon Deffel as Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co had returned you the Bill and Protest and did trust you [c.o. may] might have been able to recover the amount from Mr Holt [c.o. if] but you have not, it will be necessary

to have the Bill & Protest in this Country before any further steps can be taken -

I am still without the accounts &c and therefore [c.o. stand] am placed in a very [c.o. awkward] unpleasant situation with Sir Thomas Stirlings Trustees, but shall expect them by the Middlesex according to your promise.

Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co. have received instructions to forward the supplies according to your desire – and as these will go beyond the amount of the last Bill, the promised remittances will be most acceptable -

If not attended with and considerable expence, it would be desirable to have a valuation of the Penn as you propose

You do not say how you have settled with Mrs Longbothom

The young men are well, and I am using every exertion at this time to get Thomas made a Lieut.

I have nothing more to add

I remain

Dear Sir

Your very faithfull & Obt Snt

signed T. Graham Stirling

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 44-45

H M Ship Spencer Plymouth

August 22d 1815

Dear Graham

The Spencer has been a few days ago ordered to be paid off, and it has taken place with the exception of the Officers who are ordered to remain until superceded or reappointed Capt. Raggett the Master, Purser, Surgeon, are all superceded and only the Lieuts. remain at present, the whole of us expect to be realeaved, so I shall not be long ere I see you in Scotland I have proposed to myself to go to Cheltenham for a week or ten days to try what effect it will have on establishing my health, (that is if I am not reappointed). The promotion that was talked of some time ago is quite stoped by the intersestion of the Duke of Wellington and will come out when ever matters are settled in Paris, but that may not be for some months to come

I had a few days ago a letter from my Brother Tom, who likewise tells me he is paid off, and wanted to join Spencer, untill promotion comes out, but I have recommended him not to join any ship, but to come and live with me on half Pay, as he can get promoted without being afloat, several instances having occured lately, as for myself I am quite careless whether I get promoted or not and I have made my mind up to remain a Lieut. if I am if I am superceded, and have no ship, the very Interest

that would get me made a Capt. would in some degree be diminished in getting me a Ship, so you may see that it would take nearly the interest for one or the other, besides I can have no object in serving in Peace, there is no Promotion no Prize-money, and I shall be at the Caprice and will of some Rascal of a Capt. as is the way with the one that relieves Capt. Raggatt, the only benefit that may result from being employed in Peace, is on the breaking out of a war but that is so distant an object that we cannot contemplate on that, so I shall return to you as I set out like a bad halfpenny I was sorry to find by your letter that Pat. Stirling as well as Begbie were unwell at Tunbridge but I trust ere this they are perfectly recovered. I wrote some time ago to Begbie but I have not been answered, that does not look like recovery

Probably you may know some thing of the Capt. that supercedes Raggett he's is an Old East Indian his name is Broughton⁶⁹⁰. I believe he had, Illustrious. 74⁶⁹¹ out there, some years ago. he is a very disagreeable character, and I trust, I will not remain with him. I will rather apply to be superceded myself than remain, the whole of the Lieuts. intend doing so rather than stay with him after so good a man as Ragget, and as a testimony of our Respect for him we have presented him with a small piece of Plate as a Token of our esteem & love in leaving us all he could scarcely refrain from tears, such was [c.o. his] the friendship he evinced for us.

Give my kind love to your Mother, Sisters and all t[blotted] small Craft. &c &c. and I am

Yours Ever Truly & Affect

Chas. Stirling

P O Crieff Tuesday

the company that you hand the

Pay has not as R[torn] has been to Call

these two day [torn] for the Stirlings

Post as he goes [torn] at 2 aClock

[torn] R C

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling Edqr.
[c.o. Airth Castle]
Strowan
[c.o. Falkirk]
Crieff
Scotland

[stamped but no date legible]

Letter from Thomas Graham Stirling to Thomas Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 104-107

Strowan Augt. 25th 1815

My dear Tom,

I had not neglected your interests, though I was unsuccessful in my applications; I have again renewed them and urged with all my power – My letter to Sir C. Edmons⁶⁹² will probably be submitted to Lord Melville for perusal, and I have referred to Captain Duncan for Character &c – He has kindly said to Sir Jas. Fergusson⁶⁹³ that he sent a good one when you passed, and I hope he will now give it additional weight – If the affair of Genoa⁶⁹⁴ were mentioned it would have the best

effect – I have

[blank page]

said so in a letter to Sir James Fergusson but you can yourself hint it to Captain Duncan, as no time is to be lost -

I feel myself under very great obligation to Captn Duncan for his friendly attentions in your behalf, pray offer my thanks to him -

My Mother & sister & small Craft are all here well, and join in best wishes to you – I am sorry to say that my Friend Begbie is very ill, I mean to be in London in ten days to see him, so you will direct to me there -

Adieu and believe me My dear Tom

Your very afftn. Cousin
Thos. Graham Stirling

Mrs MacDowall is quite happy with her son James's promotion⁶⁹⁵ – it required the greatest interest -

[blank page]

Addressed to: Mr Thomas Stirling
[c.o. H M Ship Glasgow
Chatham]

Paid Off

Stamped: 1 SE 1815

Letter from Thomas Graham Stirling to David Finlay

MS. 10952 f. 109

[copy]

Strowan Au 31st 1815

Dear Sir

I had the pleasure of addressing you from Tunbridge on the 2d instant, acknowledging the receipt of yours, containing a Bill of Exchge for £100 on Sir S. Clarke

Since that time I have had a conversation with Mr Deffell, and I find that Holt's sugars were in the ships manifest consign'd to him, & no claim having been made on our part for a length of time, the proceeds were placed to the credit of McGhie's estate; It appears that McGhie⁶⁹⁶ is dead &, that the Gentleman who is receiver on the Estate, is appointed Executor. Mr Deffell speaks highly of this Gentleman, it would therefore be adviseable to state the whole transaction to him, and as it was really a bona fine transaction for the benefit of the estate upon his shewing this fact to Mr Deffell & authorizing him to pay us our principle & interest, I have no doubt that Gentleman will

will immediately do so – By Mr Deffell I mean the house of Messrs Deffell & Co.

I hope you will take a notarial Copy of the protested Bill, & return the original one; I forgot in my last letter to say that immediately upon the receipt of your letter respecting the supplies Messrs Stirling & Gordon & Co had my instructions to ship them

I have not yet looked at the accounts,

I remain Dr Sir
yours very faithfully & Obdly
(signed) Thomas Graham Stirling

P.S. it is folly in Mr Holt pretending to have any claim upon us, as the Sugars were delivered as manifested, and we are the only losers. (signed) T.G.S.

David Finlay Esqr. Ardoch Penn
St Anne's Jamaica

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 108-109

51 York Street Portman Square
1st Sept. 1815

Dear Cousin

I have this moment seen Capt. Duncan who has assured me he has done every thing in his power to forward my views. I trust that you will not fail to do the same at this present moment no time is there to be lost not an hour to spare. The Glasgow was paid off on the 28th & I set off for Town where to my greatest astonishment I found Mr Begbie⁶⁹⁷ on the Brink of Fate with which you must have been acquainted before this. I shall live in Town till I am appointed to a ship (for all passed Midm. must be appointed) or till I get my Commission which I hope will be a short time

I delayed writing as I was totally ignorant

of what I was to do with myself but Capt Duncan has advised me to remain on shore for Promotion but I fear they will embark me again which I tremble for carrying a Sea Chest & a Trunk as two are rather an unwieldy load.

I wish to make a strong effort & push every thing before you till you arrive at the wished for ground.

Please remember me most cordially & affectionately to all friends I expect to see you all in Scotland shortly I trust to find you in sound health & able to enjoy the luxuries of the fields & meadows which this season so plentifully affords.

The Spencer is paid off but where Charles is I know not but should we both go North? We shall appear so gay with our Epauettes as to charm the eye & even the hearts of all the Fair ones around. Allow me to conclude I desire you will make fresh applications I want to get the

weather gage of some of my friends.

Forget not to give my duty to my Aunt & kindest remembrances to Miss Jane & Christian

I am Dear Sir
your ever affectionate Cousin
Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: [c.o. Thos. Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk]
NB James Dundas Esq
St Andrew Square
Edinburgh

Stamped: SEP 5 1815

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 [page numbers torn]

Camp 4 miles from Poona

10th Sept 1815.

My dear Sir,

I arrived here on the 8th Inst, forming part of the Advance of the Army in the Deccan, to carry into effect some insurances to be immediately adopted by the British Government, in consequence of a plot which was executed during last month by the creatures of the Peishwa's Prime Minister, and which ended in the murder of an Ambassador⁶⁹⁸ from the Guicawar Government, and under our protection.

This Advanced is composed of the following troops and we are formed thus:

Left.P	P	p	P	P	P	R
Light Battn.	Grenadiers	People of	Pioneers	3d Light	Bombay	
composed of	Battn:	Lt. Compy		Cavalry	H. Artillery	
the Lt. horse	composed of	N inv.				
of P.S. ForceComps.	56 regt				
	P. Subsidiary					
	Force					

The above Force is under the immediate Command of the Officer Commanding Poona Subsidiary Force who with Huff [unclear] & advanced with us.

We are in daily expectation, of an Order to commence hostilities, and a general Mahratta war will likely be the consequence

We are in a most efficient state, and everyone in high spirits at the prospect before

us - The remainder of the P.S. Force is at Seroor, 40 miles in our rear, and ready to move at a moments notice.

I wrote Miss Graham a few days ago, which she will I hope receive.

The Resident here held a levee yesterday which we all attended.

I suppose by the next letter I write you, you will hear of my promotion – As it goes by seniority, and none above me dying of late I have been rather unfortunate, but I hope to be more lucky in getting my Company. However I need not grumble, as I have been lucky in getting Commands & here I have now Command of our Grenadier Company, and before I left Hd Quarters of the Corps, my Comming. Officer told me that I had only to mention any thing I wanted for the equipment of that Company, & if it could be had, I should have it.

I have been disappointed by not getting any letters by the many late arrivals from England. It is now 8 months since I had one.

I have now a question to put to you, which you will I trust, not look upon

as in any way ungrateful towards you. It is to know in what circumstances my Father died; and, if our Uncle made any kind of provision for myself and Brothers; and if so, what it might be. – I have often received hints when I was in [c.o. England] Scotland, that something small had been left us, but the delicacy of the case prevented me from ever making enquiries regarding it. Indeed your

kindness, and friendship, rendered such unnecessary, and would have then been unpardonable. -
Now, that I have been upwards of four years, my own master, and from which I conceive that I am
in no way unqualified to become acquainted with my own circumstances, I humbly beg you will
thus satisfy me, that, tho' it is not my intention ever to touch it – still some very urgent case, such as
ill health or the like, may render such a thing necessary, tho that I hope may never happen.

Remember me to your Mother and Sisters - & Davy Erskine the Dundasses &c &c
The weather is miserably damp and cold. - My Tent is pitched in a cotton field very

deep, and my horse and other cattle poor brutes standing night and day very deep in the mud. -

I have nothing more to add at present. I hope you will sometime write me; and give my Brothers a
hint, at any time convenient, that they have a Brother in India, and that it would become them much,
to take that into their consideration

That, distance as an excuse can be of no avail; that illness is an aggravation of the neglect; and that
they intended at different times to write, will only tend to confusion, an opinion, that I have begun
to form, and which, tho' better at some future period, shall certainly me made know to them. -

I remain at present
Yours most affectionately and ever obliged -
W Stirling

Letters from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 107-108

[Duplicate Original P the Sandwich Packet
Saint Ann's Jamaica 11th August 1815]

[cont]

Saint Ann's Jamaica 15 Sept 1815

Dear Sir,

Having nothing particular to trouble you will by the present packet except to forward you the
annexed Duplicate of my respect's by the last packet and to forward you the second of the set of
Bills therein transmitted. I have not only to Solicit your friendly and Kind Consideration to a Letter
I have by this Packet addressed to our friend Mr

Mr Archibald Stirling, which affects in a Considerable degree my own Welfare, and, as far as is
connected with it, that of this Property, and trusting with confidence to your ready compliance with
the request therein contained

I remain Dear Sir,
Most faithfully & Respectfully,
Your's
David Finlay

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
of Airth Castle
by [c.o. Falkirk]

Strowan N.B.
Crieff

P Rapid Packet

Stamped: NOV 1 1815
JAMAICA 17 SE 1815

MS. 10952 ff. 89-90

[Triplicate Original p Her Majs Ship Ringdove, Capt Dowers
Sailed from Port Royal 1st Oct & arrived at Plymouth 8 November 1814
Duplicate by the packet which sailed in October
To, James Dundas Esqr W,S, Edinburgh, or Thomas Graham
Stirling Esqr of Airth Castle by Falkirk N.B.

St Ann's Jamaica 27th September 1814

[Copy continued]

Ardoch Penn St Ann's 17th November 1815

Dear Sir,

My last respects to you were dated the 15th Septemr since which I am favoured with you Letter of the 28th Augt from Strowan by which I learn with no less astonishment than regret (after all the trouble and anxiety of mind I had regarding Holts unfortunate business) that my Letter or packet by the Ringdove Sloop of War of the 27th September 1814 should never have reached your hands; more especially, as it contained important papers which I fully expected would have enabled Mr Dundas to recover from Mr Deffel near £400 Sterling in this time; being the probable amount with interest of the 12 casks of Sugar of Mr Holt's. The Ringdove had a very quick passage as you will perceive by the minutes at the top of the Triplicate of that Letter which I now annex to this. I still cannot help flattering myself that the Letter with it's different inclosures may yet be in Mr Dundas's Office as I addressed it to him in Edinburgh as well as to you; it being a Subject that regarded his professional, as well as official, attention as a Trustee. What I am most anxious about is the Safety of the 3d Bill of Lading and the original of the protested Bill of Exchange, both inclosed in that Letter. You will perceive by Mr Hinchliffe's opinion that an action against Mr Holt would be futile here; as he, by giving indorsed Bills of Lading for more than the amount of his, Bill acted perfectly correctly & honourably and had these Bills of Lading reached Messrs Stirling & Gordons hands all

all would have been well. The protest, as well as a Notarial copy of the Bill of Lading, I have in my possession and which it seems proper I should keep until I learn from you whether Mr Dundas received the Packet in question. If he did not, I can get another notarial copy of it made, and transmitted the moment I hear from you: also a duplicate copy of Judge Hinchliffe's opinion, and the protest and Bill of Lading: but I cannot account for the miscarriage of the Packet as hundreds of answers to Letters by that Vessel have been long since received in this Island: and you acknowledge various Letters of mine of much later date.

You enquire, rather to my Surprise, if I have made any Settlement with Mrs Longbotham & when you read my different Letters you will perceive that I considered this out of my Power until the question of Interest is decided; and my instructions from you on that head will regulate me in the Settlement. The money due by Mr Laing for jobbing, I have received in my hands for that purpose; and I intreat the favour of you to read over my observations, and send me early and positive advice on this Subject.

I trust you have long since received my different accounts current forwarded in July, by the Middlesex; and I am happy to perceive the arrival of the Sandwich Pa..k[torn] my letter, by which

conveyance, would hand you a Bill of Exchange (By the present packet [torn] I fully expected to send you one on account of the Stock Sold in April last to Mr Cuthbert amount £260 curry, but that Gentleman has not yet sent it to me, altho' I expect it by next Post; and if this packet is postponed, it will yet be in time – If not, it shall be forwarded by the very first conveyance -

Since my last Papers will probably inform you that this Island has been visited with a dreadful Storm or Hurricane which has done incredible mischief to all properties especially to Sugar Estates. Almost all the penns hereabouts have lost a number of Calves from the Violence and duration of the Gale (the longest in the memory of Man here) and many grown Cattle killed by trees and their heavy limbs falling on the poor animals. On this Property however, I rejoice to say that we have lost none, out chief damage being a great number

number of large trees torn up by the roots, many Walls broken down & provisions destroyed. The negroes and Stock are all well & the former jobbing out @ 3/4d p diem; but from the late Storm having destroyed their plantains &c I am obliged to purchase in a little rice & flour for them these article being dog cheap from the peace with America; and the Supplies not being arrived a few Alewives & Shads⁶⁹⁹ are indispensible until the Herrings arrive. The Robert is arrived in ballast & by her return I shall forward the Increase & Decrease of negroes & Stock with proper lists of both; and probably my accounts for the Current year -

Ere this our Friend Mr Archd Stirling will have communicated to you the contents of a Letter I lately wrote him respecting an inflammatory complaint at the neck of the bladder which was then and is sometimes very Severe upon me. I therein Stated to him the opinion of my medical & other Friends that a trip home for a few months appeared indispensibly necessary. Since that however the

the complaint has taken a more favourable turn; that is to say, I have been exempted from the painful Spasms by the application of a remedy of an experienced Physician and if they do not return (which is very uncertain) I shall not think of going home as I cannot afford it. But it is a Strange complaint going & returning and as it chiefly arises from relaxation – the change to a cold Climate with Sea air & bathing it is considered would permanently remove it. The arrangements I stated to Mr Stirling, you may rely upon it most confidently, are for the good of the penn as it would be under the respectable management during the short time my absence across the Water may be necessary, but I trust I shall not X

[cross-hatched and very faint – corrected from copy]

X be obliged to do so having been for the last six weeks as well and as actively employed as ever having naturally a Strong and excellent Constitution -

We are fattening some of our old Cows, and have ten good Steers for Sale, which I expect a purchaser for next Week; and as there is a talk of a rise in the price of Cattle I trust the will fetch a little more than usual.

With much respect I remain Dear Sir
Your faithful & most obet. Servant
David Finlay

IAddressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
of Airth Castle
[c.o. Falkirk Stirling]
James Dundas Esqr, WS
St Andrews Square
Edin. N.B.

P the Osborne Packet

Stamped: JAN 16 1816

Letter from Thomas Graham Stirling to David Finlay

MS. 10952 ff. 114-115

[copy]

Airth Castle
Decbr. 4th 1815

Dear Sir

Mr Arch Stirling our Friend has informed me of your wish to return to Europe for the re-establishment of your health & in consequence I have consulted with Mr Dundas & Mr Graham of Gartur⁷⁰⁰ one of the Trustees on the Subject. There is one thing which must be done in the event of your leaving the Island, which is to join Mr Willm Stirling (Content) in the Management of the Pen with Mr Coward⁷⁰¹ – By this packet I have written Mr W Stirling to that effect. - The acts are under consideration of Mr Graham Gartur I shall write you any remarks that may occur – I observe a charge

for a Notorial Copy of Holts Bill of exchange this has never reached me – So I request another may be forwarded without delay. - The list of Negroes had been neglected to be put up with the acts. - please let a list be sent. - When you return to this Country I shall be happy to see you here & in the meantime I remain

Dear Sir &c &c

Signed Thos. Graham Stirling

The power of Attorney will be sent by next packet

David Finlay Esqre

[another hand: Later date write Wm Stirling requesting him to act with Mr Coward, a person strongly recommended by Ach. Stirling]

Letter from David Finlay to Henry Longbothom and his reply

MS. 10952 f. 116

Copy of a Letter to Mr Henry Longbothom dated

Ardoch 19 Decem 7th

Sir!

I have at last received by the packet a communication from Mr Graham Stirling of Airth Castle, on the Subject of Mrs Longbothom's Legacy in a Letter dated 2nd October last. He says that if Mrs L. insists on the Whole of the principal and interest, she will not only forfeit his own good Will; but all claim to the future regard or favourable opinion of her offspring: and adds, that it is a cruel and unexpected blow on them as they cannot afford it. -

Mrs Longbothom will therefore be the best Judge whether by exacting the whole of the Interest, hers will be more promoted than by accepting of a reasonable proportion of it. Should you, on her part therefore, agree to this; I am authorized to come to a Settlement with her by immediate

payment of such part as can be afforded – and the balance by Instalments at yearly periods

Having remitted near £1000 currency last year and the present for the maintenance of the Heirs, and the penn being in my debt, a large payment cannot well be expected – And if Mrs Longbothom has any respect for my advice I would Strongly recommend to her, for her own future happiness and Welfare, not to risque a

a permanent and irreparable breach with the Trustees and the young Gentlemen; but by a little natural liberallity towards them, proved her regard by being moderate in her exacting of interest, endeavouring thereby to Secure the friendship and good opinion of all Parties -

I will thank you to call here tomorrow, or the day after, and fetch with you a Statement of the account & that Something may be fixed on and settled immediately after the Holydays.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedt. Servant
Davide Finlay

N.B. It is to be observed that Mrs Longbothom can write nothing except her own name & her missive is sent by Mr Longbothom

Mr Longbothoms reply to the above
(Copy) Moneague, 29 Decemr 1815
Sir,

I could not answer your Letter 'till now. I observe all you say respecting the Legacy. The Principal and all the Interest must be paid.

If you are inclined to pay any part of it before the 20th January, it may Save the Property from £300 to £400 as I am directed to be in Town on that day to take the necessary Papers out of the office – If you wish me to [c.o.] wait on you for the purpose of settling I will do so.

I am &c
(signed) Henry Longbothom
To David Finlay esquire
Ardoch

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 110-113

[Duplicate; Original P Osborn Packet
Ardoch Penn St Ann's 17th November 1815]

[copy]

[copy]

Saint Ann's Jamaica 30th Decemr 1815

Dear Sir!

Since I addressed you at considerable length on the 17th Ultro of which I now annex a copy I have had the pleasure to receive your esteemed favour of the 2nd Octr from Tunbridge Wells by which I learn with Satisfaction that the different Bills I had remitted you met due honour, and that my

accounts &c by the Middlesex had arrived.

I lost no time in writing a Letter to my worthy friend Mr Wm Stirling informing him, according to your Wish, that his Venerable Father was wonderfully well when you wrote, & that his Brother Mr Patrick Stirling⁷⁰² was on the mending hand with you in Kent of which I am very happy to hear as well as

as of Kippendavie's Health, as a Letter from one of my Sisters gave me reason to fear that he had been rather Seriously attacked with a paralytick affection not very long ago; but we must all lay our accounts with a break up at his advanced Age. From Wm I have not heard very lately tho' he is in general a good Correspondent, but I learnt 'tother day that he was in his usual Health.

To Mr Longbotham I also did not fail to write in consequence of your instructions authorizing me to come to a Settlement of his Wife's Legacy; and I urged everything in my power to induce the Lady to make a reasonable abatement on account of Interest as you will perceive by the inclosed copy of a Letter I wrote to her Husband in which I went at great lengths as I could well do in appealing to her Sense of feeling & Justice, towards her Sons; which I hope may produce some effect – altho' the Gentleman has not yet thought thought [sic] fit to reply to my Letter, nor to call upon me. I suspect he has sent it to his Solicitor for his advice on the Subject, but you may rest assured I shall exert my best Endeavours for the benefit of our Protege's, altho' I confess my present ideas do not flatter me much with the expectation of any thing like liberality on the part of the Claimants – My hopes of obtaining much time for the liquidation of the balance too, are by no means Sanguine; but be assured I shall do the best I can and apprize you of the result by an early opportunity.

No change hath as yet been made in the price of Steers

and the old Sum of £32.10/ is Still current: We had about a dozen or 14 fit for Work, and I sold ten of them to Mr Abram Hodgson of St Mary's abt. a fortnight ago at that rate pble 25th July next amount £325.

My friend Mr Cuthbert, who is now about to be appointed President of the Privy Council of this Island, has paid for the Spell of Cattle mentioned in my last, but Bills have risen to a Premium of 7h per Cent. Mr Cuthbert has paid interest on the £260 from 14 Augt to 31st of this month; and I now Enclose the first of his Set of Bills of that date at 90 d St on Gilbert Mathison, Esq of London P £180.2.6 Sterling making my remittances in all this year £42.2.6 Stg or £594.19.6 Currency in account of Ardoch Penn. Should you have any difficulty about Mr Mathison's address, he is a particular friend of Mr Archd Stirling's (whose Lady it gives me great happiness to observe by your Letter is in the Family Way) and a considerable Proprietor in this Country).

We have Still 2 or 3 young Steers for Sale; and shall have I trust at least 20 by the usual time. I am Still not without hopes that the Price will rise to £35 or £40 this year from the great Scarcity of them -

Our droppings have been pretty well. I expected 50 Calves, but have only had 43 making 81 last year & this which, with the jobbing of the negroes ought to make the Penn nett considerably -

I shall very soon make up my accots. Current with

with the Penn and Trustees for 1815, with Lists of the Negroes and Stock; and in the meantime wishing the young Gentlemen and yourself, very sincerely, many returns of the Season in Health & Happiness,

I remain with great esteem & respect,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient & very faithfl. Hble Servant

David Finlay

Thomas Graham Stirling, esquire

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
of Airth Castle
near Falkirk
North Britain

P Lord Sidmouth Packet

Stamped: FEB 12 1816

[note in another hand: Recvd. Feby 23rd – but without Mr Finlays letter to Mr Longbothom – above date enclosed the Bill to Mr. Jo Dundas -]

Accounts from David Finlay to Trustees

MS. 10952 f. 217

The Estate of Charles Stirling Esquire deceased
1795 To Rebecca Longbothom Dr_

Jany 17 1816 For principal of a Legacy bequeathed to her by the deceased's last Will dated 9 Jany and who died this day £300 Stg Equal to 420

Jany 17 1816 To 20 years interest thereon from 17 Janry 1796 ob p Cent p annum 504.. 924..
Then receives by the hands of Mr David Finlay, Attorney to the Trustees of General Sir Thos Stirling, Baronet, deceased 324..

Balance due, pble by 5 annual Instalments 600

Jany 17 1817 To one fifth of £600	120..	
To one years Interest in £600.. p cents	36	
1 1 st Instalment due 17 Janry 1817		156..
Jany 17 1818 To one fifth of £600.0.0.	120	
To one year's interest on £480.. p cents	28.16	
2 2 nd Instalment due 17 January 1818		148.16.
Jany 17 1819 To one fifth of £600.0.0	120	
one year's interest on £480.00	28.16	
3 3 rd Instalment due 17 January 1819		148.16.
Jany 17 1820 To one fifth of Principal	120	
To one year's interest on £480.00	28.16	
4 4 th Instalment due 17 January 1820		148.16.
Jany 17 1821 To one fifth of £600.0.0	120	
To one year's interest on £480.00	28.16	
5 5 th and last Instalment due 17 January 1821		148.16.
		<hr/> £751.4.

St Anns Jamaica, 23d Janry 1816
Errors excepted

David Finlay Atty
for the Trustees of Sir Thos Stirling Deceased

1 st Instalment	156..
4 years interest on £480	115.4.
4 Instalments of £120	480..
	£751.4

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 117-119

[Duplicate - Original P the Lord Sidmouth Packet
Saint Ann's Jamaica 30 December 1815]

[copy]

Saint Ann's Jamaica 25th January 1816

Dear Sir,

On the 30th Ultio. I had the pleasure of addressing you at considerable length, and have now that of attaching hereto a copy of my Letter of that date.

I have now to advise you of the result of my settlement of Mrs Longbothom's Legacy. All my advise and entreaties for them to discount a reasonable proportion of the load of Interest proved completely unavailing; which as evidently proved, as you justly remark her total want of regard and affection for our Protege's. They lent a deaf ear to everything I proposed by way of deductions. I even went so far as

as to say that their agreeing to a reasonable abatement would have a favourable effect on yourself, and the young Gentlemen; but no, their inexorable Covetousness has terminated all my hopes. To this effect; and in Consequence of such unnatural Conduct I humbly beg leave to State that in my opinion positive [unclear] instructions ought to be immediately sent out to me to dispossess them of the place they still rent out belonging to this Penn, as nothing of the kind can be held by them as a matter of right but of mere temporary indulgence on the part of the late General Stirling -

With no small difficulty could I get the man to agree to receive the Balances by Instalments. They wanted half down and the remaining moiety in 1817 – but I positively refused such terms, and at last got them to agree to receive their balance of £600 by 5 annual instalments agreeably to the Statement thereof inclosed. By it you will perceive that with a View of being as easy as possible on the limited Funds of the Heirs at home, I have advanced £184 of my own on this occasion Valuing on Mr Dundas for only £100 Sterling, in place of £200 Stg, which your Letter authorised me to do; and which, with whatever premium may be current by the sailing of this packet on Bills of exchg. Mr Longbothom has agreed to pay. My Bill of Mr Dundas is dated the 23d inst. and drawn at 90 days Sight of which have the goodness to advise him on receipt of this; and Longbothom's receipt to me is for £324

My Conduct in this affair has been regulated, as on all occasions, by my Wish to Serve the young Gentlemen, and I

I trust it will be approved of by the Trustees & yourself.

Herewith you have the Second of the Sett of Bills of exchange on Mr Mathison referred to in my

There are some remarks on the accts which shall be forwarded to you soon, [c.o. which] & I doubt not you will explain them satisfactorily You have full powers to make the best settlement you can with the Longbothoms, and if they will not be satisfied without the whole Interest, it must be paid.

I mentioned this to you in a letter from England, (I quote from memory at present) and described "you would apply to that purpose such funds as you might have in hand, or as they came to hand, and to draw for any Ballce not

not exceeding £300 Stirg. on Mr Dundas"

It will be very desirable if you can settle the whole amount without drawing – I am very glad to find your health is so much better and I remain &c &c

Signed T. Graham Stirling

P.S.

We are very anxious for the valuation of the whole Property as formerly proposed Penn Negroes & Stock &c – Please consult with Mr Wm. Stirling as to the Gentlemen to be employed & get it done without delay

T.G.S.

David Finlay Esqr
Ardoch Penn
Jamaica

Letter from Stirling, Gordon to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 f. 31

Glasgow 8 February 1816

Sir,

We beg to enclose Invoice of Sundries & 20 half bbls Herrings shipped for Ardoch Penn in the Middlesex Captain Thomson, Amount £160.8.5. She sailed on the 21 ult.

We are Very respectfully

Sir

Your mo. ob. Servts.

Stirling, Gordon & Co,

Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr,

Letter from Henry Longbothom to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 215-216

Moneague. March 27th 1816

Sir

I have taken the Liberty different times of Addressing You respecting the Management of Ardoch penn in this Parish my sole motive as well as well as Mrs Longbothom's is on Account of the Children of the late Chas Stirling deceased and Hers were entirely for their Interest which I make no doubt but You will take into Your Serious Consideration for the Benefit of the Property to Appoint and send a power of Attorney to who ever You are pleased in this Island, that is to Say a Gentleman

of Abillities and well Versed in the Grazing line of a penn or Farm and such as I would beg leave to Recommend viz. The Honourable John Shand of Spanish Town Francis Graham⁷⁰³ Esquire or Doctor Alexander Kidston⁷⁰⁴ of Saint Anns every one of these Gentlemen are Acquainted with Ardoch. I presume you have Accounts Checked every Year which you are a Competent Judge of the yearly returns of Ardoch penn, and for Instance the Butchery Established there, the return ought to be Appropriated intirely for the Estate of Charles Stirling Deceased and not for a Single Individual. Mr Finlay had neither Negroes nor Horned Stock when He came first to Ardoch and how He can think of taking Ardoch Negroes & Stock to travel different parts of the Country without the Smallest remuneration and Appropriating the whole Profits to his own Use. But these points I submit intirely to your own Approbation. I say Dinners & Grand Entertainments is more than Ardoch can afford. Mr Pollard of whom Mr Finlay makes mention of so feelingly is in my Idea a perverse man on Ardoch, and receives a salary of £70 or £100 a Year for going about the Country to purchase Sad Cattle for Mr Finlay, Can Mr Finlay Say He is doing Justice or would He allow such proceedings where it his own, There is not a Neighbour that is not Astonished. In fact Mr Finlay does not

P.T.O.

not Hesitate to Say the Property is much in His Debt and will be Sold in a few year and that he has an Idea of purchasing. But how this property can be brought in his Debt so deeply Astonishes my weak mind as well as any One that hears it. When his Commissions ought not to amount by His own Account to more than £60 or Seventy pounds a Year, in his Own letter to me He Says He sent Home over £500 last Year which in my humble Opinion is little enough for my part I think it would be better to Rent out Ardoch for Seven Hundred a Year other than Sell it Admitting the Eldest Son or One of them to come out and See the Property and Call a Valuation. I am Confident the Negroes could Job for £500 a Year at least and keep the penn Clear Also the Sales of Cattle surely cannot really Amount to less than £800 a Year. I must now beg leave to inform you I have Received from Mr Finlay Three Hundred and Twenty four Pounds in part of the Legacie left Mrs Longbotham and nothing but the Insulting letters I Received from Mr Finlay made me request an Immediate payment. For with what Presumption Mr Finlay should Say that Mrs Ls Children would never Countenance Her I know not, nor Can I be persuaded they ever Authorised Him to take upon Himself to pass so great an Insult. In my Letter to Him I only reminded Him of His duty, as an Attorney for the Property of Orphans, that by the Laws of this Country He was bound to Best them and not to Worst them. The Original of His Two Letters, in which He not only Insults me and Mrs L but the very Children and those Concerned (In fact the very hand that Feeds Him He spurns etc., as scarce worthy of notice) I have only to Observe The Sooner the Property is taken out of His Hands the Better. Mrs Longbotham and myself will then have no Objections to give every Indulgence for the Remainder of the Legacie I Remain with very good wish Sir Your

Most Obedt Humle Svt
Henry Longbothom

PS. Mrs Longbothom begs to be kindly Remembered to Her Sons

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
of Airth
North Britain

Stamped: MAY 13 1816

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 f. 46

George St. 68⁷⁰⁵ April 18th 1816

My Dear Graham

As our Classes break up here about the 25th of this month and not having laid my plans for my future time I wish you would advise me in some way how I am to proceed, I have had a desire to visit Paris, but then a obstacle presents itself, which will not, more probably be overcome, but however I wish you would think on what you conceive best to be done, I am perfectly tired of this place, and Miss R. has been sent to some of her friends in England to stay some time in hopes of getting the better of her Lost Heart (as her Aunt says), I have been visiting my friend Capt. Napier⁷⁰⁶ at the Seat of Lord Hoptoun, Olverston⁷⁰⁷ Hall, where I stayed a couple of days, & was most happily entertained by the new married pair, who have scarcely done billing & Cooining, & large party of their friends had gone to visit them, and the house being full I was obliged to depart

My Brother joins in kind love to all the
Family Old & Young and I am your ever Affect. Sincerely
Chas. Stirling

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling Esq.
Airth Castle
near
Falkirk

Stamped: APR 18 1816

Letter from Patrick Cockburn to Charles Stirling. Stirling, Gordon & Co. regarding Henry Hamilton's estate

T-SK18/13/20

Addressed: Charles Stirling Esq, Messrs. Stirling Graham, Glasgow

Note: Edin. 3d May 1816 Patrick Cockburn⁷⁰⁸ regarding payt. of debt due the late Henry Hamilton by Rob. Stirlings Estate. Answered & sent a Copy of this Letter to Alex. Dow⁷⁰⁹

3 May 1816

...I was also favoured with your letter of the 1st current containing accts. relative

relative to the Estate of Henry Hamilton - I had previously received a call from Mr Wm. McFarlane⁷¹⁰ W.S. agent for the parties who showed me copy of an opinion which Mr Grant⁷¹¹ had lately got from Mr Hart in direct opposition to the opinion formerly given by the Jamaica Counsel - Proceeding upon a late decision of the Vice Chancellor the opinion now is that a Bequest to an illegitimate child in ventre sa mere⁷¹² is good - So the Child which was born after Mr. Hamilton's death would upon the footing of this opinion be entitled to the Legacy of £1600. - And if the other £1600 bequeathed to the daughter be vested in the Crown, then there would be nothing remaining to the Heirs in this Country at all. - Mr McFarlane was going to the Country where he expected to see some of the parties, and he seemed rather to think that they ought to give themselves no trouble

about the business. - So far as I can see the matter seems to be as far from being settled as ever. after seeing

seeing Mr McFarlane again I shall take the liberty of corresponding with Mr Grant upon the subject. - I understand some of the parties are under age, and perhaps in that case the safest mode would be to file a bill in Chancery & stay under the authority of the Lord Chancellor.....

... [note CS]..Glasgow 4 May 1816 ...sent Mr Alexander Dow a Copy of the Latter part of this Letter. CS

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 122-123

Ardoch St. Ann's Jamaica 10th May 1816

Dear Sir,

Since I had the pleasure of addressing you on the 25th Janry last I have had that of receiving your esteemed favours of the 31st Octr from Strowan and of 5th Febry from Airth Castle. The former was long of reaching me and had missed a packet; but I lost no time in forwarding not only to Mr Fairclough who is a very respectable man (Mr McGhie's Executor) an Extract of your Letter respecting Mr Deffell's proposal that he should send him an authority to pay you over the Principal & Int. due on Holt's protested Bill, with a full history of that business ab origine, but I also wrote our Friend Mr Wm Stirling to the same effect. For some posts I had no reply from Mr Fairclough & I am sorry not to add that he does not concern himself to be at liberty to give the authority required to Mr Deffell the transaction being previous to his Receivership & Executorship of the late Mr McGhie's Estates, as you will perceive by the following copy of his Letter to me

Good Hope, Trelawny, 18 April 1816

Dear Sir,

"I duly received you favour of the 22d Ulto which would have been replied to long ere this had I not been much engaged to Windward at the time it reached me. With much attention I have perused the Contents of your Letter, but I find it will not become me to interfere in a matter of McGhie with Messrs: Deffell or any others which happened prior to my appointment as Receiver of the Properties. - You will therefore excuse me from Saying more on this Subject" I am

"I am, with respect, Dear Sir, Your faithf. hble. Servant

|Signed| "Wm Fairclough"

To David Finlay, Esqr;

Ardoch Penn St Ann

Under those circumstances I now beg to forward you the protest of Holt's Bill of Exchange and am extremely happy to find by your last letter that my packet of 27th September 1814 by the Ringdove Sloop was received, which you will find, on examination, contains not only a Copy of Mr Judge Hinchliffe's opinion in my writing; but also the original Bill of Exchange & Bill of Lading were [c.o.] inclosed in that Letter, and therefore no Want of Documents to establish our claim. If however any thing should have prevented those last mentioned Documents from reaching your hands I trust the protest now inclosed will answer every purpose I have by me the notarial copy of the 3d Bill of lading which I can forward if you wish it. -

I hear Mr Longbotham has been again writing to you about the Legacy. I hope you have got the

Statement of it I sent you. To my great astonishment, & to give you some idea of the real Character of this Man, after Solemnly agreeing to that Statement on the part of Mrs L. and promising to Sign a Counterpart of the same, on my applying for it he not only refused to sign it, but would not sign a receipt for the £321 I paid him (tho' I took care not to give him the Bills without a receipt on a Stamp) Saying it was time enough to do so when he learns that my Bills are paid!!

They are a shocking Set and She gives out that her son Thomas has wrote her a most friendly invitation to come home & that he is coming out to act for the property himself! I much doubt this

I have pleasure in Saying that we have had two very fine children born in Febry last who are doing well & two or three more of the Women in the family way. By the return of the Middlesex, which has brought out our Supplies I shall send all my accounts and Lists of Negroes and Stock to 31 Decemr last. She is expected to Sail in about six Weeks hence.

I have not as yet been able to get two suitable Gentlemen to meet here for the purpose of Valuing the Penn, negroes & Stock but they have promised & soon will. There is no expense whatever attending it, but my giving them a good dinner and a bottle or two of Wine. My Valuation is about £10,000 Stg or £14,000 Currency – but from the Poverty of the Freehold, a purchaser would be very difficult to meet with in these times – particularly since the late alarms Peoples Minds have experienced in consequence of Mr Wilberforces proposed Registry Bill⁷¹³, a most absurd, dangerous, and as far as regards this Island unnecessary innovation. - It is somewhat Singular that the leading Member of the African institution, and the real and active Instigator of this iniquitous Bill - & Wilberforce's Friend & Coadjutor – Mr Zachary Macaulay⁷¹⁴ was once an Overseer in this Island, and I his Bookkeeper. He was a plausible, well educated, Sensible Fellow – but as complete a Hypocrite, Jesuit, & as cruel a Tyrant on negroes as ever perhaps came to this Island: insomuch that he was execrated [unclear] by his Brother Overseers – and dismissed by his Worthy & respectable Employer Mr Alexander Macleod of Muiravonside for no other cause than his Wanton Severity, & its consequent ruin to the Estate. This man's conduct in England at present make much noise here, and our papers teem with abuse of him and Mr Macleod, with whom I dare say

you are acquainted, will readily corroborate my Statement Should you enquire of Him. - We have just received accts of a Rebellion of the Slaves, and every body here much alarmed Sending away their Property – all owing to the evil machinations of Macaulay & Co in England – Lord Castlreagh's eyes I trust will now be sufficiently opened on this Subject -

The negroes and Stock here are all well – the increase of the latter very respectable and the former jobbing at Goshen and my own Health so good at present that I have no thoughts of quitting the Island

Our Friend Mr William Stirling of Content has offered himself as a Member of Assembly for Saint James's and I believe he will Succeed in his Canvass; in which Event I shall have the pleasure of Seeing him on his Way to Spanish Town. I hear he is very thin indeed

I shall shortly have the pleasure of writing to you again and have the honour to be in the interim,

Dear Sir,
with great esteem & respect
Your very faithfl hble Servant
David Finlay

Thomas Graham Stirling esquire
of Airth Castle

[no envelope]

Letter from Patrick Cockburn to Charles Stirling. Stirling, Gordon & Co.

T-SK18/13/21

31 May 1816

...I have been corresponding with Mr Grant, Mr McFarlane & Mr Dow respecting the debt due to Hamiltons heirs and I think I have got the matter put into such a train as I hope will prove satisfactory to all parties. I wrote a long letter to Mr Grant containing an Exposition of the various doubtful points and requesting him to take such further advice upon the

the subject as he might think necessary and at the same time suggesting as my advice for the consideration of the parties, that the best plan would be for them to make a tripartite division of the Fund, one part to go to the illegitimate son⁷¹⁵ in Jamaica, one to Mrs Dow and one to Mrs Donaldsons children. - Having communicated this to Mr McFarlane along with the State of the acct. he verbally expressed his entire satisfaction with it and he yesterday sent me a letter he had received from Mr Dow in which he likewise agrees to the proposed division. As soon as I get the Consent of the parties properly expresses, I shall send you a copy of the correspondence with instructions to

your Agents in the West Indies to make the proposal to the Boy & his Guardian, and obtain a discharge upon payt. of a third. This done there will be nothing to hinder a settlement with the parties here...

Letter from Thomas Graham Stirling to David Finlay

MS. 10952 ff. 124-125

[copy]

Airth Castle June 1st 1816

Dear Sir,

I expected to have heard from you by last Packet, particularly on the subject of the valuation of the property under your management, which you proposed getting and which I requested you to have made by Gentlemen, who should be approved by my Nephew Mr William Stirling, whom I requested you to consult on the occasion. I am also very desirous to learn what has passed with Mr McGhie's Executors on the subject of our claim on Messrs Deffell on Holts Bill, also to receive the Notarial Copy of the Bill, you being in possession on the only Sett of the Original, I wrote you on this point from Strowan on the 31st October 1815 – I received your Duplicate of the 30th of Decber 15 with Mr Cuthberts Draft on Mr Matheson for £189.2.6 which I presume has been duly

honoured – At the same time I received yours of the 25th of Janry 1816 with your State of the settlement with the Longbothoms and Copy your letter & Mrs Longbothom's reply Apply such funds as may arise to the Discharge of this debt, as the sooner it is settled the better. I have done nothing further as to appointing Mr William Stirling to act along with you at present -

The following are the remarks of one of the Trustees on the acct down to Decber 1815 which I formerly alluded to – viz “The Road Tax in the collecting Constables act. is only is only (sic) £35.15.10 yet it is afterwards charged by Mr Finlay in accounting £35.2.10 this requires to be explained – in Jacob Crapers acct there is a credit for 4 Barrels Herrings at £3.10 not being required, yet in Richie & Co acct 5th of Septber 2 Barrels Pilchards are purchased at £5..each pr

Barrel, how is this? The annual charge also of petty disbursements, without mentioning particulars is uncommon & improper manner of rendering acct & it does not appear upon the General face of these accts that much economy has been observed in contingencies on such a property where all the corn grown is expended” - I doubt not I shall receive from you a satisfactory answer to these remarks &c &c

[in another hand: To David Finlay Esqr
Ardoch Penn
St. Anns
Jamaica

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 126-127

Saint Ann's Jamaica 5 July 1816

Dear Sir,

Since I had the pleasure of writing to you at some length on the 10th of May last, I am without any of your esteemed favours

We have experienced such extraordinary fluctuations of Seasons, altho' incident to these latitudes, that I hardly recollect any thing to equal them – For nine Weeks until about a fortnight ago, not a drop of rain fell which most completely burnt up our pastures, and has occasioned a partial famine by destroying the poor negroes' provisions. Most luckily American Provisions are very Cheap, and I have been forced to purchase some Rice & flour which is indispensable, particularly to the negroes who are jobbing out in St Marys. - There will be plenty of provisions again ere long, for it literally has been pouring in torrents day & night for the last fortnight. - Fortunately the negroes are all in good Health except a few invalids and those who have done nothing from many years; and I expect a Very respectable Increase of Stock this year. The Penn

The Penn is looking very green again, and will I think nett the young Proprietors this year nearly £700: and it must improve if prices Keep up, as from the System I adopted, and the improvements I have made, there is double the quantity of Grass on it that I found in 1810. Our Friend Mr Wm Stirling will have an opportunity of Visiting me in October next, when our House of Assembly meets, as he has been lately elected Member for St James's. He was here in 1812 but saw very little of the place then - But now, he can corroborate my Representation -

I was in expectation of receiving a Bill by this Packet for some Stock I sold to Mr Abram Hodgson⁷¹⁶ last Decemr – but really the Premium in Bills is so extravagant at present that I am half afraid to remit. For a Lady in England, I paid a prem. of 12 ½ P Cent by last packet – but I learn from good authority, that they will fall considerably by the next. -

I am sorry to inform you that the 12 puns of Rum I recd. from Mr Laing last year has turned out miserably from the great expectation of the price of that article in Europe. Mr Laing offered me 2/6 a day hire payable by drafts in Kingston or 3/ payable in Rum at the current market price which was 4/6 P gallon. All the other Jobbers preferred this as Rum was

was expected to rise at home. I of course conceived it much more for the Interest of the Penn to get the additional 6d & the chance of a profit on the Rum. There was no opportunity of Shipping it to Glasgow at the time and I was forced to sent it to Messrs Wedderburn Colville & Co of London; and by the account of Sales just received I find the loss on each punch. is about £9.12/ Stg which

will reduce the rate of hire to about 2/ P Diem. The Bill I gave Mrs Longbotham p £100 Stg in addition to those I drew on Mr Dundas for your sum, was on these Gentlemen on account of this Rum - If possible to avoid taking this article in future I shall endeavour to do so but the Planters generally insists on the jobber taking Rum in payment at market price -

I sincerely hope you are perfectly well and remain, with high respect & esteem,

Dear Sir!
Your faithful Servant,
David Finlay

Thomas Graham Stirling, Esqre;

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
of [c.o. Airth Castle
Falkirk]
Strowan
Crieff

P Nocton Packet

Stamped: SEP 14 1816
JAMAICA 7 JY 1816

Letters from Patrick Cockburn to Charles Stirling. Stirling, Gordon & Co.

T-SK18/13/23

1 Aug 1816

...After a great deal of trouble and correspondence, I have obtained a written consent from the Heirs of Henry Hamilton to the tripartite division of the funds which I formerly mentioned that I had suggested. Upon the footing of this arrangement I have made out a paper of instructions to your agents in Jamaica to communicate the same to the illegitimate son of the Testator and to endeavour to effect

a settlement with the boy or his guardians or others who may have the charge of him. This paper together with the relative accts. & copies of the correspondence that has taken place on the subject I shall forward to you by the Coach, and if your Brother and you approve of the instructions you will please Confirm the same by your subscriptions and forward the parcel to Mr Stevenson. I wrote to him on the 27 June to prepare him for the present communication which I hope will have the effect to bring about a settlement to the satisfaction of all parties -

You will observe that Mr Grant has sent me his Bill of Costs relative to this business which amounts to £23.10.11. I shall write to him to draw upon Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Co. for this sum, and you will have the goodness to desire them to honour the draught & place the same to the debit of the Estate of Robert Stirling...

T-SK18/13/24

10 Augt 1816

...It will be obliging if you will any time at your convenience inform me whether the Instructions referred to in my above mentioned letter respecting the Estate of Henry Hamilton were approved of by your Brother & you & forwarded to your Agents in Jamaica...

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff 128-129

Saint Ann's Jamaica 19 Octr: 1816

Dear Sir,

My last Letter was dated 13th Augt and I also had the pleasure of addressing you on the 5th July to both which Letters I beg to refer you.

Since then I am favoured with you esteemed Letter of the 1st of June, and would have replied to it by the last packet, but that I expected to have been enabled to send in this Valuation of the Penn you express a wish for, my friend Mr Wm Stirling (who I expect in a few days on his way to Town to attend the Sessions) entirely approved of the two Gentlemen I proposed viz: Messrs Coward & Horlock⁷¹⁷ but from absence, indisposition &c I have not as yet been able to get them to meet here – but very soon will

The former Gentl. is an old Acquaintance of our Worthy friends Mr Archd Stirling from whom I had the pleasure of a Letter in July last – and one a few days ago by the Robert – He mentions the lamented death of that Worthy Man & old friend of our Family Mr Stirling of Kippenross⁷¹⁸ and that our friend Wm gets Content with his Brother Charles, and also the Share in the House of Stirling Gordon & Co which will make them very Wealthy -

I know this Penn, negroes & Stock will value at about the Sum I formerly Stated to you vizt about £10,000 Stg; but no man at present would give more

more than £8 or £8500 Stg the freehold (the Sine qua non of a Penn) being so very old Sterile & hilly as I have repeatedly stated. A very Pretty Penn near this called Phenix Park⁷¹⁹, which Mr A Stirling well knows, lately sold to Wm Mitchell for £10,000 Stg on which there are 1800 acres, 400 head of Stock, 74 negroes & 2 most capital houses &c (which cost £5000): while on this Penn there are only 1040 acres, 81 negroes & 220 Stock and much inferior Land. Were I ever so abundant in funds I would not give more than £8 to £9000 St for it, and neither Mr Wm Stirling nor myself deem it a proper time for a Sale – I have got it into that State that it has the last two years netted about £500 currency a year; and will continue to nett £5 to £600 or perhaps £700 in a good year; and I would give £500 Cy or perhaps £400 Stg a year for it clear of all Expences, & payable in Great Britain, as I once before stated, were the trustees inclined to rent or lease it, but no more.

I observe with due attention your remarks respecting my accounts transmitted to 1st January 1815 which I shall reply to in a Satisfactory Way when I transmit those to 31 Decemr next which will positively be done by return of the Robert.

I long to hear the result of the last application to Mr Deffell which I trust has terminated Successfully

Successfully -

We have some fine Cattle for Sale worth from £6 to £700 – but no Purchaser has hitherto offered tho' I expect one soon. Bills are still at 15 P Cent Premium.

Since my last we have a fine Child born and two of the old worn out negroes died of Infirmary not worth a farthing. There are several 60 or 70 years old – a burthen on the Proprietors – The Penn looks better than I have seen it for the last 15 years, and the Valuable part of the negroes in good

Health, and more at Work than when I took possession of them. -
With the Valuation I shall write you more fully
I remain in the meantime
Dear Sir! Your's
Most faithfully & respectfully
David Finlay

Thomas Graham Stirling, esquire

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling, Esquire
of Airth Castle
by Falkirk
Stirling

P Princess Charlotte Packet

Stamped: DEC 16 1816
JAMAICA 20 OC 1816

Letter from Thomas Graham Stirling to David Finlay

MS. 10952 f. 130

Airth Castle Novr 3d 1816

Dear Sir

I have had the pleasure of receiving yours of the 5th July, and having been in expectation of hearing from you again, in reply to my last letter, in which I sent you some remarks on the accts requiring explanation, and also stated to you that I wished without delay for a valuation of the Penn, Negroes, Stock, &c - & that you would consult with Mr William Stirling my Nephew who should be employed for this purpose, I delayed writing you. I have now to request that the valuations may be sent me without Delay – you will please as also as soon as convenient to Send me the annual accts. with lists of Negroes

and Stock – I have written to Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co – to forward the Supplies according to your Indent, which will be done immediately.

I shall hope to have some remittances from you soon, as my young Friends are now in the way of Spending their income.

Having nothing more to add at present Believe me to be

Dear Sir

yours very faithfully

Signed Thomas Graham Stirling

David Finlay Esqr.

Addressed to: David Finlay Esqr.
Ardoch Penn
St Ann's
Jamaica

Letters between Stirling, Gordon and Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 f. 35

Glasgow 16 Novem 1816

Sir,

We some weeks since had a Letter from Mr David Finlay ordering Supplies for Ardoch penn. As a Vessel will soon sail for the port of delivery, we shall be glad to know if we shall execute the Order

We are respectfully,

Sir,

Your mo. ob. Servnts.

Stirling, Gordon & Co

Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.

[in another hand: Copy on the other page]

[copy]

Airth Castle Novr 21st 1816

Gentlemen,

I have been favored with yours of the 16th Novr, and I shall be obliged by your executing Mr Finlays order for supplies for Ardoch Penn

As I have not yet received a Copy of Mr Finlays Indent, I will thank you to forward one to me

I remain

Gentlemen

Yours very faithfully

(signed) Thos. Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 f. 37

Glasgow 22 November 1816

Dear Sir,

We have received your favour of yesterday & shall forward the Supplies for Ardoch pen, the Order for which we now enclose agreeably to your request

We are with regard,

Dear Sir

Your mo. ob. Servt

Stirling, Gordon & Co

Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.

[in another hand: returned to C. Stirling Junr. Dec 16th 1816]

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 [illegible page numbering]

Camp near Boodan⁷²⁰ 8th Decr. 1816

My dear Friend.

You will have heard by my different letters how I have been getting on and, what are my prospects in life. -

The predating mischievousness of the Muharuttas, and Pindaries seem to have revived in some degree, in Lord Moira⁷²¹, the failing of Marquis Wellesley⁷²². His plans were all on the grand scale, resembling, in his distribution of Forces, [unclear], and money, that celebrated noble man. However, many note, which wars a few years back seemed politic, have not it appears, answered the ends expected.

I saw many considerations, tho I believe chiefly to chasten the Mahrattus, and to support by force, the prevailing disaffections to our government, and alliance, which is certain Throughout this vast country, the whole disposable force in India has taken the field but no doubts seem to have arisen in the mind of the Governor General, as to the proposing orof immediately in signing into effect his plans, a reference was sometime ago made, to the Government at home, begging permission to [unclear], as, advice to [unclear] not are so important an occasion

We have heard nothing of the answer, but Lord Moira has again set out for the upper

Provinces, and on his arrival at a certain point, this Force will with all the others be put in train. It is supposed that our Route is towards Jaudpore⁷²³, the Capital of Marwus one of the most important states of the Ratahpoots.

The present parsimonious system of Government, does not seem to people in general well suited to the times – Money does not appear to be spared, but it might be better applied. - Some things are provided in profusion, others more material neglected. I imagine this Force scarcely amounting to 4,000 men, but with an addition of 30,000 followers, to penetrate to the centre of Hindoostan thro' a country inhabited by a most war like people, but scarcely affording for hundreds of miles, provisions, or, supplies even of water, for half the number – one reverse must be our ruin, for there is not a man to support us, or recruit the losses we should sustain. So much for Politics. -

I have had letters from Tom, and your sisters lately. - They spoke of your Mothers health as good, and thriving condition of your family – I need not express to you the satisfaction I felt. Favor me with a letter now and then. How are all our friends? Orchill & family I hope are

well; offer them my respects, and say, I have not forgotten their kindness. Mrs Erskine and Mrs Dundas, are I hope well – how is Davy? I have not heard of Wm Dundas's arrival in India; I must suppose he has relinquished the idea. I had a letter a few days ago from Mr Erskine in Bombay, he tells me James Erskine Esqr of somewhere, has been again unfortunate in his family, owing to some defect in their information. He tells me his new wife, and Sir Wm and Lady Wiseman⁷²⁴ are well – do you ever meet them?

This country has of late been very sickly, but I have with my usual luck escaped. The weather has however of late been pleasant enough, the mornings delightfully cool & a fresh breeze throughout the day.

Charles has I understand been trying to get a wife – I am not surprised – when there are so many temptations – I have not even seen a woman, with a white face, for 6 months! You must therefore conclude that I was a perfect Goth I believe so, as much as ever, & shall remain so, to the end of the chapter.

I shall feel greatly obliged by your giving me some sort of idea how money matters stand between us – whether, I have been indebted to you, for the amount of expences incurred in time past, or whether they have been defrayed from my patrimony, or from what source?

Offer my kind regards to those of your family, to Mr & Mrs Dow & to all those with whom I am

acquainted believe me to be yours ever sincerely and obliged W Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr. Of Airth
Airth Castle
Falkirk
Stirlingshire

Stamped: MAY 31 1817

Letter from Stirling, Gordon with a personal letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 38-39

Glasgow 17 January 1817

Dear Sir,

We beg to enclose Invoice of Goods & 20 half barrels of Herrings shipped in the Middlesex Captain Thomson for Ardoch penn, amount with Insurance £145.16.7. The Middlesex sailed two days ago but as the Wind has been unfair, she cannot get out. We are very respectfully

Dear Sir
Your Mo. ob. Servts.
Stirling, Gordon & Co.

Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.,

Glasgow 17 January 1817

My dear Graham,

Much & sincere pleasure your Letter of yesterday afforded me to have such agreeable accounts of your excellent Mother. I hope that her health will so be perfectly re'established & that she shall enjoy many comfortable & happy days among you all. I have not failed to Communicate the grateful tidings to Lady Stuart⁷²⁵ Arch. & Charles⁷²⁶.

I observe what you say about goading our friend Mr Dundas he is a wee ticklish to deal with homm [unclear], I shall soon take an opportunity of Complying with your request.

I hope you shall get permission to remove the School & School house which will be a great object accomplished. I should like very much to have the Superindendance of your 20 men - & although not like our friend Mrs Morays macking Walu [unclear] – yet nevertheless doing Very necessary Affairs!!.... Charles Stirling⁷²⁷

Addressed to Thomas Graham Stirling, Airth Castle

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 48-49

N: 52 Rue Mont Blanc Paris
Janr 29th 1817

My Dear Graham

I wrote to you some Months ago as well as to your Sister Jane in hopes of having heard from some one of the family to let me know how you all are but none is around, and I am still in the dark as far as ever I see Chas Moray⁷²⁸ here very often and saw his yesterday he tells me he heard from his Mother who informed him that your Worthy and Venerable Mother had had a fall and hurt herself very much. I hope and trust that if such an accident has taken place that it is by no means serious that no danger is to be apprehended, trusting in that provider who is so good to us, that she may get over it and be spared to him a few years longer in the land of the living

In my last letter to you I think I told you I intended going to Italy this summer, but I told you at the same time that I must have Money to the attainment of that object, now, as all my resources are nearly drained I must again beg you to let me know if I can have the money to proceed or to stand fast if not, I think I said 200£ for this years expenditure and at the same time to let me know how and from what channel it was to come - In your last letter you told me you expected to hear from Jamaica in Decr last about the Valuation of the Penn. I hope you have and it has been satisfactory, You likewise told me you had set in training the business of the Money in the Funds. I likewise hope that is decided, naturally enough in our favor, however small the sum is, it is a very large one to us if we gain the decision for it will set us up on our legs and if not we must grovell along like the rest of the world

I saw here some time ago Condé⁷²⁹ and Abercainey⁷³⁰ the prince had his wife but they have returned to London for the winter so they said.

Paris is very gay at present Balls and Soireés every day. I have been to some of them which are very pleasant and very much like our own. I am very idle here nothing to do but making desperate love to the young lady of the house Madmosile who is a sweet girl amiable gentle and every thing that is good she speaks no English & I bad French

I yesterday was walking in the palace of the Louvre when I was accosted by 2 or 3 boys by the title of my Lord donner moi quelque chose en charite. O Monsieur Duke Monsieur Le Count Monsieur Le Baron Monsieur Colonel pour L amour De Dieu, but meaning inflexible and walking on without giving them any they then dropt astern all exclaiming Monsieur “Go dam ross! Bif et plum puddan” I was so struck from the suppliants tone of charity and that to which they changed that I turn round and threw them 2 sous but they were cautious in picking it up until I had got some distance. This is not uncommon but it is with the lowest and vilest of the of the people otherwise they are civil & obliging

Now my dear Sir I hope you will write to me and let me know what is to done about the money. I have not 30£ here nor have I credit so I shall be humbuged if you [torn] write and tell me what to do and how the other affairs go on

Give my most tender and kind wishes to your Worthy Mother that I hope & trust the accident is by no means serious and look forward to speedy and complete recover, likewise remember me kindly your sisters & all the small craft as well as all your friends my Brother &c &c

I believe me

My Dear Airth
your ever affectionatly & Sincerely
Chas. Stirling

Addressed to:

Thos. Graham Stirling Esq.
Airth Castle
near
Falkirk

Scotland

Stamped: FEB 7 1817

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 132-133

Ardoch St Ann's Jamaica, 14th Febry 1817

Dear Sir,

My last letter to you was dated 19th of October and I have now the pleasure to own receipt of your esteemed favour of the 30th of November.

I truly regret to say that the Valuation of the Penn is not yet made Strange to tell. A day has been fixed Several times, but some unforeseen incident hath always occurred to prevent the Appraisers meeting here. Mr Coward (altho' separately here since) had been ten Weeks attending his duty as Member of Assembly for this Parish. There is one Circumstance that renders the delay rather fortunate vizt that from October to April (over Winter) Properties in these cold Mountains look very brown from little or no Vegetation; therefore they will not Value so well until the Verdure returns. I shall therefore make a point of having it done in April or sooner, & get Mr Wm Stirling to come up & see it done if I can. He came up during the Session with Mr Cunningham⁷³¹ & spent some days with me in Novemr and I had an opportunity of Showing him the Neighbourhood & part of Saint Marys. I was afterwards in Town & passed two or three days with him very gaily. He was then as usual, but dancing away and in very good Spirits. When there I had a partial attack of my Old Complaint and it alarmed me a little So

So as to write my Brother Alexr to state to you that I had it in contemplation to go home in the Anne one of Stirling & Gordon's Ships with our Friend the Laird of Content – He was so much my Friend as to recommend me Strongly to go & return here with him, and moreover that he would not only lay in Sea Stores for me but use his best influence with you to Keep my Situation here open for me by allowing Mr Coward to act for me for it & the other Penn, This was very Kind; - but I am very poor, & have £14 or £1500 due to me in the Country and can not at present recover it. In about a Week after my return here I got as well as ever, & it would therefore be perhaps very imprudent on the one hand to go off if there was any risque of my losing my little business & small fund also – altho' by a personal application to Jamaican Friends at home an Accession of business might be got with a thorough renovation of Health & Strength – which would on the other hand operate as an inducement to go if I could conveniently -

I am truly concerned to say that I have not been able to Sell a Steer Since my last having £700 worth in hand. Such has been the immense importation of Spanish Cattle into the Island in this Vicinity that Some of the Penns have 50 to 100 in hand. I have now a Prospect of getting rid of them soon. Another grievance I have to complain of is that no jobbing Labour was to be procured in this Quarter Since last June otherwise I could have jobbed out near £200 in addition to the £300 we worked out. But the Negroes

have been well employed on the Penn. -

As Mr Wm Stirling will be probably sailing in April or May I conceive it will be the safest opportunity to forward all the accounts to 1st Jany last, with Lists & Increase & Decrease Accounts of Stock Valuations &c by him which I shall make a point of doing.

The premium on Bills of Exchange is Still as high at 17 ½ to 20 per cent which puts me in an awkward predicament. If I ship Rum there may be a loss upon it of more than the Premium as there

was on the 12 Puns last year sent to Messrs Wedderburns, but I shall endeavour to remit in the most advantageous way I can.

I am much obliged by your Kind attention in ordering the Penn Supplies to be Shipped my Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co.

You would probably hear of the demise of my poor, but truly worthy & venerable Parent at the age of 85. He died the day your last letter was dated at Glencorse⁷³²

With every Sentiment of respect & esteem

Your very faithf. & Obliged Servt.

David Finlay

Thomas Graham Stirling, esquire

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqre
of Airth
near Falkirk
N.B.

Lady Wellington Packet

Stamped: APR 4 1817

JAMAICA 16 FE 1817

Letter from John Moncrieffe⁷³³ to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 [page number illegible]

Soho St Anns Jamaica 20 March 1817

Sir,

I understand that Ardoch Is for sale; that I do not wish to become a Purchaser as it is one of the Poorest Properties in this Quarter. But if you are Disposed to Rent it out I would have no objection to take it and the Slaves upon it for the term of 5.7.9 or 11 years and would Pay you at the rate of Five hundred Pounds Currency per annum – I only make the proposed as the place is so near one of my other Properties – for Reference as to my Character I mention Archibald Stirling Esqr or Humphrey Ewing McLac. These Gentlemen will give you every Satisfaction – Your answer will very much oblige me

I am Most Respectfully Sir Your very Humble Servant
Jn Moncrieffe

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr
Airth
North Britain

Stamped: GLASGOW 10 MAY 1817

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 50-51

Tours – France May 20th 1817
Departement D. Indre et Loire

My Dear Graham

I wrote to you some length of time ago begging you to let me have the sum of 200£ to enable me to visit Italy while I was here on the Continent, but I have never heard from yourself altho your sister Jane has been kind enough to write and tell me [above: at your request] 100£ of that sum was at my disposal, Now my dear Sir let me intreat you to let me have 150£ or more to enable me to go on and visit the seat of once the Capital of the world, that country is so celebrated in history where Splendour and Grandeur unimagined but now no more, and you may rely that neither my time or money will be thrown away well aware that there is great room for improvement not only to the mind but also to the person or body. The funds that I may have soon. surely that proportion of the Penn that I have will be a sufficient guarantee to you or Mr Dundas to lend me that sum small as it is, I am perfectly aware what I am about and that in travelling for improvement & information I dont throw away my money uselessly but desire every advantage I can possibly gain

I have thus far got on my way to Toulouse where I shall waite your answer and should you be disposed to meet my wishes have the goodness get me a letter of Credit from Mr Coutts for that sum sent to me at that place [above: Toulouse] “Poste Restante” where I will receive it. I have proposed to return to England about the beginning of next year after passing the next winter at Naples should it [above: please] God to give me health to go through my Journey I have asked you this time for 150£ not that I mean to lay that money out or spend it, but in Case of sickness or any other misfortune or accident that may befall me. I shall be in the midst of a strange land and probably not friends that will give me money or be inclined to assist me in my pecuniary concerns, - thus far have I stated to you my wishes this I trust you will find not very unreasonable and hope at all event that will not meet your disapprobation -

I have been a few day in this town and intend staying here until the middle of next month. the Country hereabouts is most beautiful and the Town Particularly situated on the banks of the Loire in the midst of an agreeable pleasant and fertile plain, springs gliding with a faint murmur through meadows interspersed with a thousand springing flowers which yields the sweetest of perfumes. Gardens. Orchards. Vinyards Parks &c & all conspiring to render the scene enchanting – There are a great number of English families here and in the environs who have taken their residence near this spot, from its cheapness as well as its agreeable situation, amongst the families here is a Colonel Hamilton and his Neices Miss Gordon's they are from Stirling Shire I have not yet been introduced to him but have been to the addresses [unclear] & hope soon to know him, he is a convalescent, but I propose to set out for Toulouse about the middle of next month if not before where I shall hope to hear from you

before I left Paris I wrote to your Sister Jane to say I was about to leave that place which I hope she has received. I was tired of the place altho a very great deal of attraction to keep on there but I mustered all my resolution and parted in hopes of again meeting my old friends at my return or at some future time

I hope my kind friend you worthy Mother still continues to do well & I shall trust that on my return to again see her in full health and spirits and be able to recapitulate to her some of my excursions and journey, to your Sisters I beg to be most kindly & tenderly remembered as all the small craft My Brothers and all other friends. If you have any friends or acquaintances in Italy if you can send me a letter of introduction it may be of some service, if not it is of no consequence

Adieu in hopes of hearing soon from you
and believe me yours Sincerely

and affectionately
Chas Stirling
how is the affair of the Money going on

adress to me
Poste Restante
Toulouse
Depart Hautes Garone
France

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling
Airth Castle
near
Falkirk
Scotland

Stamped: FPO MAY26 1817
MAY 29 1817

Letter from Patrick Cockburn to Charles Stirling. Stirling, Gordon & Co.

T-SK18/13/26

21 May 1817

..Mr Stevenson says "I dont know what the Lawyers are about with regard to young Hamilton - I shall be in Spanish Town in a week or two & see them, know their proceedings & inform you accordingly" - It would be a pity were any obstacles thrown in the way of a settlement of this business after the great trouble we have had to bring the parties in this Country to allow Hamilton a participation in the fund - I am afraid if the matter gets into the hands of Lawyers they will argue upon points of law & raise up doubts and difficulties without considering the smallness of the subject matter of their disputes, and that a compromise is often the most advantageous mode of settlement for all parties....

Letter from John Moncrieffe to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 [page number illegible]

Soho St Anne Jamaica 30 May 1817

Sir

I wrote to you in March last, But in Case my letter may not have reached you, I take the liberty of addressing you repeating the Contents of my former -

I understanding that Ardoch was for sale, but Conceiving it to be one of the poorest properties in this Quarter, I do not wish to become a Purchaser of It, & I applied to Know if you were disposed to rent it [torn], as if you were, I would have no objection to have it, with the Slaves & Stock upon it, for the term of 5.7.9 or 11 years, for which I would agree to pay you at the Rate of £500 Currency Per annum sum should be paid to any person you were pleased to appoint, Clear of all Contingencies; such as Taxes, Clothing &c which I would Pay for & furnish, it being expressly

understood, that nothing belong[illeg.] to the house and property should be removed, but that It s[torn] delivered up as It now Is, as you hold It in possession. -

Your Answer saying whither you do, or do not accede to my proposal is requested, & will be very much obliged & Remain Most Respectfully

Sir

Your very obd. Servant

Jn Moncrieffe

PS For Particulars as to My Character & situation In this Country I Referred you to Archibald Stirling Esq or Humphrey Ewing McLac Esqr. - These Gentlemen will give you every satisfaction -

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.

Of [c.o. Airth]

Strowan Crieff

North Britain

Stamped: JAMAICA 1 JU 1817

JUL 18 1817

Letters from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 134-135

Saint Ann Jamaica 19th June 1817

Dear Sir,

I have not had the pleasure of addressing you since the 14th Feby last being in constant hope and expectation of effecting Sales of Stock – but I am Sorry to Say that there is not the smallest demand for them owing Solely to the to the cause stated in my last vizt that the Planters generally Supply themselves with Spanish Cattle at a much easier rate that £32.10/-. If a purchaser does not offer very soon I shall fatten as many of the Steers that I can and Sell them to the Butcher from Kingston (having long given up Killing myself) and I trust they may fetch £28 to £30 Cash which would enable me to make an immediate Remittance We have Stock in hand fit for Sale worth little short of £1000 Currency -

I had wrote our Friend Mr Wm Stirling a long Letter & he gave me to understand that he would not be Sailing till about this time – I was therefore much Surprised to hear he has sailed near a Month ago, as I had made up all my further Accounts with the Penn and Trustees to the first of January 1817 together with the annual Increase & Decrease accounts of Negroes & Stock. I shall put them under charge of Captain Stevenson of the Middlesex who carried them home in 1815. He sails in about 3 weeks hence - Since my last I paid Mrs Longbottom

Longbothom's 2d. Instalment amount £158 odd, making my payments to her in all this and last year nearly £500 Curry which otherwise would have been in the pockets of the young Gentlemen, and is certainly a sad Drawback on their Income – As I have often observed the expences of a poor or worn out, Penn are nearly the same as on a new or good one. Doctor's Bills, Taxes, Salaries, commissions to Attorney, Negroe's Clothing, tools, Salt Provisions, &c &c are unavoidable, and most of them required by Law. Yet I can assure you that I do not think any Man could contrive to make the expences less than I have done; & for 1815 & 1816 they are less than the former years by

£100 a year. During the 6 years of the late Mr Hamilton's management till 1801 there were 120 breeding Mares & Cowes & the Penn full of Grass, the expences were no less than £1680 a year & the nett proceeds about £970 a year. From 1801 to 1810 during the Messrs Stirling's management, when there were about 100 breeding Cows, 1 white man, & much jobbing, the contingencies were about £1100 a year & the net proceeds about £420 annually - From 1810 to 1817, during my management, with 2 white people, when the breeders were reduced to an average of 60 cows, & my little jobbing (the negroes being chiefly employed in renovating old Commons) the average expences were about £850 a years, and the nett proceeds (including £700 worth of Stock in hand last Decemr) averaged about £340 a year – the particulars of which I shall send you that you may be enabled to judge what ought to be expected for the Penn – If

If I could have procured jobbing labour enough in 1815 & 16 the Penn would have netted £6 to £700 a year -

A dreadful disease called here the black leg less or more every Spring attacks our young Stock. Some Penns in this Vicinity have lost this year 30 to 40. Last year we lost 3: this year 11. It generally attacks Bull calves & young Steers from 6 to 18 months old. I have seen them perfectly well at 10 o'Clock & dead at 4 P.M. the mortification is so rapid. They bleed at the mouth, nose & ears & die in great pain, Every possible remedy has been tried for this Murrain ineffectually bleeding, frequent remove &c. I shall feel most particularly obliged if you can inform me what remedy is used at home in such cases, if such there be it alarms & makes me truly uneasy. It Seldom continues longer than 6 weeks in March & April & then disappears. This is unfortunate, as we had a most respectable dropping of Calves last year 51 to 68 Cows which in an old Penn is very good.

The Supplies sent out by Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co are thankfully received – but I shall make a great exertion to try to do without ordering any this year until next Janry but in that case I must purchase negro clothing &c in Kingston which can be done nearly as cheap. This will hamper me a good deal – but will save the Penn at least £100 Sterling & of course add that to the net proceeds -

Two of our good for nothing negroes died lately – but our valuable people are all well except one Woman, who has been weakly for 6 months past - & she is Sent to a Friend near the Sea for a change of air. We have luckily lost only one valuable negro

negro since I took charge & that by locked jaw & 2 Children Suddenly All the other were old incurable Invalids & their loss in fact a gain. - I shall write you fully with my accounts & Valuation and remain with Kindest regards to friend Wm. Stirling & the young Lieutenants when you see them - & high respect & esteem,

Dear Sir!

Yours most faithfully

David Finlay

P.S. I lately had the pleasure of a letter from our Friend Mr Macdowall Grant who is quite well & his Son. D.F.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling
of Airth
near Falkirk
North Britain
Marchioness of Salisbury Packet

Stamped: JAMAICA 22 JU 1817
JUL ?1 1817

Saint Ann Jamaica 30th July 1817

Dear Sir,

Having just received intimation that Captain Thomson of the Middlesex proposes sailing the day after tomorrow I now send by him the following accounts and Lists, which I trust upon Examination will be found Correct vizt

My accounts current with Ardoch Penn, and the Trustees of the late General Stirling for the year 1815 & 1816 balanced by the sum of £304.2.0 ½ Currency in my favour -

Lists and Increase and Decrease Accounts of Negroes & Stock in the said Penn during the above mentioned years, which I hope will show a very tolerable Increase of Stock, when perused by our friends Messrs Archibald or Wm Stirling, or any other Gentleman who is acquainted with the poverty & worn out nature of the land -

I have not time at the present moment to write a full letter but shall send you

you on of my usual Details by an Early Packet referring you to my last Letter of the 19 Ulto which stated matters pretty fully regarding Ardoch; & my unfortunate Situation in not being able to sell Stock like my Neighbours who cannot sell one at present. The only offer I have had was by my friend Mr Robert Murray of Knapdale Estate who offered to buy 24 of our Steers at £32.10/ provided I would take Pimento at market price for them. Reflecting on the loss in the Rum by the England I could not prudently accede to this – but if you think it would answer have the goodness to let me know & I shall implicitly obey your Instructions -

Trusting this may reach you without incident, and find you in perfect health,

I always am, most respectfully

Dear Sir

Your faithful Servant

David Finlay

Thos. G Stirling Esqr.

PS. I saw our friends the Laird of Arndilly⁷³⁴ & his son lately at our Races in high Health & expect them here next Week on their Way to Montego Bay -

When you see Messrs Archd. & Wm. Stirling I pray you remember me kindly to both -

D.F.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqre.
of Airth Castle
Falkirk

P the Middlesex
Capt. Thomson

[no stamps]

20th October 1817

Dear Sir,

I purposed writing to you at some length by this Packet but having nothing to communicate to you, and being rather pinched for time I shall postpone it until next Mail – Indeed I have waited till the last moment in Expectation of receiving a Bill of Exchange for a Spell of Steers sold to Sir Simon Clarkes Estate in St Marys about ten days ago @ £30 each say £240 but my friend Mr Brydon has put me off until the next packet when it will be sent without fail -

On account of some jobbing labour and a few fat Cattle I have procured a Bill and now enclose you Messrs Adams, Robertson & Co's on Messrs Baring, Brothers & Co of London in my favr. P

	£100 Stg
Premium thereon 17 ½ P Ct	17.10
	<hr/>
	117.10
exchange at 40 P Cent	47. .
	<hr/>
Currency	£164.10.

to the debit of the Trustees of General Stirling with me

me. Bills have been at a Premium of 17 ½ to 20 P Cent for a length of time which is a Sad drawback

I trust you have ere this received my packet by the Middlesex containing my usual accounts and Lists to 31 December 1816.

I have wrote to our friend Mr Archibald Stirling by this packet and sincerely hope he and Mr Wm. Stirling are well. -

I also sincerely trust this may find yourself and Family as well as out young friends the Lieutenants in perfect health and

I remain, My dear Sir,

Your very faithful Servant

David Finlay

Thomas Graham Stirling, Esquire

[in another hand: Reced Dec. 1st 1817 and remitted the Bill of Exchange for £100 to James Dundas Esqre. T.G.S.]

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling, Esqre.
of Airth Castle
by Falkirk
N;B;

P Marchioness of Salisbury Packet

Stamped: DEC 15 1817

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 52-53

Paris Nov 10 1817

I was sorry to hear of the death of my poor friend Mrs Dow' poor body, God rest her soul. I hope

she will meet her deserts in the next world for her care to us in our younger days

Dear Graham

You will see by the date of the this that I have returned to Paris not having the means to proceed on my intended voyage the thoughts of which for the present I have wholly abandoned and propose to pass the winter in this Capital, I must confess to I am a little disappointed in not having the means of putting my plans into execution for I wrote to you many months ago intreating you to send me some supplies to go on with but none having arrived and getting half-way and obliged to return is rather a little mortifying, but however the pleasure I anticipate here this winter will make me forget all my disappointment which will be very easily done as I have found here several of my old acquaintances and likewise some of the families who so initiate [unclear] constitute [unclear] to my gayety's and pleasure last winter when here, but to the present I mean to pass over to London for a little while

to change the scene and to be nearer you as well as to arrange my money concerns for the ensuing years. your Sister Jane's letter I got at Toulouse and she tells me from you that you would endeavour to procure me some supplies, which I hope you have succeeded in, as I leave this in a few days for London Will you have the goodness to write to me and let me know, how you mean that I should act if you supply me I shall be able to do that according to circumstances and arrange for future operations, if not, I am done

The voyage I have made has given me such a taste for travelling that I shall never be able to sit still for a month together and the number of our country folk I have met is really astonishing not a little town or village you pass through but some English Family is there either for health or economy this is the Country for broken down farmers the average of income between the two Country are nearly double 500£ a year equal to 800 or 900 and so on in proportion I find my income small as it is go a great deal further than in England. but here in France there is no disgrace to live in a Garret & in a Pig sty as long as you dress well, dine for 30 sous, and talk loud

We have just heard of the death of the poor Princess & child⁷³⁵ what an afflicting thing for the state as well as for the Royal Family the anticipated heir to the Throne "blighted in the bud"

I have amongst my other projects thought of taking a voyage to South America under the orders of General Wilson⁷³⁶ I think it would be a very good speculation for one who has nothing to loose but a great deal to gain, like myself but I will think more of it and on how they go on. Give my kind and tender love to your Mother I hope she still continues to enjoy her health if not the use of her limbs and may she long live in the bosom of her family & see things happy around her to your Sisters remember me most kindly I cannot smuggle or I would bring something for them, but even then I do not know what it is the ladies like best besides they were to delicate to tell me what to bring and therefore bring nothing

Tell my Brother I have written and beg him to write and let me know how he intends to proceed & kind love to him the small Craft also and trust alls well

write to me in London N: 12 Clements Inn (Mr Abbott⁷³⁷) my Agent where I will be found and tell me what you have done for me Kind remembrance to all friends around the Reeken and believe me Yours Affectionately & Sincerely

Chas Stirling

I leave this about the 15 or 16th for London

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling
Airth Castle
near

Falkirk
Scotland

Stamped: FPO NO.15 1817

Letter from Patrick Cockburn to Charles Stirling. Stirling, Gordon & Co.

T-SK18/13/29

Edin. 1 Dec 1817

Dear Sir

Having now adjusted the state of the debt due by your late Brothers Estate to the Heirs of Henry Hamilton and got a discharge prepared which has been executed by Mr. Dow for his one third, I have given Mr. Dow a letter addressed to Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Co. directing them to pay him £615. being the Balance due to him after deducting his share of the Expences as at 8% current, which order you will have the goodness to instruct Messrs. S.G. & Co to honour when due.

The like sum falls to be paid to the Children of Mrs Donaldson as at 8% current as soon thereafter as the discharge can be executed & delivered. As the business will fall to be transacted with their agent Mr McFarlane here, it

it will be necessary that you instruct Messrs. S.G. & Co. to remit me £615. for the purpose of settling the debt, or to honour my draft for that sum as may be most convenient - Besides this there falls to be remitted to me £56.6.5 being the amount of what is due to me for my trouble in settling the Business and to Mr Dunddas for the expence of the discharge, and which I sum as well as what was paid to Mr Grant & all other expences has been taken out of the money due to Henry Hamiltons Heirs at stating the accts.

I am

Dear Sir

Your faithful & obedt. Servt.

Pat. Cockburn

Charles Stirling Esq.

Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Co.

Glasgow.

Glasgow 4 Decem 1817 Answered the annexed Letter advised that Stirling Gordon & Co would honour Alex. Dows drft on the 8% for £615 - & desired P. Cockburn to draw of them for £671.6.5 at any date most convenient

Letter from John Lumsden to Thomas Graham Stirling

SAA

East India House
8th December 1817

My Dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 8th instant, and I have also

received one on the same subject from my friend Captain Wood. -

I can assure you that it would afford me very great pleasure were it in my power to comply with your request in favor of the son⁷³⁸ of my old acquaintance Day McDowal, but unfortunately this is not the case, as I am already pledged for more cadetships than I apprehend I shall have in my gift for for three years to come -

Your letter did not reach me until the patronage of the present season had been publically announced, and I had announced the parties to whom I am under engagements, the extent to which I was enabling to fulfill my promises. -

Although I regret my inability to comply with your request, it will give me great pleasure to see you when you come to London. My regard for the memory of your brother James would have been an additional motive for my compliance with your wishes, had it been practicable

I am My Dear Sir etc.

J Lumsden⁷³⁹

Letters from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 140-141

[Duplicate

Original P Marchioness of Salisbury packet
Saint Ann Jamaica 20th Octr. 1817]

Saint Ann Jamaica 10 Decemr 1817

Dear Sir

The preceding is Duplicate of my last respects and the present serves to enclose the 2nd of the Set of exchange therein mentioned

My friend Mr Brydon has contrary to his usual punctuality requested my postponing the payment of his lot of Cattle until the 15th inst. which I told him was truly inconvenient – but as he was a good Customer I would accede to his proposal. I therefore have no doubt of my promised remittance going by next packet. -

It is unfortunate my having still Cattle on hand fit for Sale to the near extent of £700
My only hope is that when they are sold the remittance will be the larger. I have offered the Steers at £30 pble in Bills rather than keep them longer, or wait for payment till next Augt. At 32.10/-

The penn not having been appraized last year - & the Spring, when the pastures look green, being the best time in these Mountains to Value land – It must be done in April & the papers sent home in the Robert with my Accts. for the present year. I am besides anxious to get two of the Negroes well, who absent for Cure with bad Venereal ulcers & who could Value if well for £300 – The Weather has been very boisterous & only one dry day for the last 3 Weeks, much against our your Stock & the negroes complaining of Coughs &c.

The Contingencies this year will be less than ever - & from want of Sales I have sent my list of Supplies to Messrs S.G. & Co. purposing to make those recd in March last till [illeg.] 1819 with the exception of negroes Clothing, fish [illeg.] [copy: and a few other] indispensables which I shall buy as cheap in Kingston

I remain with much respect & esteem

Dear Sir,

Your faithfl. & Obedt. Servt.

David Finlay

I shall be happy to hear if or when Mr Wm. Stirling returns with my kindest remembrance to Him.
D.F.

Thos. Graham [torn] Esqr.

[noted in another hand: 1819 100£/
2 Bill of Exchange on Baring & Brothers
London]

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
of Airth Castle
by Falkirk
North Britain

Lord Sidmouth Packet

[stamp smudged]

MS. 10952 ff. 142-143

[Duplicate _____ Original P. Marchioness of Salisbury Pkt.
Saint Ann's Jamaica 10 December 1817]

St Ann's Jamaica 15 Janry 1818

Dear Sir

Being at present at St Ann's Bay on business for a few days, and my friend in Kingston Mr Philip Pinnock⁷⁴⁰ (Comptroller of His Mj Customs there) having disappointed me in sending me the Bill for Mr Brydons lot of Steers I have requested him to forward it to you by the Packet sailing from thence on Monday next the 19th inst. which I have no doubt he will do. When the next packet Sails I shall have the pleasure of addressing you with the 2nd of the Bills & on any other Subject that may occur Please

Please to excuse these few hurried [torn] from home & believe me to remai [torn]

Dear Sir
Yours most fai [torn]
and respe [torn]
David Fin [torn]

[in another hand: The two Bills one of £100 & one of £150 were reced in Febry 1817 & sent to Messrs. Dundas -

Accoted - March 5th 1818

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
of Airth Castle
near Falkirk
North Britain

P Stanmore Packet

Stamped: FEB 24 1818

Letter from Philip Pinnock to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 f: 42

Kingston Jamaica January 18th 1818

Sir

I am requested by Mr Finlay, to forward to you the enclosed Bill of Exchange, drawn by Messrs. Adams, Robertson & Co. on Messrs Baring, Brothers & Co. in your favour at 90 Days for a hundred and fifty Pounds Sterling – The second Bill will be forwarded to you by Mr Finlay himself who was unable to send you the enclosed, it being Procured too late -

I am

Sir

Your most obedt Servant

P: Pinnock

Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Edq

Airth Castle

near Falkirk

NB

Stamped: FEB 24 1818

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 144-145

Saint Ann's Jamaica

20 February 1818

Dear Sir,

On the 15th Ultio I had the pleasure of addressing you a few lines from my friend Mr Coward advising you of having requested my Agent in Kingston Mr Philip Pinnock to forward you by the last packet a Bill for the amount of a Spell of Steers sold Mr Brydon last October. This I find Mr Pinnock has done and I now forward you the 2nd of the Set Say Messrs. Adams Robertson & Co on Messrs Baring Brothers & Co. of 17th Ultio @ 90 d st in you own favour P £150 Sterling which being one of the first Houses in London there can be no doubt of it's meeting due honour. Most Sincerely I wish the remittance was larger as I am aware it is wanted much at home -

At last I am very happy to say that I have effected a Sale of 18 of our Steers to Mr Henry Cox of St Mary, a Man of the first respectability, and a friend of Mr Archd Stirling's – As he agreed to pay for them to oblige me in 3 months & as the Cattle are not of large Size I sold them for £30

£30 each with is now the current price except for large 4 year old Stock at very extended credit. Considering every thing I conceive I have sold them well – This Sale with 2 or 3 old fat Cows exceeds £600 from which a further remittance will be made ere long. Should we escape that

alarming disease the Black leg, and get a good Job or two I trust the Penn will make up its leeway considerably. I can get jobbing now but it is at a great distance from home -

There is nothing particular to communicate at present. The negroes & Stock are all very well at this time, except the two I mentioned in my Letter of 10th Decemr last – they have been completely Salivated & the greatest care taken of them – yet they are in a very poor State, and it may probably be necessary to send the to the Assylum or public Hospital in Kingston – Dr Read seems of this opinion, but as it is expensive, I shall use every expedient & attention here before I resort to it. - The expences of the Penn this & last year will be less than ever they were Since it was Settled: but as I have often observed, it is not in human power to render fertile – old, poor, Steep, rocky, Cold, Land

Land. I have excited, God Knows! every nerve towards this Object – but altho' I have Six times the quantity of Guinea grass I got in 1810 yet there is gradually degenerating into Common Grass & it is better to job the negroes than to attempt to renew this Sort of grass in old Land.

I have not had the pleasure of hearing from our friends Messrs Archd. or Wm. Stirling Since my last. - Should you see the former say that his friends Messrs Coward, Hall & Major Gould are all well. I saw both the former lately & had a letter from the latter last Week. He is now Post Master Genl. in room of Mr Marsh⁷⁴¹

I purpose purchasing our negro Clothing needs & cheap in Kingston, & what other trifling Supplies may be indispensable & Write for none this year of course -

My Health has been remarkably good for the last 12 months. I Sincerely hope your's is equally so: & having nothing further worthy Communication at present, I shall conclude with the greatest respect and esteem!

Dear Sir
yours most faithfully
David Finlay

Thos. G. Stirling, Esquire

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqre
of Airth Castle
near Falkirk
Stirling

P Walsingham Packet

Stamped: APR 21 1818
JAMAICA 22 FE 1818

Letter from Thomas Graham Stirling to David Finlay

MS. 10952 146-147

[copy]

Airth Castle
March 5th 1818

Dear Sir

I have to acknowledge your Several favors of the 10th of Decr & the 15th of Janry 1818 – The Bill for £100 reached me on the first, and by the Stanmore Packet (along with your last) I received your bill for £150 -

It will give me pleasure to receive the Valuation of the Penn as soon as convenient, as I should

like to take Steps for the sale of it. I had a letter from some person of the name of Brown wishing to take it on lease; I thought it unnecessary to answer, as I never had any intention of selling it.

Mr William Stirling is enjoying good health; he does not say a word about returning. - Our young friends are well, Charles is gone to France and Italy for two years - & Thomas is prosecuting his Studies in Edinr – William is gathering Laurels in India. -

I shall be glad to receive your acts. when you have an opportunity - & remain

Dear Sir
yours truly
Signed Thomas Graham Stirling

To David Finlay Esqr.

Addressed to: David Finlay Esq
Jamaica

Letter from Alexander Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 46-47

London Holmes's Hotel
Park Street Oct. 12 1818

Dear Sir,

A Letter has been forwarded to me from Brother David dated “St Ann's Jamaica 10th July in which he mentions that he had been recently before attacked by a very obstinate bilios fever in consequence of which he required a temporary change of residence – Feeling also rather too weak to write you he requests me to inform you of the cause of your having no advices from him by this Packet – He says also “I trust by next Packet to send him the Valuation of Ardoch Penn as this is the proper Season to appraise

“appraise Penns in the Mountains, & the Battleman (a valuable negro,) I mentioned to him as in a hopeless State has lately returned from the Public Hospital in Kingston, nearly in perfect health. Mr Cox has also promised Payt at the 1st of August, which will enable me to make a Remittance to Mr Graham, & Bills are now at 5 Pr Cent – Every thing on the Penn is well”.

I remain with respect

Dear Sir
Your very faithful &
obed St
Alex. Finlay

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth [c.o. Castle]
Kippenross
Dumblane

Stamped: OC 13 1818

MS. 10952 ff. 148-150

Duplicate Original P Marchioness of Salisbury Packet

Dear Sir

On the 30th Septemr I had the pleasure of addressing you at some length on the subject of remittances. A very considerable sum ought to have been paid to me on account of Mr Laing's Properties; but they have put me off, and tho' it is perfectly secure, it prevents me from purchasing Bills with the Penn funds in place of my own. Being aware that they must be wanted, however, and always wishing to afford every accommodation to my friends on the other side of the water, in my limited power; and altho' I find the Penn in my debt by purchasing supplies, Mrs Longbothom's annuity &c &c yet on the faith of receiving upwards of £300 very soon on its account, I have purchased, and now beg leave to inclose you Mr William Shand's 1st Bill of exch of 19th inst at 90 d St in my favour, and indorsed to you for £200 Sterling on Messrs Milligan, Robertson & Co of London. Mr Shand writes me he will charge me the current premium on Bills by this packet which I learn will be 12 ½ to 15 P Cent having taken a rise of 10 P Cent lately -

Since my last, I am truly sorry to say we have been visited with a Severe Storm or Hurricane which as usual has been accompanied with its

its mischievous consequences. Here we have escaped better than I expected. Two very fine young Cattle died of black leg, and two of the finest negroes on the Penn have had the narrowest escape from death by Pleurisy – They are now from great attention on the part of the Doctor & myself convalescent, and quite out of danger, but we have a great number ailing tho' none seriously ill, & the Weather is now become fine – Throu Mr William or Mr Archd Stirling I doubt not you will have heard of this Storm; my Brothers & other Letters State that it's effects will be Seriously felt for the next Crop; but much more in Hanover and Westmorland than in St James's

On the Old Penn here we have had (for a Wonder) a very tolerable Crop of forward corn, all laid flat and rotten /& rotten/, which must occasion the further loss of my few poultry & Hogs for it is not to be bought under 20/ p bushell -

Whether it is the expected effects of the Storm that has frightened the Sugar Planters from purchasing stock I cannot tell, but I cannot get a Steer off my hands, & even Mr Wm Shand writes me he cannot sell a beast to the planters tho' he is the greatest Attorney in the Island being concern'd for upwards of 100 Properties. Mr Brydon has

has promised to buy some of our's, and could I sell all that are fit for Work the nett proceeds of the Penn this year would exceed £1000 as I stated in a former Letter. Mr A. Stirling having his Penns cannot purchase from us, but I think Mr W. Stirling might like some for Content were you to have the goodness to Speak to him -

It is now a length of time since I had the pleasure of hearing from you your last favour being 5th August acknowledging the two Bills I sent you P £250 Stg on account of Ardoch Penn. I sincerely trust you have enjoyed your Health Since and was happy to learn from my Brother Alexr. in May that it was good. I fervently Wish you and your family a long continuance and very many returns of the Season with that & every other blessing being with every Sentiment of esteem & regard

Dear Sir

Yours very faithfully

David Finlay

Saint Ann's Jamaica

24th Decemr 1818

Dear Sir,

To the preceding copy of my last respects I have nothing further to add at

at present than to forward the 2nd of the Bill therein mentioned recvd today that every thing in the Penn is as usual – Most respectfully I remain Dear Sir

Your faithfl hble Servt

David Finlay

St Ann's Jamaica

13th January 1819

Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqre

of Airth Castle

near Falkirk

Stirling

N;B;

P The Blucher Packet

Stamped: MAR 4 1819

[Bill of exchange for £200 dated Jamaica, 19th Decem. 1818 at Ninety days after sight – second Exchange – Pay to the order of David Finlay on account of John Shand esquire.

To. Messrs Milligan Robertson & Co. London – W. Shand atty to John Shand]

[on the back of Bill: Pay to the Order of Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire Value received
David Finlay]

Letter from Thomas Graham Stirling to David Finlay

MS. 10952 ff. 110-111

Edinb. March 12th 1819

I have had several favours of yours of late the last being of the 13th Janr. 1819 forwarding the duplicate of yours of the 24th Decr 1818 & the 2d of a Sett of Bills for £200 Sterlg drawn by Mr W Shand in you favor upon Messrs Milligan Robertson & Co London a 90 Ds. St. of date 19th Dec. 1818

The first reached me a fortnight sooner & I doubt not is in the course of Payment. I hope you will be soon able to recover the outstanding Balances due to the Pen & to make some further sales, so as to clear the Debts due & increase our Funds.

Having been in London lately, I had some further communication on that unpleasant business of Holts & I now have hopes of recovering the proceeds of the Sugar upon your sending me the Original Bill which was returned to you by Messrs Stirling Gordon & Co which I trust you will do without delay. The whole amount of the Sugars is deficient of the sum drawn for so at all events there will be a great loss on this transaction. I shall speak to my friend Wm Stirling on the subject of taking part of his supply of Cattle from Ardoch. I wish to have the continuation of your Acct. so I hope to have a settlement with the young Gentlemen soon who will be all of age this Summer & on that account I have postponed taking any further Steps at present for the Sale of the Penn. My

health has

not been good since last Summer, but I am again recovering. I saw your Brother yesterday in good health. Our friend Mr Archd. Stirling met with an accident hunting some time ago but is getting quite well again Mr Wm Stirling enjoys pretty good health

I remain Dear Sir
Yours very truly

To David Finlay Esqr.
Jamaica

Duplicate

David Finlay Esqr.
Jamaica

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 151-152

[on side in another hand: A.C. Augt. 6th 1819 Forwarded the Bill to James George Esquire to obtain payment of the amount of Sales Sugars]

Saint Ann Jamaica 10th June 1819

Dear Sir,

I am at last much gratified in the pleasure of receiving receipt of your esteemed favour of the 12th March from Edinburgh, and feel grieved to find, from under your own hand, that your health was rather indifferent, but I rejoice to learn that it was improving when you wrote, & flatter myself that your next will give me the pleasing tidings of its complete re-establishment. I regret also to hear that my good friend your Nephew's health is not altogether what might be wished & must write him either by this or next packet for I have a sincere esteem and attachment towards him – From our worthy friend Mr Archd. Stirling I have the pleasure of a Letter of 1st April, in which he tells me of his success at the Moors last Season, & the Welfare of his Family; but not a Word about the Fall from the Hunter you state, at which I am not Surprised, for he made very light of these things in the Country, and even of serious fits of illness.

I am astonish'd & disappointed to find that you have never recovered the Value of the Sugar from Mr Deffell as I sent you the Bill of Lading, & of course that Gentleman was well aware of the protested Bill

Bill the 3d of which I now beg to inclose you, & sincerely hope it may reach you in Safety, as it is a fine mild time of the year & is dated 28th July 1812 P £200 Sterling Protest & postage say 40/- 202..

Re-exchange on £202 Stg at 8 P Cent

16.3.2

Interest on £218.3.2 Stg from 28 July 1812 to 28 July 1819 (then this 3d Bill may reach home) @ 5 P Cent

76.8.2

Sterling 294.11.4

or Currency £412.7.10

Both Mr Holt & myself conceived at the time that the Sugars do considerably more than cover the Bill & I trust Mr Deffell will, now, after such delay & disappointment Settle the Principal & Interest immediately & have the goodness to be particular in apprizing me of the receipt of the 3^d Bill of exch. I now inclose, & of which I have kept an exact copy – the 1st & 2d being lost in 1812 as I

shall feel uneasy till I hear of it's safe arrival. -

By your Letter I perceive that in consequence of Messrs. Chas. Thos. & Wm, Stirling being of age this Summer you purpose taking Steps for the Sale of the Penn; an old friend of Mr A. Stirling's & mine Mr Coward (who is just sailed for England with his Family to return next year) valued it some since at about £10,500 Curry - were the Land of a tolerable quality it would Value for much more & you are aware of what it has produced, by the Statements sent home since Mr Stirling's death in 1795 X[below] I think about £560 Curry a year or 5 P Cent on the above Sum. As I have resided here near 10 years, & the Climate agreeing with my health, I having no other residence, at present, with building a new

X[above] from 1795 to 1805 the penn was Chiefly guinea grass more recently Common

House and as I could probably do pretty well with it by carrying on a butchery I might by some friends [unclear] with Mules [c.o. do pretty well with my] & afford to give more than a Stranger: £600 Attorney's commissions could also be saved which would make it £10,600 as I could convey the Penn to a friend as Attorney (after advertising It for Sale) for the Trustees or Heirs, who could re-convey it back to me. On this subject I have express'd my Sentiments to Mr Archd. Stirling, who is thoroughly acquainted with the Land & Negroes – many of the Latter are very old & Superannuated & useless & the Women have been very unprolifick – but of late doing better as we have 2 fine Infants doing well & two or three more in the Stock

I could pay down 1/3d of the purchase money & the balance by 6 or 7 Instalments by Security by Mtge: on the Land negroes & stock for the Same: will you have the goodness to Speak to Mr Archd. & Wm. Stirling on the Subject who I am persuaded would feel inclined to befriend me on this occasion if they can with propriety?

By the usual conveyance the Middlesex, Capt Thomson I shall transmit the Continuation of my accots to 31st Decemr last, and I am in hopes of sending you a further remittance about the 25th July – altho' with the paymt to Mrs Longbotham – Supplies – taxes & my old Balance the Penn will be in my debt. We have not about 16 head of Planter's Stock for Sale, & a great number of your ones coming forward – Mr Cox will pay for the 12 Steers he bot. on the 1st of Augt £360 and those on hand are worth £500 – also some fat Cattle & Bull about £100 -

We have very fine Seasons of late - & a good Stock

of provisions coming forward – These rains have been very Partial – within 10 miles of this not a drop of Water in a Pond & our's all full – I am jobbing out a little to raise the Wind for taxes &c and Mr Laings Attorney has at last paid the jobbing acct (but no interest) for abut £320 by a draft on Trion due in a Month hence – I shall write you again by next packet having no more room at present – and remain in the meantime, Dear Sir, most truly & respectfully

Your mo: obed. Servt David Finlay

The long time I have resided here – the Salubrity of the climate and a good neighbourhood, are strong inducements for me to purchase the old Penn – tho' it is a very slow way of acquiring independency – as the proceeds for 24 years past proves: And none of some penns near this is worth 10 of Ardoch for feeding – but I think it would answer for mules better than horned Stock D.F.

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling
 of Airth Castle
 near Falkirk
 by Stirling

P Montague Packet

Stamped: AUG 1 1819

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 54-55

Paris June 17th 1819

My Dear Airth

Some time has elapsed since you and I have had any correspondence with each other, but nevertheless I am not unmindful of you and to further prove it I have to make a demand on you for fresh supplies which I hope will be granted to prove to me that you have not altogether forgotten me, the sum which I want you to send me is 50£ and with that I think I shall be able to see the year out – I have been in this place about a Month and before I left Swiss I wrote to my brother and I have written him since I came here but I can get no intelligence of him, he had it

in Contemplation to visit Paris so he said in his last to me (in Feby) but perhaps he has changed being very fickle minded, but however should he come I shall be very glad to see him – The Hay's of Dunse⁷⁴² are here but mean to return shortly -

I was sorry to see by a late paper that your poor Nephew John Stirling of Black Grange⁷⁴³ had departed this world his poor Mother whom kindness of heart and sensibility exceeds every thing her sorrow and affliction must be very great as well as his Sisters, Brothers, and all his family and this truly verifies what is written in Scripture - "In the midst of life we are in death"

I hope your worthy Mother continues to enjoy perfect health as well as your Sisters and all the small Craft &c the country I suppose is looking beautiful as all accounts agree on this side the water that a finer harvest cannot be expected than the country at present presents – present my kind love to all and assure them of my best wishes for their health and that they may live long to enjoy it

With respect to the money I have asked for you see I have been very explicit in my demand taking it for granted that it will be granted knowing how ready you are at all time to accede to my wishes I have made no delicacy in asking for it -

My Brother told me something about Jamaica being valued and an offer you were going to make to Mr A Stirling but I could not well understand how much but I hope when you receive this you will write me and send the needfull and tell me any thing [torn] about Jamaica or the Funds affair or how accoun[torn] are going on &c &c if my Brother is with you make him write to me and give me all the news accept my kindest wishes for your health and happiness and believe me

my dear Airth

Yours Sincerely & Affectl

Chas. Stirling RN

when you write me

Address

Chez Galignone

Rue Vivienne

N: 18 Paris

July 5th 1819 Wrote Jas. Dundas to send this loan the £50 on my acct. T.G.S.

Addressed to:

Thos. Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle

near
Falkirk
Scotland

Stamped: FPO JU.22 1819

Letter from David Finlay to Messrs. Stirling Gordon

MS. 10952 [page number omitted]

Westmoreland Jamaica 4th August 1819

Dear Sirs,

It is a length of time since I have had the pleasure of hearing from you -

Last year I tried the experiment of purchasing the Ardoch Supplies in the Island, and found several of the principal articles cheaper in Kingston, tho' not of so durable a quality as those shipped from Glasgow; - and it happened to be fully as convenient as I found it difficult to raise the Wind by there being no Sale for Stock and the Place considerably in my debt,

I now beg to inclose a List of the usual Supplies required, which if agreeable to you, to Ship, they will be in time by the return of the Middlesex just Sailed; as you will be rather pinched for time to send them by the Robert -

I shall shortly be making remittances to Mr Graham of Airth Castle - but at all events I shall take care that you are reimbursed in due time for the requisite Stores

Please to address to me as usual, as I am only here for the present on a Visit to my Brother⁷⁴⁴ & some old friends in this Vicinity. With much respect I am

Dear Sirs, Your very Obedt. Servant

David Finlay

Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Co.

Addressed to: Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Co.

Merchants
in Glasgow

P Princess Elizabeth Packet

Stamped: GLASGOW 30 SEP 1819

Letter from Thomas Graham Stirling to David Finlay

MS. 10952 ff. 155-156

[copy]

Strowan Octr. 5th

My dear Sir

I recd. your Letter duly with the original of Holt's Bill & have recd. from Messrs Defell the proceeds of the Sugar with Interest to 24th August 1819, being £163.6.7 the proceeds of 7 Hgshds & 5 Teirces Sugar Pr Elliston from Jamaica in 1812, Int thereon £53.12.1 Less my Agents Comn 1.1.8.

Total 215.17. which has been paid to Mr James Dundas on acct of Ardoch Pen with Sir Thos Stirlings Trustees – This ends this difficult business – I have also just recd. your packet with the accts & your letter of date July 29th 1819 I have had no opportunity of communicating with the young Gentlemen about the sale of the Penn & your offer, I had expected more from it, & must acknowledge you take no notice of the value of the stock and

and how it should be disposed of in the event of a sale; The return of encrease & decrease of stock is still wanted, and a return or List of the Negroes with their supposed ages, and their qualities

Messrs Stirling & Gordon and Co. have sent me the List of Supplies, which you had forwarded to them; I shall consult with Mr Dundas on the subject the end of this week and I doubt not they will be forwarded as usual -

Capt. MacKenzie has not brought any Turtle which would have been acceptable at this time as I would have sent it to the Vertu meeting where I am [c.o.] one of the Stewards

I have to thank you however for your kind intention towards me, - I beg you may

may apply the receipts of the Penn towards liquidating the debt due to you.

I remain Dr Sir

yours very truly

(Signed) Thos G. Stirling

P.S. on looking at your letter of the 29th July again I observe you state Mr Brydon's opinion of the value of the Place Negroes and stock to be 10000 Currency

(signed) T.G.S.

Strowen 5th Octr 1819

Copy of an answer to Mr Finlays letter of 29th July 181 (sic)

Letters from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 157-158

Saint Ann's Jamaica (Moneague) 9th December 1819

Dear Sir,

The packet bought me your much esteemed favour of the 5th October from Strowan, and I am very happy to learn my it that that old & Vexating transaction of Holt's Bill has at last been Settled to your Satisfaction, altho' it Strikes me that Mr Deffel was bound to pay the Bill, with Interest, as Stated in my Letter to you; and I shall apply to Holt for the difference tho' I have little hope of his doing any thing that is right or honourable, being a gambling so so sort of chap

I fully expected Captn. Mackenzie of the Jane would have carried you the Turtle as he promised me. She is one of my Br in Law Jas. Connell's⁷⁴⁵ Ships, and you may confidently rely that no disappointment shall happen to you this year – unless cold kills the Creature (which has happened with Some sent to my Brother Alexr. by John). The Eliza another of Connell's Ships will be at Rio Bueno in a few Weeks, and I shall not trust to their promises of getting them at the Caymanas but get my Brother to purchase one in Hanover, as these Ships are consign'd to him.

I observe that you intended communicating to the young Gentlemen the offer I made for the Penn I am Satisfied it is it's utmost Value, and in looking at Mr Coward's Valuation of last year, I find it is less than I stated to you being £9730 vizt 79

Thos. Graham Stirling, esquire

79 Negroes (a very moderate proportion able @ £80 all round	6320. .
210 head of Stock (small sized) @ £10 each young & old	2100. .
1040 acres of Land at 25/ P acre	1300. .
	<u>£9720. .</u>

And Mr Brydon, a Man of great experience & judgement after a very minute investigation, assured me that in his Opinion, if I gave more than £10,000 Curry I would Seriously repent of it, from the extreme coldness, poverty of the little glades, and the bare, Steep Hills which are little better than rocks; and the Worst is, that it is every day getting poorer. The best new Land hereabouts Values at £4 to £5 P acre – but here the old land is worn out, and no new land to go upon. The Stock tho' hardy, are of a very small breed, and Some large Heifers with a Bull or two must be bought to cross it. I wish I could get 2 or 3 good ones from Glasgow

I shall send you P first ship for that Port a minute account of the Negroes their ages, conditions Value &c. - There are about 10 that are not worth £5 round, and some of the Working Gang getting old, and several with incurable Complaints. Mr Brydon lately purchased a Gang for Sir Simon Clarke, all fine healthy people fit for work, and their average was about £100 round: besides if I give £10,000 my Commissions on the Sale as Attorney, say £600 Secured, is a Considerable addition to it. - No Offer for the Penn has ever been made to me, and everybody I speak to on the Subject are very Shy of it on account of its bad qualities just mentioned. -

I

I have a few Planters Stock for Sale and also some old fat Cows, and the negroes have jobbed out about £250 to £300 this year, & the 4 children last born are all doing well. The Cows this year have dropped very poorly, and on such a property the droppings seldom exceed ½ or 2/3d (at most) the number of Cows from the Scarcity and poor quality of the grass -

The Longbothoms have rented a large Penn near this, & are making rich fast by the Moneague Tavern, & having near 20 negroes & a large Mountain Settlement near this. She will leave every thing I fancy to her Husband, & her Son (by a man of the name of Galbraith) who is an Overseer. I once represented to you that getting so large a Sum from the Pen & General Stirling having permitted her to remain on the Land belonging to the Penn, only while she had no other place to reside at, or remained Single, (as appears in his Letters to the late Mr Robert Stirling) it ought long since to have been re-occupied by the Penn, and [torn] you will write me a few lines, on that head alone, directing me to demand the place, as I wrote you in 1812. The late General's Letter on the Subject is I believe at Hampden, & I can get my brother to send me an extract from it. She has now 3 residences besides this, & is not in the least want of it being wealthy, and the Penn would benefit by it tho' only 10 or 12 acres, being a bit of tolerable ground for yams or Corn

With kind remembrances to my good friend Wm Stirling (who I shall write to soon) please say to him that I had the pleasure, with my brother John, of Spending a day at Content in August, and we very both very much pleased with the appearance of every thing on the Estate & hoping this may find yourself & family in perfect health, I always am

My dear Sir, Very truly & respectfully Your's &c

David Finlay

P.T.O.

Being an old East India Captain perhaps you could put me in in (sic) the way of getting a dozen or two of Batavian Arrack⁷⁴⁶ a thing I am Very partial to – Mr Connell would forward it or S.G. & Co. & please mentions anything I can send you in return – D.F.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
of Airth Castle
near Falkirk

N.B.

P His Ms. Packet Blucher

Stamped: FEB 6 1820

MS. 10952 ff. 159-160

Ardoch St Ann's Jamaica, 4 July 1820

My dear Sir

Since I had the pleasure of addressing you on the 5th February & 13th March to which I refer I am without any of your esteemed favours. -

On the 30th of May my Brother John wrote me that he had directed Captain McCulloch of the Ship Eliza belonging to my Nephew Mr Arthur Connell to purchase for you at the Caymanas, a Turtle, & he told him to mark it TS and deliver it to Messrs Stirling, Gordon & Co. so that I trust it will soon be with you, & give Satisfaction requesting your acceptance of the same. My Brother was sending 3 or 4 for His friends by the same ship, & seeing that you are a Member of the Caledonian Hunt⁷⁴⁷ it may prove an acceptable thing at their ensuing meeting -

I was thinking I would have been enabled to send a Bill for £2 or £300 Stg by this time, but I am disappointed in the receipt of some monies for Stock, altho' promised payment about the 1st of Augt. (the usual time of payment) I must not send the annual List of Supplies to Messrs S G & Co. until I can make a suitable remittance, & if that be impossible, which I think not, I shall buy the clothing & Herrings &c in Kingston. - It is a most difficult thing to dispose of Stock at present by reason of the inconveniently low prices of Sugars, which has also reduced the price of Cattle in so much that abundance of the best can be bought at £25 P head. We had the misfortune after all my Care, and sending her to Kingston, to lose the Girl Peggy

Peggy – and the young Negro Maroon whom I wrote you about has been in Kingston Hospital at a considerable expence Since Februy last and tho' he mended at first, yet my Agents there advise me that he is now a hopeless & complete object – All that my duty & humanity dictated to me has been done; but to no purpose! - There were 8 or ten old & completely superannuated negroes here not worth one Shilling & when they die with the loss of Peggy & Maroon – with some others elderly and some with old ulcers which the Doctors say are incurable, the remainder of the Negroes would not fetch above £5000 Curry the Stock 200 at £10 on a average £2000 - & the Land £1500 - £2000 more – Indeed no person ever thinks of making an offer for it. X With the fall in the price of Stock, & the loss of these negroes, I think it would be well sold at £9000 curry & I do not believe it will fetch more. Considering from these causes & the worn out Land that it is diminished near £1000 curry since I offered the £10,000 yet I would give £9000 exclusive of my Commissions on the sale with a mortgage in the property £3000 down & the balance by instalments in 6 or 7 years – Were that agreeable, a Power to enable me to convey it to a third person would be necessary: if not it must go on I fancy as hitherto X if the Heirs could not rent it to me for 7 years or so; where I would give £300 Stg or £400 currency P annum for it. - I can get St Faith's the Penn next us, with nearly double the Land, & 24 more negroes, for £13,000 Curry.

Since my last I am sorry to say the poor lad Lindsay, who succeeded Anderson on his Promotion in Trelawny, has paid the debt of Nature. Mr Pollard who lived with me here

here for some years has lately resumed his Situation being well acquainted with the Negroes and Stock – I had put him on a Penn near this in 1817 which was lately Sold. - I hope the three young Gentlemen are all well, and that this may find yourself & family equally so: Remember me if you please, to my good Friend the Laird of Content when you see Him: I suppose he is rapidly adding to

his Well filled Coffers as a Glasgow Merchant, as well as a West India Proprietor - & it is no doubt a grand thing to have two Strings to one's Bow.

Believe me to remain, Dear Sir, at all times;

Very faithfully & respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

David Finlay

The only thing I could do with the old Penn is to breed Mules in the Hills: for horned Cattle at times can hardly ascend some of them, & as to fattening, the Land is so old, that when replanted in Guinea grass at great labour & expense, it degenerates into common or natural grass very soon again, & there is no new Land to go upon & therefore an unimprovable Property - D.F.

Thomas Graham Stirling esquire of Airth Castle.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling esquire
of Airth Castle
[c.o. Falkirk
Stirling]
Strowan
Crieff

P Montague Packet

Stamped: JAMAICA 8 JY 1820
AUG 10 1820

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 239-240

Ahmednaggur⁷⁴⁸ 18th August 1820

My dear Friend

The uncertainty in which I have been for the last some month involved, with regard to my appointment in the service prevented my acknowledging the receipt of your friendly letter delivered by Mr Hagaden I have now the satisfaction of doing so and of informing you that our Governor Mr Elphinstone has provided for me in a far more handsome manner than I could have anticipated – The Poona Auxiliary Force has been broken up, and two Extra Battalions (as they are called) raised in their stead. They have only a Commandant and Adjutant to each and I am Adjutant to the 2nd Battn. In it we united the usual duties of Adjutants, [c.o.] Quarter Master and Paymaster, so you may gauge they offered me abundance of employment – The Allowances granted for performing so many duties are more handsome than I [c.o.] hitherto received, and I have consequently relinquished, for the present, all my former plans of visiting Europe, and have made up my mind to remain in the country till promoted, an event which I sincerely hope may not [sic] speedily happen -

Your young friend had the good fortune to be appointed a Lieutenant in the B,bay European Regiment, on his arrival in India, but preferring a fine laced jacket and plumed helmet to the more humble uniform of the Infantry, he has been at his own request transferred to

the newly levied Cavalry of this Establishment as fifth Cornet!!! Should it ever be in my power to be of service to him, you may depend upon it, nothing shall be wanting on my part to afford him any support -

I lament accordingly that our affairs in the West have not been brought to a conclusion – Tom wrote me [c.o.] he had spoken to an Attorney on the subject & that I might expect a Power of Attorney out for signature immediately -

[c.o.] Wishing to save delay I applied to a professional Gentleman in the Presidency, but being unable to furnish the information he required I was reluctantly compelled to abandon my [c.o.] object – and I have heard no more from Tom about the business though upwards of a year has elapsed -

Our War in India having ended triumphantly, we are on the way of engaging in another, more distant, and probably on that account, apparently more difficult – Immense Armies, the resources of the three Presidencies are, we are informed assembling in Cutch and the countries bordering on the Indus – Bombay furnishes under the personal command of Sir Charles Colville⁷⁴⁹ 10,000 men – You have perhaps forgotten to write him, as you intended, When he had given me my appointment, not from any knowledge of me, but in compliment to Mr Elphinstone, I thanked him and enclosed your letter for his perusal, remarking that I should do myself the pleasure of bringing his kindness to your notice, which would be equally gratifying to your feelings, as if [c.o. it] this Eng. and [c.o.] seemed one [unclear] in compliance with a request – The enclosed is Col. Blair's reply by command of the General, which through too flattering (on your account) will offer you and family under whose auspices, I was ushered into the world, I am persuaded, much pleasure -

My chief support in the country, is Mr Erskine, and all Mr Elphinstones attention to me has been on account of the partiality shown towards me by him – You

will doubtless have an opportunity of acknowledging what I told you, and I beg you will not suffer it to pass by unnoticed -

I sincerely hope your much respected Mother continues in health as well as your Sisters and Children – By the Bye, I must not call them children now, for now two years have passed over us, since I saw two of them suck – However, many [illeg] things have happened within that period, and were we to endeavour to figure them in our minds, it would be more than enough for [c.o.] us – Forgive me, this is a cold, rainy melancholy day – Can you afford me information about my Brothers – I heard from Tom several months ago, but the same reasons which induced me to defer replying to your letter prevailed with regard to his - [torn] my old play fellow Davy [lines through but not crossed out] Miss Erskine? Is she as b[torn] cheerful as ever? - The MacDowalls and Dundas[torn] [unclear] by this time eminent in their professions – The time seems long since I left all these people, but it will [torn] longer ere we meet perchance.

Are my old friends Roderick Henry [torn] Tom Robertson, Sarah, Peat Graham & [torn] still alive? Pray tell them I enquired after them?

Do you still amuse yourself shooting? You know I shoot with both eyes shut, so I have lately taken to hog and [illeg] hunting at which sports I am more successful -

Be obliging enough to write your friend Sir Charles Colville a few lines on my behalf without loss of time – With best and kindest regards to your Mother Sisters and friends,

I remain, my dear friend

Yours ever Sincy

W Stirling

A fellow, whose countenance I remembered came to me at Poona, and said he came from near Polmaye (or what do they call it) that he had long served Keir, Kippendance &c as coachman – As I thought he could – not have been discharged for doing any good, particularly after seeing him a Private in the Europ. Regt. I took very little notice

of the gentleman – I forget his name -

W Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire of Airth
Airth Castle
Stirlingshire
Scotland

[?] 128
P. Phoenix

Stamped: INDIA LETTER DEAL
JAN 18 1821

Letter from Thomas Graham Stirling to David Finlay

MS. 10952 ff. 161-162

[copy] Strowan Sept 28th 1820
My Dear Sir

Your favour of the 4th July is now before me, and I have first to say that I believe there was nothing material that I had to reply to in the former letter mentioned (which are not now before me) except to acknowledge one remittance of one Hundred Pounds as I think-----

I was much obliged by your attention in sending me the Turtle which arrived in good condition but unfortunately at a time when I could not [c.o. make use of it or] have my friends to partake

of it, and therefore I had to gift it away – While I acknowledge with thanks this mark of your attention, I must beg that you will not take this trouble again.

At present I can give you no answer to the Offer for the Penn, as I have not heard from the young men who are all Abroad, but whilst we think in this Country, that Jamaica Property is improving in Value, I am struck with the very considerable diminution in Price and Also, by the long term payment proposed – A lease of the penn is out of the question. Query would it not be well to refresh some of the Old Pastures

By Allowing them to go into Ruinate, and then you could get us some money by Jobbing. - In future I would rather get such Supplies as are necessary from this Country than in Jamaica as the Merchts there must have their profit. The remittance you mentioned would be very acceptable

I remain &c &c &c
Signed Thos. Graham Stirling

Extracts from a Letter from Thos Graham Stirling Esq. To Mr Finlay Jamaica

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10925 ff. 163-164

Ardoch St Ann's 30th December 1820

My dear Sir,

I wrote you the packet before last, and have now great pleasure in having receipt of your

esteemed favour of the 29th Septemr from Strowan

I have been [torn] concerned indeed, to observe by it that you have lost so many near and dear Relatives this year⁷⁵⁰; but I trust, as you say nothing to the contrary, that your own health was good, and that you did not permit those lamentable Visitations to have any effect upon it so as to affect that first of blessings – I wish it was in my power to take a trip across the Water for a few months; for tho' my general health has been good of late, yet after people have been in such a Climate as long as I have been in this, a little bracing up is of great Service to one's Constitution besides the natural anxiety I have long felt to see my Brother Sisters and friends in old Scotia, tho' indeed I cannot afford it

There has been no Sale for Stock for some time and Steers have fallen to £28 to £25 p head. Fresh Beef also fell last Week from 1/3 p lb to 1/ & 10d from 7s/2d as it was before the War. This is a Serious loss to the Grazier and on that account and for the other reasons I Stated, I could not think of paying more than the £10,000 Curry for Ardoch. That Sum I would be content to give, and I think I could raise a third part to be paid down:- but these delays are dangerous for Penns are of course deteriorating in Value, and unless this Offer

offer is accepted now, it may probably never fetch such another

I have been able to procure very little jobbing this year, and really the old Pastures were getting so full of trash & Weeds, that it was absolutely necessary to go through them very thoroughly; and found it right also to build some new Walls and put in some more grass – I have just engaged with a Neighbour to job for a considerable [torn] which I hope will produce this ensuing year about £400 and we have a good many Stock for Sale, which I trust I shall get a Merchant for ere long. -

Mr Cox who had some money to pay me besides what he owed the Pen:- Sent me a Bill some time ago for £300 – Sterling, which was a larger Sum than I could afford to remit intending to send about £150 or £200 Stg. - I sent this Bill to my Brother John and expected a Smaller one from him; but he not drawing at the time sent it to his and my Agents in town Messrs Watson, Williams & Co. who I learn have not yet sold it; and the packet having been put off twice for 2 weeks (in consequence of a dreadful accident to our most excellent Governor, the Duke of Manchester whose Scull was lately fractured from a fall by his Horses running away with his Curricie) I sent this express to Mr Williams requesting him if this Bill for £300 Stg is still in his hands, to enclose you the first by the present packet. Should it be disposed of however, another packet will sail very immediately & I shall procure another Bill to go by her. -

I have great pleasure in Saying that the Negroes are all well – except a few from their Christmas Gambols, and the Cows have dropped very respectably for

for so old & Worn out a Penn. This next year I think it will nett very tolerably, if Mr Brown keeps his promise about the jobbing -

Had the Duke died, and his recovery is most miraculous it would have been a Serious loss to Jamaica. I had [torn] long on very friendly terms with his Secretary Mr Bullock⁷⁵¹, who writes me that his Grace is coming to Stay a while at Phenix Park, a cool fine residence in these Mountains. They were up there in Septemr last for 3 weeks and I was frequently with them, & had the honour of a Visit from his Grace here with Col. Freeman [torn]. He is a very plain pleasant man & thinks nothing of Walking ten or a dozen miles before breakfast -

I shall write you at length in my next being rather hurried at present; and wishing you and my friend Wm Stirling the Laird of Content, & your families, many happy returns of the Season,

I remain Dear Sir,
with much esteem & regard
Yours faithfully
David Finlay

Our friend Macdowall Grant & his Nephew Henry⁷⁵² are quite well. I saw them both lately frequently at the King's House & Races in Spa Town. Arndilly looks as well, drinks as hard, and talks as loud as ever!!

Thos. Graham Stirling, esquire

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqre
of Airth Castle
near Falkirk
by Stirling
P Sandwich Packet

Stamped: MAR 5 1821

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 f. 56

Beaufort Buildings Strand
No. 11. London Novr. 7

My Dear Airth

Here I am once more on my way to pay a visit to you if acceptable, as it is now upwards of 3 years since I parted from you and the different changes that have taken place induce me to not to delay as the uncertainty of this world is so great -

In coming to Town I met Wm Moray⁷⁵³ on the top of the Coach who gave me all the News about the family which I was glad to hear was favourable likewise Anthony Oliphant⁷⁵⁴ who arrived yesterday

brought still latter News, I dine with Mrs O today Poor Lawrence⁷⁵⁵ is here just arrived from Paris and will be obliged to return shortly on account of his Lungs the air of London not agreeing with him

I arrived here on the 5 Inst. From France via Jersey Southampton, Portsmouth, and propose waiting here untill I hear from you – Give my kind love to your Sisters and Children. My Brother Tom I take for granted is some where in Scotland I have never heard of him since he left me in Jersey about this time last year. I have heard of Wm McDowall⁷⁵⁶ – Miss [sic] Davie Erskine &c &c which affords me great pleasure -

Adieu pour le moment

And believe me yours Sincerely and Affectionatly
Chas. Stirling

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling Esq
[c.o. Airth Castle
Falkirk]
Strowan
Crieff N B

Stamped: NOV 10 1821

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 165-166

Ardoch Moneague, St Ann's 15th Decemr 1821

My dear Sir

For a considerable length of time I have not had occasion to trouble you, as my Communications would be of little more consequence than repetitions, thereby occasioning only trouble and expences of postage. Your last esteemed favour of the 4th July mentd. that one packet or two you would probably be able to send me the final reply of our young Friends, or their Trustees regarding my Offer and the Sale of the Penn; and from the still greater fall in the price of Cattle in consequence of the distress of the Sugar Planters; Penns have fallen also in Value; and what is worse there is no Sale for Stock. The Planters will not give more than £22.10/ & £25 for Steers that some years ago, would fetch £32.10/ and they are purchasing Spanish Cattle at £18 & £20 P head. This is lamentable but I cannot help it. I have offered our's P £25.. pble next August – but no purchasers for us or our neighbours and we have a number of young Stock coming on for the ensuing year. We had the misfortune also to lose 14 young Cattle, all of that dreadful complaint the black leg and hardly one of any other and the whole Island was nearly burnt up for 3 months this Summer & our ponds all dry.

We have jobb'd out about £350 this money with part of our Gang, as it requires most of them to keep the old Pastures Clean, and the Mothers of Children and Elderly people

people cannot go out to job. The Gentleman who employed them being rather a keen hand, and too tight on negroes – I have withdrawn them; but expect a job the ensuing Spring on the next Penn to this and the King's road. The times being so truly bad for the Planter, I doubt exceedingly whether I could do much with the old Penn at the Sum I mentd at all events I conceive the Attornie's commissions ought to be deducted, and had I funds of the Property in hand (which is not the case from want of Sales) remittances are absolutely ruinous; Bills being all this year at 20 & generally 22 ½ P Cent premium. My expectations of either War (which only can raise the price of West India produce) or any other cause, amending these miserable times, are very Slender, so that we must live in hope.

Mrs Longbothom lost her Husband early in the year⁷⁵⁷, and last Week her Son by a Man of the name of Galbraith⁷⁵⁸ who was a promising young Man. She is worth I learn from £2 to £3000 and from her conversation with me I suspect she does not rightly know who she is going to leave it to. She still keeps the Moneague Tavern, but appears in great distress about the death of her Son, who would have got every things she is worth. She asked me to State this circumstance to you, and express'd a Will to hear from her Sons – so that I think it would be good Policy in Mr Charles or Thomas to write her a few lines of Condolence, and I would do all in my power to induce her to make a Will in their favour, and have, I believe, some little sway

Sway over the old Woman; but as she is still very fond of money, there is no saying who may be her Heir. If any of the young Gentlemen write they had better inclose the Letter to me, and I would advice it to be wrote in as flattering a way as possible.

The Value of Stock here being very much diminished, I have been crossing them with large & new Bulls, and have had the good luck to get two changed for our little ones. Could we afford it a few large Heifers would also be a good purchase. I have wrote for no Supplies whatever this year, but simply bot. those required for the Negroes cheap in Kingston; as, considering the Enormous

Premium it is more economical to do so.

I had the pleasure of hearing from [torn: Arch]d. Stirling lately; but he mentioned [torn] had not consulted him about the Pen. Our friend Mr Macdowall Grant I saw frequently last week in his usual Spirits – but I am sorry to say he looks very thin; tho' apparently in good Health. He has one son here⁷⁵⁹ and another coming in the 91st Regt.⁷⁶⁰ My health has been very good thank God! for a long time, but my little business remains just the same. I most Sincerely hope that your health is equally good with that of all your family

Have the goodness to remember me very kindly to my old & excellent friend Mr Wm Stirling when you see him and believe me to remain, with great esteem

Your faithfl. & obed. Servt,

David Finlay

There is a Son of Mr Marjoribanks here with whom I am intimate. He is still delicate

Thos. G Stirling, esquire

[another hand 15 Dec 1821 David Finlay to Mr Graham Regarding Mrs Longbothom Ardoch Pen &c]

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
of Airth Castle
near Falkirk
by Stirling

P Princess Elizabeth Packet

Stamped: MONEAGUE JA [other stamp illeg.]

Note from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 f. 44

My Dear Sir [Not dated]

After what Mr Finlay has offered for the Purchase of Ardoch Penn My Brother and Self authorize you on our behalf to sell the same according to Mr. Finlays offer

Chas. Stirling Lt. RN

To

Thos. Graham Stirling Esq
Airth Castle
near Falkirk

Letter from Alexander Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 48-49

Edinburgh 60. Fredk Street⁷⁶¹

Nov. 18th 1822

Dear Sir,

I have a Letter from my Brother David, dated Sept. 13th, saying that he had transacted with you and Mr Macleod of Muiravonside, regardg Ardoch Penn in Jamaica, and begging me to remind you of sending out the requisite Powers of Attorney

to Mr Coward & my Brother John⁷⁶², who is resident at Hampden Trelawny – It is probable that you have given directions for this being done by next Packet.

I remain
Dear Sir
Your faithful & obed. St
Alex Finlay

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr
of Airth
Falkirk

Stamped: NOV 18 1822

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 167-168

Ardoch, St Anns Jamaica 10th April 1823

Dear Sir,

Since replying to your favour of the 18th October last I have been looking with no small anxiety for the power to convey the penn or the Title to it. Times have grown worse & worse every day since that period for the Sugar Planter & the Grazier, and nobody is doing any good but the Coffee Planters – In place of the £30 for Steers, which was the price till within these 12 months, the very best can [torn] be got at nearly half that money, and what [torn] worse the Sugar Planters will not buy any, neither will they job to the extent of a farthing, and we have no other resources here but Sales of Cattle & jobbing – I got an old friend with great difficulty to take 12 Cattle last Xmas; but if things are to continue this way the proceeds of all Penns, except new guinea grass ones (& these owned by Men of great Power) cannot exceed a mere trifle. A considerable number of the negroes here are getting grey and infirm, with 12 or 13 that are nearly superannuated. There is no new Land for Coffee or provisions, and my great inducement in making the purchase was the

benefit to be derived by that of the price of new Land within two miles of this, part of which is in bearing Coffee, and it will make 5 or 6000 Hs this year & 50 bags of Pimento with at present £500, which could pay half the purchase money of the place, besides affording plenty of Provisions. The Owner now refuses to sell it under £2000, seeing the immense Value of Coffee; and he is extending his field & will not dispose of it. You may judge what a disappointment this must be to me; and also the great fall in Cattle, which in common justice demands some reduction in the Price of the Penn – Mr Coward & [torn] agreed to do the business free of commission, [torn] is a large Sum saved the Heirs – but if the premium on Bills at the present extravagant rate, is to be paid by the purchaser it would be ruinous to him indeed. The customary mode is to pay the money over time or instalments, as the case may be, and on the Attornies receiving it either remit in produce or Bills as may be most beneficial, & according to instructions. My accounts are all very Clear, & the expences have been considerably less than formerly, yet the proceeds are unavoidably very small, which of course renders the balance due me rather heavy – After so serious

a disappointment as the Loss of the place I speak of, and the great fall in the price of Cattle you must be perfectly sensible, that had I foreseen these circumstances I never would have offered £10,000 for this old Worn out Penn; which nothing by a War & high prices can render in any respect an Eligible purchase and under all these circumstances anybody here thinks a deduction of £1000, but fair – I trust however the matter may be finally Closed on receipt of this Letter, as it is painful to be in such suspense and renders it impossible for me to [torn] any other purchase, in times [torn] Land is generally got for 20/- an acre, I mean Wood Land of the best kind, & had the power come out immediately after your last Letter I would now have had a good deal of Land Cleared and planted on the other place and every thing suitably arranged.

I remain, with much respect

My dear Sir,

Your's faithfully

David Finlay

In your last, you mentd that I might buy the new Land as soon as I pleased

Thomas Graham Stirling, esq.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling, esquire
Airth Castle
near Falkirk
Stirling

By the packet

Stamped: JAMAICA 14 AP ...
STIRLING 27 MAY..
MONEAGUE

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 241

[bottom: Bombay 19th April 1823]

My dear friend,

I take the opportunity of the Ship Triumph, which will sail tomorrow for England, to write these few lines to express my hope that you and all your family enjoy good health & happiness – I was a little out of sorts last year, but a trip to the Concan & Malabar⁷⁶³ quite restored me Indeed I have not felt so well these four years as I have since my return in January

Mr Earle⁷⁶⁴ who you recommended me to see is now in Bombay – I have done all in my power for him viz: I have given him a deal of good advice, & I have introduced him to the Governor, Mr Elphinstone, who is, as you may have heard

an old acquaintance of mine – He tells me Lady Perth is dead -

I saw your name in the papers as a conspicuous character, at the Kings Levée as proccessioner – I trust he will make you Baronet of the United Kingdom -

Mr Huguet is also in Bombay, but I have not seen much of him lately – He is laid up with a disease, occasioned, I believe, by the effects of mercury on a scrofulous habit -

My Brother Tom tells me he intends to marry a Miss Dobie⁷⁶⁵ I daresay he has weighed the subject, & the arguments pro & con – Pray tell me without reserve, what you think of his conduct -
I have made application

for an appointment which must soon fall vacant, & if I succeed which, by the bye, I am somewhat indifferent about, I shall make up my mind to remain three years more in India – but should it be given to another you may expect me in the summer of next year – I am quite keen for a good feast of your gooseberries & strawberries now that I have had enough of the Cocoanuts & plantains, which I used to long [c.o. to] for, & of which you truly predicted I should soon tire -

[c.o. Pray] With the most sincere wishes for your happiness, & that of all your family
believe me

Your sincere friend

W Stirling

Bombay 19th April 1823

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr of Airth
[c.o. Stirlingshire]
Europe

Readdressed: Strowan Crieff

Stamped: STIRLING 1 SEP 1823
INDIA LETTER DEAL

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 114-115

Stirling May 17th [1823]

My Dear Airth

I was very sorry to find by Miss Graham's letter that you had been suffering so much. I hope with so many comforts about you the gout may be speedily driven away. I was in hopes of having seen you as I propose going into Edinburgh during the Session to see what is to be done; for really this suspense this unsatisfactory state of life is most cruel & very hard. Had you been well my dear Airth I would have involved you by the tie of Friendship by the Guardianship you have professed & by the responsibility you incurred on assuring Dr Dobie the affair would be quickly decided to come forward & urged it on with your heart & will that a termination might be produced. I grieve to trouble you at this moment but you will forgive it considering the inexpressible anxiety of my mind [c.o.] arising from the situation in which I am placed. Ralph⁷⁶⁶ assured me

that for certain it would be decided this Session but so he did in former Sessions & I cannot help here expressing my astonishment at such conduct

It certainly appears odd & I trust these delays have not been intentional. I am unwilling to think so however I shall trust to your exertions when you get well which I hope will soon be the case to bring my affairs to a fair & just conclusion.

Any letter you could see was from an old friend but discovering it was not for you I am sure you would close it.

Should any of the family be writing to the Dundases, beg, that a Packet which comes described as the letter, may be left till I call for it I mean to go to Town Monday or Tuesday. I expected my

letter for half pay would have been at Airth ere this, should it come pray send it to Dr. Dobie's Allan Park⁷⁶⁷. I am sorry Miss Jeanie is no better she has had a painful trial & I hope now that all nature is blooming you will all get well & renew your wonted tasks & amusements that this new & busy season affords.

I thank Miss Graham for her letter & I shall be happy to go out & see you all when your house is settled & out of confusion. I went up to Stratherne for ten days by way of change of air I missed you but I left a note for William & one for Miss Jeanie which I hope she got. Good bye my dear Airth & believe me with very sincere affection you friend & wellwisher

Thomas Stirling

I hope you will soon get rid of your pains & be able to join in a good bottle of your best. good bye I hope your boys are well have you heard lately

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

Stamped: STIRLI ...17 MAY [no year visible]

MS. 10952 ff. 116-117

No 9 Thistle Street
June 14th 1823

My Dear Airth

I rejoice to learn you are so much better Little Mary⁷⁶⁸ whom I saw this morning gave me a good account of your progress towards recovery which must be very satisfactory to all. I heard you took ill with such confinement & pain & distress but I hope now that you are able to go about again you will find the fields as fresh & as delightful as ever.

Ralph showed us Finlay's letter I confess it is extraordinary now making these difficulties. We are agreed to sell & as the bargain is concluded the choice of granting his reduction will be left to ourselves at the close of the Instalments if it be found just & fair to do so from the depressed state of affairs. To this I cannot think he will object & Ralph promised to have the Power finished & ready to send out immediately. Charles proposes going out to see you on monday to advise & consult on the business

It will be most desirable to have this important part of the case advanced for Jamaica will never profit as in Finlay's hands. But you will arrange all with Charles.

Dr Dobie⁷⁶⁹ wrote to Mr Downie⁷⁷⁰ monday last about his Son to procure a Cadetcy for him as Mr Downie had promised his influence & interest, & he particularly requests me to beg of you to back his application if possible to assist in that desirable end. You will know whether this be agreeable to yourself & of course

whether suitable to Borough Politics It would be felt a very great favour by the old Gentleman for he is averse to lying under obligations. I shall be glad to hear Mr Downie's reply, as the Doctor will be anxious, will you be good enough to inform me? I hope soon to have the pleasure of seeing you at your beautiful Chateau all right & tight give my kind best regards to your Sisters & hope that this fine Weather will remove all complaints; Also to Willy⁷⁷¹ & to your Boys when you write or see them should it be before I do.

Good bye my dear friend Airth & believe me with much sincerity & truth
Yours very Sincy
Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk
Stamped: JUN 14 182... [at the side written 1823]

Letter from Charles Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 f. 59

Stirling Octr. 6th [1823]
Gibbs Inn⁷⁷²

My Dear Airth

Here I am just arrived from Edinburgh after a weeks illness of influenza and sore throat but am now better and propose to stay a day or two here and if you can conveniently receive me I shall be most happy to pay you a short visit. My Brothers I know not were he is as I have not heard of since he left Edin for St Fillans⁷⁷³ - Our friend Tom Robinson came with me in the Steam Boat and is the Bearer of this, Poor Man I am sorry to hear of his distress but is now much Better all our friend in Edbh are well adieu for the present and Rem your affec

Chas Stirling RN

[no addressee]

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Charles Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 60-61

9 Thistle Street [1823]
Sunday

My Dear Charles

I received yours in due course but you did not explain anything about the Copy of [illeg] letter so I shall keep it merely as a duplicate has been written to Finley since I sent off a letter? Ralph says the Plans will be ready soon but it would be better to get Mr Mcleod to come into Town if he has any intention of doing so because it would save me 2 guinees as one witness [unclear] who opens here must go to have it signed by the different persons required to do so; at any rate you had better come here & do it. I am glad you are well & are happy it was a very good decision to be going to the Country. I heard from Eliza⁷⁷⁴ Sunday she tells me that should it be in my power to offer [torn] If again she will be happy to listen to me. Mr Barker left only yesterday. You bid me keep my spirits up I thank you Charles for your kindness but when one has cherished & nurtured hopes & affections so long it is very hard to bear up against their fruition & destruction. Elizas mentions having seen you Old John is not in [unclear] he would have been for he denies Eliza must feel for me very much this is between ourselves [unclear] can share a little confidence to

marry for [unclear]

nothing further about our affair in Court Remember me kindly to all at Airth & shall hope to see you here soon well & happy I am very solitary not a single companion. Yesterday I wrote a dozen verses on blue – black eyes to amuse some female friends I drink tea with them – (Mrs Camseys [unclear] family) last evening and produced them they afforded some amusement & laughing & were accordingly inserted in the scrap book Blue gain the preference & then afterwards we walked till ten that evening was most delectable but you have every thing in great quantity at Airth I dined at Maximilian [unclear] t other day & well received he assumed your departure was very sudden I contradicted it

Good bye & believe me most truly & affectionately
your [torn] friend & Wellwisher

Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Charles Stirling Esq.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

not stamped

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 169-170

Ardoch St Ann's Jam. 8th October 1823;

My dear Sir,

I had the pleasure of receiving your Esteemed favour of the 25th June by the July packet, in which you are good enough to say that the long promised power to sign the Conveyance would be sent by the August packet; but she is arrived without it, tho' probably the Septr. mail may fetch it - I should suppose our friends Messrs Archd & Wm Stirling would not hesitate much, about the reasonableness of the deduction more especially as there is nothing but alarm, depreciation of property, meetings of all the Parishes here to make resolution to open the Eyes of people at home as to the State of the Slave population, and to avert the ruinous consequences of the avowed measures of the Saints, Messrs Wilberforce, Stephen⁷⁷⁵ & my old Overseer Macaulay, and we have just received accots. of a serious insurrection among the Slaves in Demarara owing to some of their Sanctified Agents there inflaming the minds of these poor deluded people with ideas

ideas of Speedy emancipation. The only person who appears to make rather light of it is our worthy Governor the Duke of Manchester with whom I have had a good deal of Conversation lately: he & Mr Bullock having been up here at Phenix Park for three Weeks, I was very much with them. On the principal subject in which I requested your aid in my last, I now have the pleasure to say that Mr Archd. Stirling's friend Mr Hall having resigned his Office of Comptroller of Port Maria⁷⁷⁶, His Grace very kindly offered it to me, and I am just mounting my horse to take change, and appoint a Deputy there, the place being 25 miles from Hence. I shall also try to sell some Cattle or buy some old ones to fatten. - As it is probable an appointment may be made soon by the Lords of the Treasury or Commissioners of the Customs, it is of great consequence to have the Island appointment confirmed at home; as I shall lose £25 fees & Stamp on the Commission if I am Superseded soon. Certainly it is no great thing: being about £150 Stg a year if I give half the fees to

my Deputy: on this subject my last letter solicited your asking Lord⁷⁷⁷ or Lady Hopetown to apply to Lord Liverpool to get it confirmed

[on the paper fold] The papers are filled with advertisements of Estates for Sale, and they are generally bought for merely the Value of the negroes and stock, such is the alarm here

confirmed. The Collectorship at Port Maria is held by an Island appointment by Genl: Conran⁷⁷⁸ to Mr Wm Macdowall⁷⁷⁹ nephew of Arndilly. Mr Bullock has kindly asked his Grace to mention this matter to my Lord Bathurst in his dispatch by this Packet, and his Grace assured me he would do anything in his power to serve me. Mr B. is to mention it to Mr Chas Pallmer⁷⁸⁰ who is very intimate with my Lord Liverpool so that I think there is a tolerable Chance of its being confirmed; and it will enable me to afford some assistance to my Sisters in Edinburgh in these hard times -

All the negroes & Stock are as usual. Plato who has been a constant runaway, thief & rogue ever since his last Master purchased him has been away 9 months, and none of the negroes wish to see him back again as he does nothing but robs them -

Mrs Fergus has just buried her young Husband!!⁷⁸¹ and they say his Brother will come in for her personal property which is almost everything – She told me she meant to make a new Will in favour of her 3 sons our young friends, and the power you proposed sending to protect their rights under such Will, should she die, ought to be sent me

me without delay, she being in very indifferent health, tho's still tough, at near 60 years of age.

With my best Wishes for your health and that of all your family & friends I remain

Dear Sir, Yrs most faithfully

David Finlay

If an opportunity offers please show this hurried Letter to Mr W Stirling who I am sure will lend his help in the Custom house affair,

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling Esqr

[c.o. of Airth Castle

near Falkirk

by Stirling]

Strowan Crieff

P Sandwich Packet

[stamps unclear]

Letters from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 243-244

[bottom: St Helena 22nd April 1824]

My dear friend,

The Lotus is on the point of sailing for England & I take the opportunity to tell you that I have arrived here – I expect to be in England about the 10th of June – We have had a most boisterous passage from India, four gales one of them an Isle of France hurricane in 12oS. 85 E – I hope you

and family are well – My health, I am glad to say is quite restored -

Pray remember me to all friends - & excuse this hasty scrawl..

Believe me
Yours most sincey
W Stirling

St Helena
22nd April 1824

Addressed to:

Per Lotus

Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr. Care of James Dundas Esqr.
25 St Andrews Sq.
Edinburgh

Stamped: JUN 20 1824
INDIA LETTER HOLYHEAD

MS. 10952 ff. 245-246

Cheltenham 16 July 1824

My dear Friend

Before leaving London I had the pleasure to receive both your letters & one from Mr Dundas enclosing a bill on Coutts & Co for £200 which was duly paid. Accept my thanks for the readiness with which you met my wishes, as well as for your kind invitation to Airth & Strowan which I hope to be able to avail myself of next month -

My health is much improved & Dr Christie⁷⁸² the most eminent physician in [c.o. London] Cheltenham who I have consulted promises me perfect strength in three weeks

I am very pleasantly situated here in a boarding house with a party of twenty five – consist half ladies & half gentlemen, some in pursuit of health, some for amusement, but all equally inclined to be agreeable, & to make

the party comfortable – the lady of an Irish Judge is one of us, & as I am, [c.o.] as she says, the very image of a deceased friend, she has formed a great friendship for me - & is particularly anxious that I should accompany her to her seat near Dublin – As an inducement she promises me the pick of Ireland for a wife – but though a strong one, I must decline her invitation for the present -

On my way from London I spent two very pleasant days at that beautiful place Oxford – I had the good fortune to make the acquaintance while travelling of a Lady of family who having been at Oxford before kindly acted as guide – Her husband then joined us from the country & we took a post chaise to Cheltenham, it being more comfortable as well as more economical than the stage coach -

I went to spend a few hours at Gloucester , & in the Cathedral

I discerned a monument to the memory of Christian Erskine⁷⁸³ of Cardross [c.o. in the Cathedral] – ob. 1805

I called on Mrs Oliphant in London & am happy to say she behaved with much kindness, I was sorry my limited stay in town prevented my repeating the visit -

If my physician allow me, I will leave Cheltenham on the 2nd of August & proceed to London by way of Malvern, Warwick, Leamington, Blenheim, Oxford & Windsor. Then I will embark for

Leith, & hasten to see you - The weather here is very hot, & reminds me of India – I have put of my visit to Wales, as I must be in Ireland in October – the Duke & Duchess of Guiche⁷⁸⁴ are here & the Dukes of Gloucester & Wellington are daily expected -

I trust you have by this time got your family together, & that the younger part have made progress in their education -

Miss Graham Senior & Miss Jane I heard from – Mrs Oliphant was well – Mrs Pat. Stirling is at Brighton, I was told, for which I was sorry as I wished to have the pleasure of thanking her for a very serviceable introduction she gave me to a friend of hers in Bombay.

Believe me

My dear friend with best respects to all your family

Yours very Sincerely

W Stirling

I forgot to tell you of my promotion

WS

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 212-213

[no date]

My Dear Airth

I heard from Charles wishing me to go to Edinburgh to meet you to consult & on my way I met John Brown who told me you would be in Stirling tomorrow If you have anything to say that can be said on paper you can direct to me at 60 Frederick St. I go to Edinburgh by way of Perth & I have used the freedom of putting my Pony on the grass here till I return hoping it will not be long

I hope you have no objections⁷⁸⁵ I am delighted to hear of Willy's arrival & Charles told me you had sent him money not Mr Dundas. I slept here last night & on my way up I slept here a few nights as I paid a visit to Dollerie⁷⁸⁶ & my neighbouring friends. Sarah gave me the best she had. I hope all your family are doing well & all your Harrogate friends. Write me if you like I shall be in Town tomorrow.

Goodbye

my Dear Airth & believe me very Sincerely

Yours most affectionately

Thomas Stirling

I hope no gout. I have had fine weather for my travels but very expensive work I caught some beautiful trout (yellow) in Loch Tay⁷⁸⁷ about 1½ lb & hooked one of 3 or 4 but could not manage it

Addressed to: Thos. G. Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle

[Not stamped or dated]

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 247-248

My dear Friend

I have communicated your proposal of £2400 to my Brothers and tho' they think the sum little still they say they cannot afford to lose it, would rather than push the business further will accept your offer – We understand it to be £800 to each of us clear, and free from all ex-

pence whatever – I agree to that too, and as it is a most disagreeable business to all parties we trust you will put an end to it before you leave town. I am the more anxious as I have some urgent business that will take me away from Scotland for a time, and as soon as circumstances will admit of my going -

Believe me

My dear friend

Yours always Sincy

W Stirling

Edin. 21st Octr. 1824

Addressed to: T. G. Stirling Esqr
24 Abercromby Place

[Not stamped]

1824

Summary of the Trustees Account Martinmas⁷⁸⁸ 1824

ACC 12290-1-7

View of the Sums received from the Estate of Ardoch Penn Jamaica

And

Application thereof

Introduction

The late Sir Thomas Stirling died on 9 May 1808 and by his Settlement he directed his Trustees to make payment to Charles, Thomas, & William Stirling reputed sons of his Brother, Charles Stirling, equally among them, such part of the Sum of £3000 Sterling due to him by his said Brother Charles Bond as may be recovered from his Estate and Effects in Jamaica with the Interest that may be due on the Bond.. As also to pay to them such part of the Sum of £4002 Stg which Sir Thomas had paid to the Executors of his late Brother Sir William Stirling of Ardoch for an Assignment of a Bond of his brother Charles to him as in like manner might be recovered from his Estate in Jamaica, the said Thomas drawing one half of what might be recovered of said Bond to Sir William Stirling and Charles & William Stirling drawing the other half equally between them - And in case the Estate or Penn should be sold that they should draw the price

price in the proportions of Three Seventh parts to Thomas and the remaining Four Seventh parts equally between Charles and William - But in case his Brother Charles's Estate or Penn should remain unsold or in the possession of him or his Attornies in Jamaica at his death - Then in place of the proportions of the above debts his Trustees are directed to make over the Estate or Penn in Jamaica in the proportion of Three Seventh parts to Thomas Stirling and the remaining Four Sevenths between Charles and William Stirling equally - The Share of any one dying to go equally to the Survivors, and if Two die, the whole to go to the last Survivor Declaring that they should not be entitled to their proportions of the provisions till they should respectively have completed their Twenty fifth Year - Nevertheless the Trustees (who are Appointed Curators to them) are Authorized to lay out what part of their provisions they may think proper for their maintenance Education and Apprentice fee &c previous to their attaining Twenty five

And further Sir Thomas Stirling directs Thomas Graham to pay (while he possesses his Estate) the Sum of £300 Stg Yearly for the Maintenance Education and Outfit of Charles Thomas and William Stirling untill a like Sum shall be annually remitted for their behoof from the Property in the Island of Jamaica

The Interest of Thomas Graham Esqr. in the Estate of Strowan ceased at Martinmas 1811 in consequence of the Birth of his Second Son previous to which time the Remittances from the Estate exceeded £300 per Annum as appears from the following State No 1. And after that time he could only be responsible for the Sums actually remitted from

from the Estate of Ardoch Penn, deducting the Amount paid for Supplies Sent out to it - A State of the Sums received from the Estate is exhibited in the State No. II which as provided by the Settlement has to be divided in the proportions of 3/7th parts to Thomas and 4/7th equally between William and Charles Stirling

Certain Sums were also received on account of debts due to the Estate of the late Charles Stirling which also belong to the said Thos. Charles and William Stirling the particulars of which appear in State No III and fall to be divided in the above proportions

Mr Graham Stirling advanced Money to the said Thomas Charles & William Stirlings from time to time, and the State of his advances are exhibited in the following States No. IV. V. & VI.

On the above date the States of Accounts are made up and Stand as follows

Viz:

I State of the Sums received on Acct: of the Produce of the Estate of Ardoch Penn - previous to Martinmas 1811 -

Balance of the Remittance of £800 received 7th July 1810 so far as it is on account of Ardoch Penn - £78 11 10.5

Nota - the rest of this Remittance is for a debt due to Charles Stirling and provisions sent out to the Estate - See State III

Balance of Remittance of £1600 received 1st February 1811 - £184 8 11

Nota - The rest of this Remittance goes as executry of Sir Thos. Stirling and for the a debt due to Charles Stirling - See State III

Balance of Remittance of £701.3.7 received 21 Sept. 1811 - £466 1 5
 Nota - The other part is for a debt due to Charles Stirling - See State III

Remittance received 16 Decr. 1811 being for produce of Estate prior to Marts, 1811 - 401 1 11

Sum received on Acct. of the produce of the Estate prior to Marts. 1811 - £1130 4 1

Nota - This State is intended merely to show that the Sums received from the Penn for the 3.5 Years previous to Marts. 1811 exceed £300 pr Annum, which Mr Graham Stirling was bound to make up to Thomas Charles and William Stirling for that period. And that they have therefore no claim upon him on acct. of that allowance. But it may be mentioned that the 1st & 3rd of the above Sums do not appear in the following State of the Sums for which the Young Gentlemen get credit because they are contained in Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Cos. Acct. the Balance of which with the periodical Interest is Stated when paid over to Mr. Dundas

II State of the Sums received from the Estate of Ardoch Penn with Interest to Martinmas 1824

Balance of Remittance of £1600 from Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Co. on 1st Feby 1811 - £184 8 11
 Interest to Marts. 1824 - £127 „ 10

Remittance on 16 Decr 1811 from Liverpool - 401 1 11
 Int. to Marts. 1824 - 245 15 9

Ditto on 19 Octr. 1814 & Exchange - 150 4 „
 Int. to Marts. 1824 - 75 11 5

Ditto on 30 Decr. 1814 - 219 7 7
 Int to Marts. 1824 - 108 4 4

Balance of Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Co
 account on 2d June 1815 - £453 16 6

Deduct. Applicable to Debt due to Chas. Stirling - 218 13 2 -----172 3 4

Nota - This Balance arises in Messrs Stirling Gordon & Cos Accounts after applying the 1st & 3d Sums in State I & includes periodical Interest -

The debt due to Charles Stirling appears in State 3d

Int to Marts. 1824 - 81 5 11

Remittance on 10thAugt. 1815 - 150 4 2
 Int to Marts. 1824 - 69 10 1

Ditto - on 30th Decmr 1815 - 100 „ .
 Int to Marts 1824 - 44 6 7

Ditto - On 30th May 1816 - 180 7 9
 Int to Marts. 1824 - 76 4 7

Carry Over £840 19 6 1557 17 8

Sums and Interest thereon received from Ardoch Penn

Continued	Brot forward	£840 19 6	£1557 17 8
Remittance on 21 March 1818			100 2
Interest to Marts 1824		33 5 1	
Ditto on 6 June 1818			150 3 8
Int to Marts 1824		48 6 1	
Ditto on 1 June 1819			200 6 6
Int to Marts 1824		54 11 1	

Paid into Coutts & Co London on 16 Sept 1819 being proceeds of Sugar in 1812 with Interest - less Commission		215 17 -
Int to Marts 1824	55 12 4	
Remittance on 29 June 1820		100
Int to Marts 1824	21 16 11	
Ditto on 30 Oct 1821		140
Int to Marts 1824	21 4 7	
		<u>2464 6 10</u>
	Add Interest	<u>1075 15 7</u>
Sum with Interest at Marts 1824		£3540 2 5

Deduct the following Sums being the price of Provisions
sent out to the Estate by Stirling Gordon & Co

1816 May 4	£184 1 -	
Int to Marts 1824	78 8 8	
" July 13 David Finlays Bill on James Dundas to Rebecca Longbottom paid of this date	100 -	
Int to Marts 1824	41 13 1	
1819 Apr 24 Provisions for the Estate	183 9 -	
Int to Marts 1824	50 18 3	
1820 Feby 29	182 18 5	
Int to Marts 1824	42 19 11	
Proportion of James Dundas Law Accts chargeable against Ardoch Penn	24 10 8	
	Deduct	<u>888 19 -</u>

Balance to be divided in the proportion of 3/7th parts to Thomas and
4/7th equally to Chas. & Wm. Stirling £2651 3 5

III State of the Sums received on account of Debts due to the late Charles Stirling with Interest to
Martinmas 1824 - And the Division of the Funds

Part of Remittance of £800 on 7 July 1810 on acct. of debt to Chas. Stirling		£353 2 5.6
Int to Marts 1824	£253 6 7	
Ditto - of £1600 on 1 Feby 1811 on account of do.		363 4 7.6
Int to Marts 1824	250 3 7	
Ditto - of £701 3 7 on 21 Sept. 1811		235 2 2
Int to Marts 1824	154 9 4	
Ditto - of the Balance of £453 16 6 due on Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Cos. Acct for debt due Chas. Stirling received 2 June 1815		281 13 2
Int to Marts 1824	132 19 11	
		<u>1233 2 5</u>
Add Interest		<u>790 19 5</u>
Sum on Acct. of Debts due to the late Charles Stirling		£2024 1 10
Add Balance of Sums received from Ardoch p State 2d		2651 3 5
Sum to be divided among Thomas Charles &		

<u>William Stirling according to their proportions</u>	<u>£4675 5 3</u>
--	------------------

Thomas's Share whereof being 3/7ths	£2003 13 8.2
Charles's do. being 2/7ths	1335 15 9.5
Williams do. being 2/7ths	<u>1335 15 9.5</u>
Sum as Above	<u>£4675 5 3</u>

IV State of Payments to and on account of Lieut. Thos. Stirling at Martinmas 1824

1809 Feby 18 For Shirts		£21 4 10
Int to Marts 1824	£16 18 7	
" Mar 6 For Six Months Education		21 10 -
Int to Marts 1824	16 17 3	
" April 4 Grant & Cos. Bill		51 6 -
Int to Marts 1824	40 - 7	
" Oct 19 Coutts & Co on account of Captn Hammond		19 10 6
Int to Marts 1824	14 14 1	
" Nov 27 Bill to Hammond		40 - -
Int to Marts 1824	29 18 3	
" Dec 31 Pages Bill		15 12 6
Int to Marts 1824	11 12 3	
1810 Sept 1 Stirlings Bill ⁷⁸⁹		25 - -
Int to Marts 1824	17 14 10.6	
1811 Jan'y 31 Bill to Capt. Talbot		15 - -
Int to Marts 1824	10 6 8.3	
" July 12 Ditto		25 - -
Int to Marts 1824	16 13 4	
" Oct. 1 Ditto		25 - -
Int to Marts 1824	16 7 10	
" Decr. 19 Ditto		25 - -
Int to Marts 1824	16 2 5	
1812 Feby 12 Part of Bill on Begbie for £50		25 - -
Int to Marts 1824	<u>15 19 3</u>	
Carried Over	£233 5 4.9	309 3 10

Payments to Lieut. Thos. Stirling. Continued

	Brot. Over	£309 3 10
Interest Continued	Brot. Over	£223 5 4.9
1812 May 26 Bill on Begbie		35 - -
Int to Marts 1824	21 16 2	
" 27 Ditto		15 - -
Int to Marts 1824	9 6 11	
Sept 3 Ditto		20 - -
Int to Marts 1824	12 3 9.6	
1813 April 13 Ditto		15 - -
Int to Marts 1824	8 13 9	
1814 May 9 Ditto		30 - -
Int to Marts 1824	15 15 3	
Aug 23 Thos. Stirling Own order		25 - -
[pencil in margin: Aug 30 £95]		

		Int to Marts 1824	12 15 6	
1815 Sept 13	To Receipt			10 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	4 11 7.6	
1816 Jany 11	Ditto			25 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	11 - 10	
April 1	Ditto			25 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	10 15 4	
June 10	Ditto			30 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	12 12 8	
Nov 12	Ditto			15 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	6 - -	
1817 Jany 17	Ditto			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	7 16 4	
" 31	Ditto			27 2 -
		Int to Marts 1824	10 10 9	
May 17	Ditto			30 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	11 4 8	
		Carry Over	£378 8 1.9	631 5 10

Payments to Lieut. Thos. Stirling Contd.

		Brot. Over		£631 5 10
Interest Continued		Brot. Over	£378 8 11.9	
1817 Augt. 13	To Receipt			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	7 4 11.9	
1818 April 2	Ditto			30 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	9 18 4	
1819 Feby 3	Ditto			30 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	8 13 4	
1823 June 30	Ditto			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	1 7 4	
" Augt. 1	Ditto			30 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	1 18 4.9	
1824 Jany 30	Ditto			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	- 15 7.6	
" Mar. 2	Ditto			30 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	1 - 11	
" July 1	Ditto			25 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	- 9 1	
	Add Article in Mr Dundas's Business Acct. chargeable agt. Lieut. Thos. Stirling			- 1 7.6
				£836 7 5.6
		Add Interest		409 16 11.9
<u>Amount of Payments with Int to Lieut. Thomas Stirling</u>				<u>£1246 4 5.3</u>
His Share of the Receipts from Ardoch Penn &c P State III				£2003 13 8.2
Deduct Payments as above				<u>1246 4 5.3</u>
Balance due to him at Martinmas 1824				£757 9 2.4

Nota - Lieut. Thos. Stirling gets credit for his Share of the £500 liferented by Mrs Dow on Page 18

V State of Payments to and on Acct. of Lieut. Charles Stirling at Martinmas 1824

1808 July 25	Charles Stirlings Bill		15 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	12 4 6	
" Oct 29	Ditto		10 1 6
	Int to Marts 1824	8 1 7	
Nov 25	Ditto		10 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	7 19 7	
1809 Feby 25	Ditto		10 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	7 17 1	
June 30	Ditto		10 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	7 13 11	
Oct 19	Ditto		5 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	3 15 4	
Nov 11	Ditto		15 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	11 4 9	
1810 April 7	Ditto		10 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	7 5 11	
July 13	Ditto		5 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	3 11 8	
" 15	Ditto		10 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	7 3 3	
Nov 2	Ditto		20 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	14 - 6	
8	Paid for Clothes		3 5 -
	Int to Marts 1824	2 5 6	
10	Bill		5 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	3 10 -	
	Carry Over	£96 13 7	128 6 6

Payments to Lieut. Chas. Stirling. Contd

		Brot. Over	£128 6 6
Interest Continued		Brot. Over	£96 13 7
1811 April 4	Paid Chas Stirling		15 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	10 4 1	
May 25	His Bill		15 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	10 1 11.9	
Augt 13	Paid for Certificate of his Service		1 8 6
	Int to Marts 1824	- 18 1	
1812 Jan'y 12	His Bill		10 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	6 8 7	
27	Ditto		10 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	6 7 11	
31	Bill to Gilbert		20 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	12 15 7	
Mar 9	Paid C Stirling		10 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	6 6 9	
June 16	Dos. Bill to Gilbert		10 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	6 - 1	
July 16	Ditto		10 - -

		Int to Marts 1824	6 3 3	
Oct 10	Ditto			5 8 -
		Int to Marts 1824	3 5 3	
Nov 9	Ditto to Duff			10 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	6 - 1	
1813 Jan 31	Ditto			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	11 15 7	
Mar 2	Ditto to Linzie			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	11 13 11	
June 25	Ditto to Wilson			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	11 7 7	
		Carry Over	£202 2 3.9	305 3 -

Payments to Lieut. Chas. Stirling. Continued

		Brot. Over		£305 3 -
Interest Continued		Brot. Over	£206 2 3.2	
1813 Oct 19	Bill to Chas Stirling			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	11 1 3	
Nov 5	Begbies order on C Stirling			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	11 - 4	
1814 Feby 24	C Stirlings Bill			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	10 14 3	
25	Paid R Cleoburgh			5 5 -
		Int to Marts 1824	2 16 2	
Mar 15	Bill to Gilbert			80 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	42 12 10	
20	Ditto			30 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	13 19 5	
Decr 5	Ditto to James Foreman			30 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	14 18 -	
1815 Sept 27	Paid C Stirling			10 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	4 11 2	
Decr 20	Ditto			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	8 17 10	
1816 Feby 15	Ditto			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	8 14 9	
May 23	Ditto			30 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	12 14 2	
[pencil in margin: To Coutts & Co £100 12 6]				
1817 Mar 18	Paid Treasurers Account			15 9 -
		Int to Marts 1824	5 18 3	
Feby 28	Sum orders to be placed by Coutts & Co. to Chas. Stirlings Credit			100 14 6
		Int to Marts 1824	38 15 8	
Oct 28	Ditto			100 14 6
		Int to Marts 1824	35 5 11	
		Carry Over	£430 2 3.2	807 6 -

Payments to Lieut. Chas. Stirling. Continued

Interest Continued		Brot. Over Brot. Over	£430 2 3.9	£807 6 -
1818 Decr 31	Paid			100 19 -
		Int to Marts 1824	29 11 11	
1819 July 26	Ditto			25 3 -
		Int to Marts 1824	6 13 2	
Sept 6	Ditto			25 3 -
		Int to Marts 1824	6 13 3	
1820 Feby 17	Ditto			40 2 2
		Int to Marts 1824	9 9 9	
Mar 13	Ditto			20 1 1
		Int to Marts 1824	4 13 7	
April 3	Ditto			20 1 1
		Int to Marts 1824	4 12 4	
19	Ditto			20 2 7
		Int to Marts 1824	4 11 11	
1821 April 2	Ditto			40 4 7
		Int to Marts 1824	7 5 4	
4	Ditto			20 2 3
		Int to Marts 1824	3 12 6	
May 14	Ditto			40 4 6
		Int to Marts 1824	7 - 7	
Nov 30	Ditto			10 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	12 14 2	
[pencil in margin: 1822 Payts paid by Thos Graham R Aw Hutton ⁷⁹⁰]				
1822 Mar 3	Ditto			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	2 13 10	
June 17	Ditto			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	2 8 1	
Sept 30	Ditto			10 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	1 1 2	
Nov 5	Ditto			10 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	1 - 2	
Carry Over			£522 17 4.9	1229 9 3

Payments to Lieut. Chas. Stirling. Continued

Interest Continued		Brot. Over Brot. Over	£ 522 17 4.9	£1229 9 3
1822 Nov 23	Paid			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	1 17 4	
1823 Jan'y 7	Paid			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	1 16 11	
May 5	Paid			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	1 10 5	
Augt 23	Paid			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	1 4 5	
Nov 7	Paid			20 - -

		Int to Marts 1824	1 - 3	
1824 Feby 28	Paid			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	14 -	
May 4	Paid			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	10 6	
		Add Articles in Mr Dundas's Business Acct chargeable agt. Lieut. Chas. Stirling		<u>8 6.6</u>
				1369 17 9.6
		Add Interest		531 11 2.9
		Amount of Payments with Int to Lieut. Chas. Stirling		£1901 9 - .3
		Deduct his Share of the Receipts from Ardoch Penn &c p State III		<u>1335 15 9.5</u>
		Balance due by him at Martinmas 1824		£565 13 2.10

Nota - The Sum of £166 13 4 being Lieut. Chas. Stirlings proportion of £500 liferented by Mrs. Dow appears from Mr Dundas's Accounts to have been paid him with the Interest on 27th Feby 1818

VI State of Payments to and on Acct. of Lieut. William Stirling at Martinmas 1824

1809 Aug 22	Paid Balance of Account to Wm Dick for Board &c			£47 16 9.6
	Nota - This Account Amounts to £77 16 9.6 but as part of it was due prior to Marts 1808 which falls upon the Executry, the payment of £30 made upon 16 Jany 1809 has been deducted on that account			
		Int to Marts 1824	36 8 2	
28	Paid Miss Graham ⁷⁹¹ for Sundries			4 13 11
		Int to Marts 1824	3 11 4.6	
Decr 23	Mr Dicks Dft			30 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	22 6 7	
1810 May 2	Ditto			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	14 10 7	
Augt 6	Ditto Balance of Acct			32 9 7
		Int to Marts 1824	23 3 4	
Oct 10	Paid Miss Graham			3 4 -
		Int to Marts 1824	2 5 1	
Nov 7	Paid Mr Dick			30 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	21 - 4	
1811 Feby 4	Ditto			30 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	20 13 -	
9	To William Stirling			17 5 -
		Int to Marts 1824	<u>11 17 3</u>	
			155 15 8.6	£215 9 3.6
18	Paid his Passage to India			112 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	<u>76 17 7</u>	
	Carry Over		£232 13 3.6	327 9 3.6

Payments to Lieut. Wm. Stirling. Continued

Interest Continued		Brot. Over Brot. Over	£ 232 13 3.6	£327 9 3.6
1811 May 14	Part of Expense of Outfit			54 16 -
	Int to Marts 1824		36 19 7	
Augt 21	Balance of Mr Dicks Acct.			- 6 8
	Int to Marts 1824		- 4 4	
1812 Feby 14	Wm Stirlings dft on Begbie			50 - -
	Int to Marts 1824		31 16 11	
May 23	Paid Welch & Stalker			77 17 9
	Int to Marts 1824		48 11 4	
Nov 24	Wm Stirling dft on Begbie			50 - -
	Int to Marts 1824		29 18 3	
1824 June 21	Ditto			200 15 6
	Int to Marts 1824		3 18 8	
Augt 18	Ditto			100 - -
	Int to Marts 1824		1 3 3	
Add Articles on Mr Dundas's Business Accts. chargeable agt. Lieut Wm Stirling				<u>- 11 11</u>
				£861 17 1.6
		Add Interest		<u>385 5 7.6</u>
<u>Amount of Payments with Int to Lieut. William Stirling</u>				<u>£1247 2 9</u>
His Share of the Receipts from Ardoch Penn &c. p State III				£1335 15 9.5
Deduct Payments as above				<u>1247 2 9</u>
<u>Balance due to him at Martinmas 1824</u>				<u>£88 13 - .5</u>

By Sir Thomas Stirlings Settlements it is provided that besides the Sums contained in the previous States

States, received from the Estate of Ardoch Penn Thomas Charles & William Stirling shall be entitled to the Sum of £500 on the death of Mrs Mary Hamilton who was provided in an Anny of £50 p Annum - it appears from the Accounts of Mr Dundas that Chas. Stirling on 27 Feby 1818 received the Sum of £166 13 4 with Interest from Whits 1817 as his proportion of the Sum of £500 said to be liferented by Mrs Dow. which is presumed to be the Sum above mentioned - But the proportions thereof belonging to Thos and William are still unpaid, and which being added to the Balances already in their favor will make the Sum due to them by the Trustees as follows Vizt.

Balance due to Lieut. Thos Stirling as p Page 10		£757 9 2.4
Add one Third of £500	£166 13 4	
Int from Whits 1817 to Marts 1824	62 10 -	
	Add	<u>229 3 4</u>
<u>Sum due to Lieut. Thos Stirling at Martinmas 1824</u>		<u>£986 12 6.4</u>
Balance due to Lieut. Wm Stirling as p Page 17		£88 13 -.5
Add one Third of £500	£166 13 4	
Int from Whits 1817 to Marts 1824	62 10 -	
	Add	<u>229 3 4</u>

[in another hand] Edinburgh 1st May 1828 This is the account referred to in the Discharge granted by me of this date as Commissioner for William and Thomas Stirlings Esqrs. in favor of James Dundas Clerk to the Signet and Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire of Airth

M W Robertson⁷⁹²

[title of bundle: View of the Sums received from the Estate of Ardoch Penn and Application thereof - At Martinmas 1824]

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 118-119

Glentyan⁷⁹³

Decr. 13Th 1824

My Dear Airth

James⁷⁹⁴ & his sweet Wife are pretty to see they were both at Church yesterday notwithstanding the Weather & James was out Coursing on Saturday as these are tolerably good a pastime. I hope you & all your family are well & that when we meet we may find you so. James has kindly pressed us to take our Christmas dinner with him & if agreeable to you we shall come to pay you a visit about the new year. We understand you are to have a houseful & probably you would like us to defer our promise of seeing you till you have more room: if so say. I never understood why Charles & self did not see you last year but I hope it was a mistake.

A letter must have arrived at Airth for me either 2d 3d or 4th of this month, as it is of importance I would thank you to send it here by first post.

I have just written to Capt. Duncan to request

he would make some exertions to get me some Appointment or situation under Government as any place, howsoever the Contrary of being here a time [unclear] is still better than a life of idleness⁷⁹⁵ I have told him I've no desire to go afloat & what I want is an office in some of the Public departments. I have to request you will back my solicitation up by a few kind words to Capt. Duncan & I think I shall have some chance of Success. Except your application about me for the Northern Expedition this is the first favour of this kind I have asked of you because I know you had Orphans whose interests were naturally closer & more urgent than mine but I do not think this will interfere with their affairs as it is to a private individual. I have said in a few words to Capt. Duncan what I wanted but you may urge him more strenuously than I could do if you find it agreeable to yourself & feelings. Charles desires to be kindly remembered to your whole household but I hope you will write to tell me what you have done Wishing you many happy returns of the approaching Season Believe me in the meantime your very Sincere friend

Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling
Airth Castle
Falkirk

Stamped: DEC 13 E 1824
PAISLEY 13 DEC 1824

Letters from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS 10952 f. 249

My dear Friend

I have been thinking for some time past of making application to the Court of Directors to put me in the Company's Recruiting Establishment in Europe, and as I have, in the event of a vacancy occurring some hopes of success, might I beg the favour of your assistance to promote my views. A letter to Mr Money⁷⁹⁶ would perhaps be of more service than to any other person at the India house as he is entrusted in the Bombay Establishment from his long residence there. Tho' we exchanged calls in London I have not the good fortune to meet him, but it is probable my wishes have been [unclear] to him from India – If it would be too much for you to ask him to assist me in my particular object you would perhaps have the kindness to do so generally, & the rest I will explain myself. I have some claims on the Company, but more especially on the score of my having, with the assistance of only one other Officer raised and disciplined in Regiment for them in a few months which according to high authority, would have done credit in the oldest Regiment in the Army, and that after having done so, & lost my health in doing so I was obliged to leave India to save my life, thereby losing the fruits of my labour.

I see by the Courier that orders have been sent out to pay me Prize money as well as I believe the thirty three months pay they owe me -

The Company opened a loan in Bombay at 4 p Cent but I am happy to have [c.o.] one would put into it -

With best regards to all your family – Believe me

My dear friend

Yours most Sincery

W Stirling

60 Fredericke St. Edin.⁷⁹⁷ 14th Feby 1825 -

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq
Airth Castle
Falkirk

[no date stamp visible]

MS 10952 f. 251

My dear friend

I have had the pleasure to receive yours from Airth by Miss Graham. I have seen her & Mary both well -

My object is in applying to the Company to get employment during my furlo' and as success in the Recruiting Service is more attainable, I should feel obliged by your mentioning it to Mr Money – I am obliged by your great willingness to assist me – I shall be in London myself about the end of April as I leave Edin: as soon as the Classes are up – and will have an opportunity of seeing Mr

Money.

I dined with your friend Erskine a few days ago. He is quite well -
My brothers give our best regards to you & Miss Jeanie - & believe

Yours most Sincery
W Stirling

24th Feby

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq
Airth Castle
Falkirk

Stamped: FEB 24 1825

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 171-172

Ardoch St Ann's 7th Augt 1825

My dear Sir,

I am favoured with, and much obliged by, your esteemed Letter of the 4th May covering one of instructions to Mr Coward & my Brother John respecting the final accots and taking off £500 from the purchase money in place of £1000 as formerly proposed. These instructions I have handed to both these Gentlemen, who have deemed it proper not to hand me my Title Deed to the Penn until they were received. It has been in Exion since Feby 1824, and indeed I have not as yet received it. I also handed them a Copy of the Instalments, and expected to have paid that sum in Jany which is near £1200 – but with my usual ill luck I have been disappointed in the receipt of upwards of £3000 I expected long before this, and to add to the Evil my young friend

friend Mr Thos. Angus⁷⁹⁸ is dead whose Penn, next this, I had acted for during his late Father's time & which the young man entered into Possession on coming of age last January – He was about leaving the Island, and intending paying me about £1800 on account of his debt to me when Alas! on his return from the Southside a few days ago he was seized with a fever which carried him off on Monday last & without a Will. As the largest Creditor, & in the confidence of his late Father there is little doubt of His Grace the Governor appointing me Administrator, which will put me in Possession of money & Property to the amount of about £1500 – but previous to that I trust at all events to be able to pay over to the Allowance here the interest I owe now on the purchase and by this Packet I have inclosed to my Brother Alexr a Letter to a Dr Crawford who married Miss Angus⁷⁹⁹ now I believe Sole Heiress to the Property here & at home, in all about £25,000 Stg and who assured me that should any thing happen to the young man, I should be the Attorney of his Wife & himself - & I am rather anxious on this subject. My Brother (who was lately appointed

to the Charge of Lord Douglas's⁸⁰⁰ Estates) will no doubt do all he can with the View of Securing my large demand agt. this unfortunate youth which is about £2500 this money.

From the great quantity of calomel the Doctors gave me when ill I fear I am still extremely weak, & if I had got my money or a part of it from Angus I should have been in Old Scotia ere this, and must go if it pleased God to Spare me till next Spring. It would be a great benefit to myself & Sisters could my Office of Comptroller of Port Maria be confirmed at home & our [torn] Archd. Stirling might easily effect.

A son of Mr Hay Newton of Newton⁸⁰¹ and a Cousin of my own, has been staying with me since

his arrival in April. The Duke of Manchester would do any thing for him on acct. of his (Mr Hay's) Relation Long Tweeddale, but nothing has as yet cast up.

Last year the Sales of the Penn did not amount to £800 curry & the contingencies were £600 as there is no Salary or Comms. Now; this will not pay above half the interest & unquestionably Mrs Fergus ought to be ordered to give up the place she holds here, as it was only intended by Sir Thomas as a temporary assylum – but she rents it out to

worthless people at I believe £25 a year, & they are always trespassing on the Penn. Mr A. Stirling knows very well she has no life rent of it, and she is rich & does not require it,

I remain, My dear Sir!

Very faithfully Your's

David Finlay;

Thos. Graham Stirling, esqre.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
of Airth Castle
[c.o. near Falkirk
Strilingshire]
Strowan
Crieff

P Camden Packet

Stamped: SEP 24 1825

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 120-121

Dartmouth August 17th 1825

My Dear Airth

Miss Graham must have course have informed you of my Brother William's intention & which I am about to repeat. There is nothing left for me to add but that his resolutions are fixed and the day is appointed the beginning of September.⁸⁰² You have no doubt seen my letter to your sister containing every information requisite for you to know, but I delayed writing you till the present matured stage of the affair enabled me to speak decidedly on the matter. I have said Miss Sybilla⁸⁰³ is a very sweet creature & although young & inexperienced is well fitted I think to make a good Wife to Wm.

I deem him fortunate & every prospect looks favourable to happiness.

Mr & Mrs Hockin are gradually becoming reconciled to their Childs departure from the Country & although a severe trial yet being in good hands their minds are much relieved by that consideration. They are also very much pleased with Wms generous & honourable conduct in the first proceeding & he with them & the attachment was matured & completed on our return from Paris. We heard from Miss Graham in reply to the

first communication & although considerable surprise was expressed we felt pleased at the interest she gave in the matter. I have declared my perfect satisfaction in the cause, & you may be assured a letter from yourself will not be unacceptable to my Brother. He is happy & tolerably well & desires me to remember him very kindly to you & to your family in which I very cordially join. I cannot help here expressing my disappointment at not hearing from you on my return from France for

except your Sister's letter we had not the scrap of a line from Scotland. We wrote to you from London about Charles but as we were happy to learn he was behaving well you would have no trouble with him. Do you know where he is or what he is doing or any thing about him? He has not answered our letters & we fear he has never seen them. We do not mean to return to the North, at least for some time at all events Mrs Wm will not as her own family are too fond of her to lose sight of her for any time whilst she is in this Country. The family are very respectable & very good people their various friends have testified their good will and approval by innumerable kindness which is as satisfactory to ourselves as to them. The high testimonials which Wm produced from men of high authority as officers distinguished for rank & name were sufficient to prove to the family the high character he enjoyed in their estimation & consequently worthy of any Society into which he might

happen to fall. Mr Hockin has willingly received him into his family & we are quite rejoiced I hope your Boys are with you & well & I dare say you mean to exhibit or Show at the St. Fillans meeting⁸⁰⁴ this Season. We had a pleasant trip to Paris & saw many outstanding sights in Palais Royal. We had fine Weather & enjoyed it much.

I have written to some of your friends to communicate the tidings & to hear from them will give us both great pleasure. Now my Dear Airth

With kindest remembrances to you & to your Sisters believe me with much affection your attached friend & Wellwisher

Thomas Stirling

Pray direct to me
Post Office
Dartmouth

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: DARTMOUTH 213
[illegible] AU 1825

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 253-254

Dartmouth 20th Nov. 1825

My dear Friend

I had the pleasure to receive yours of the 15th Inst: yesterday. You astonish me by your appearing not to have heard of Tom's marriage as much as I must you by my mention of it – I took it for granted he had informed you all about it, as I had enough to do with my own concerns, & on enquiry it appears he did write you, but the servant to whom he entrusted the letter for the Post Office, forgot it entirely in the hurry & bustle of the occasion – The letter we found last night in one of Mrs Toms drawers – the circumstance has given us all much pain & accounts of course for our not having heard from any of your family -

He was married on the 6th of October his own birth day to Maria my wifes elder & only sister –

She is 22, & very handsome [c.o.] Before they were married she was in delicate health, but she has now quite recovered, & I think the two sisters & the two brothers make two very pretty couples - We are all here much delighted at Toms marriage, as it settles him in this neighbourhood in his own house instead of merely being here as a visitor. I am particularly pleased at it, as Tom had promised before my marriage to fix his residence in Devonshire for the future, as a lack of communication between me & my

wifes family, & the mode he has adopted to fulfil it, is the most gratifying to all parties - I regret his means are so small but Mr Hockin will assist him considerably - Mr H. has also offered him a situation of about £100 a year, which he may perhaps ultimately accept, but in the mean time he declines it. We hope your exertions with Mr Finlay will produce the desired effect - What has Finlay said about the deduction on account of the debt we owed him? We should be happy to assist Mr Finlay in his wishes regarding Mrs Fergus or in any other way if he would first show himself what he ought to pay by sending the first instalment -

With regard to your kind invitation repeated in you last, I must again [c.o.] pass my fear that it will not be in our power to accept it. It would really give us much gratification to pass a little time in Scotland, but setting aside the distance & the expence, we [c.o.] shall not in the month of May, I fancy, think it very safe to enter on a journey -

We are very anxious about the success

of the Peterborough cause, as Mr Hockin had the management of it, and he [c.o. has] will have every thing he can desire for himself & family in the event of it turning out well - We are afraid Mr Macdermot the candidate [c.o.] did not consult Mr H. nearly enough, as before he was engaged an impression had been made on the gentlemen of the Heralds office rather unfavorable to the claim -

I was exceedingly fortunate in one respect ie in having had three letters was here ashore from the Ogle Castle⁸⁰⁵ lost on the Goodwin Sands - but I was unfortunate in another, that was in the only passenger on board & who perished with the ship, Lt. W. Norton having been a particular friend of mine - our friends having been very good in giving us parties all round - We had a very magnificent one last week from Governor Holdsworth⁸⁰⁶, the Colonel of the Yeomanry here - Have you heard of Charles? We heard of him not long ago - He was well in the Isle of Man - Whether he got my letters I cannot say, but as he is a great newsmonger, he no doubt read of our marriages in the newspapers - My new Brother Charles⁸⁰⁷ is a most delightful boy. He is a midshipman in the Druid⁸⁰⁸ with the Honble Captn Rodney⁸⁰⁹ who writes the most gratifying accounts of him - Indeed he desires his Brother in Law,⁸¹⁰ the Member for the County, to wait on Mr Hockin & tell him that he is the finest lad he ever had in his ship.

Mrs Stirling continues well, and desires me to acknowledge in her fondest manner yours, & your sisters, congratulations - I had a letter a few days ago, from my aunt Mrs Hine⁸¹¹, a bosom friend of Mrs Moneys. She hopes that it will suit me to go out to India next voyage with her husband Captn Hine⁸¹² who commands the Atlas⁸¹³, B.bay & China ship - Perhaps you may know him - Your old shipmate Col (then Ensign) Henderson⁸¹⁴ of the Royal Engineers, is in this neighbourhood, & as his Brother⁸¹⁵ & I [c.o.] the Secretary to Govn. B.bay, have been intimate friends for the last 12 years he has been very kind to Mrs S. & myself. He is now a man of great fortune & has just sold out -

With best wished for your health, & Boys, & that of your Sisters. I remain, My dear friend

Yours most Sincerely

W. Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling of Airth
 Airth Castle

Falkirk

Stamped: DARTMOUTH 213
NOV [illeg] 1825

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 122-123

Dartmouth March 1st 1826
Post Office

My Dear Airth

Your Sisters kind letter reached me a few days ago, with your Postscript the contents of which melancholy as they had been fully explained the lengthened silence, that had hitherto prevailed. Willy as well as myself felt much for the alarming situation you had been so suddenly put into but with much sincerity rejoice that you are now so far recovered. I thank you very much my dear friend for your kind Invitation to Mrs Stirling & myself to visit you at Airth. I am sure there is no place where more comfort, more kindness, & more enjoyment are to be found than under that hospitable Roof, but at present it will not be convenient for Mrs Stirling to move about in her present state & we have taken an house in this neighbourhood for a term which will preclude the probability of our gratifying ourselves so far but should circumstances take us North believe me I shall not forget this & many former acts of your friendship. Thank Miss Jeany for her kind letter & give Mrs Stirling's best wishes & my own to her. I am sorry for George Macdowall⁸¹⁶ as there is little hope of a cure it is better to be removed from this to a happier Sphere If we could but persuade ourselves to it.

Sibella my Brother's Lady is at present not so well that is explained by her having been married six months. They have lately returned from Plymouth whither they had gone for change of air & Scene. I also have been there procuring Furniture for my own house & when it is completed you shall have a good bed & as a good a Beef Steak & a Bottle of Port Wine as Devonshire can produce when you choose to pay me a visit. Mrs S. thanks you very sincerely for your kind expressions towards her & would feel very happy in the acquaintance of one she has heard me speak of so often. I hope your Boys are quite well What is William going to do? Remember me very affectionately to them & to Mary.

My Dear Airth I am very happy in this state of life & one of its most endearing circumstances is the visible & sensible strengthening of the affections of the heart towards each other. It produces an attachment to life & the World that I never experienced before it makes them worth possessing & it shows us we live to some purpose with a rational & a fixed object in view, the Peace & happiness & comfort of an affectionate Wife who has fearlessly entrusted them to our keeping. In all this you will doubtless coincide having experienced them in full, in your own person. I hope you will be well enough to superintend the Farming proceedings in which I know you take great delight as well as the numerous improvements you are daily making this Spring. Our Winter has passed away very quietly & mildly & the Spring is favourable for agricultural pursuits. For hunting

is a favourite Sport here but game is not plentiful. Maria who is now sitting by me begs of me to sent her most particular remembrances to you & to your Sister & to assure you how highly she values your affectionate expressions of kindness & friendship towards her husband.

I am glad to hear Finlay has at last agreed to the terms we proposed & I hope the next account will produce a little of something tangible from him. If his letter contains anything worth our seeing

it might be nice to send it to me here but probably Mr Robertson would better keep it. Do you think it would be well to send him a very civil letter or an Attorney's about the Payment of his first Instalments because these delays of his are so suspicious. Would you be good enough to write to him a strong letter expressing our surprise at his withholding what has been so long due & at the same time recommending him to come forward as speedily as possible to [torn]ave those doubts which must naturally arise at his seemingly inexplicable conduct. It will probably be better for you to do this as you have already corresponded with him & probably you would do it in as firm but more temperate tone than I should be inclined to do with such a person. To know what you have done will give me great pleasure to hear, & the sooner it is done the better. Willy agrees with me in all this & when you are at leisure & well enough to write we shall be delighted to hear about you & your family Accept my best wishes & believe me ever your sincere & affectionate friend

Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: MAR 4 1826

Letter from William Stirling to Mr Robertson copied to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10960 f. 10

Copy Letter William Stirling Esq Dartmouth to Mr. Robertson W.S.

Dartmouth 24 March 1826

Dear Sir

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 16 inst. with its enclosure, and I have heard of the Bill for £400 being paid in London. I have to request that you will intimate to Mr Dundas, in the most polite manner, that 4½ and 5 P Ct is procurable in Devonshire, for almost any amount, on [torn] but landed security in the County, and that in consequence, I dont think it would be too much to expect the same from him on the money of mine now in his hands. The necessity of a person of small income making the most he can of it, induces me to make this communication, and I trust it will not be received in any other light. If Mr. Dundas consents to give 5 P Ct. have the goodness to let me know. In the event of compliance, I have to request that you will remit without any

any delay the farther sum of £250, but in the event of his non compliance I beg you will send me £500 - I am &c

addressed: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq
at Airth
Falkirk

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

[another hand: acknowledged Rect. Oct. 4th 1826]Ardoch St Anne's, Jamaica 4th April 1826

My dear Sir

By the last packet I wrote to my worthy friend Mr Archd. Stirling in Consequence of my being extremely ill & confined to Bed, in which I requested him to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed favour of the 1st May by which I was much grieved to learn that you had latterly (like myself) suffered much by bad Health; & I most Sincerely trust this may find you quite recovered. In my Letter to Mr Stirling I stated to him how awkwardly & unexpectedly I was situated as to money matters, owing principally to the non Settlement of a large sum near £2000 due me by the Heirs of Chas. Angus. Had I taken a judgmt against them this money would have been ere this in the pockets of out young friends the Messrs Stirlings; but detesting Law two respectable Arbitrators are fixed upon – who have not, to this day, fixed the balance, altho' the Attornies are to consult their Solicitor whether they cannot with

propriety give me a Bill in part for £5 or £600 Stg If they do I shall forward it by this packet, if not by the next. Independent of this, I have near £3000 due me from other Sources, but being 4 months confined to my room with this dreadful complaint (inflammation in the bladder) 6 months absent in 24 & 25 3 of them confined to bed in Trelawny, when the Doctors gave me over, Since again ill there when called down in consequence of that most lamentable & unexpected Event of the death of my most worthy & ever regretted Brother⁸¹⁷; people who owe me money have taken Shameful advantages of my absence & illnesses, I have been able to collect hardly any thing, and the gross Sales of the Penn last year did not amount to £600. Mr Coward & my late Br. gave me an Acct. for the balance due me of

£3298.10.4

and for the sum you deducted off the purchase

500. .

3798.10.4

and I now inclose Jas. Laing & Geo. Wm. Hamiltons 1st Bill inclosed to you

on Messrs Davidson Barkly & Co at 90 d St (tho' the Prem. is so high) In Sterlg. £307.8.10

Premium thereon 17 ½ P Cent

33.15.11 ½

Stg 361.4.9. ½

Exchange @ 40 P Cent 144.9.10 ½

Stamps & bills 6.8506.1.4

£4304.11.8

Purchase money

10000. .

due by D. Finlay exclusive of interest

£5695.8.4

Now if I get the Bill P £500 Stg with Prem &c it will be a further deduction of £822.10/ Currency which

which will not leave above £5500 due and which if I am in any way successful, I think I shall be able to liquidate in two years or three at furthest; and you may Calculate on another Bill I think by next Packet. Now my dear Sir, as I have been so unfortunate, and all my friends regretting I made this purchase - which must swallow all my little savings, and Property deteriorating every day – I really think it should be taken into some consideration whether I should not be allowed the sum originally proposed to be deducted by yourself viz: £1000 in place of £500 Curry for many properties, with double the number of negroes than Ardoch and fine land have been sold for £6 & £7000 and last year the proceeds only paid the Contingencies and about £100 of the interest!! With my best wishes to Mr Thos. Stirling have the goodness to assure him and his Brother's that it is my

sincerest wish to keep on the most friendly terms with them, & to exert myself to the utmost to pay them as much as possible – but they should consider the Wretched State of the times. I have lost my butchery concern & my little office of Comptroller of Port Maria together about £500 a year as it was out of my power to reside there unless Mr A. Stirling or some St Mary's friend would appoint me their Attorney. I must beg of you to apologize to the Messrs Stirling for my not writing in reply to their Letter by this packet and write this on my knee with great difficulty. Mrs Fergus took away the boards, doors, windows &c. of the small house, which she could not legally remove - & if a Storm had come it would have blown down and

and the timbers pilfered by negroes. I therefore pulled it down, but she still feeds it with her cattle. I have had two licenced Physicians from Kingston for a week here – but they can not promise to cure me unless I go there which I shall do. Mr Stirling writes the most kind, condoling Letters since my poor Brothers death and if you are acquainted with my kinsman Mr Hay of Newton

his 3rd son⁸¹⁸ who lately retd. home after being 12 months here can tell you how he left me in May & & how I am situated as to money matters. He will still perhaps succeed your friend Macdowall Grant as Collector of Kingston

With my best wishes for your happiness & that of your Family.

I must now conclude, My dear Sir; Your's faithfully

David Finlay

P.S. The Angus's say they cannot give me the £500 Bill until the whole accts. are settled & the balance paid.

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling, esquire
of Airth Castle
near [c.o. Falkirk
Stirlingshire]
NB
Strowan
Crieff

P Lady Mary Pelham Packet

Stamped: SEP 30 1826

Note re letter Thomas Graham Stirling to David Finlay

MS. 10952 f. 173

May 1st 1826

Wrote Mr D. Finlay a pressing latter to remit part price Ardoch Penn & to state how the transaction stands at present.

Mentioned having heard of Jn. Finlays death

T.G.S.

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

2 Mansion House Place London
27 May 1826

My dear friend

I have this morning received [c.o. your] Miss Grahams most friendly letter, as I did yours some days ago. I return you both my sincere thanks for them – I should have replied to yours sooner but your advice about looking and my wife made me pause a little and to give time to reflect on the subject. I applied for an extension of leave so that I might or might not avail myself of it according to our circumstances – As a certificate was necessary [above: to Maintenance] I had to write to the country for it and I have only this day been able to render my application, & I doubt not but it will be granted – I did not deliver your letter to Mr -

Lindsay⁸¹⁹ nor to Mr Clarke⁸²⁰, nor do I think it will be necessary till I can be certain of my plans -

I was in hopes that Mrs Stirling would have been quite recovered by this time, but she is not – I must tell you that her illness is of no ordinary nature – For the first three months after our marriage there was a constant succession of parties given to us, and tho' Mrs S. caught a cold, as the parties were given in compliment to her we thought as she walked out, & otherwise appeared in public, that she not in propriety decline the acceptance of them – She soon showed symptoms of being in the family way, and about a certain period she was seized with violent pains in her side, which occasioned Medical advice being called in – The Surgeon had just been attending a member of the family who had miscarried which together with some preconceived

notions that my wife was likely to do the same, without due enquiry, tho a very eminent man, he bled & blistered her to a greater degree than she was able to bear – She suffered much from that as well as from her situation & the thought of leaving her baby behind.

In her weak state we were recommended to go to Devonport for change of air, which we did, but instead of improving, she was taken with a most extraordinary malady affecting her mind – She took the greatest aversion by turns, to those she had most tenderly loved before – to her mother sister, Tom – myself, &c – We consulted the most skilful men in the profession, who all assured us that such was not infrequent under her circumstances, & promised that without fail on her confinement she would be well as ever – Her dislike to her friends, shewed itself merely in avoiding them, & in an involuntary shrinking as they approached her – and in not believing that I was myself but some other person who had assumed my appearance – For some time she felt convinced of it, that she would not

even sit in the same room with me – Her confinement not having been as it should have been her recovery has been slow, but now she is I am happy to say, almost well – The first professional men say that her perfect recovery is without doubt, but they cannot guarantee that in case of pregnancy she may not show similar symptoms again – Under such circumstances it is a dreadful responsibility to take her abroad, and I would rather endure a temporary

separation of a few years than subject myself, her & her anxious family in England to the like again – Probably your letters will enable me to settle comfortably in India, when she can join me – but, at present I scarcely know what to decide on – I hope you might now understand our [unclear] more fully. I should perhaps have written it at length [unclear] of the [unclear] days, & anxiety prevented me -

About money matters, my dear friend, I hope you are not offended – As you were ill and no doubt

disinclined to unpleasant correspondence I did not write to you direct on the subject, but requested Mr. Robertson to communicate with Mr Dundas as respectfully as possible

To tell the truth funds of five per cent would make no difference to me because I shall want almost the whole of my cash – My wifes illness, my own indifferent health, my outfit, occasional small demands, from my Brothers, besides a settlement that I have made of £25 a year on Charles come heavy on me, & will have little ones – That however is remember entre nous – What I told Mr Robertson is quite the case, however – five per cent being to be had on the best security. & four in the funds – I hope Finlay will do something without delay – He is a most incorrigible fellow I fear – As I do not know how soon I may sail, pray sent the letters as early as possible. I shall not now however sail I think before the end of July – I called last week for your Boys at Westminster, but Mrs Helfox told me they were with you – I hope to see them soon -

Believe me with love to all

Your sincere friend

W Stirling

Offer my fondest regards to all your family

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq
 Airth Castle
 Falkirk

Stamped: MAY 29 1826

Letter from Charles Stirling to Jane Graham

MS. 10952 ff. 57-58

Douglas Isle of Mann June 23d

My dear Cousin

I have written to you Several letters and have not received one in return and Mr Cunningham McGrigginols [unclear] has given me intimation of Disaster in My family and therefore I request you will have the kindness to write me and give me information of the family Aunt Christie and Uncle James and all friends. - I am dreadful afflicted with Gout Rheumatism and all that is incident to Human Nature. Give my love to Airth and all the rest of the family – I have not heard a word from My Brother this some time

past and if you can give me any intimation where they are I shall be much oblided to you

Believe me to remain My dear Cousin

Yours Affectionately

Chas Stirling

PS not being able to write myself I have got a friend to do it for me CS

misent to Selkirk

Addressed to:
 Miss Jane Graham
 Airth Castle

nr Falkirk
N – B -

answered 30th June 1826

Stamped: JUN 27 1826

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 124-125

Ridgeway Cottage Aug. 16. 1826
Dartmouth
Devon

My Dear Airth

Your note, though very short, was, I assure you very acceptable as it is the only information I had heard of the family for a very long time. I am very sorry for your daughter Mary but should that circumstance bring you South to our neighbourhood so that I may once more have the pleasure of seeing you & introducing you to my rib & provided the Devonshire Air do you all good I shall have reason to be glad of it. Torquay is a delightful Winter's residence situated between two hills on Torbay & perfectly sheltered from all Winds; it is so warm in Winter that fires are seldom required at midday during that Season. Torquay is 12 miles from Dartmouth with excellent roads & a beautiful Country But as that Season few places look well except Airth & Strowan. Your Boys will be delighted with their Trip to France as no doubt they have an attendant well qualified to instruct & to guide their judgements. My rib is doing well & hopes very shortly to present me with a fine little fellow, we are all prepared & beginning to be impatient. Will you my dear Airth be a God Father to that Child? It would give me great satisfaction as well as my Wife who has often heard you spoken of & of the enjoyments we have partaken [c.o.] at your house

With respect to my money I should prefer it being in your hands. Here, five per Cent is given as a matter of Course & I never thought of withdrawing it, conceiving that you would do the same. To me, with so limited an income, the difference is felt considerably & I have no doubt that on this representation you will give the necessary instructions to Mr Robertson. W.S. to allow me the same. Charles is I fear in a very bad way & probably not very long for this World. His habits have increased pains & penalties that he never dreamt were so near at hand & whether his present situation has produced reflection & consequent reform we know not. Willie heard from him yesterday but as he employs an amanuensis he is too brief & hurried & of course confined to speak much of his own situation. Maria joined me in a long letter to him a few days ago which I hope will give him some comfort in his present condition. An old Shipmate of mine has been unremittingly kind to him all along. Morrison⁸²¹ was the master of the Imperieuse with me & married a niece of Mr Fenton's Kippendavie. Friday is our regatta here & the yachts are collecting fast, we anticipate much pleasure during the day as betting is expected to be employed & amusement at the Ball in the Evening. I suppose you are already preparing for your St. Fillan's amusements I did not hear how the last was conducted but I should not like to lose sight of those things although at a distance. Thank Miss Jeanie for her kind intention of writing & for the Frank & I regret much she was unable to write one herself but I hope without a Frank she will not fail with a history of your family proceedings & every thing interesting about you & that very soon. Were you out on the 12th? I thought

of you as I had remembered well, looking for your return with the game bags as interested as your sportsmen themselves were. I hope you had no returns of you old affair you must remember how much you suffered when I slept in your room. I forwarded your note by post to Willie he is still at the Cottage at Tor a most delightful spot & endeared by every operation of love & affection & every sweet recollections, being the Cottage we each retired to on our marriages. Willie will give you his own history when he writes but his Wife is quite well. I spent a week with him lately & a pleasant time it was indeed. How is George Macdowall⁸²² now & all the Family? I should like to hear all about them, & William & his lady & what their plans are he wrote to me & expressed a chance of seeing me this Winter but I fear he has altered his plans.

Good bye my Dear Airth & give my warmest remembrances to all your family & accept them yourself in which Mrs T. joins & Believe me with Sincerity

Yours very truly
Thomas Stirling

P.S. Should you come our way I shall endeavour to find a good bottle of old Wine for you let me hear from you or Miss Jeanie

remember me to our worthy friend Mr Cruikshanks in which Willie would most cordially join me were he here

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
 Strowan House
 Crieff

NB.

Stamped: AUG 19...

Have you heard from Finlay?

MS. 10952 ff. 126-127

Ridgeway Cottage August 20th 1826
Dartmouth
Devon

My Dear Airth

I wrote you a few days ago in reply to your note regretting your Mary was so indisposed but let us hope the best & that care patience & youth may restore her to her health & her friends very speedily. I mistook the word in your note in speaking of the Boys that they were in Force I read in France & it is so like it that every one to whom I have shewn reads France. Remember me very kindly to them & to Mary. I have this day got a letter from the Old Lady in Jamaica she thinks she is dying, she has been confined to bed for several weeks & had three blisters on at the time of writing. She merely said her Executors (without naming them) will take [c.o.] care that her property will be conveyed safely to us & also that Finlay had written to her to say that he intended sending a large remittance by this Packet. I wish it had come but I wish you, if you would be good enough to take the trouble, to write to Finlay at once respecting Mrs Fergus's⁸²³ Property to give any hint that might be requisite. She does not have any Person about her but she

speaks as if she despaired of recovering & desires me to write at once that if dead her Executors may be instructed how to act. She once mentioned her property amounted to upwards of £6000 be that as it may it is worth

making an exertion to get possession. Finlay I know has a Power of Attorney to act for us but I have always had doubts respecting his honesty, at any rate he may be as honest as any of the Party & as we know something of him it may be as well to let him act. I wrote to Mr Archibald Stirling a few months ago requesting him to write to Finlay he replied that he certainly would to enable me to get what had been so long due & now if he has not remitted any thing would you take the trouble to write to say that after all these delays you thought it time that something should be forthcoming as men who purchase property are generally supposed to possess the means of so doing & it will at all events shew him we have not forgotten him that we are looking anxiously for his money. I ask you to do this as you have been in the habit of writing & corresponding with him & he will understand you well. I thank you for all you have done & whether [c.o.] successful or not I thank you for your Intention. I have written to Mrs Fergus hoping she will receive my letter as I have given her advise about her affairs if it be not too late. Our Regatta went off well, & the Ball well attended. Willie appeared in Uniform & looked well his young Wife looked uncommonly well & was very gay.

I hope to have soon the pleasure [c.o. of] to tell you of the Birth of a little Babe to please & to comfort us but probably ere that I shall be favoured with a letter from you; tell me how George Mac⁸²⁴ is & all your friends

Maria who is sitting by me desires to be remembered to you & says she wishes much to see your Hills & Valleys & Lakes & Streams.

If the remittance has come I beg you will again interest yourself in our matters as we are so far removed from the scene of action and you are in [c.o. the] constant intercourse with Edinburgh. I hope to hear soon from you on this point as it has been a tedious & a vexatious business. Willie dined with Mr Hockin yesterday & set off in the Evening in his beautiful Stanhope⁸²⁵ with his rib for the Cottage. Good bye my dear Airth believe me with Sincerity & Affection

Yours very truly
Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr,
 Strowan House
 Crieff

N.B.

Stamped: AUG 21 1826
 DARTMOUTH

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 257-256

Abbey Cottage Tor, Devon

27 Augt.

My dear friend,

I wrote to Miss Graham a few days ago, & requested her to thank you for your kind note – My wife is, I thank you, quite recovered, & I think we have no reason to fear a return of her complaint under any circumstances – She never was better in her life than she has been for the last four months - & the pain & struggle of leaving home will be much lessened, if not entirely removed by the different circumstances under which she is now situated – Last year she had in a weak state of health, to endure the thought of parting with her first child, a larger & happy family circle, & to go abroad in the world she scarcely knew where – This year she is well, not fearful of a separation, & she has [c.o.] been longer married, which makes a woman in time think less of her parents & to feel herself at home when with her husband -

We have at last decided on leaving England in December – Captain Hines has given us a passage in his Ship the Atlas, which is to sail for Bombay [c.o.] about Xmas

and it happens very comfortably that a Brother⁸²⁶ of my Wifes is going out as a Cadet to Bombay in the same ship, & perhaps another as a midshipman – You know she has a Brother⁸²⁷ a Lieut? in the Bombay European Regiment, so we shall have quite a family about us – Mr Hockin had the offer of a Cadetship for either of the Presidencies, but as the choice depends upon order I cannot but recommend Bombay – as it is doubtless the most rising in our Army, & the most pleasant on our own account -

Dartmouth has been very gay lately – No less than ten yachts including Lord Yarboroughs⁸²⁸ at the same time in the river – Tom dined at Governor Holdsworths, to meet his Lordship who is a plain jolly fellow, like any other good man – His yacht cost £60,000 - & is the size of an eight & twenty gun ship. He is President of the Yacht club -

We had a letter from Mrs Fergus lately [c.o.] promising to send us a handsome present, and mentioning that she had heard from Finlay who told her that he had made us a large remittance. It would be very agreeable to me, to fall in with a little of his Lucre, at this particular time – Perhaps you would make some

inquiry about it – Tom made a mistake in reading your letter the other day – He read “My boys are in [c.o force] France” - for “My boys are in force” & answered accordingly!!!

My present plans are to leave this about the 10th September, spend a fortnight with Mamma, then [c.o.] go into Cornwall to pay a visit to my Brother in Law⁸²⁹, the Parson, examine the Mines & return by Dartmouth, then proceed bidding adieu to Devonshire about the end of October via Exeter, & perhaps Bath & Oxford to London -

You mentioned your intention of bringing Mary South – Poor dear girl, I sincerely think that will not be necessary. I would have you take good advice, before you bring her to Devonshire in Winter – It is proverbially damp, & colds are very frequent, so much do I dread it myself that I shall go somewhere else. I dont know but after all the neighbourhood of London is a very good climate, if not the number of new & strange things that one sees is often beneficial – Might I request you to send me the letters of recommendation – by post – We like them to proceed us, so that if anything fell vacant it might be reserved – It would be of little advantage after I had got 1000 miles up the country, & settled myself, to have an appointment offered me 1000 miles in another direction – Maria Stirling still holds out, I thought to have been Uncle before this time -

Mr Graham of Gartmore⁸³⁰, & Mrs Bruce Williamson have sons in Bombay, if you think it would oblige them say I will be happy to carry any little thing out for them

We go to St. Helena – If you could get me a note to Genl.⁸³¹ or Mrs Walker it would be very agreeable

By directing simply Dartmouth, my letters will be safe for the next two months

With love to your Sisters & family -
Believe me My dear friend
Yours very Sincery
W Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr
of Airth
[c.o. Airth Castle
Falkirk]
N.B.
Strowan
Crieff

Stamped: AUG 30 1826

Letter from David Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 177-178

Ardoch, 3 September 1826

My dear Sir,

By the last packet I sent you the 1st of Messrs Laing & Hamilton's Bill on Davidsons Barkly & Co P £307.8.10 Stg, and now enclose you the 2nd Bill -

Monday week the 21st Ult^o. was fixed on by our two Members of Assembly Coward & Hamilton to settle my long standing demands against St Faith's Penn & I was to have got Bills at 10 days st. @ 17 ½ P Ct Prem. on Mr Burns W.S. Edinbr. for the balance due me – but they both forgot that it was a publick day at St Ann's Bay for the Election of Coroners & other matters & have now fixed on a day next week [c.o. day] I had scraped up about £300 more but could not get a Bill – tho' I believe Mr Coward will I believe now by next packet – Depend upon it I shall not fail in sending you all that comes to my hands tho' I have now £2000 due me from other Channells that I cannot recover at present – I must beg of you to continue to be my friend with the Messrs Stirlings to whom I am

still unable to write having had a fortnight of Bilious fever – and this is the only Letter I can get this to day sent on to my Nephews the Connells in Glasgow.

My poor old Father used to tell me I was born under an unlucky planet & I believe he was right for neither Health nor anything else seems to thrive with me at present. God send me better luck & better health & trusting this will find you as much or thoroughly improved

I am my dear Sir
Your's mo: faithfully
David Finlay⁸³²

Thos. Graham Stirling Esq.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr
of Airth Castle
near Falkirk
Stirlingshire

P The Countess of Chichester Packet
[c.o.]

Stamped: DEC 3 1826

Letter from James M, Crone to Charles Stirling [Stirling Gordon]

MS. 10960 ff. 11-12

Castle Mona, 20 Sept 1826

Dear Sir,

Some time Ago a Young Gentleman of the name of Chas. Stirling of the R.N. and somehow I believe, connected with your family Came to reside in this Island. At first he conducted himself with becoming propriety, but soon evinced symptoms of dissipation, and latterly his evil habits became an unconquerable disease, And I am sorry to add, he now lies a Corps in consequence of its destructive effects -

It was fortunate that he took up his abode in a respectable Hotel in Douglas, Kept by Mr Hanby⁸³³, where so far from being encouraged in his evil habits, every thing possible was done to restrain him, and tho' he became a very offensive and disagreeable Inmate, Yet till the
very

last he experienced acts of Kindness and that in a Motherly and particular degree from Mrs Hanby. - His supplies came I am told, from Mr Dundas W.S., and I learn he was under the Guardianship of the Trustees of the late Sir Thomas Stirling Bart. but of late, his supplies have been withheld no doubt from prudential motives, or probably from his having overdrawn his Credit. In this predicament he became fretful and unhappy, especially because, he was dunned by his Tradesmen and Could not pay them, And Hanby, I understand, to relieve his mind, paid his Tailor & Shoemakers Bills and his Man servants Weekly Wages, who attended him and hurled him in a Chair; And just now, I have given

orders, that he shall be decently buried, taking the responsibility on myself -

Any letters or papers belonging to this inoffensive Young man, now no more, shall be carefully kept, till his relations give directions for the disposal thereof, and I have no doubt, his Funeral Charges, so far as necessities are concerned, will [torn]d, And not knowing particularly of his relations I have thought it proper to communicate this intelligence to you,

I shall be glad to hear from You, and in the Meantime,

I am with great respect,

Your most obedient Huml &c

James M, Crone⁸³⁴

addressed: Charles Stirling Esq.
Glasgow

stamped: GLASGOW 1 25 SEP 1826
ISLE OF MAN

Letter from James Quirk to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10960 ff. 13-14

Douglas Isle of Man September 22nd 1826

Sir/

It has become my duty to inform you of the death of Lieutenant Charles Stirling, which event took place at the York Hotel the Principal Inn in this town on the morning of tuesday last His remains were interred in Kirk Braddan Church Yard yesterday morning in a respectable and suitable manner In May last he applied to me professionally to prepare his Will whereby he bequeathed to his two brothers all his property in the West Indies and also whatever property he had in Scotland appointing you, along with them Executors - He then requested me to inform you of his death as soon as the event would take place. He recovered a little so as to be able to go out of the House but from that time it was easily seen that he could not survive long - It will be a satisfaction to his friends to know that though amongst Strangers every attention was paid to him when alive and every

respect to his remains when dead - His debts in the Island about which he appeared most anxious are but trifling amounting it is supposed to 80£ or thereabouts principally for his board and lodging at the Inn, and funeral expences he having been as he stated disappointed in not receiving a remittance from Scotland which with his quarters pay now nearly due would have paid his debts - I will feel happy in receiving your Instructions how I am to act as to the Will of the Deceased Lieutenant Stirling now in my possession and am

Sir your Obt. Servt
James Quirk Junr⁸³⁵.
attorney

Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr
Airth Castle Stirlingshire

addressed as above

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 128-129

Ridgeway
Dartmouth
Devon

Sept. 27th 1826

My Dear Airth

You have most probably ere this heard of the death of poor Charles which took place on the morning of Tuesday the 19th. The name of the person who wrote to me is a Matthew Hanby & speaks feelingly [c.o.] although no particulars are mentioned but that he had been confined to his room for ten days & had never recovered the attack he had in May last. I need not say, my dear friend, how much feeling this event raised to us both here, yet, it was what was rather looked for as a thing to be desired than otherwise, as to himself he had become totally useless & to others as a source of pain anxiety & vexation. He wrote to us some time ago & told us he had made his Will & arranged all his affairs in our favour but we have taken no steps about his Papers (which are all safe

as well as his effects list, accounts might have reached you or Mr Dundas sooner & directions been given to act, & our opinions clashed with yours. I answered Mr Hanby's kind letter by return of Post thanked him for his attentions & begged to know to whom we were so much indebted on this occasion & begged he would keep his effects safe for a time till we had heard from Scotland

He was to have been buried respectably on Friday last & we are impatient to know particulars of his Frame of mind, of his bodily sufferings & of his feelings towards us all. Poor Charles was his own & only Enemy generous to a weakness & thoughtless of tomorrow, he loved money but to spend it, & was fond, till latterly of the Society of his Superiors which induced him to live beyond his means & at length to reduce him to his last melancholy & distressing situation. Although we parted from him we always wished to correspond & know his motions & his plans & his generous & feeling Brother Willy allowed him an annual sum to render him less dependant. It appears there had been applications made to Mr F Dundas⁸³⁶ for money which might have been forgeries just previous to his decease. Johnny Dundas⁸³⁷ wrote to us to know what should be done we had approved of his withholding the remittances for fear of knavery till he heard from the Isle of Man as I wrote to an old shipmate of mine who had been kind to Charles but as yet I have had no answer. Johnny says he believes Charles had not much more than £150 Sterg left, I think if no steps have been as yet taken about defraying the expences of the funeral & doubtless other little things it would be well to have the bills sent to Mr Dundas who will pay them & the residue

remitted to us as early as possible. In a former letter he said he had no debts & this is likely to be true because he was always most punctual in paying his tradesmens bills. I have written to his Agent in London & expect an answer very shortly. It seems the Duke of Athol's Agent Mr Mcrone has written to some of you about Charles & doubtless he will see all arranged faithfully & justly.

I hope your Poor Mary is doing well & recovering fast before the season changes for the worse. I shall be happy to hear from you & of you all as well as an answer to my last to your Sister & to this as soon as possible.

My Wife is daily gaining strength & my dear Baby⁸³⁸ is in perfect health. I shall look for your Bib & Tuffet earnestly & thank you as earnestly when your remembrance reaches me. Give our united good wishes to all you family & let me assure you Maria has become very anxious about your daughter Mary.

We propose having all poor Charles's things sent here if you have not ordered any thing to the contrary.

We deem it a mercy that he has been removed from a Scene so much embittered by miserable reflections as life must have been by him & after the first shock we felt as we ought under such circumstances. Good bye my dear Airth & believe me ever with sincerity & truth

Your Friend

Thomas Stirling

Write immediately

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Strowan House
Creiff

NB

Stamped: SEP 30 18...
DARTMOUTH 213

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

Dartmouth 3d October 1826

My dear friend -

Tom tells me he wrote you a few days ago respecting our poor Charles but in the belief that there was a letter from you on the road he says he does not enter into particulars – We had a letter from Mr Hanby communicating the event, but we are indebted to you for every other information – I received your truly kind and affectionate letter of the 28th Ultimo this morning, for which accept our most grateful thanks – Your feelings on the the occasion exactly correspond with ours. Tho we cannot but deplore that he, poor fellow, has under such circumstances brought himself to an untimely grave, now that it has come to pass all who had any regard for him, after the first constrain of grief, rejoice that it is so, and that his career of joyless intemperance was brought to a close – Had his life been

spun out, he never could from his habits have been either a companion, or even honour to us, but on the contrary a perpetual source of uneasiness. Poor man, I had long desired to place my affections on him, and to do him service, but I felt my inclinations so constantly thwarted by his distressing propensities – He had many virtues but circumstances weighed him down, and he was prevented [c.o.] from enjoying in our delightful domestic circle here, that kindness and sympathy which a Brother of better habits, but far fewer virtues would have lavished on him – We shall now draw a veil [c.o.] over his foibles, and teach our little children to reverence his memory; and we will tell them of his noble & amiable qualities, as I have often heard them mentioned by his old

and much attached shipmates -

With regard to his affairs – Mr Handby [sic] mentioned Mr Dundas had been written to – After waiting till Sunday last [c.o.] for a letter from Scotland without receiving any I wrote at Toms request to John Dundas, to say we had not had any particulars & desired him to prevent any unpleasant delay or reference at the present time to pay all reasonable demands that might be made for funeral charges &c – Probably as I am about to leave England, and as Tom is on the spot with my father in law Mr Hockin who is a Solicitor, & understands these matters, it might be as well for you, if you approve it, to send, or order Mr Quirk to send, the Will here. At any rate we should wish his clothes papers, & all effects to be sent to us here. They may be sent to Plymouth I should think by sea at any time, & if so let them be sent to “Creser & Hockin” Solicitors 25 Edgecumbe Street, Stonehouse Plymouth. As I intend to give Mr Hockin (Papa) [c.o.] a power of attorney to manage my affairs here in my absence, and as he is aware of all circumstances respecting our Mother &c it will save any distant

correspondence – I did not write to J. Dundas with any other view tho', to save time, as we heard he had been written to from I. Of Man -

[c.o.] Toms daughter is to be christened on friday – I believe you & I are Godfathers my wife one of the Godmothers – the other Mrs W. Hockin the Parsons wife⁸³⁹ -

We leave this on the 10th for London via Exeter, Bath Cheltenham, & Oxford – in our own Stanhope, & as we have several friends on the way, & wish to see the country, we shall probably take 20 or 25 days - Believe me your affectionate friend

W Stirling

My address in London Inglis F: & C:⁸⁴⁰

2 Mansion house place

Tom is well & desires his kindest regards to all – His wife is now up again – I gave her a long drive to day – Your letter has given my wife and all her parents & both grandmothers⁸⁴¹ who are alive &

hale – the greatest gratification -

Would you have the goodness to write without delay to Mr Quirk for as you have already corresponded, your order would be immediately complied with. I hope Mary is better – I shall be in town all Nov. Lading We take out with us my new Cousin Miss Hine⁸⁴², Sister of Capt. Hine of the Atlas Thanks for your letter to Mr Elphinstone – We leave on the 9th for Exeter

We have not in any way as yet interposed lest we should clash with you or Mr Dundas. We wrote Mr Hanby bu[blot] was to know particulars about his death & burial.

I follow your considerate plan of sending will [unclear] - WS

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr
of Airth
[c.o. Airth Castle
Falkirk]
N.B.

Strowan House

Stamped: DARTMOUTH 213
OCT 8 1826

Letter from George Coward to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 50-51

Islington Moneague Post Office
St Anns Jamaica
10th October 1826

My Dear Sir

It falls to my lott to communicate to you the melancholy news of the Death of your late Correspondent and the Oldest Acquaintance I had David Finlay having known Him Since 1892 [sic] – and on the most intimate Terms of Friendship, He had been for a long time ill which He bore with Christian Fortitude and quited this world of Trouble on this day month

He has left me one of His Executors and I am in Possession of Ardoch & all his Effects, I also represent by your Power the Trustees of the last General Stirling and have to inform you that the

Mortgage to secure the Purchase of Ardoch is properly registered, so that the Balance of your debt is to come, you will receive herewith the 2nd Bill of Laing & Hamilton as a Payment the first Mr Finlay had already sent and so far as I can arrange a large claim against the Steers of Mr Angus which is now under Consideration I will remit you above £1000 Stg and every thing else I can collect or the Penn makes to meet the Installments now due, any further Instructions you may think proper to give me shall be most faithfully alluded to and I am with much respects

My dear Sir

Yrs very respectfully

Geo. F. Coward

T.G. Stirling Esq.

[another hand] Airth Castle Novber 4th 1829 Wrote T. Stirling to Edinr. The paragraph of this letter respecting Mr Finlay having left Mr C. his exec. & going on to the Place that mentions the Requesting the mortgage &c So that the balance of the debt is secure -
T.G.S.

Strowan Novr 21st 1829

repeated the above in a letter to T. Stirling rents of this due to
T.G.S.

Reced Decr 4th 1826 Accts came along acknowledging receipt of the 2d of the Bill mentioned, pressing for his promised remittance on acct. of Messrs T. & W. Stirling & requesting Mr C. to continue to act for them till further instructions

Same date wrote Tom Stirling the contents
T.G.S.

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 130-131

Ridgeway, Octr. 12th
Dartmouth 1826
Devon

My Dear Airth

Your letter to my Brother Willy gave us both every satisfaction we could have desired, but for it we should have remained ignorant of every thing relating to poor Charles's end, as not a scrape of a pen has reached us since the first news. You would receive mine [c.o.] after your writing to Willy & I believe he confirmed all I had previously said about the funeral expences & other trifling sums which his melancholy situation doubtless required.

It gave me great satisfaction my dear friend to perceive our ideas had so nearly coincided for surely his life was not desirable to himself or to any about him & it was truly gratifying to know his remains were so respectably & properly attended to the Grave.

I have been in hopes of hearing further on the subject from you, as you may have heard from the Isle of Man, when you do, let me hear, for we cannot but be deeply interested in all that relates to our poor Brother & it was most truly gratifying to read your Sentiments so kind as they were about Charles.

We had been anxiously looking for the last Packet but as we have heard nothing, we conclude there has been

no news. This is the more surprising as Mrs Fergus had written to us under peculiar distress of illness & promised if she got better she would send us a bill of £200 & we think it strange that no letter of any kind or to any purpose has arrived. We think it time Finlay should be coming forward to settle the business in some way or other & propose to proceed in a very effectual manner so as to bring his intentions to light. Mr Hockin who is a Lawyer will arrange the matter & probably show Mr Finlay that although we can forbear for a time yet we may be roused into active exertion.

My Brother & his Lady took leave of us yesterday for London in excellent health & Spirits. They do not sail till January but I shall not see them again.

Mr & Mrs Hockin go up to London to spend a few weeks with them & to see them embark. How is poor Mary? We are much interested in her & trust she will be restored to health & to you all, well & happy.

Mrs Stirling joins with me in kindest thanks to you for your beautiful present. The Christening took place on the 6th of Oct: as intended, all the family were present, & my Brother in Law who married us, also officiated on this occasion. My Brother Willy represented you my dear friend as God Father to my Child & Mr Hockin for himself Mrs Wm as Godmother & Mrs Wm Hockin the same. The Child was

Christened Mary Sibilla Graham after the two Godmothers. Three very pretty names & all parties were pleased. Your Robe & Cap looked very beautiful & all the Ladies have been admiring them & passing just & high encomiums on Scotch industry & ingenuity. The origin of Hockin may be new to you. In days of yore a certain Chief being closely pursued by his enemies took shelter behind a rock with a few followers where they gallantly defended themselves & killed their pursuers. The Chief on gaining the victory, exclaimed Hoc in loco Deus rupes. In this place God is my rock which is the motto of the family to this day.

I hope you are all pretty well & looking forward with just & sound hopes to your poor Mary's recovery. I should like to hear from you as soon as you can give me any additional information respecting Charles's affairs for the sooner matters of that nature are settled, the better. My brother I believe expressed a wish to have the Will or a Copy transmitted to us, be good enough to do this as soon as you can.

Remember us both in the kindest way to all your family and particularly do accept of our best thanks & good wishes for the interest you have taken in our Baby who is quite well & is universally admired she has never had a minutes illness & tomorrow will be 6 weeks old. Let us hear from you soon with all news it is a pleasure to hear from any of the household at Strowan. Good bye my dear Airth & believe me with all sincerity your friend Thomas Stirling

My dear Sir,

I could not allow my husband's letter to be sealed without begging that I might be permitted to repeat my best thanks in my own & my Baby's name, for the very beautiful present which her Godfather so kindly sent her – it will be indeed ever looked on with pleasure as a mark of kindness towards my child, doubly valuable as well as all the interest which yourself & your sisters have ever expressed, as it is entirely owing to her father's account

The friendship which you all so warmly express for him, is, I can assure you fully appreciated & scarcely a day passes but what Airth & its kind inhabitants are spoken of with the most pleasing & affectionate remembrances. I was truly sorry that the last accounts of your daughter were not so favorable as we could have wished, & can easily imagine how terrible must be the anxiety occasioned by the illness of such a beloved object – but we

I hope for better news soon. Desiring that you will present my compliments to her & to you Sisters, Believe me to remain Your's very truly

Maria Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
[c.o. Strowan House
Crieff]
Airth Castle Falkirk

NB,

Stamped: CRIEF.. 452
.... 1826

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 261-262

Cheltenham, 24th Oct. 1826 -

My dear friend -

While at Bath, I heard from Tom that Finlay had at last sent a small remittance, a circumstance that appears to be satisfactory, as far [c.o.] as it goes, for I always had a fear that he might renounce [unclear] of the estate because bankrupt, & throw it back on our hands – [c.o. At the same time] I hope you will continue the good work which you have so satisfactorily begun, & write him again in acknowledgement, but at the same time be as severe as you like upon him for not fulfilling his engagement to the uttermost – As I am about to leave England I should like much to leave my account with the Trustees finally settled, and in order that

there may be no further delay, [c.o.] occasioned by the arrival of this remittance, by referring it to Mr Dundas, as the Accountant – I should be obliged by your remitting my proportion to my Agents in London Inglis Forbes & Co direct – I fear I have drawn, through Mr Wm Robertson W.S [c.o.] nearly the whole balance that was due me by the Trustees, and with the view to setting my mind easy, I should like to have a formal acquittance drawn up between us, for these transactions, are not simple transactions between you & me who know & understand each other, but such, that, if not settled now that we have an opportunity, may occasion trouble hereafter to the babe unborn [unclear] – If you will instruct Mr

Dundas to act upon this, I will do the same to Mr W. Robertson, to whom I gave a power of Attorney, while in Edinburgh.

We have not heard any thing more about Charles' affairs -

My wife & I have come so far on our way to London – We have come up at our leisure by Exeter, Wellington, Taunton, Bridgewater, Wells, Glastonbury Bath, & Bristol – stopping, a day or two at each place, as we felt inclined. As the weather has been particularly fine, more like August than October, but with enough of the latter to tinge the beautifully wood and country we passed thro', our tour has been most delightful – I daresay you have yourself seen many of the lovely scenes, that have charmed us, and the very mention of the above places, will be sufficient to recal to your memory's ie, many a happy, & joyous day – I intend to give Mrs Stirling lessons in singing &c by Braham⁸⁴³, & Miss Stephens⁸⁴⁴ if possible for her voice is charmingly sweet and it would be a pity not to give her any advantage

She has already been taught, & by Hammond (the celebrated master of the Princess Charlotte), who has lowed [unclear] much pains on her from her likeness to the Princess – I hope your dear Mary is improving Tell her how happy I feel to have good tidings of her, and that my Sibella, too has a deep interest in her welfare & happiness. [c.o.] Pray remember

us in the kindest manner to you sisters – I thank you for the letter to Mr Elphinstone – A letter to Sir T Bradford⁸⁴⁵ would be very serviceable, and one to Wedderburn would satisfy me much, as it would show him I was mindful of him & his good office always – I received a very friendly letter from him about a month ago – He speaks of coming home in 10 years!!!! His wife had brought him another baby.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr
Airth Castle
Falkirk
N.B.

Stamped: 27 OCT 1826
CHELTENHAM 101

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 132-133

Ridgeway Octr 29 1826
Dartmouth
Devon

My Dear Airth

Your letter of the 10th gave me no small satisfaction informing me of the remittance from Jamaica, howsoever small it was.

The proportion fixed in Sir Thomas's Will will be showed in the distribution, between my Brother William & myself & I have this day heard from Mr Mcrone⁸⁴⁶ in the Isle of Man (not sending the Will of poor Charles) but telling me that he had Willed two thirds of his whole property to me & the remaining third to William & that disposition will also be attended to respecting the sum that poor Charles may have left behind. His Whole expences amount to £52.16.5 including every thing and Mr Mcrone says that it was fortunate he met so kind a friend as Mr Hanby (who keeps the best Hotel in Douglas) who took the same care of him as if he had been his own son.

He adds "he knows these debts to be due to those who would not take advantage of his habits, but that all his acquaintances & those with whom he dealt tried as much as possible to correct his Evil habits"! I think if we send £60 Sixty pounds Sterg to Mr Hanby to pay the above debts & the remainder as a present for his attentions to poor Charles it would be quite sufficient & would be gratefully received. If you approve of this adopt the best plans

for settling the matter at once for Mr MCrone says as soon as the debts are paid his things shall be sent as directed. That poor Charles should have left me a greater share of his property will not surprise you when you consider our relative situations. William enjoyed excellent appointments in India & was comfortably off [c.o.] or in the way of realising a sufficiency in a few years. On the other hand I made my Will some years ago leaving to Charles 4/5 of my property & the other 1/5 to William for the same reasons. He was struck with the justness of the idea & has acted accordingly in this his last Will. Besides, I had been at considerable trouble & anxiety about him & had taken great pains to conceal his wretched situation from the World & of this he was no doubt very sensible for the space of two years. It will please me much if you will direct the proportions of the said Sums to be collected by Mr Robertson⁸⁴⁷ Thistle Court to be added to my former accounts without delay & should like to hear by Extracts (if a Frank cannot be obtained) what Finlay says, & if he promises to remit any further sums without delay. Perhaps you may have heard from my Brother but when you see the Copy of the Will you will be enabled to act more clearly & fully.

How is your dear Mary? In your last it was painful to learn that she was no better. I can only assure you that my Wife & Self express our hopes to each other for a speedy recovery more than once a day

& as her interest in your family has originated with me she desires me to sent her best & warmest wishes for a return of that health to your Child which the fondest parent could desire. She loves her own treasure with fear, conscious that the slightest breath might extinguish that life which she so fondly cherishes & so she enters into your sufferings fears & feelings.

You no doubt received my letter with a postscript from Mrs Stirling thanking you for your beautiful present. Your God Daughter appeared in it on the 6th & both were much admired. She is quite Well & as at this moment talking away at my side most delightfully.

We had expected to have heard from Mrs Fergus but as the Packet is over due [c.o.] we may well hear very soon.

Let me hear from you soon for independently of business it gives me great satisfaction [c.o.] to hear about such old friends as you & your whole family are; tell me about Mary George Macdowall & all our friends. Give my most affectionate remembrances to your Sisters & tell me how they received the tidings of poor Charles's end. My Wife joins me in all good wishes to you & in hopes of a letter soon I shall now conclude & so good bye & Believe me ever your Sincere friend

Thomas Stirling

P.S. With as little delay as possible please direct Mr Robertson to collect all sums belonging to me in order to the making of my accounts

Good bye my dear Airth

Yours very truly

Thos. Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: NOV 1 1826

MS. 10952 ff. 134-135

Ridgeway
Dartmouth
Devon

Nov: 17 1826

My Dear Airth

I wrote you about a fortnight ago & was in hopes of hearing from you soon about the statement of poor Charles's debts. I told you Mr M'Crone had stated them at £52.16.5d including Funeral Charges Doctors Bills &c in short he said he believes they are quite correct, as he was so great a favourite with the public that none would have taken advantage of his evil habits: I gave you my opinion & William (from whom I have this day heard for the first time on this subject) coincides with me that sixty pounds should be given, in order that the surplus might amply reward Mrs Hanby (who keeps the principal hotel) for all her kindness & attention to poor Charles. I wish to know what steps you have taken respecting this business, as it is very desirable to bring it to a conclusion by settling every thing at once. Wm. Sails about Xmas & he is anxious to know how Charles's settlement relates to him & Mr Quick Junr. has never sent the Will or a single line referring to it. Mr Hockin wrote a few days ago & we must wait the result. Mr Mcrone says Charles leaves me 2/3 of [c.o.] his share of the Jamaica property & 1/3 to Wm. With the residue of all his

other Property wherever situated. Without seeing the Will no opinion can be formed on it, but we think here, the Residue means after his debts are paid

Pray give me your opinion as well as a statement of his monies left in Mr Dundas's hands. There is a thing William mentions that in Sir Thos. Will he thinks the clause respecting us & the West Indian Property runs in a way that on either of us dying & leaving no legal Children or Issue we could not Will our proportions away, but that it reverted in certain proportions to the Survivor or Survivors. Be good enough to give me an Extract of that Passage with your opinion from the Will⁸⁴⁸ as soon as possible.

Has Finlay's Bill been accepted yet? I wrote to Mr Robertson on this business wishing to recover my proportion without delay, if you can give him any instructions in the matter I need not say how much I shall feel, this & all your other kindnesses.

Mr Mcrone gives me a list of all Charles's things & as far as I can remember it is correct & he adds as soon as the debts are paid they shall be sent as desired for this reason it is desirable all should be arranged as speedily as possible.

Now let me ask how Poor Mary is? Believe me although I thus write on business to you it is not without feeling that it may trouble you at a time when your thoughts & affections are interested

on a more tender & a more anxious subject & Mrs Stirling as well as myself have desired to hear from one of the Family to know how your poor Child is doing with very interested feelings. We trust that all is well & that hopes & realities will be perfected in her. My Brother & Lady have met the Macs Houstouns Oliphants; at this I am pleased as it is the first introduction to our Scotch friends & I hope the day is not far distant when I shall be enabled to take my Wife & your God Daughter to Scotland to introduce her to your Hospitable Castle & others of my old and kind friends there.

Have you answered the receipts of Finlay's letter? I think it would be right to do so expressing astonishment at the smallness of the remittance. Does he say when he intends to remit another Instalment? These are points I should like to be informed on & let me ask you to take the trouble to answer all these queries with your honest opinion on them. Answer me soon & let me know how you all are & what are your plans for the Winter Good bye my dear Airth & Believe me ever truly & Sincerely

Your Friend
Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: NOV 20 1826

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 263-264

2 Mansion house place London
17 Novr. 1826

My dear friend,

I am sorry to feel myself obliged to write you again, respecting my accounts with the Trustees of Sir Thomas, and more so at this particular time, when you must feel little disposed to enter on such

matters, but you know one of my objects in coming to England was to get my affairs settled, and tho' I have now been nearly two years & a half in the country [c.o.] as far as I can learn little or nothing has been done towards their settlement. I am again about to leave England, and I must request you to discharge the office of guardian which you took upon yourself, by bringing my accounts

to a close – I am not aware of any obstacle to their final settlement, but the culpable neglect of those to whom you have entrusted the duty, and perhaps when you find your Agents unworthy of your confidence, but judging [c.o.] for themselves proper time and place for acting, the best, and most usual, way is to dispense with their services – I however saw that the accounts have been made up to Michaelmas 1824, and as there have been no remittances, or any thing of importance since to cause further delay, nay the simplest

man of business could do the rest, so that we should only have to give and take an acquittance [c.o.] and that is what I want -

I mentioned in a late letter to you my wish, that no part of Finlays late remittance as far as I am concerned should [c.o. in any way] be paid to Mr Dundas. Our estate being sold, and we being of age, (and that many years ago) the Trustees have nothing whatever to do with it – Charles' Will, leaves 2-3ds of his Jamaica estates to Tom, and one third with the residue of his other property wherever situated to me – Consequently his Balance in Mr Dundas's hands, and his share of Finlays remittance, (it having been made prior to Charles's death) fall to me – as as I before requested

you to get the Bill discounted, and my share remitted to my Agents without delay, I again make the request, as I am in want of the Cash -

Tho' perhaps the perusal of this letter may be unpleasant, I trust its

reasonableness will save it from giving offence – I should feel obliged by your letting me have at your convenience the letters for Bombay – With love to all. Believe me Yours Sincerely

W Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr
 Airth Castle
 Falkirk

stamped: NOV 19 1826

Will of Charles Stirling

PROB 11/1719

In the Name of God Amen I Charles Sterling [sic] a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy at present residing at Douglas in the Isle of Mann being of sound mind memory and understanding at the execution hereof do make and publish this paper writing as and for my last Will and Testament hereby revoking and making void all former Will or Wills by me made or executed I leave and bequeath to my brother Thomas Sterling a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy two third parts of all my estate lands and premised situate in the Island of Jamaica together with two third parts of the slaves and stock upon or belonging to such estates lands and premises and also two third parts of all and singular the personal property whatsoever and wheresoever the same may be of which I die

possessed or intitled unto I leave and bequeath my brother William Sterling a Captain in the Honorable East India Companys service al the remaining third part of my estates lands and premises with the slaves and stock thereon situate in Jamaica aforesaid together with all the remaining third part of my personal property whatsoever and wheresoever the same may be I nominate and appoint Thomas Graham Sterling Esquire of Eirth [sic] Castle in the County of Sterling and Kingdom of Scotland and my said brothers Thomas Sterling and William Sterling Executors of this my Will In Witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name this [c.o. thirteenth] tenth day of May one thousand eight hundred and twenty six - Charles Sterling - Signed published and declared by the testator as and for his last Will and Testament in our presence who at his request in the presence and in presence of each other have subscribed our names as in Witnesses hereto James Quick junr. Advocate Douglas Isle of Man - S. Morrison Master R.N. Douglas Isle of Mann [sic] - John Taggart Archt. Douglas Isle of Man.
Proved at London 23rd Decr. 1826 before the Worshipful John Danbary Dr of Laws and Surrogate by the Oath of William Sterling Esquire the brother and one of the Executors to whom Admon was granted being first sworn duly to Administer power reserved to Thomas Graham Sterling Esquire and to Thomas Sterling the brother the other Executors.

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 136-137

Dartmouth
Decr. 2d 1826

My Dear Airth

I received your kind letter of the 22d on Sunday last & was happy to find all our affairs had been arranged. You mentioned my Brother's claims to all Charles's monies & effects including the 2/7 of the Bill which I had written to your about. I wrote to him finding fault for so doing as it was premature & even wrong to prejudge this matter to you as Executor whose mind might have been influenced by the decided opinion he gave. But to prevent all disputes, delays, letter writing & bad feeling I proposed an arrangement of equalizing the whole of Charles's property wherever situated, between us. I daresay you will think we have acted wisely in doing so, & I am happy to say Wm has acquiesced in the arrangement.

I heard from Mrs Fergus yesterday who mentions Finlay's death which took place on the 8th Sept. Last. He made a Will and had appointed three respectable names at least as Executors viz Wm Bullock Esqr Island Secretary, George Fletcher Coward Esq. & Larchin Lynch Esq. a Master in Chancery. But I have no more information on the subject⁸⁴⁹. I do not doubt you have received official news of the event & as five weeks elapsed between his death and the sailing of the Packet you may have heard something of his affairs & what has been done

I am far from being uneasy as this will bring it to a crisis & we shall sooner know what we have to expect. This is perhaps a season of deep mourning for you⁸⁵⁰ & troubling you thus on our business (particularly that Wm should have written in any style to annoy you may be unreasonable but I hope to hear from you all that you may have heard. Mrs Fergus poor Woman has recovered her health & with the most affectionate love has sent to Wm & myself £200 Stg as a marriage present hoping that poor Charles will excuse her not sending him anything this time but with hopes soon to do so.

Wm & I have settled about the Bill & every thing considered it is better to have agreed about the matter as he was hurt at the distinction made by Chas.

How is you dear Mary? We are very anxious about her & we should like to hear particulars,

although painful & the reason that I have not written to your Sister is the well known state of the mind at this period of alarming and dreadful family distress but I hope she will impute it to the proper motive. I hope truly you are all well let me hear about poor Mrs Macdowall & her family. You know I am much interested in them & I was at Bath when poor Ann⁸⁵¹ died in 1808! I wrote to her some time ago but cannot expect to hear very soon.

Wm & his Wife met the Macs⁸⁵² in London, Sibella speaking favourably of Mrs Mc. in her letters I am glad of it

as it was the first introduction to our Scotch friends & they lamented their sudden departure & the cause of it very much. My dear Wife and Child are quite well the former a good nurse & the latter a healthy bouncing miss she was three months old yesterday Sacre Deo! I hope your boys are well I think Carolus dined with my Brother a short while ago.

Goodbye my dear friend & Believe me with affection & Sincerity

Yours very truly

Thomas Stirling

Mrs Stirling unites with me in the kindest regards to you and yours & desires me to say the beautiful robe & cap are still everywhere admired & by those of experienced taste.

She cannot sufficiently thank you for your kindness.

T.S.

In yours you spoke of being soon in Edinburgh

Whilst there will you be good enough to desire Mr Robertson to send me my accounts & as you mentioned they were above £1200 they ought to be above £1400 Stg Mrs Dow's legacy with Intr

T.S.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: DEC 5 1826
DARTMOUTH 213

MS. 10952 ff. 138-139

Dartmouth Decr 18 1826
Devon

My Dear Airth

Mrs Stirling & Self hope your Dear Mary is still no worse but mending, & also that you are all better than you were in your last.

Poor Charles's Will reached me yesterday. I hope you have got a Copy of it. You will perceive that he bequeathed to me two thirds of his whole Property wheresoever and whatsoever he may die possessed of & to William the remaining third [c.o.] of his property wheresoever & whatsoever. In consequence of these Claims that Wm had made in his letters to you as well as to Mrs Hockin [c.o.] & also to me, from a rude extract of Mr McCrone's. For the sake of Peace, & good Will, I proposed an equal division of Charles's property, after some feeling & a few letters we came to the agreement which I believe is finally settled. I think such claims in the absence of the Will & from an Extract

which in truth had no meaning were ill timed & indicative of a little bad feeling & I rejoice I acted as I did You will perceive the sacrifice I have made & you can judge the matter but it was a sacrifice of a little money for much harmony.

In consequence of the arrangement the Balance

of £110 of Charles's will now remains to me as I have paid William his share £55 Stg. I have written to Mr Robertson to transfer it to my name & to my accounts & I would thank you to do the same that it may be speedily arranged & settled. I hope you understand me

I have paid Willy his proportion of the Residue in order that the whole balance viz £110 may rest in your hands without drawing it on my account & In my benefit with the other monies for which I am now receiving 5 pr Cent Interest. I thank you for your letter relating to Mr Cowards good intentions I hope he is sincere if so we have reason to rejoice. Your letter to poor Finlay did much good, accept my thanks. I wrote to Wm about a power of Attorney in order to secure our interests in the West but he has not yet replied. I agree with you in thinking it right to send one out. Charles's things have reached me with all his accounts & receipts!!

Independently of the £60 remitted to Douglas I sent £5 more to erect a Stone in his memory with a short Inscription. Let me know how you all do how your poor sister Mrs Macdowall is & the rest of the afflicted family. My Wife thanks you for your good wishes & we hope one day to visit your hospitable mansion where I trust all will be well with you.

My Child is thriving very well & talks incessantly & is every day becoming more interesting. My Brother told me your two boys were to have dined with him but hard study & little time prevented them. With kindest remembrances & best wishes to your dear Mary & all your worthy family in which my Wife affectionately joins believe me my dear Friend

Yours ever truly & Sincerely
Thomas Stirling

P.S. Let me ask if there were any sums due to you by poor Charles? I know you have paid all our postages from the West it will give me great satisfaction to know what debt or debts are due to you

Yours truly T.S.

Let me hear soon from you

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: DEC 21 1826

Letters from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 265-266

London 21st Decr. 1826

My dear friend,

I received your letter some time ago, & should have acknowledged it sooner had not your letter to Tom said that you would write me in a few days - As I leave England about the new year, I can

delay no longer for if I did there would scarcely be time for an answer -

I received from your Agent Mr George the amount of Finlays Bill, which Tom & I have settled – There is a point which I wish to explain to you, but as I do not intend to say more than to justify myself, in your opinion, I beg it may go no further - & have not on the present occasion said any thing about it [c.o.] to Tom, as it has become unnecessary -

McCrone at the Isle of Man misled us, as to the terms of Charles' Will which occasioned a misunderstanding about certain sums, but to avoid [c.o.] all disputes Tom

& I agreed equally to divide the property – The Will has since come to hand by which it appears Tom is left 2/3d & me one third, but we adhere to the equal division for this reason – which I would not give, (nor have I to any other) were it not that I value your good opinion, & wish you to know why I accept what appears to belong to Tom – While I was in India, Tom made a will by which he left Charles 4/5ths & me only one fifth of all his property & he communicated what he had done to Charles by letter, tho' not to me for several years after – [c.o.] The consequence was, Charles made a will soon after, nearly to the same purport, but which he afterwards destroyed, & substituted that which has now been produced – Now, I consider the offer of an equal division only an act of justice, as I cannot but [c.o.] think Charles was influenced by Toms communication – That is my reason for doing what without the explanation might appear strange

Tom wrote me that you were surprised at my claiming [c.o.] Charles share of Finlays remittance – As [c.o. he] Tom did not at first propose the equal division, which I considered as I said before an act of justice I laid claim – to what I could - & I founded my claim on a decision given in your favour, regarding a considerable sum, under similar circumstances – Pardon me for making so long a story about that -

Since receiving your letter, I wrote Mr. Robertson to desire him to give and take the acquittance mentioned in it. He replies Mr Russell has not yet made up the accounts!!!

Those people are very annoying with their delays

I hope your Boys reached you safe. From being very much occupied we did not see them so [torn] as we could wish, but Carolus the only one we could get an evening with us, has become a great favourite with Sibella – She was very much pleased with him, & wished to have seen them both often -

I have now to thank you for your letter of introduction to your friend Mr Clarke – He received me most cordially, & indeed I dont think I ever felt so comfortable in any ones society the first time – He has given me two letters, tho' not to the Governor⁸⁵³. Mr Lindsay is laid up with a very bad

attack of gout – Mrs Erskine⁸⁵⁴ being looked for letters for Lady Bradford⁸⁵⁵, But not arrived – Would you oblige me by giving her a hint – We sail about the 1st or perhaps as late as the 10th – so if Mrs Erskine Cardross who was anxious to send something to her son⁸⁵⁶ by me would send it by the Coach it would reach me in time – I will write you before I sail – Can I do any thing for you in town? I hope your dear Mary is doing well – Sibella unites in best wishes for her recovery as well as [c.o.] for health of yourself & sisters, which I regret to hear has not been great Believe me

Yours very Sincerely

W Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq
Airth Castle
Falkirk

Stamped: DEC 21 1826

My dear friend -

I received your last most friendly letter, & should have thanked you for it sooner, had it not been for the bustle of embarking & packing – Here we are in the Downs looking out for a fair wind. I have command of the Troops, & they are as fine a Corps of young men as I ever wish to have under me – I am quite happy at the thoughts of going to India, so is my dear wife, who is well, & very much pleased with her accommodation – We have half the round house, & an excellent female servant, who is quite a treasure to us – Capt'n Hine you know is my wifes Uncle, Miss H. his sister goes out with us & my Brother in Law is a Cadet on board so that we have quite a family party I cannot refrain on this occasion from giving you an extract of a letter from your friend Money to me, which I received lately – I am sure it will please you - “I was pleased to hear of your connection by marriage with one of my most esteemed friend Capt'n. Hine, and judging from what I intimately know of him & his family, I cannot doubt of your happiness with one of so good a sto[unclear] Your proceeding with him to India

accompanied too by his amiable sister, are circumstances for much gratulation!.

We embarked at Gravesend, & there on board we bade adieu to our parents & friends – It was a sore trial for these dear affectionate friends, but they all conduced it with admirable fortitude -

We are as comfortable, & well rigged out as any General [c.o.] was, I am sure. There is not an article, from the smallest to the greatest that we could think of, for the last twelve months that could contribute to our comfort, or enjoyment that we did not note down, & provide -

I received Mrs Patersons⁸⁵⁷ letter for Lady Bradford two days before I left London, but contrived to find time to visit her Ladyships children⁸⁵⁸ near Uxbridge with Sibella – There are five of them – all very interesting children -

It is blowing very fresh now, so will conclude by wishing you & yours long health & happiness, & in

hope of hearing from you, giving good accounts of your dear Mary

I remain My friend

Yours Sincery

W Stirling

H.C. Ship Atlas⁸⁵⁹

in the Downs

9th Jany 1827

We are in luck – Another brother in law⁸⁶⁰ – has just got an Addiscombe appointment – You have been good enough to ask me twice where you shall write to Sir Thos. Munro⁸⁶¹ about me? Of course, I cannot be too well fortified but as you have already been so kind, I would not press you to write if you feel the least disinclination to it – Capt'n. Hine has just recd. a letter from the India House saying that Sir J. Malcolm⁸⁶² is to be Governor of Bombay. If you could get me a letter to him [c.o.] it would be of greater service, & probably it would cost you as little to ask the one as the other

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq
Airth Castle
Falkirk
N.B.

Stamped: JAN 11 1827

Letter from George Coward to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 52-53

Islington Jamaica 10th Feby 1827

My Dear Stirling

Your esteemed Favour dated 4th December I have received, Since my last I have been aranging our late Friends affairs, which from his long indisposition He was unable to attend so consequently in some confusion, I fear a large Sum as £2100 Currency which he claimed against the Estate of Mr Angus and which He calculated on as an immediate remittance will not be realised just now the Parties disputing the same, and from what I can see of it there will be great deductions, Mr Bullock and myself His Executors have agreed to refer these accounts to Arbitration rather than go to Law and so soon as a Balance is Substantiated it shall be remitted with the whole Proceeds of Ardoch as fast as I make Sales and in all Respects the Interest of your young Friends shall be most attentively attended to and any further Instructions you may be pleased to give me – As I said in my last the Security by Mortgage is on Record so that no doubt can arise on that Head - When His affairs are

are arranged you shall have a State of [c.o.] them that you may form an Idea how soon The Debt will be paid – Mrs Fergus who has some connection with your young Friends is still alive tho in Bad Health. She has some Property and have heard Her say it would be theirs nay Instructions about this I will gladly receive – All your Letters that I fall in with shall be preserved with marks

Esteem and Respect I am my Dear Sir
very respectfully
Your Servt
Geo. F. Coward

T. G. Sterling Esq

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq
 Airth Castle
 Stirling
 North Britton

Stamped: STIRLING 27 MAR 1827

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 140-141

Dartmouth Feby 14 1827
Devon

My Dear Airth

I receive Miss Jane's letter & read with many feelings the situation of your poor Mary. The cheerfulness of that letter was indeed a striking illustration of the power of Religion, in affording that Comfort & that calm of mind which can alone support us under such afflicting dispensations of Heaven. If Dear Mary be not better I trust she is easy & composed, & be assured that my Wife joins most feelingly with me in a warm & sincere interest in your Daughter, as well as in the rest of your Family & you may conclude that any accounts from you will, particularly at this time, yield us much satisfaction. We hope you are all pretty well considering your anxieties, & let us hear soon from you.

We have not yet heard from the Indian party but we hope they are now in milder climates

& escaping this cold & biting North East Weather. We have had no snow but hard frost for about three weeks. I heard from Wm Robertson W.S. & have replied to him relating to the Security required by me for monies belonging to me in your hands. He told me you had offered your "Personal Bond" as such security, which I deem ample, & perfectly sufficient, this, I have told him, & hope it will be speedily arranged. It appears there there are about £1250 due to me Independently of Mrs Dow's Legacy, with Interest due since 1817 which will amount to upwards of £220 to which falls to be added the residue of poor Charles's sums & in case Mr Robertson should not understand all this, during his arrangements with you, I request you will be good enough to instruct him accordingly. I had almost expected you would have heard from Mr Coward by the last Packet but we may expect to hear by the next I think. We have not yet sent out a fresh Power of Attorney to him to protect our Interests, but we have one prepared which shall be sent on hearing from him unless you have any hints or information to give us. I had a letter from Mrs Fergus inclosing a duplicate of the Bill of £200 lately sent to me as our marriage present

She has perfectly recovered, & told us, a public Sale of all Mr Finlay's household effects had taken place on the 5th Decr. & that he intended (Mr Coward) to make an early remittance. We shall be glad to see it. My Wife has been unwell for some weeks past but I am now happy to say she is quite well & strong & when the Weather moderates we propose paying a visit to my Brother in Law, in Cornwall, for Change of air, as well for a little variety. My Daughter is quite well & thriving.

How is your Sister Mrs Macdowall after her severe trials? I hope when she is able she will answer my letter.

Give our united affectionate remembrances to all your family & should we all meet again may it be with pleasure & general satisfaction.

I shall feel pleased to hear every account how you are doing & all about you & Believe me my Dear Airth with affection & sincerity Yours most faithfully

Thomas Stirling

Mrs Fergus had not heard of Charles's death & very remarkably she did not mention him in her letter. She has attended to my advice about arranging her affairs & says all has been so & hopes we shall find it worth our while at her death!

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq.
 Airth Castle
 Falkirk

NB.

Stamped:17 1827

Dartmouth
Devon

June 30th 1827

My Dear Airth

I received your Sisters very kind letter a short time ago for which I will thank you to return her my best thanks & say I will not fail to answer it bye & bye. Your last letter was dated 12 March two days previous to the departure of your dear Mary. Our solid hope is, that she is now with her redeemer in Heaven & that our lot may be like hers. I trust you are all quite well amidst those awful visitations which it has pleased Providence to visit your family with. Poor James Macdowall⁸⁶³ I had thought was likely to see many Days! I had been anxiously looking for the Navy list to see his name among the then recent Promotions when Mrs Charles Stirling's⁸⁶⁴ kind and affectionate letter reached me relating the affecting tidings of his fate. I was really very sorry to hear of Capt. McDougals

Death & the more so as his Son is not likely to succeed him. My Brother will feel this I am sure for we passed two very pleasant days with him at Fort William.

My Wife Child & Self have lately returned from a visit to Cornwall which I think has done us all a great deal of good, & I had some thoughts of going to France for the Winter but I am aware the houses are far from being so comfortable or suited to Invalids as in this Country so we will consider it. Mrs Charles Stirling whom you have seen would give you an account of us, I assure you it was quite an event their coming here & we have only to regret that we did not sooner know of their being in the neighbourhood. We could have supplied them with the best of game Mr Hockin being fond of the sport & being a steward for lands of great extent abounding in game. We have had very pleasing letters from St. Helena & by this time we suppose they have arrived at their destination. Mrs Hine the Wife of Capt. Hine of the Atlas left us to day having been on a visit for some weeks.

It would give us great pleasure my Dear Airth to see you with us this Season a little change

would relieve your mind from much of that deep feeling which it must naturally have suffered during the past trials. At any rate when we do meet may it be in health & happiness & Peace.

I wish very much to call your attention to the state of my affairs. In your last letter you mentioned that the Sum total of my monies amounted to twelve hundred & fifty three Pounds including the Legacy of Mrs Dow. This is a mistake & on receipt of your letter I wrote to Mr Robertson to see into it & to rectify it which only requires to examine Mr Russel's statement furnished in 1824 to see the error. Mr Robertson did not answer my first. I waited two months & wrote a Second which he has not yet answered now six weeks since. I would request you would take a little trouble about this matter as it is too bad to be thus annoyed by the delays of such people after Mr R. assuring me that all was clearly explained to him before I left Edinburgh in April 1825. A letter dated Octr. 6th 1925 from Mr Scott Mr Robertson Clerk says "I have been to Mr Dundas & have seen Mr Russel's statement up to the first of July 1824 the sum due to you

from the Jamaica accounts is £749.9.2h

to this falls to be added the Legacy say £200

to be drawn under the Process £800

£1749.9.2.h

to which sum is to be added Interest to this midsummer term. All the sums I have drawn amount to £468. There are ten years Interest due on the Legacy which will [c.o.] make it about £250 three years due on the £1749 amounting to about £860 two years & half to the Sum by Process 800 making it £900 making in all the aggregate sum of 860+900+250= £2010 Stg.

From which is to be deducted the Interest of the sum of £460 from the different dates of drawing

these bills all of which were drawn

in 1826 except £40 which sum I drew in April 1825 leaving a residue due to me say about £1500. This I declare is correct & by referring to Mr Russel's statement it will be seen to be the truth as nearly as possible. It has been harassing to me to a great degree & I refrained from troubling you fearing your domestic Calamities. I hope now you will take the trouble I desire, & excuse it on the g[worn]nd of its importance to me in particular

& for your own sake I shall value your interference as being very friendly to me. Besides the sums left by Charles are to be added to the above my having given Willy a sum of ready money to prevent delay. I shall esteem this a great favour & shall be looking to hear from you when you have been able to rectify these harassing mistakes.

I remain my dear Airth truly & Sincerely your friend
Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Tom Stirlings affairs

Stamped: DARTMOUTH 213
JUL 3 1827

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 269-270

Bombay 22 July 1827

My dear friend,

I take the opportunity of the sailing of the Triumph, to tell you of our safe arrival in India – We landed on the 13th of June, having been gratified previously by a message from my old friend Wedderburn to say that his carriage was waiting for us, & that he would be happy to received me & my family – We lost no time in getting ashore, & he has pressed us to remain with him all the rains – I am very proud to tell you, that my bonie wee wife has been received here with great attention, & marked kindness by all the great & good of the place – Her health, & strength have so much improved by the voyage that tho' we have been out almost every night for the last fortnight she has not suffered in the least – We find Mrs Wedderburn to whom you have not yet been Introduced a most lady like excellent woman - & one who from her own merits, independent of other aid, would adorn any society – When we sailed from England your dear Mary was in a most

precarious state of health – Do oblige me by letting me know all about her – I always had great hopes of her speedy recovery, & I still sincerely trust to hear that my hopes have been realised – Owing to family distress I have long been deprived of the pleasure of your sisters correspondence, but believe me I value it too much to let it cease without an effort to revive it. Her letters were always a great comfort to me in my journey thro' life, & it would entail much regret in me [c.o.] were she not to continue them -

I delivered Major Morays letter to his friend Col. Rainey⁸⁶⁵, who is really, [c.o.] an excellent & truly sterling character. He explained in the most candid manner, the extent of his means to serve me, & assured me that he would do all he could to forward my views - I afterwards presented yours for Sir Thos. Bradford, who has been very attentive both to me & Sibella, & he will I have no doubt be of service to me – Mr Erskines⁸⁶⁶ letter for Mr Elphinstone which you procured for me, will also in due time produce its fruits. At present cutting & clipping is the order of the day, But I fear not – Promotion is not very fast with us – I am third from the top of the Captns so can scarcely expect to be a Major before 5 years, & a Lt. Colonel in less than eight, but even that will do pretty well.

You will be sorry to hear of the death of Sir Thos. Munro Governor of Madras. He died of Cholera Morbus, after a

few hours illness, really regretted – Could you oblige me by getting a letter for me for Sir John Malcolm, who has been lately appointed our Governor to succeed Mr Elphinstone who goes home one overland in November – I dont think you know Sir John yourself but some of your friends I daresay do, and might oblige you & me. As I am on the look out for any thing respectable that may turn up I have applied for, & passed, an examination as to my knowledge of drawing & surveying, & I have obtained a Certificate accordingly from the Chief Engineer that I am qualified to fill any situation that requires such attainments – I have not heard anything from Jamaica since I left England, but I daresay things are in progress – We have had a very severe Monsoon but it is now much moderated & the country is looking quite beautiful. I began to feel myself quite at home again, among my servants & establishment, that I was obliged to deprive myself of in England - & I have learnt by my travels that England is a very nice place, but that there are others equally good in other parts of the world -

Sibella joins me in best wishes for the welfare of all your family, & in kindest regards to you in particular

Believe me your Sincere friend
W Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr
 Airth Castle
 Falkirk
 N. Britain

Stamped: DEC 8 1827
 6 DE

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 144-145

Dartmouth Aug. 15 1827
Devon

My Dear Airth

I feel myself compelled to write to you once more on the subject which I mentioned so earnestly in my last letter, which I had hoped would have been arranged and finally settled ere this. It cannot but be matter of neglect as well as surprise, not only to myself but to you also, to find one at this time of day requesting to have my money matters arranged, when having informed Mr Robertson to guard my Interests [c.o.] to find it impossible to obtain an answer to my letters on this business. The Sum I speak of is the Life rented money of the late Mrs Dow which I have never touched & I must

say when I read in your former letter that you had had a correspondence with Mr Dundas & that you had been informed the Life rented money was included in the sum of £1253, my Surprise & feelings were not a little excited at such a reply as contrary to the real truth of the Account.

Charles drew his proportion & enjoyed it. William drew his also & had the satisfaction of handling it but I who from prospective motives of economy had reserved my Share for a future day with the firm hope of reaping the benefits of the accumulation, accompanied also with much Self denial, am now to be told that it is included in the sum of £1253. This is hard indeed. I confess I did not expect this. I claim nothing but to which I have a Right & a claim, & would scorn to do so & cannot help feeling, & that in no ordinary degree, that I have been the [c.o.] object of so much embarrassment & of a species of Persecution in all my Pecuniary affairs.

In my last I quoted a passage of Mr Scott's letter dated Octr. 6. 1825 & shall here repeat it to show you the correctness of my Statement regarding the said sum. "I have been to Mr Dundas's & by Mr Russel's draft there is due to you from the Jamaican Accounts at date of July 1st 1824

£749.15.6 to which added sum under the Process

£800 to which falls to be added Legacy Say

£200

1546.15.6 now this is how my matters stood Oct. 6th. 1825 & Mr Russels draft I saw Exclusive of Interest

& consulted over it often with Mr Russel & with my Brother William & I cannot be mistaken. On the contrary I have always considered the sum of £749 as minus £100 from the first account I saw at Mr Russels, & this deficiency is spoken of in Mr Scotts reply who says "About the deficiency of the £100 I shall spare no trouble about having it arranged". Even to this day it has not been arranged & what must have been my astonishment to learn that even the Legacy was to be subtracted (that sum [c.o.] which I had always said should be suffered to accumulate for a future day! I blame not you my dear Airth for this care & anxiety & confusion You have had greater cares & anxieties to occupy your mind of late than to be troubled with my affairs but as a friend I request & very & very earnestly too & as one who has taken an Interest in me as I believe from my youth up, that you will see this faithfully & quickly arranged as you are so near the spot & so deeply concerned in this. I am the more anxious as I have been expecting an order to repair to a foreign Station this month past & as the Lord High Admiral has returned to Town I may expect it daily. It would be a satisfactory thought to my mind to be able to quit this home with all my affairs arranged but I trust you

will take an interest in getting this settled. I hope you understand me. Mr Robertson has the Bills I have drawn & wd have calculated the Interest of all [c.o.] Sums there ought to be of money belonging to me in your hands about 15 or 16 hundred pounds Sterling exclusive of Charles sums which are to be added to the above.

I hope you are all well I shall be more than glad to hear from you as I may start in a very short time. My Family pretty well Missey tries to walk & speak.

Give our kind remembrances to your Sisters & boys which accept yourself. I have been long looking for a letter from Mrs Charles Stirling I hope she & her husband are well.

I again Say Human life as we have so lately seen does not admit of delay in arranging our matters & as your Personal Bond will be quite satisfactory I shall look by an early day for your reply. Believe me

Very Sincerely Your Affectionate Friend
Thomas Stirling

I lately heard from Mr Coward he promised a remittance by this month's Packet. I have sent him a Power of Attorney to act in all matters belonging to us.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling
Airth Castle
[c.o. Falkirk]
Strowan Crieff

Stamped: AUG 18 1827
STIRLING 19 AUG 1827
DARTMOUTH 213

MS. 10952 ff. 146-147

Dartmouth Sept. 26th 1827
Devon

My Dear Airth

I wrote to your Sister very lately in reply to her two kind letters, in which I requested her to give you my best thanks for your frank which was very satisfactory. I am sure you will exert yourself to get the business wound up, as its unsettled state cannot be pleasing to either party. The amount you mentioned was, I believe correct so far, what I complained of, was, its being said Mrs Dow's life rented money was included, which is decidedly incorrect; if it be persisted in, my bills will of course be produced & sworn to accordingly which I defy any man to do, but, on reexamination it will be discovered to be entirely a mistake on the part of your informant I am sure. I wrote lately to John Dundas on the subject to bring the

the matter to a close, as I feel it very harassing to be writing so often without being a bit nearer the point, but from your assurance & your purposed visit to Edinburgh soon I may confidently look for a termination of the matter. Mr Coward's letter was dated June 10th in which he promised to make a remittance by the expected packet. He says not a word about the Sum concerned in the House of Angus which he spoke of some months ago but as he said it was to be submitted to arbitration to avoid a law suit we have reason to expect a part of it at least. I wrote about this when I sent him a power of attorney probably he will mention it in his next.

I have heard nothing more of my appointment but hope that it will not be this year.

We are pretty well I am thankful to say & we were much pleased at the good account

of yourself & family. Have you tried the moors this Season? I understand the game is very abundant. How did the St. Fillian's meeting go off? Our harvest has been good, was well got in & the farmers all contented. I hope it is the same in the North. The Weather has been very boisterous & wet lately & is now roaring hard. I attended the funeral of a Brother Officer of mine yesterday who was shot dead on the spot on Saturday last when out shooting, by his gun accidentally going off. The whole contents lodged in his Brain! He was an amiable young man & I assure you his fate has made many mourners here. The assurance of your Dear Child's happiness we may be assured is well founded, her few years were spent in gaining a knowledge of Him who is the Saviour & her Father.

Receive our united good wishes & present them to your Sisters who we hope are still well. Let me

hear from you soon & believe me with much affection your sincere friend Thos. Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling
Airth Castle
[c.o. Falkirk]
Strowan bt Crieff

Stamped: SEP 30 ..
STIRLING 1 OCT 1827
DARTMOUTH 213

Letter from George Coward to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 f. 54

Moneague Islington
1 October 1827

My Dear Sir

Not having the Pleasure of any of your favours since the 4th Decr 1826 & Having received a Power from one of your Young Friend Mr Tho Stirling, (Darmouth [sic]) to act for Him in this Country, and observing in your Letter you say that are entitled [c.o.] to the Proceeds of the Purchase of Ardoch, I beg to inform you that I have remitted Him, Mr Thomas Stirling a Bill this Packet for £267. 14/2 Stg on account of that property, and trust I have done right in doing so, I shall how ever be obliged by a few lines from you on this Subject for my future guidance as one of the Gentlemen is out of the Kingdom, in the hope that you enjoy Health and with my best respects

I am respectfully
My dear Sir
very faithfully Yrs
Geo. F. Coward

Tho. G. Stirling Esq

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq
Airth Castle
[c.o. Falkirk
Stirlingshire]
N. Britton
Strowan
Crieff

Stamped: NOV 20 1827

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 148-149

Dartmouth Nov. 19. 1827

Devon

My Dear Airth

I am happy to say that Mr Coward has remitted me a bill of £267.14 Stg which although small, is acceptable & as he gives me every assurance of attending to our Interests in Jamaica The sum Currency was £450 Subject to a Premium of 20 pr Cent which reduced it to the above sum. My Brother has given Mr Hockin, Powers to act for him in his absence. Respecting the claim of Finlay's against the house of Angus there is something so singular that I shall give you Mr Coward's own words.

“The Demand which Mr Finlay had, or I may say imagined against the Estate of Angus was referred to Arbitrators who have now settled the accounts, but, instead of Angus owing him £2445 Currency, Finlay is indebted £48 to Angus's Estate, therefore this claim is at an end; but had it been established, you, as mortgagee had no claim in it, as it did not arise out of Ardoch Penn, but a part of his personal Estate & must have gone to his heir”. All this certainly appears extraordinary but I fancy we must take it for granted.

now as the Term is gone by. I shall look very anxiously for the Papers relative to my accounts being satisfactorily brought to an end & that you will be enabled according to your promise to see about these matters & get them finally settled. I need hardly tell you how much I have been harassed about these my accounts not being arranged. I know what the sum due to me by the Strowan Estate ought to be & indeed I have a pretty satisfactory account given me by Mr Robertson's chief Clerk dated Octr. 6th 1825. The error was not adding Mrs Dow's Life rented sum with Interest from Midsummer 1817 to the present term. I hope my dear Airth you understand this, & will be able to have the business brought to a termination with as little delay as possible.

I am happy to say Mrs Stirling is going on very well & we look for her confinement soon which we trust will be easy & happy. Our dear little Mary is in high Spirits, runs about fearlessly, & has cut ten teeth she is very healthy & intelligent. I shall teach her early to speak of Airth & the kind inmates of that sweet Domain. I sincerely hope you are all well it will please

me much to hear from you or your Sister Miss Jean with all your news & especially good accounts of yourself. We have not again heard from our Indian friends but we look daily for arrivals & we hope for interesting as well as favourable news of them all.

I rejoice at the destruction of the Turks⁸⁶⁷ & I hope not a Soldier of their Army will live to behold the Turkish shore again. Lady Codrington was on board I believe with her daughter what a dreadful day for them! Fears horrors & feelings of the deepest & most acute description must have alternately had place in their minds. Mr Hockin had one Son on the station the news of the Battle arrived on the Monday & we could have no further accounts on particulars till the arrival of the mail on Tuesday night at half past eight so the anxiety was extreme but it appeared his Ship the Dryad was not there at which circumstance I believe some of us were disappointed. I had a kind and valuable letter from Mrs Charles Stirling lately We regard her as a sincere & an affectionate friend. She has most cheerfully accepted our offer of Standing God Mother to our expected Baby.

I hope your Boys are well wherever they are are mention me kindly to them. What has been done for Capt. McDougal's son? I have heard nothing more of going to Sea & I hope not till my Wife be up & well but this stir may call some of us off.

In this little place we are necessarily very dull & we are delighted with a letter now & then so when you can find leisure to take up your Pen we shall be glad of your news, improvements & changes you have been making as I know you enjoy the fresh & open air. And especially do I expect to hear of my affairs being wound up for both our sakes.

Remember me very kindly to your Sisters & my Wife joins me in kindest Remembrances to yourself & to your Sisters & Believe me my dear friend Airth Yours ever very affectionately

Thomas Stirling

Will you be good enough to send me the head of the agreement of the Sale of Ardoch Penn between Finlay & us, as I do not know for what sum it was agreed to be sold exactly as there was a debt due to Finlay & a reduction granted. Please explain all these things in your next. Yours truly T.S.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
[c.o. Falkirk]
Strowan by Crieff

NB

Stamped: NOV 23 1827
NOV 24 1827
DARTMOUTH 213

MS. 10952 ff. 150-151

Dartmouth
Devon

March 7th 1828

My Dear Airth

Your Postscript to Miss Jane's letter gave me great satisfaction & I now feel much pleased at your having signed the Bond, as it [c.o.] is a most desirable business to have settled. John Dundas has not written to me on the subject as I had reason to expect he would. Regarding the Sword I shall claim it personally at the first opportunity. I thank you very sincerely for the letters procured for Sir John Malcolm⁸⁶⁸; I have not doubt they will prove highly useful in forwarding his present bright views. Mr & Mrs Hockin also have expressed themselves very grateful for the interest you have taken & I cannot help mentioning to you Mr Hoskin's deep feeling, in allusion to the very great kindness & marked attention his Son & Daughter have received in that distant Country, "I am no most truly humbled, for it is not in my power to make the slightest return". I daresay you have heard of Wm's appointment to the command of the 2d Extra Battalion

stationed at Surat, He seems much pleased with his command, particularly as it was conferred on him as an "Officer most meritorious & deserving". He has no Superior but the Commander in Chief & has the privilege of granting Promotion to all beneath him. The last letters were dated Octr. 6th all well, also, that Mr Hoskin's two Sons had gone against the Rajah of Collapore⁸⁶⁹.

I was glad to find you were continuing pretty well & still going about your fields. I should like to know how the Sea Dykes have stood this very stormy & rainy Season? It also gratified me much to know that Wm. Macdowall has been so well for I had feared much from the attacks he had had that he could not have been strong. I hope he will improve in health for his Wife & family's sake.

I am sorry you did not mention what you had said to Mr Coward as I have been intending to write to him. I am glad you have written him & I hope exhorted him to make good his Promises about Remittances but you will mention this in your next to me.

Mr Arthur Hunt⁸⁷⁰ a gentlemanly young man of most respectable family in this Town is travelling in your neighbourhood. I have taken the liberty of giving him a letter of Introduction to you being assured that accounts of us from one who has seen us so recently will not fail to afford you all some

interest. His stay will be very short & I know he will be greatly please with your Country side as well as with his treatment at your Board. I hope he will deliver his letter to you himself as it will afford us all here much pleasure to know all about you on his return. I shall feel truly obliged by any kindness you may show him. My Wife & Children⁸⁷¹ are quite well & I have never seen her so strong since our marriage & we have felt your kind enquiries. I am sorry to say Mrs Hockin has been very poorly these two months past & we hope is now getting better, she is still very weak. Remember me very kindly to your Sisters thank Miss Jane for her last letter. I shall write to her soon. Mrs Stirling unites with me in kind regards & best wishes to yourself & family hoping you will all keep well & believe me my dear Airth

Yours very sincerely

Thomas Stirling

Addressed: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

Stamped: MAR 10 1828

Letter from A.A. MacDougall to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 56-57

Hampden Falmouth
Jamaica 11th Mar. 1828

My Dear Sir

I have no doubt from your former Kindness to me last you will be happy to hear of my safe arrival here after a long and rough voyage of 8 weeks and 2 days during which we experienced some very severe weather indeed we were near 5 weeks in reaching Madeira latitude, we arrived at Rio Bueno on Saturday the 23^r. Feby. and on Sunday Morning came up with Capt. Alexander in the pinnace to Falmouth, about 8 in the Mornng. After my arrival there I dispatched a message to Mr Gunn at Hampden (8 miles) informing him of my arrival and requesting a conveyance he very kindly sent his servant with his gig and I arrived here fine in time for dinner. I delivered the letter of Introduction I received from Mr. Stirling of Cadder, and he has showed me every attention and kindness and I like him very much, It is Crop season since now and we are of course very busy, Our Sugar is most excellent, and I hear there is a good demand at home, Before I go farther I must mention then when I called at the house in Glasgow I delivered the note you gave me but they told me that Mr Stirling Cadder had written them that Mornng. that I was to go in the steerage, I said it must be a mistake, went out to

Cadder and saw Mrs Stirling who said it was a mistake and gave me a letter to the house ordering me a cabin passage Mrs Stirling gave me a present of very very good book, which along with those I recd. from your kind Sisters, I often read,

Mr Gunn informed me the usual salary for bookkeepers is from £60 to £70 Currency or £45 to £55 British I trust I shall soon be able to send home £20 or £25 to my Mother and family, and I can assure nothing will give me greater pleasure and Satisfaction.

From the little I have seen of this Country, I like it very much, and never had a headache or any sickness whatever since I entered warm latitudes, I have a good Constitution and I think will stand

the climate, I think you mentioned something to me of a pond that was near the house, there is a pond where there are a great number of teal and Duck, Mr Gunn shoots a good deal and is an excellent shot, paper and pens are scarce in this Country and dear also, therefore I hope your goodness will excuse this scrawl and the liberty I take in writing, I sincerely hope your own sister's health continue good and long may they, please present my best respects to them I can never forget their kindness and I beg leave to Subscribe myself your most obedient and

obliged humble servant
A.A. MacDougall⁸⁷²

P.S. I had near forgot that I was acquainted with your son, to whom please remember me kindly

addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr
of Airth & Strowan
Airth Castle
By Falkirk

Stamped: GREENOCK SHIP LETTER
MAY 13 1828

Letter from George Coward to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 f. 58

Islington Moneague Post Office
20 April 1828

Dear Sir

Your esteemed Favour dated the 5th February I have received, and agreeable shall remit all the Proceeds of Ardoch Penn to the young Gentleman as you advise and are much gratified my Conduct is pleasing to Mr. Alex Finlay as also Messrs Stirling. I shall endeavour to continue their esteem as I have no other Interest in View but to do all Parties justice, agreeable to your wish I enclose you abstract from James Andersons Will as of Record in our Office with Wills in this Island – I shall occasionally write you and if I Can be of service to yourself or any Friend of yours I am at your Command I am Dr Sir

with much respect
Yrs very faithfully
Geo. F. Coward

Thos. G. Stirling

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling Esq
Airth Castle
Falkirk
Stirlingshire

Stamped: JUNE 12 1828

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 f. 152

Shaws' Hotel⁸⁷³

May 1st 1828

My Dear Airth

I am here for a few days I propose running out on Saturday free Coach merely to see you for a day. I hope I shall find you all well. I spent a very pleasant afternoon at my old kind friend's Mrs Macdowall's it was delightful to meet so many of our own truly esteemed people. I have come to establish my Brother in Law young Hockin⁸⁷⁴ under Dr. Cullen. When we meet we shall have much to say

Good bye give my kindest regards to your Sisters & believe me

Yours very affectionately

Thomas Stirling

Addressed to:

Thomas Graham Stirling

Airth Castle

Falkirk

Stamped: MAY 1 1828

MS. 10952 ff. 154-155

Dartmouth

Devon

June 19th 1828

My Dear Airth

I received your joint letters with much satisfaction. You desire me to speak more explicitly about India. I have no idea of going so far from home, but I have a strong wish to be employed, & in order to that, I wrote yesterday to Lady Pulteney requesting her as her former applications proved unsuccessful, to renew her exertions in my favour. I have to request that you also would endeavour either by your own personal influence with Sir George Clark⁸⁷⁵ who seems to be the most active of the Duke's Council in the Admiralty, or by asking some of your friends who may have interest with men in office to procure some situation for me at home. I mentioned to her Ladyship an appointment in any of the Dock Yards, or the command of a

Cutter, several of which are stationed at each of the different Ports along the Coast & commanded by Lieutenants. Of course I should prefer the station on shore, but I hope you will not think I am asking too much in thus requesting you to ask so great a favour.

Believe me my dear Airth I am quite sensible of the difficulty of obtaining what I now ask as well as of the trouble I give you, but I need not assure you how very grateful I shall feel for your kindness, nor of what essential Service the success of your application will prove to me. Respecting our visit to Scotland we have not yet decided, the matter is now exceedingly unfavourable & Mr & Mrs Hockin are anxious for Mrs Stirling to delay the journey till she is stronger as they fear it would be too much for her at present. But should we go we shall be in Scotland about the middle of July & should you go to Buxton we shall be able to occupy our time very well until your return. We were glad to hear you were all continuing well & hope that Airthrie

Waters will prove as valuable as those of Buxtons & save you the troubles of the journey. Miss Jeanie kindly expressed an Interest in my Brother in law who by the advice of Professor

Christison⁸⁷⁶ & John Dundas will I believe be transferred to a Mr Syme⁸⁷⁷ with whom we trust he will do well. I was very sorry for poor Wm Cullen⁸⁷⁸, he had so kindly promised to bring forward young Hockin with all his influence & his unexpected death was really a shock to us all. His poor Wife is I understand in a very precarious state & indeed it is not to be wondered at considering the very melancholy way in which he was taken from her.

I have nothing [c.o.] more to say at present my dear Airth but I should be glad of an answer to this as soon as you have thought about it. If you think you can do any good & specify my name in full there being several of the name of Stirling on our list. The benefit it would be to me makes me earnest in my application & your writing, seconding Lady Pulteney we might succeed. My Wife unites with me in kindest regards to yourself & sister & believe me my dear friend

Yours very Sincerely
Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: JUN 22...
DARTMOUTH 213

MS. 10952 ff. 156-157

Dartmouth August 16th 1828
Devon

My Dear Airth

Your very kind letter of the 11th reached me yesterday & as you therein advised I have accordingly done. I have written a letter to Wilson Croker⁸⁷⁹ – the Public Secretary of the Admiralty requesting that he would that he would “Express to His Royal Highness my readiness to Serve & my anxious desire to be employed on a Foreign Station”. This, I believe is all that is necessary but I observe in this day's Courier a report of the Duke of Clarence having resigned, at all events I leave the matter to you and Mr Drummond & whatever becomes of it I shall feel very grateful for all your exertions. You will be good enough to express my thanks to him for his kindness.

Our letters from India have been very flattering & your letters to Sir J. Malcolm will, I have no doubt work their proper effects.

I hope you will enjoy your shooting campaigns with Willy & have much good sport & pleasant weather. I had anticipated some good coursing, of which I am very fond, this Season, in your Curses⁸⁸⁰ & Sea Greens where I have seen some good running but I hope the time is not far distant when that pleasure will be realised.

I thank Miss Jane for her kind letter & say I shall not fail to reply to it very soon. Your kind inquiries & good wishes have not been lost upon us. I heard from Mr Coward of date June 15th. He has sent home (as desired) our Account with Finlay the sum total due to us is £4660 Stg He has

effected some Sales & what with jobbing he means to make a remittance about the end of the year. Six per Cent Interest is included [c.o.]. The above Sum is only up to Sept. 1827 & with the years Intst. it will be nearly £5000 Stg. I wish we had it.

Mrs Stirling is well & my Bairns, but the Cold Rainy Weather keeps us all to the house. Our Crops are levelled & destroyed & I fear no weather would revive them. Our prospect is Wintry indeed

Remember me kindly to your Sisters & your Boys & my Wife unites with me in every good wish & kind feeling to you and all yours.

Let me hear soon it is a great pleasure I assure you & in the mean time Believe me

My dear Airth

Your very affectionate friend

Thomas Stirling

P.S. I think I should tell you that at Flushing⁸⁸¹ Commodore Owen⁸⁸² commanded the Flotilla as well and the Guard boats & the Boats appointed for that [torn]were ordered to repair on board the Clyde⁸⁸³ Frigate His Ship, at night, to receive instructions. I was in the Pinnace under a Lieut. The second night of Rowing Guard & on receiving our orders the Commodore promised that no officer who would capture any of the Enemies' boats would be overlooked. About an hour after quitting the Ship about ten oClock & a very dark night we saw a boat pretty close to us to which we directly gave chase, in a short time we captured her; she had a Lieut. de vaisseau⁸⁸⁴ with dispatches which he threw overboard on getting alongside I was the first to board, the boats were rolling a good deal from the Sea that was up & on jumping on board I jumped on the officer, pushed him to the bottom of the boat

of the boat, upset the Binnacle⁸⁸⁵ & otherwise made a great confusion & the officer thought he was going to be put to Death & he made great haste to deliver his Sword which was quickly received. They surrendered at once & I commanded the prize to the Clyde Frigate but the Commodore paid a few compliments & so it passed. When I was at Harve de Grace⁸⁸⁶ in 1825 I met an Officer so like the

above, at a Table d'Hote, that I asked him if he was the person so Captured, he replied he was not but he knew him well & remembered the Circumstances of his Capture.

Thos. Stirling

In chasing I kept my head over the quarter sometimes dipping in the water to keep sight of the Boat in the Horizon.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling
Strowan House
Crieff

NB

Stamped: AUG 17 1828
DARTMOUTH 213

MS. 10952 ff. 158-159

Dartmouth Sept. 25th 1828
Devon

My Dear Airth

Your very kind letter containing Sir E. Owen's⁸⁸⁷ letter, I replied to, in one to Miss Jane a short time ago. Sir Edward's authority is profound, which, of course you know, & I have now to request, if you have not already done so, that you will, through the Interest of your friends make exertions with Lord Melville⁸⁸⁸ on my behalf to get me employed in a foreign Station. I have little doubt of success & as my mind is quite made up, the sooner I am packed off the better. I am preparing my lessons by a few hours study every day for after having been ashore so many years (Since Sept. 1st 1815) I feel I have much reason to be industrious. As I am anxious to know what results take place from your applications in order to equip myself thoroughly & completely I should feel very grateful if you would write me as soon as anything has been determined upon or on receiving an answer whether satisfactory or not. The time is I think favourable Europe is far from

tranquil from the midst of as may conflicting Interests, One Firebrand might ignite the suppressed combustibles into a general conflagration, so, by being in the way at least, some good may be shared.

I hope you have by this time perfectly recovered your last Indisposition & been able to enjoy the pleasures of your beautiful countryside in all your wonted exercises at this season of the year. I do not despair of yet seeing you & sharing some of those sports in such good Company & I hope it will not be very long, that is to say, I trust I shall go off to Sea & speedily return with a Commander's Commission in my Pocket. I feel in requesting any favour of this kind from you I am not interfering with any of your friends of relative so I shall look forward for your entire support. James Stirling⁸⁸⁹ is the only one & from the state of his health & his feelings I should think he has no desire to serve again.

Mrs Stirling & our little ones are really quite well the latter have been in the Country these five weeks past & are now returned, this was a strong motive

to induce my Wife to take a daily ride.

I hope your lads are well & enjoying themselves wherever then are. Remember me to them very affectionately and I would desire to be remembered to your Sisters very kindly in which Mrs Stirling warmly joins & receive our united thanks & good wishes & believe me

My Dear Airth

very faithfully your Friend

Thomas Stirling

We have had long letters from India all well

Wm is still Governor of Serat [sic]

T.S.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Strowan House
Creiff

NB

Stamped: SEP 28 1828
DARTMOUTH 213

MS. 10952 ff. 160-163

[note at the top in another hand: Wrote Ld. Melville – Feby 17th 1829]

Dartmouth Feby 10th 1829
Devon

My Dear Airth

Your Sister's kind letter with all your good wishes & congratulations on the recent addition⁸⁹⁰ to my family I duly received. We return you our sincere thanks & I am happy to say that my Wife & her little Pet & the two others are all doing well the farmer [sic] has been out a little way on horseback. I was glad to hear you had got over your attack & I hope that as the weather has now changed to Spring (at least with us) you will keep clear of any more for the present. I regret to hear Miss Graham suffers so much particularly as nothing can be done to relieve the pain. I read in the Papers of a Mrs Erskine & Sister having crossed over to Boulogne in one of the late Gales to visit a friend at the point of death. I thought it might be Wm Stirling & I heard nothing more of it till Miss Jeany's letter mentioned Mrs Wm Stirling's⁸⁹¹ sad illness. Wm Macdowell⁸⁹² has not yet answered my letter announcing the birth of my little Boy for whom he was to be God Father & I feared he also had been ill. It was our intention to have Christened our little Fellow

“William” but it was Mrs Hockin's great wish that he should be named after her Son who died in India [illeg.] on the 4th the Ceremony was performed & the name Waite⁸⁹³ Hockin given to him, much to the satisfaction of all our Circle here. Mr & Mrs Hockin have this day set off for London for another lad of Sixteen for Bombay⁸⁹⁴, he has been at Addiscombe College these two years and certainly goes out with many advantages Capt. Hine of the Atlas, his Uncle, takes him out, it was he who took out William & his Wife this time two years. We have not heard from India for a long time & I see the death of Sir Thos. Bradford mentioned; our party was well when we heard.

On the 7th of January Mr Coward sent a bill for £147.14 Stg but I am sorry to say it has not been accepted. I accordingly send out a Protest immediately, but as the bill was not due till 90 days after sight we are in hopes that it [c.o.] may yet be honored.

Miss Jeany mentioned your kind intention of again Brogging⁸⁹⁵ Lord Melville when you are able I shall certainly feel very grateful for your exertions in my favour but if you could succeed according to my

wishes, I should be truly delighted. I should prefer having a separate Command, such as a Cutter on the Channel Station rather to going abroad for seven years with no hope of profit & all the doubtfulness of ever being promoted. The Arrow⁸⁹⁶ Cutter is commanded by a Lieut⁸⁹⁷, an inhabitant of this Town & his Wife & family reside here. She is on the Portsmouth Station. He has been successful in picking up a Smuggler or two & his time of service expires in six weeks I believe at which time Lieut. Brooking the Commander of the Cutter expects promotion. I wish you to apply for me for the Arrow Cutter or some such vessel that may not be altogether removed from my family. Indeed Capt. Hine who was here lately on a visit & dining with me, said, that men that he knew with not one fifteenth part of the Interest that I had, managed to get what they wanted, so, I hope, if it be for my good, temporary or ultimately that your interest will not be exerted in vain. You may state the circumstance of my leg having been injured in the service⁸⁹⁸ & with having been with Capt. Duncan three years &c &c. I am sure you will perfectly understand me at all events any employment that may lead to my [c.o.] promotion will be desirable. I again beg to thank Miss Jane for her affectionate & friendly letter & hoping soon to

have good & favourable accounts of Miss Graham & of you all indeed with Mrs Stirling's & my own kind Compliments & thanks for your good wished towards her Believe me to remain

My Dear Airth

Yours very truly & affectionately

Thomas Stirling

Kind Remembrances to your young men.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling
Airth Castle
Falkirk

Stamped: 13 FEB.....

MS. 10952 ff. 164-166

Dartmouth
Devon

March 25th 1829

My Dear Airth

I received with much pleasure your very kind letters with the copy of his Lordship which I assure you has strengthened my hopes very considerably. Whether Successful or not, I feel much indebted for the interest you have exerted, & now as the time approaches (the Arrow being to be paid off on the 5th April) I feel a good deal of anxiety ab[illeg.] result. My little ones are quite well but my Wife has been very weak these some days past. The weather is cold, with an easterly Wind & we hope ere long with a changing wind she will improve. A trip to Scotland or France would do her great good I am very sure. Your alarm must have been great during the fire & indeed I should have been very sorry if [illeg.] have heard of your beautiful Castle being destroyed. I hope your Sisters are quite well notwithstanding the fright & the fatigue consequent on such such an occasion. Remember me in the kindest manner to them both

& thank Miss Jeany for her affectionate letter containing so much family news. Poor Mrs Wm. Stirling⁸⁹⁹ I cannot help feeling a warm interest in her & in her husband for during my stay with them in the Summer of 1821 I bore witness to their worth & to the goodness of their characters; their daily example of Christian duties left, I trust an [c.o.] impression on my mind which will never be removed. I shall be particularly gratified & no doubt edified by a faithful account of her end which had been so soon expected, when Miss Jeany will take the trouble to write to me. I hope Miss Graham's pains are past with the fast approaching Spring which is warmer & nearer than with us I understand. I had a very kind & friendly letter from Mrs Charles Stirling lately & was glad to find they were so well. We had also very pleasing letters from India yesterday & were about to proceed [c.o. from] to Poonah from Surat.

I hope your lads are well I see a Smack has been run down with an Officer going to join

his Regiment at Glasgow I thought at first it might have been the gallant Ensign⁹⁰⁰ (to whom remember me very affectionately) but the details did not accord with the time appointed for him to join at Paisley. I hope your improvements are going on to your satisfaction & indeed I look forward to see the Pow⁹⁰¹ (the river I mean) conveyed a long way from the back of the house by resiting to straight line for the channel & filling up the present channel with the earth & materials of the new. I trust my wife will live to see your beautiful place & picture with the beautiful "Frame of hills" & not long ere it be. I dont know if you can do anything more in the way of application for me. Indeed I trust entirely to yourself, if you think his Lordship with really prove sincere then probably wi[illeg.] be no use in enforcing the application by fresh demands. Mr [c.o. Clark] Hepburn of

Clerkington⁹⁰² is living in our neighbourhood, he dined with me a few days ago & had been private Secretary to the late Lord Melville it appears He knows your & all your numerous family. Mention him in your next. Should I not get the Arrow I hope

I shall get something else in the same line when you must be prepared to make a new & strong application (by the bye have you purchased the Estate of Cultibraggan⁹⁰³ from his Lordship?) I trust you are quite well My Wife who speaks much & often about Scotland will be delighted to have a peep of Airth Castle some day. In the mean time believe me my dear Airth with affectionate feelings towards you all Yours very truly

Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: MAR 28...

MS. 10952 ff. 168-169

Dartmouth April 2d 1829
Devon

My Dear Airth

The only reason I have to offer for troubling you so soon again about myself, is, that since writing you I have seen Coll. Hepburn, who, having been Private Secretary to the last Lord Melville & being intimate with the present Family, I asked him to apply for me, hoping, that by his personal influence with his Lordship he might succeed in procuring for me the Cutter so much the object of my Wishes. I shewed him Ld. Melville's reply to your application, on which he promised to write immediately. He did so, both to his Lordship & to his Son Capt. Dundas who is his Secretary. By return of Post he received the following answer

My Dear Mr Hepburn/ Lieut. Stirling's name is upon my Father's list of Candidates for the Command of a Cutter, but I fear there is not much chance of his receiving an appointment to the Arrow. There are a great many applications for that kind of Command & not a few from Officers much Senior to him whose Claims upon the Admiralty are Strong. I shall be happy whenever there is an opportunity, to serve him

I remain yours very truly R.S. Dundas⁹⁰⁴. Signed

Col. Hepburn writes the following/ My Dear Stirling

I send you the enclosed, which I received last night.. I would recommend you get Mr Graham to write to Mr Downie to back your object with Ld. Melville Yours Sincy Robt. Hepburn.

Now, my Dear Airth I think it right you should be apprised of this, therefore have copied it & must now leave you to your own judgement, only perhaps, now that we have commenced applying the stronger the exertions that are made the better.

The Hepburns live at Brixham about 4 miles from this place. I visited them a few days ago I should think you knew them very well Mrs H. & Daughter are great Invalids. I met a Sister at the Dundases last year, she who so lately caught the epidemic on leaving their house. She mentioned

that she remembered meeting me last year in her letter. The Coll. mentioned to me that motives of economy had induced him to come to this part of the Country for a year or two.

The Weather has been dreadfully cold & continues, & although the Sun is bright, my Cloak is quite agreeable.

My Wife is a great Invalid she suffers much from nursing & is recovering from a very badly swelled face having caught cold. Our little ones are quite well & thriving & take a long daily airing. I hope you are all well & shall look for accounts in due

time from Miss Jeany with her usual kindness. We have had long letters from India, all well, they were going to Bombay in Nov. last on their way to Poonah. The Catholics have gained the day⁹⁰⁵ I do not know how you bear it in Scotland?

I shall be much pleased to hear from you, with particular remembrances from myself & Mrs Stirling to your Self Sisters & your men

I am my Dear Airth

Yours very truly

Thomas Stirling.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

Stamped: 5 APR 1829
DARTMOUTH 213

MS. 10952 ff. 112-113

No 1 Thistle Court [Edinburgh]

My Dear Airth

I am sorry to tell you Mr Coward is dead! & it appears died in August & no account has yet reached me. Mr Archd. Stirling mentioned it as a thing certain & that he had known by the last Packet.

The Packet due has not yet arrived & of course we know nothing about how we stand, but the money he had promised to send by the Augt. Packet I suppose will not now be forthcoming which will be a very great drawback as well as a sad disappointment to me. John Dundas has advised me to write to you for all Finlay's & Coward's letters respecting the Penn with any Power of Attorney or deed of Sale or agreement about it or any document that may put us in full possession how the matter stands.

Mr Ad. & Chas. Stirling are interesting themselves much about it the latter said to day he would stay a few days longer in Town to assist me all in his power & he has written to Mr Alex. Finlay inviting him to Town to have an Interview with us. To day Dr. Moodie⁹⁰⁶ dines in Drummond Place with me to give us every information, What it is to do business with Gentlemen!! Send them letter & papers with no delay as possible. I hope you are very well & your Sisters. We are here pretty well. It is now five o'clock. Good bye

Yours most truly

Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: T.G. Stirling Esq.

Strowan House
Crieff

Stamped: OCT 27 182..[9] [Date on side 1827 [sic error for 1829]]

MS. 10952 ff. 170-171

6 St. Andrews Square⁹⁰⁷
Edinburgh

My Dear Airth

I received your very friendly letter this morning mentioning your intention of going to Airth for the purpose of looking the Jamaica Papers out, in consequence of my letter mentioning Mr Coward's death, & our proposed Interview with Mr Alex. Finlay. I am truly sorry that you should quit Strowan on that account & as the papers I spoke of will not at this present moment be wanted. But when found forward them to Mr John Dundas that I may see them lest I should determine to stay a few days longer in Town. I think my latest will be Friday morning at 8 O'clock when I start for Manchester. Mr Alex. Finlay appeared on Saturday when the subject was fully discussed & my proposition was, would he consent to surrender his claims as Heir to the Penn seeing that so long time had passed since it was sold & the Interest of the Purchase money had not ever been [c.o.] paid & also seeing that we had a mortgage over the Freehold negroes & Stock. He replied that he could gain every thing by keeping the property & lose nothing by it!!! This is a great mistake & would be most aboared [sic] to suffer, that by having qualified as heir could sit down harmless & without risk to enjoy all the good & suffer no evil whilst we the Creditors were to run all risks & suffer all the evil that might arise. The Law as stated by Dr Mudie who was present, & an old experienced Attorney for Estates, as well as Mr Archd. & Mr Chas. Stirling is that when an heir qualifies he becomes liable in his whole Property for the payment of the Debts. This he disputed but afterwards seemed to yield considerably desiring time to hear from Jamaica before he could answer the Particular situation of affairs [unclear]

granted & by the recommendation of Mr Archd. Stirling I have sent out a Power of Attorney to Mr Alex. Forsyth, Frontier St Mary's to look after my Interests in Jamaica & who is Mr Stirling's Attorney there; so it is likely that affairs may be put into better train & that we may expect to hear better accounts than we have hitherto done. I cannot help feeling it a most providential circumstance that it happened when I was in Town & when two such Gentlemen as Mr A & C. Stirling were also on the spot. It has saved a great deal of trouble & indeed a trip to Scotland with all its inconveniences. I feel much indebted indeed for the Interest you have all taken in my affairs & if this affair terminate as I hope & expect it will now I shall have great reason to rejoice that I came to Scotland independently of all other considerations. Mr A. Stirling said if Mr Finlay were an honest man he would relinquish all claims at once & to day Mr. S. expressed some surprise at his great wish to retain his hold on the Property. Mr Coward in a letter to me assured me that he had mortgaged the Penn & properly registered it in the Books of the Island.

We dine at the Dundas's to day & as John Dundas is drawing out the Power of Attorney which must go to day to save the Packet I shall see him & instruct him to take care of all Papers you may send him relative to the Penn. I think he says you have them all as well as his letters of agreement concerning the Sale. Wm. Macdowall is I fear far from well but if they can get him moved he may get a little better. My little Girl⁹⁰⁸ is not well having caught a bad cold with

a good deal of fever but we hope before Friday morning she will be quite well for our long journey. I sincerely hope you are now free from your headaches & are quite well & that your Sisters are also as well as they can expect to be if they are not quite well. Remember us most kindly to your lads when you write we were much pleased with William he is a fine manly fellow & we regretted having seen so little of Tom & nothing of Carolus. My Wife unites with me in every good wish & sends her kindest regards & desires me to thank you for all the kindness she received but particularly for the present you kindly made to the little ones.

Good bye my Dear Airth

Believe me

most truly

Your very Sincere friend

Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thos. G. Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

Stamped: NOV 2 1829

MS. 10952 ff. 172-173

Dartmouth Novr. 17th 1829

My Dear Airth

I am happy to inform you of our safe arrival at our own home after so long an absence & so long a journey. We left Edinburgh Saturday morning the 7th Slept at Carlisle started at 5 O'clock morning for Manchester which place we reached at ½ past eight. Set off at 7 next morning for Birmingham arriving there about eight. Set out the following morning at seven for Bristol got there about eight at night. Went off again for Exeter at nine, reaching it at eight Slept soundly as you will imagine & set off for Totnes at eight got there at 11 O'clock & found Boats in waiting to take us to Dartmouth where we arrived at ½ past one Thursday finding our friends remarkably well & much surprised at so speedy an arrival. We were not in the least fatigued & the Children looking well & very happy & upon the whole we had a very delightful journey with beautiful weather

We travelled through a great deal of very beautiful country & the farmers were everywhere very busy but we saw nothing to be compared to the Banks of the River Dart for at this Season the varied tints of the trees with the fields as green & as fresh looking as in Spring really made it a most pleasing finish to our travels. We met [c.o.] no mishaps, save at Exeter we lost two Umbrellas & a Parasol in the confusion of unloading in the Dark & in the midst of a Crowd. Our companion was generally agreeable for we always had somebody although the sight of Children made them look a little greenish at first. Our whole distance was 513 miles which in five days & a half was very well.

I have had a letter from Dr. Coward (Mr Coward's son) dated Sept. 5th in which he says "Ardoch Penn is in the possession of Mr Bullock as surviving Executor of the late Mr Finlay; all the Papers relating to the affairs of the Property in my Father's possession at the time of his death are in my hands. I shall endeavour as speedily as possible to make out a fair statement of the Acct. Curt. & hand it with all the papers over to Mr Bullock as my undivided attention

is demanded by other avocations in this town.”

Signed George Scott Coward

I have also heard from Mrs Fergus who says I wrote my Solicitor to search the Record office to know if Mr Finlay had granted you a mortgage on Ardoch Penn by way of Securing Payment of the same, but it appears there is no mortgage on Record but that there is a Power on Record from T.G. Stirling &c &c to G.T. Coward & Jn. Finlay to sell Ardoch Penn Slaves &c &c for our Benefit”.

I suspect Mr Coward must have been playing the rogue as it appears the Power I send him from this place is defective & I should think he must have known it.

I dont know whether Mr Finlay wrote to say he had [c.o.] had the mortgage recorded or not, if so he must indeed have been a complete rogue. “ Report says Mr Coward died of a Broken heart his affairs were in confusion & he had lost the whole of his Sugar Estate & 35 Slaves off his Penn besides”. I fear, my Dear Airth, we stand Badly if all this be true & it may be some time before we can get correct information & very little chance I think of recovering anything. It is to be a severe loss with my increasing family & I must just entreat you to renew your application in my behalf with your most influential friends; & if I fail

in that too, I must think of beginning farming in some corner of your beautiful hill of Airth where some years ago we had such a thing in contemplation with your Overseer to superintend but I hope you will be able to find Sir A. Edmonstone⁹⁰⁹ & make him write. I cannot think enough of your going to Airth purposely to look for Jamaica Papers. It was indeed a most friendly act but John Dundas thinks you have all the Papers. The principal one is

I think wherein Mr Coward mentions the mortgage being recorded to secure payment. John Dundas had made out a Power for Mr Alex. Forsyth to act but he did not bring it to me before I set off & I do not know what he has done about it. My Wife unites with me in kindest remembrances to yourself your Sisters & your Boys & hoping to hear soon from you

Believe me yours very affectionately
Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Strowan
Crieff

Stamped: 18 NOV 1829
DARTMOUTH 213

[noted in another hand: Strowan & leaving no recid Nov. 20 recorded 21 [unclear]]

Messrs. Duncan Dare & Stevenson to William Bullock re Ardoch Pen

MS. 10952 f. 60?

William Bullock Esq

Spa Town 15th March 1830

Dear Sir,

Mr Alexander Forsyth of Frontier Estate in the parish of Saint Mary having received a power of

Attorney on behalf of the Messrs Stirling the Mortgagees of Ardoch penn, the property of the late David Finlay, has requested us to address to you a few lines on the subject of their claim.

We have made the necessary Searches into the situation of the property and find that the Conveyance of Ardoch to Mr Finlay as well as the Mortgage thereon and the slaves and Stock are duly recorded and we are also aware that Mr Alexander Finlay the residuary Devisee of Mr David Finlay is represented in this Island by Mr Joseph London, who however has not been let into possession of the property which is still in your hands as the surviving qualified Executor of Finlay – We have therefore to request to be informed whether you consider yourself authorised to deliver up possession of Ardoch and the Slaves and Stock to Mr Alexander Forsyth on behalf of the Mortgagees or whether it will be necessary for him to adopt such proceedings on their behalf as he may be advised are necessary to protect the Interests of his Constituents.

Mr Forsyth should also be obliged by your furnishing him with a copy of your Account with Ardoch penn Dr Coward having already furnished a Copy of his fathers Account with the property to the time of his death.

We are &c
(Signed) D. D. & S

Messrs &c

William Bullock to Duncan Dare & Stevenson re Ardoch Pen

MS. 10952 f. 61

Messrs Duncan Dare & Stevenson

24th March 1830

Dear Sirs,

I only received you letter of the 15th Inst upon my return to this place yesterday.

I certainly cannot feel myself authorised to give up possession of Ardoch pen either to the representative of Messrs Stirling or to that of the residuary Devisee, But from what I can learn, I think there is a very great chance of Mr. Gordon and Mr. Forsyth coming to an amicable arrangement on the subject and I shall be most ready to afford every facility to any plan by which the interests of all parties may be best consulted. For this purpose I shall forward to Mr Gordon and Mr Forsyth copies of the outstanding demands against Finlays Estate and also in regard to what may be expected from the property during the present year.

My only object in qualifying as Finlays Executor was for the purpose of endeavouring to secure to his sisters the Legacies devised to them by his will.

I am &c
(Signed) Wm Bullock

Ardoch Pen To George F. Coward Exor of D. Finlay Dr
[from January 1827 – not transcribed except for few items of particular interest viz:
June 1828 paid John Pollard Salary as overseer £157.3..
Sept 12 1828 paid Andrew McKenzie Salary as Overseer to the 31st December 1828 £120
Commission on £2040.3.5 Amount of rents & profits credited P Contra @ 6 P Cent £122.8.0
Less one Moiety 61.4.0
Balance due by G.F. Coward £2040.3.5

Messrs Stirling

1826

To George F. Coward

Dr.

To Commission on £3298.10.4 being the balance in Account Current with D. Finlay and on £506.1.4 amount of James Laing and George William Hamilton's bill on Davidson Barclay & Co. remitted to you and written off the bond of the said D. Finlay as a payment on account of the purchase money of Ardoch Penn..... £228.5.6

Account Current with George F. Coward Exor of David Finlay
[not transcribed]

Cr.

£2040.3.5

Balance brought down 677.12.3 $\frac{3}{4}$

The Above is a full & true copy of the originals send me

Alex Forsyth

William Bullock to Alexander Forsyth re Ardoch Pen

MS. 10952 ff. 62-63

March 27 1830

Sir,

Since I had the pleasure of seeing you in Spanish Town I have visited Phoenix Park for the purpose of furnishing you such information as may guide your proceedings as the Attorney to Messrs Stirling with respect to Ardoch Pen, But Mr Lennox being very much indisposed I cannot furnish you with such a detailed Statement as I would wish. I understand you are in possession of an Account of the late Mr Coward with his trust-property by which it appears there is a balance due to Finlays Estate of [blank]

I now enclose the Crop account of last year. Mr Cox has given an order for £150 and I had supposed that the Money due from Carlton Estate was equally tangible, but I find that Messrs. Regaud have a demand against Ardoch for £110.7.8 $\frac{1}{2}$ and those Gentlemen set up some claim of an agreement with the late Mr Coward which may retard the settlement of the balance. All the other sums with the exception of £396 which form a part of Mr Cowards account will be paid before August.

You will observe that the Public Sale at the Moneague is a diminutions of the Capital I only notice this circumstance in order that the amount of the Crop Account may not deceive you in your future expectations. -

I also enclose a Statement of what may be expected from Ardoch during the present year with the supposed Contingencies. Mr Lennox does not think that the Sale of Cattle in the next Year what he proposes to dispose of during the present and the amount of Jobbing will depend very much on Mr McDonald continuing to employ a part of the Ardoch Negroes after the present Year.

I send a Statement of an Account between the Trustees of the late Sir Thomas Stirling and Mrs Fergus – I had supposed that the last Mr Finlay had assumed this debt but Mrs Fergus denies it; And as I see no traces of such assumption in the papers which have come to my hands I think it would be prudent that she should be paid as she is the Mother of the late proprietors of the Pen. -

There are several Claims against Finlay's Estate some of which I cannot particularize at the moment but I enclose a rough Statement of them.

I have received a letter from your Solicitors desiring to be informed whether I am prepared to give up possession of Ardoch Pen to Messrs Stirling Attorney I replied to them certainly not! At the same time I shall be most ready to facilitate any arrangements by which the Common Interest of all parties may be best conserved and [unclear] may be able to suggest some plan to your Constituents

which may prevent litigation and the consequent ruin of the pen. -

My sole and only motive in Consenting to act under Mr Finlay's Will was in order to protect the rights of his sisters and shall steadily pursue that object as far as it may be consistent with equity and justice -

I presume You will be of Opinion that all debts against Finlay's property should be discharged as soon as possible and if you can take away any of the Cattle it would have Cost benefit to the property -

I am
Sir, your Obedient Servant
(Signed) Wm Bullock

Account of Sales Rents Profits and Produce of Ardoch Pen during the year 1829
[not transcribed]

£1678.5.8

Jamaica SS

Personally appeared before me Mr Andrew McKenzie Overseer of Ardoch Pen in the Parish of Saint Ann who being duly Sworn maketh oath and saith, that above is set forth a just and true account of the Rents Profits Produce and Proceeds of said Pen from 1st day of January to the thirty first day of December One thousand eight hundred and twenty nine

So help me God
(signed Andrew McKenzie)

Sworn before me this 15 day of march 1830
(Signed) David Brydon

Account of Stock &c upon Ardoch Pen that will come in for Sale during the present year 1830, As also an Account of Jobbing labour expected during the same period. -
[not transcribed]

£1440 . .

Supposed Contingencies of the above pen for the Year 1830

[not transcribed] £496.8.

Dr. Increase and Decrease of Horned Stock upon Ardoch Pen during the year 1829
[not transcribed]

The Above is a full and true Copy of the original sent me
Alex. Forsyth

Addressed to: Archibald Stirling Esqr.
Post Office
Harrowgate
Yorkshire

Stamped: DARTMOUTH 213

Duncan Dare & Stevenson to Alexander Forsyth re Ardoch Pen

MS. 10952 f. 59?

Alexander Forsyth Esqre.
Frontier Estate
Port Maria

Spanish Town April 2nd 1830

Dear Sir,

On the 15th ultimo we wrote to Mr Bullock the surviving Executor of the late Mr David Finlay on the subject of Ardoch pen of which letter we beg to annex a Copy, as well as of Mr Bullocks answer in order that you may be fully informed of that Gentleman's sentiments on the subject

Until the receipt of Mr Bullocks letter we were not aware that any amicable arrangement was in contemplation between Mr Gordon and yourself but if you can without prejudice to the rights of the Mortgagees which you are aware are prior to all other claims, to make a compromise with Mr Gordon on behalf of the residuary Devisee of David Finlay, we would recommend you to do so but we must at the same time observe that neither Mr Alexander Finlay or the sisters of the Testator should in our opinion be allowed any compensation for their rights which considering the magnitude of the Mortgage deed are altogether imaginary. -

We enclose Copies of the accounts of the late Mr Coward as Executor of Finlay with the real Estate of his testator as well as the claim for Commissions against the Mortgagees

The accounts have been handed to us by Dr Coward his late fathers Executor and are made up as correctly as he has at present been able to state them but as some alteration may be necessary he states that they were merely sent for your satisfaction and are not to be taken as actually conclusive..

We are respectfully
Dear Sir
Your Mo: obtt. Servts
(signed) Duncan Dare & Stevenson

William Bullock to Alexander Forsyth re Ardoch Pen

MS. 10952 f. 59?

[torn]

Spanish Town 3rd April 1830

Sirs,

I have received your Letter of 31st Ultimo. I had supposed from a Letter which your Solicitors wrote to me that you were in possession of Mr Cowards Accounts. I now enclose Copies of them for your information.

In looking over Mr Cowards Papers I am rather inclined to think that the Settlement of Mrs Fergus's claim was assumed by Finlay and credited to him by Messrs Stirling in the Purchase Money of Ardoch. This Account & have never seen and of course have nothing to do with But it requires some caution as to paying Mrs Fergus

I am Sir
Your Obedient Servant
(Signed) W. Bullock

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 174-175

It is Lt. Joseph Stirling who is appointed but I hope soon to say my own name Gazetted.

Dartmouth May 11th 1830
Devon

My Dear Airth

Your letter of the 7th has duly reached me & I cannot sufficiently express what I feel for your kind intention of going to Edinburgh to be harassed with my unpleasant business. It certainly is most extraordinary that the mortgage should have stood in your name; & I agree with you in thinking it more regular to transfer the mortgage to me so as to render my Power sufficient for every purpose. But as you propose requesting Mr A. Stirling's attendance & I have no doubt from the unqualified offer of his services repeatedly made to me, that he will meet you, you will with his advice be better enabled to judge & to act in the matter. Respecting Mr A. Finlay, we should be glad to receive payment of Instalments & Interest from him with [unclear: proper] Security

for the remaining Principal, if he would do that, for we can have no desire to regain the property further than to secure the debts which we have been so long & so anxiously looking for. I hope Mr Stirling & yourself will be able to come to some arrangement of this kind with Mr Finlay & I should mention that a friend of mine who waited on Mr Bullock towards the end of last year was told by Mr B. that he had upwards of a thousand Pounds in his hands belonging to Ardoch but did not know to whom it was to be paid till a Power of Attorney should arrive from me or from Mr Finlay. We do not want the Estate back if we could secure ready payment of the debt as the term is expired for the payment of Instalments by the Contract entered into Jan'y 1824. I again repeat if you can enter into a fair & equitable arrangement with Mr A. Finlay respecting the payment of the debt I shall be very glad, & the sooner the better. However let me hear from you what you have done & especially about the transfer of the mortgage from your name as I wish to give Mr Forsyth

the earliest information on that subject. Perhaps you had better write to Mr Forsyth yourself with a full explanation, which may be the means of saving time & of forwarding the completion of the business for it is really a harassing & a vexatious thing to be looking anxiously for the Packet & to find after some suspense & impatience that the business rests where it was or to find fresh obstacles starting up before your face.

I am glad you have heard so satisfactorily from Sir A. Edmonstone & I hope I shall soon obtain my wishes, but promotion is now three removes more distant by the late regulation viz one Promotion for 3 vacancies. At all events if a man does not try he cannot expect. It was a saying of poor Charles's "Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he will not be disappointed!" Poor Mrs Stirling⁹¹⁰! Although happily released from her trials it must be a sore trial to poor William I remember them with much affection. Who is Mrs Wilson a Widow & her niece who took such and Interest in Wm & his poor wife? My wife & Bairns are all very well and enjoying this beautifull country at this season. My little garden is glowing

I hope your garden is progressing I shall be delighted to hear all your Improvements & when next I visit Scotland I shall no doubt have much to admire. I am sorry Miss Jeanie has been such a sufferer & I hope Miss Graham is really much better. My Wife unites with me in every good

wish for you & your family to whom we desire to be most kindly remembered

Believe me my dear Airth

Yours very truly

Thomas Stirling

P.S. How is Mrs J. Dundas⁹¹¹ getting on any symptoms of a family? Answer this. We are all sorry for the provoking.

Addressed to: T.G. Stirling Esqr.
Of Airth
[c.o. Care of Mr John Dundas
St. Andrew's Square
Edinburgh]
Falkirk

Stamped: MAY...1830
DARTMOUTH 213

MS. 10952 ff. 178-179

Dartmouth May 17th 1830
Devon

My Dear Airth

Yours of May 12th from Edinburgh reached me yesterday & I am well pleased with the decided steps you have taken, although I hope we shall have no occasion to proceed to extremes with Finlay. At our meeting in Oct. last Finlay said the "he would not give back the Estate as he had every thing to gain & nothing to lose". Being quite ignorant of the consequences of having qualified as heir & I assure you I felt it as a most insulting speech, particularly under all the circumstances of delay nonfulfillment of Contract &&

I asked Mr Hockin the questions you wished to have answered & after reading your letter twice over with attention he said, "I shall be in Edinburgh myself in a fortnight & then I shall be able to answer them".

You are aware that young Hockin has been behaving exceedingly ill & it is on his account that the father is going to Scotland. I shall give him a few lines to you & I am sure you will use him kindly. It is probable that you will be at Airth then where he may go to see you, & as his time will be very limited you can one day shew him your beautiful place & all your improvements & the next go to

Stirling & shew him the view from the Castle & if you can, go to Craigforth⁹¹²: Mr Hockin is a man of great taste he will enjoy all these scenes with great delight for he says [c.o. if] we have no such views or beauties or places in Scotland as around Dartmouth. Mr H. is too well aware of his Son's bad conduct & too much a man of the world to feel hurt at his not accompanying him & you need not speak of him, but I do hope you will have an opportunity of shewing him the Lions at & around Airth You will find him a very plain but well informed man on Country matters &c And he may assist you in any doubts concerning my affairs should Finlay be obstinate. But should you require an immediate answer I can press him to think of it at once & decide.

I had written to poor Mr Chas. Stirling⁹¹³ a fortnight before his death to know whether we should proceed at once against Finlay for the recovery of the Estate; the time for the completion of the Contract having expired. His answer reached me Jan'y 25th saying "You had better not be hasty in proceeding against Mr A Finlay as I am fully satisfied he means to act honourably". This I may quote for your information & I hope Finlay will act honourably & save us further trouble.

I cannot sufficiently say how much I feel your kindness & I leave the matter entirely in your hands to settle

with the advice of those kind friends Mr Arcd. Stirling & Dr Mudie. Should my presence be required I shall lose no time in starting, but I trust that an adjustment of the whole concern will be made so as to preclude the necessity of my taking such a journey. Indeed I should accompany Mr Hockin. I should like to write to Mr Forsyth by the first Packet if you can give me any official instructions to communicate before that. But take time & let all be done properly & correctly. I shall look anxiously for Finlay's answer to yours as a good deal depends on it. I wrote you by the return of Post to St. Andrews Square which letter I hope you got.

I hope you are quite well & your Boys kindest remembrances to them & your Sisters. My Wife has been suffering from tooth ache these few days past but I think is now better. Remember me to Mr & Mrs John Dundas most particularly & all my kind friends in Town. My Wife joins me in grateful feelings for your kindness & my little ones are pretty well. Mrs Hockin is again a great invalid having been confined to her room this fortnight past Inflammation of the Chest & Windpipe. May God bless you my Dear Airth

Believe me Yours very Sincerely

Thomas Stirling

P.S. Had Sir A. Edmonstone heard from Sir H. Hotham^{914?}

Addressed: T.G. Stirling Esqr.
Of Airth
[added in another hand: Falkirk]
[c.o. Care of John Dundas Esqr W.S.
St. Andrew Square
Edinburgh]

Stamped: POSTAGE TO EDINBURGH NOT PAID
DARTMOUTH 213
20 MAY 1830

[noted in another hand: Tom Stirling
Answd. [unclear] May 26th 1830]

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Archibald Stirling

MS. 10952 f. 64

My Dear Sir

The following is a Copy of Dr. Coward's letter accompanying Accounts which I do not understand. When you have read over all the Papers I shall be most happy to hear from you with your advice; I heard from Mr Graham yesterday who had had from A. Finlay, who, after apologising for not coming to Town says "I may state in general however that Mr Bullock's taking possession of Ardoch is his own voluntary act, & that he is accountable to the Messrs Stirling for every thing he has received from the Penn. I rather think there is a considerable sum in his hands at present & Mr T. Stirling had better write him to remit the same to him or dispose of it as he may deem right". The Papers just arrived throw fresh light on Mr Bullock's proceedings & intentions. I submit to your advice & judgement implicitly & it would be a most desirable event to have this

vexatious business terminated. I hope you will be a[torn] to persuade Finlay to give up the property as we feel our case is indeed a [torn] one.

Mr Coward writes "Sir I have now the satisfaction of sending you an account of my Father's transactions with Ardoch Penn & one with yourself & Brother for a settlement of certain [torn]ums stated therein effected before the death of Mr Finlay. The accounts have been kept separate because in the management of Ardoch my Father appears to have acted at Executor of Finlay

& the account with yourself has arisen in consequence of a Power to convey the property &c with an authority to admit a Balance that was in Mr Finlay's favour as a part of the Purchase money. I have furnished your Attorney Mr Forsyth with a Copy of both & have only [torn] that as I understand some doubt has arisen as to the possession of Ardoch, I have by the recommendation of my legal advisers kept possession of the Sum due by my Father's Estate until it shall be settled which of the Parties ought to receive it when I shall be ready to account.

I am &c Signed Geo. Scott Coward

To Lt. T Stirling

Mr Forsyth had expressed his fears about Mr Coward's Estate but I hope this will remove them all & prove satisfactory.

I hope you will receive them all safe

Yours most truly
Thomas Stirling

Dartmouth May thirty first 1830

Addressed to: Archd. Stirling Esq
Post Office
Harrowgate
Yorkshire

By
A H Holsmith

Stamped: Dartmouth 213

MS. 10952 f. 65

Dartmouth May 31st 1830
Devon

My Dear Sir

I have just received from Jamaica the papers connected with the Ardoch Affairs from Mr Forsyth as well as from Dr. Coward. I shall copy what appears will be useful for your guidance & you can write to Mr Graham & Mr A Finlay if you deem it right or necessary. I need make no comment as Mr Forsyth's letter will be sufficient.

Sir I am favoured with your letter of the 1st March, but in replying to it fear that I will not be able to give you that satisfactory information you require of me in regard to Ardoch Penn. Yet I will endeavour to do what I can for your interests & information. As the Enclosed (Papers) will speak for itself I refer you to it only having to remark that there is one mistake, in Mr Bullock's & Messrs D.D. & S.'s imagining that I was about to make a Compromise with Mr Joseph Gordon that is what I never could contemplate for a moment without having your [torn]ders to that effect as I consider that no compensation whatever is due on your part to the Devises of the late Mr D. Finlay or to any

others. I feel indeed proud of the kind manner Mr A. Stirling has mentioned his confidence in me, & he may depend on my never deceiving him, but was I to pretend to advise you, or go beyond what the enclosed statements set forth before you fully perused them, & lay them before Mr Stirling, I think I would be acting a wrong part towards you or that matters must just rest as they are until I hear further from you & you fully determine upon what course you are determined I am to take that I may then act accordingly. It appears to me as having a great degree of folly in it, Mr Fin[torn] not once giving up the Penn, for neither he or his Sisters will ever deserve [torn] farthing of advantage from it & Mr Bullock knows this well, altho' he appe[torn] to write as if he thought

[torn]wise. What I fear is that if we immediately go to extremes with [torn] he may throw the Property into Chancery, & if so then all may be given up as lost to both Parties. I was on Ardoch last week & rode over it along with Mr Lennox the overseer of Phoenix Park who had the overlooking of it under Mr B. the Penn looks very clean and every thing looks as if it was at present well taken care of. A gang of about 20 negroes are hired out to Lucky hill Estate for one year certain the remainder are employed principally at home Being in want of Planters Cattle, I bought 24 head from it (from Mr B) for this Estate at £25 = £600 & am in hopes that he will have no objection causing the amount to be paid over to you, & other monies that I may receive on your account, I will immediately have transmitted to you. At the some time I must inform you that I entertain very gr[torn] in regard to the Estate of the late Mr Coward not being good as almost [torn] Property was seized a few weeks prior to his Death & sold to pay part of his debts. On account of the lamented death of Mr C. Stirling I have not written to Mr A. Stirling by this Packet well knowing what his feelings much be for the death of such a Brother but have written to his private Clerk Mr Alex. Moffatt, what he may communicate to him at a proper season.

Signed Alex. Forsyth To Lt. T. Stirling RN. Dartmouth

I intended to have sent extracts of the Papers but as I can procure a Frank I shall send them entire & you can return them in a Frank when you have perused them Should you deem it necessary or expedient you can forward them to Mr Graham for his inspection. I hope you will find your health improve by change. My Wife unites with me in grateful feelings for your kindness I am my dear Sir
Yours most truly

Thomas Stirling

My Dear Sir

I have sent two Franks & a Single Paper to the Post Office Harrowgate as you desired. Let me hear from you soon as I shall be anxious to know of their safety. Write to Mr Graham & to Mr Finlay if you think it requisite. Yours Truly

Thos. Stirling

Dartmouth May thirty first 1830

Addressed to: Archd. Stirling Esq
Post Office
Harrowgate
Yorkshire

By
A H Holsmith

My dear friend

I beg you will take care of the Papers as they are Committed to my Care – after perusing of them If you will have the goodness of [torn] Sending them back to me in a [torn] Parcel p mail

to 24 -

Drummond Place

[torn] oblige yours

A. Stirling

3d July 1830

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 180-181

Dartmouth June 3rd 1830

Devon

My Dear Airth

I have at last received a set of Papers relating to Ardoch Penn both from Mr Forsyth & from Dr. Coward. I forwarded them on to Harrowgate at once as I had the opportunity of Franks the postage being a guinea I was unwilling that Mr Stirling should run the same chance, so I took no copies. I requested that he would communicate with you & Mr Finlay concerning them if he thought it requisite. I shall here give you a short extract from Mr Forsyth's letter. "It appears to me as having a great degree of folly in it Mr Finlay not at once giving up the Penn, for neither he nor his Sisters will ever deserve one farthing of advantage from it, & Mr Bullock knows this well altho' he appears to write as if he thought otherwise. What I fear is that if we immediately go to extremes with Mr Bullock he may throw the Property into Chancery, & if so then all may be given up as lost to both parties". "Being in want of Planters Cattle I bought 24 head from Mr Bullock at £25 = £600 & I'm in hopes that he will have no objection causing the amount to be paid over to you, & other monies that I may receive on your account, I will immediately have transmitted to you. At the same time I must inform you that I much fear the Estate of the late Mr Coward's not being good as almost all his property was seized a few weeks prior to his death

& sold to pay a part of his debts."

Mr Bullock it appears wished that Mr Forsyth would make a compromise with Mr Joseph Gordon (Finlay's attorney there) Mr F. writes "That is what I never could contemplate without your express orders to that effect, as I consider that no compensation whatever is due on your part to the Devises of the late Mr D. Finlay or to any others". Mr B. says his sole motive for qualifying under the Will was to see the Sisters perfectly secure & to effect this end he will not fail to do his utmost. By the Papers sent me the proceeds of 1829 were £1678 Currency & a calculation for 1830 seemingly very accurately drawn up, by Mr B. for facilitating the compromise is made to be £1442 & contingencies deducted leaves a nett produce of £963 equal to, say £600 Stg. I hope Mr Stirling will immediately write to Finlay to know his determination as to keeping or relinquishing the Penn. If he would consent things are now in good train so that we might expect to realize its true value. In Finlay's letter to you he did not appear to notice your threat of Legal proceedings, at any rate why does not he order Mr Bullock to pay whatever sums of money he may have in his possession for the Penn down at once, as there is no dispute about who is entitled to receive payment as Finlay acknowledges in his letter to you

I hope you have again heard from Finlay & what his final resolution is, as this seems desirable to know & respecting the Transfer of the mortgage I hope you understood me as to the mode of getting it drawn up in England.

Dr. Coward writes "I send you an account of my Father's transactions with Ardoch & one with yourself & Brother for a settlement of certain sums stated therein effected before the death of Finlay. The Accounts have been kept separate because in the management of Ardoch my Father

appears to have acted as Exr. Of Finlay, & the Acct. with yourself has arisen in consequence of a Power to convey the property &c with an authority to admit a Balance that was in Mr Finlay's favour as a part of the Purchase money. I have furnished Mr Forsyth with a copy of both & I have kept the sum due from my Father's Estate until it shall be settled which of the Parties ought to receive it, when I shall be ready to account. This Paper is "1826 To commission on £3298.10.4 being the balance in Account Current with D. Finlay & on £506.1.4 amount of Jas. Laing & J. & W. Hamilton's Bill on Davidson Barclay & Co. remitted you & written off the Bond of the said D. Finlay as a payment on account of the purchase [c.o. money] of Ardoch Penn. Charged £228.5.6 Signed Geo. Scott Coward. Now I believe Finlay had made some very extravagant charges against the Penn which poor Wm. Stirling & yourself examined & found really too bad & I do not remember how that was settled but I had always believed you had caused them to be considerably reduced. This I stated at our meeting in Nov. which offended A. Finlay a good deal but nobody could explain what the £3298.10.4 was about nor do I know at this moment. On referring to Coward's statement sent me in 1827

1824 Jany 1st Purchase of Ardoch £9500. Then paid by the Balance due by the Trustees of Genl. Sir T. Stirling decd. To D. Finlay as their Attorney & acknowledged by letter from T.G. Stirling 5 May 1825 & wrote of 1st Jany 1824 £3298.10.4 deducted from £9500 leaves balance in favour £6201.9.0 Currency. Can you explain this large charge against us? There was due to us £4664.9.8 Sept. 1827 & since then we have only received £147.14. so with Interest there is due now about £5000 Stg. I trust Mr A. Stirling & yourself will bring Finlay to a decision & I shall be glad to hear what you are doing about it. Mr Hockin left London yesterday for Scotland I hope you may meet. I shall be glad to hear Ld. Melville's reply

to your very kind letter in my favour I trust he will now appoint me as the weather will be so long suited for a beginner. Willy's wife presented him with a daughter⁹¹⁵ Feby. 27th. the overland dispatch arrived in 70 days having left Bombay March 20th. She writes dated March 14th that she & Baby are doing well they were at Bombay & reduced. My Wife & Bairns are tolerably well. Mrs Hockin is a great Invalid. Now Goodbye my dear Airth do try to persuade Ld. Melville to be friendly. Adieu believe me with best wishes from my Wife & self to you & family to remain yours very Sincerely Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thos. G. Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

Stamped: JUNE 5 1830
DARTMOUTH ...

[in another hand: Sept 13th 1830
Sent Power of Attorney & letter to A. Forsyth⁹¹⁶ Esq St Mary Jamaica]

MS. 10952 ff. 182-184

Dartmouth July 12th 1830
Devon

My Dear Airth

Your last letter from Strowan said you were suffering from gout I hope you are now quite right again. I hope you have got the paper drawn up by John Dundas as it is always well to have such

things finished. I have a letter from Mr A Stirling about the old affairs. It encloses one I formerly wrote to A. Finlay through Mr Stirling with some amendments about finally knowing what he is going to do. It goes to him this Afternoon. Mr Stirling declines having any further correspondence with Finlay. The old Brig is gone at last! & I think it would be right in me to pay my court to Ld. Melville at the Admiralty as all my navy friends are doing so. If you could enclose to me a few Introductory lines to his Lordship they would I think favour my advances & I should then know what chance I have of obtaining anything. You will consult your own feelings on this point but a note from a friend might not be disregarded particularly as he condescends to answer your letters. In any

of the approaching new elections his Lordship will no doubt be in Scotland, there, you may possibly see him & have an opportunity of speaking on my old subject of the Command. At any rate you can let me know what will be the time most likely fixed for his return to London should I not go there before he goes north or about what time he will be in Scotland.

Mr Hockin was I assure you much pleased with Scotland but regretted the bad Weather & your absence. This Pressing business made him hurry off & being afraid of the "Big Grey horse" he walked & lost the Coach so he posted into Edinburgh. He says the Ladies at Airth were most kind & attentive & shewed him every room in the Castle. I thank your kind Sister for her letter & I shall reply to it very soon I am at present rather in a hurry.

Sea letters from Bombay are a few days older than the the Overland Dispatch. They were doing well Mother & Babe & Wm. had just Breakfasted with Sir Sidney Beckwith⁹¹⁷ who had been kind & promised to attend to his Claims. Sir Henry Seale⁹¹⁸ my neighbour here & an Oxford friend of your Son Wm⁹¹⁹ & Houston⁹²⁰ of Johnstone dined with

Mr Hockin a few evenings ago. He tells me he expects Mr Houston Junr. on a visit this Summer, it is a pity your Wm. Does not accompany him he seems very fond of Houston & speaks highly of Wm. Graham. I am glad to hear Mrs John Dundas is doing well as well as all our other friends.

My Wife & Bairns are all well & happy. I hope Carolus & Wm met. I shall be very glad to hear from you about his Lordship Excuse this & Believe me my Dear Airth

Yours very truly

Thomas Stirling

Remember us both very kindly to your Sisters & boys. Adieu

T.S.

Addressed to: T. G. Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: JULY 15 1830
DARTMOUTH 213

Letter from Alexander Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 66-68

Glasgow July 20th 1830

Dear Sir

Mr Silvester Stirling having yesterday informed me that he meant to pay you a visit on Thursday next, I avail myself of the opportunity to mention to you that I lately recd. by the ship "Glasgow" belonging to Messrs Stirling Gordon & Cos, the only intelligible statement of Accots. I have hitherto got from Jamaica regardg Ardoch – From them it would appear that at the period of Mr Coward's Decease he was indebted to the Penn in the sum of £668.7.6 – that the gross proceeds arising from the Sales, produce &c applicable to 1829, amounted to £1678.6, from which has to be deducted the Contingencies, being about

£500, leaving nearly £1200 [inserted above: for that year alone] of nett returns to be available in reduction of the Mortgage Debt – About £1850 Curry falls therefore to be either paid or payable to Sir Thos. Stirling's Heirs, for which I presume Mr Coward's Execs & Mr Bullock the Secretary of Jamaica are sufficiently responsible; - and this will of course considerably diminish the balance – The difference, you are aware, does not become due before 1832, at least such is my impression, and should the Penn make as favorable returns in the course of 1830, 1831 & 1832, as it has done in 1829, (the hire of negroes alone being £632.5.8) the sum requisite for

for clearing off the Mortgage in 1832 will not be large – Mr. Archd. Stirlings idea & your own, that I should make over the property to the Heirs of Genl. Stirling, seems therefore scarcely reasonable, so far as my Sisters and I are concerned, at least as matters appear from these accts. from Jamaica - Should you have any wish to peruse them, I shall have much pleasure in sending you copies, it being my anxious desire to follow up the same fair & candid line of conduct that in October last elicited the favorable notice of our late excellent friend Mr Charles Stirling, as regarded myself – I

I beg leave to congratulate you upon the approaching marriage of yr nephew to Miss Connell⁹²¹ – I have not seen much of her, having only met with her two years ago at Cheltenham, (when she and her Cousin & my niece, Catherine Connell were of course much together,) & once at Mrs D. Connell's here, - but from what I could observe, and have learnt, she is an amiable Girl, though extremely shy, but that a little more intercourse with Society will soon cure -

Believe me to be

Dear Sir

Faithfully Yrs

Alex. Finlay

To T. Graham Stirling Esqr &c

N:B: By the Statement of Increase & Decrease of Stock on Ardoch Penn for 1829, the Cattle appear to be 199, "the horse-kind", (as they are called,) consisting of Horses, Mules &c amount to 26 in number, and as the negroes have increased since poor David's Death, I believe they now consist of 96 -

A.F.

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling Esqr.

Airth Castle

Favd. by Silvester Stirling Esqr.

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

Dartmouth Augt. 21st 1830
Devon

My Dear Airth

I received your Frank yesterday enclosing your Sister's kind letter with which we were much gratified.

Respecting the transference of the mortgage of the Penn, I have consulted Mr Hockin, who advised that this mortgage should be made over to me & not jointly with William, as the transactions may be more easily arranged & that delay may be avoided by having to write to India. He also suggested that it might be well to have two Powers made out, one, making it over to me, singly, & another making it over to us jointly, as, to use Mr Hockin's own expression, there is no use in mincing the matter, we must place the most implicit confidence in Mr Forsyth. When you send me the Power I think it would be proper to write Forsyth informing him of the making over the mortgage & giving any explanation that you may deem requisite & the sooner all this is done of course the better.

Respecting two Powers being made out Mr A. Stirling may be able to advise about the propriety but if it may be approved of, a little additional trouble or expense ought not to be considered, when bringing so vexatious & so harassing a business to a close. It was always my decided wish that Finlay should retain the Property provided he would make some engagement about paying up the debt in full, & this he may have done in his letters to you as he speaks of hoping (in your note) to be able to pay all up by 1832. I shall be much pleased when I see the money!! Mr A Stirling did not state precisely to me the cause of his determination regarding Finlay, but I suppose it arose from a conviction, that Finlay was not acting a very honest or straight forward part in this business. I shall be glad to know what were the Contents of Finlay's letters to you as he did not deign to give me the least hint of his proceedings although so deeply concerned in the matter. Mr Hoskin has I believe a Power of Attorney from William which must add some weight to his opinion, perhaps.

I have not heard from India lately nor in reply to the news of Mr Coward's death but there can be no doubt I should think of transferring the mortgage to me holding as I do such

a large proportion of the Property viz 3/7th by Sir Thos. Stirling's Will & 2/3ds of Charles's proportion by his Will. The equalization which I formerly explained to you is a private & distinct arrangement & cannot affect my general claim to the above share of the value of the Debt.

I wrote Miss Jane a few days ago I was afraid by your long Silence you were ill but was happy to find you capering away, I dare say as young as ever, with your Yeomanry Corps. I hope the gout has left you at least for a Season. My Wife & Bairns are quite well & the Weather is now truly fine & harvest like which [c.o.] allows us the Indulgence of the open air. The Crops here promise well although the heavy storms of Wind & rain last Week did considerable damage. I thank you for not forgetting my Ld. Melville. The King is about to pay Portsmouth & Plymouth a visit & it is likely also Dartmouth, if he does, I may have a little talk with Majesty. I was very glad your lads had been with you & so well. I dare say Airth is looking very beautiful & as I feel a great Interest in it I should like to know what Improvements you are making in the way of roads or Cottages or Lodges &c &c I was glad to hear your garden has got on so well. Mr Hockin who is a

a great gardener as well as a Farmer spoke much of it as well as of the fine state of Cultivation he saw, through your rich & beautiful Carse. He desires to thank you for your remembrance of him. We are very sorry for poor Mina⁹²² & hope she will get speedily over it. So Silvester is going to be linked in the bands!! Mrs Hockin is still an Invalid having been much annoyed for four or five months with an inflammation

in the Shoulder joint giving her sometimes on the least exertion the most dreadful pain. Remember us most affectionately to your family Circle & to your boys & Accept our best wished for yourself & them & believe me My Dear Airth

Yours very Sincerely
Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: AUG 21 1830
DARTMOUTH 213

MS. 10952 ff. 188-189

Dartmouth Sept. 21 1830
Devon

My Dear Airth

I received you packet containing the Power & your letters to Forsyth yesterday they appeared to be quite satisfactory in every respect. I had the day before received a letter from Forsyth containing a Bill for £349.12.7 Sterling for Stock sold to Frontier, drawn on Stirling Gordon & Co. & with favourable extracts from Mr Bullock's letters. Viz "I have at last settled with Dr. Coward on acct. of the Balance due from his late Father's Estate, to the Estate of D^r Finlay. I am to receive from him an Acceptance at 90 Days bearing Interest, the amount is about £700" "there are other funds coming forward viz about £400 due in Augt. by Mr McDonald. There are also £170 due from young Mr Core [unclear] &c &c" Mr Forsyth has replied that he has no objection to receive the above Bills as part payment; Mr Bullock having requested to know whether Mr Forsyth would accept them as such. Forsyth concluded his letter thus "It is out of my power to add anything beyond what is herein stated further than you need not give yourself any uneasiness about your Concerns here as far as it is in my power to do you Service & as I have in my former

letters stated that whenever any money comes into my hands on your Account, I will as early as possible remit it to you". All this is most satisfactory & I have replied to it in a proper Spirit. It is no small point to find Mr Bullock coming forward, apparently willing to bring the business to a close & I have now great hopes that we shall at last recover the whole. Your letter to Forsyth was most clear, the Immense charge of £3298 was most unjustifiable & which I enforced to Forsyth, the Commission on the same was also too bad & I requested he would exert himself to discover the mistake. Also the Claims of Mrs Fergus they were settled in 1817. I was at Airth when we agreed it was better to settle then at once by sending a sum out to Finlay for that purpose. I have not Mr Dundas's Accounts or Papers but my memory is good & I have expressed myself strongly to Forsyth on this subject urging him to procure the Documents relative to the transaction through Dt Coward as Executor to his Father.

I sent off your Power & letter today (taking a Copy of your letter) & I thank you most sincerely for the trouble you have taken. Mr Hockin fully concurs on the propriety of transferring the mortgage

to my name & in his receiving an acknowledgement from me concerning William's share of the

proceeds.

My Wife received Miss Graham's very kind letter, & was much gratified by it; she desires her kindest acknowledgements. We hope Miss Mina Macdowall is better; her severe illness must have been a heavy additional trial to her poor mother. Mrs John Dundas's⁹²³ approaching crisis must be most interesting to all her friends & we shall be particularly delighted to know the result. I was much pleased to learn the progress of the garden. I hope it will prove to your entire satisfaction & that the grass will turn out well as I had selections from the best gardens & by the best gardeners in this gardening neighbourhood. I have thoughts of going to wait on Ld. Melville but if you could give me any satisfactory intelligence on the point to supersede the Inconvenience & trouble of so long & perhaps so useless a journey I should feel much gratified. I shall defer my journey till I hear from you, as I shall be guided in a great measure by your opinion & by your news. Should Tom⁹²⁴ come to Plymouth on his route to Gibraltar say we are but 30 miles with a fine wind & a beautiful country to travel through from there & that it would give us a great deal of real pleasure to show him something of his Father's

hospitality in this distant corner of the land. We boast of good mutton & good Port & wholesome air & as our Borough politics are now running high our feelings are warm and steady. My Bairns are quite well & your two friends often speak about you & the man with the gun (Tom Robinson).

I shall be glad to hear from you when convenient letting kind Miss Jeanie complete the family & domestic news.

With kindest & best wishes from my Wife & Self to your family circle believe me my Dear Airth

Yours most Sincerely

Thomas Stirling

P.S. Should you ever have occasion to send a Packet like the last it would be better to send it by Post as two double letters (the size of it) would have cost but 5/ & that Packet cost 10/6 by Coach

You will understand me I know T.S.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
[c.o. Airth Castle
Falkirk]
Strowan Crieff

Stamped: SEP 24 1830
SEP 25 1830
DARTMOUTH 213

MS. 10952 ff. 190-191

Dartmouth Nov. 10th 1830
Devon

My Dear Airth

Miss Jeanie's very kind letter reached me a few days ago, return our best thanks. We were glad to learn that you were all pretty well. Tom's setting off for the Rock must have given you all much pain I hope he saw his Brothers before Sailing. We have also heard from Mrs Wm. Macdowall⁹²⁵ they seem to have been wonderfully well this whole very bad & variable Season. It is the first time they have written since we left Scotland.

I shall be glad to hear Ld. Melville's answer but should the prospect of a Cutter be very distant I

have no hesitation that I would go off to a foreign Station at once as, although a great Sacrifice, it is the surest method of promoting my views. Officers Afloat in case of War would doubtless be the first selected for Service & I feel that I should be doing a duty by my family in thus accepting of foreign Service. I particularly request you will do your utmost to gain my object either

for a Cutter, which would be the most desirable, or for a frigate if more easily & immediately obtained. At all events I should wish you to write Mr Drummond⁹²⁶ to know what he has done as in the midst of the great Bustle & Confusion in London with the Sinking of the funds & the probable change of ministers, our smaller matters may be passed by. I am of course anxious to know the Result of your application as a man parting from his family & home involves no slight considerations.

We have heard from India this morning of the date 15th June Wm. not well loss of voice from hoarseness by Cold to be blistered on the Chest if not soon better but well in other respects & writes in tolerable spirits. His Wife & Bairn very well & strong & they talk of coming home in Seven years. He is with his regiment at Bhewandy⁹²⁷ about 40 miles from Bombay with an appointment. He heard from Miss Graham of date 15th February with which he was much pleased. My Wife has been a greater Invalid for some time past than I ever knew her but as she is not under the Doctor's hands I trust some good may be done. She begs I will not omit her kindest

remembrances to yourself & Sisters. The Children are quite well. Capt. & Mrs Hine are now here, very delightful people. He is appointed to the Marquis of Huntley to be in the Downs end of Jany. Bound for Bombay this is very fortunate as he will see his Indian friends & give a complete account of us all to them.

Accept our best wishes & with kind regards to you to your Sisters & Boys

Believe me my Dear Airth

Yours very affectionately

Thomas Stirling

P.S. I shall be glad to hear the earliest news. Is Silvester Stirling married yet?

T.S.

Addressed to: T.G. Stirling Esqr.
Strowan
Crieff

NB

Stamped: NOV 1.. 1830
DARTMOUTH 213

Copy of letter from Duncan Dare & Stevenson to Alex. Forsyth from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 f. 192

Spanish Town 8th Jany 1831

Copy/ From Messrs. Duncan
Dare & Stevenson to Alex. Forsyth Esq. Frontier St. Mary's

Sir Since we last addressed you on the Subject of the Ardoch Penn Security it has occurred to us to suggest that instead of executing an assignment of the mortgage as Attorney of Mr Thos. Graham

Stirling to Mr Thomas Stirling it would be better for the present to execute a mere declaration of the Trust on which that mortgage was granted to him, which was that the amount when received should be paid over to the proper parties entitled to receive it namely Mr Thos. Stirling & his Brother, & our reason is that if the mortgage be now transferred to the latter Gentleman & any opportunity should occur of receiving payment of any part of the Debt or if it should be necessary on any contingency to use any measures for better securing the debt, Mr Thos. Stirling the then mortgagee or assignee of the mortgage would be unrepresented in this Island by Attorney & there would consequently be no one to act in his behalf, whereas if this mere declaratory instrument be now executed & recorded, you, as Mr Thos. Graham Stirling's Attorney would be able to do all that might be necessary. Under the impression that you will coincide with us in this opinion we have prepared & now forward for your execution the instrument we have suggested, which when completed may be returned to be [c.o. completed] recorded. Under these circumstances we would recommend that before the assignment is executed a Power should be sent out by Mr Thos. Stirling on the part of himself & his Brother & be concurred in by the Attorney in Scotland of the absent Brother authorising you to received from Mr Thos. Graham Stirling an assignment of this mortgage & after having received it to act as his Attorney in all matters connected with the Security &c &c If this should meet with your approbation we can prepare such a Power as we may consider sufficient for the purpose & send home

home the draft by next Packet to be engrossed there for the execution of the necessary parties; & by so doing we shall avoid the danger of an informal or insufficient authority being sent out.

With regard to the charge of Commissions on the £3298.10.4 which appeared to the parties to be objectionable, we have given it due consideration & are of opinion that it is a Proper charge & one which the Island law regulating the rate of commissions would clearly recognise & allow; for notwithstanding the money did not actually pass through the hands of Mr Coward [unclear] it did so virtually for he was instrumental in effecting the Settlement to which that sum has reference & no doubt had the same or probably more trouble in effecting that arrangement than he would have had if he had merely received so much money in Cash. D D & S.

This was sent to me by these Gents. as they had miscalculated the time of the sailing of the Packet & would not have reached Mr Forsyth in time to communicate with me. T.S.

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 f. 193

Dartmouth Feby 21st 1831
Devon

My Dear Airth

The enclosed will speak for itself if you have anything to say on this subject you can write me. I am not quite clear of the charge of Commission for if I remember rightly the sum of £3298.10.4 was the debt charged against the Penn which we all complained about as being most unjust but you have the Papers I believe which were forwarded by me some time ago to Mr A Stirling & you can examine. I have not heard from Forsyth this Packet but by the former I did, acknowledging receipt of your Power & your letter. He said he had submitted them to the Attorneys at Spanish Town who seem to be clear headed fellows & that he would write by the first Packet.

I am sorry, Airth, to hear you have been so poorly & from knowing you were ill I would not trouble you with Forsyth's letter. I wrote to your Sister some time ago but she has not yet answered my letter but I hope I shall soon have the pleasure from yourself. A letter a few days ago from Mrs Chas. Stirling⁹²⁸ told us you had been very ill, it was her first to us since her Widowhood & of

course it was full of much religious consolation & feeling & we trust she will recruit her health & strength as time advances & the fine Season appears

How are your Sisters & your Boys? Let us hear, it has been a great blank not hearing from any of our Scotch friends for so long a time. My wife is in Cornwall for a little change she had enjoyed these three weeks much the Weather has been rather good & the air is more bracing than Dartmouth. I go the end of the Week for her & we remain for a few days at Plymouth. Mr & Mrs Hockin are pretty well then have been sorry to learn of your illness & desire their best wishes for you. Our Indian friends

were quite recovered Octr. 2d. they were at Bombay almost next door to the Wedderburns⁹²⁹, who are their great friends. They had no appointment & from the Signs of the times had no expectation of one. I have given up all hope of employment now, seeing it has been a harassing & vexatious business. Mr Hockin's influence is gone also, he who had by his exertions always sent one County member to the House was overthrown by Lord Ebrington's⁹³⁰ unexpected & sudden appearance at the late election. I think of leaving this neighbourhood in the Summer but have not yet decided where we shall go. The Children are quite well & do not forget their old Scotch friends for

unexpectedly they bring something out which had almost escaped our memories. I hope you will find yourself sufficiently strong to write, it will give me much satisfaction to hear from your & were my Wife here she would very cordially unite with me in every good wish for yourself your Sisters & your Sons Believe me my Dear Airth Yours very Sincerely

Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling Esqr.
Strowan
Crieff

NB

Stamped: FEB 21 1831
DARTMOUTH 213

MS. 10952 ff. 194-196

New Romney
Kent

July 20th 1831

My Dear Airth

I daresay you are quite unprepared for this new address but having girded on my Sword for the fight I have hastened to this my destination. I took possession this afternoon of No 1 Battery Dungeness a station on the Coast for the prevention of smuggling. I left my Wife & family on the 12th caught a severe cold on my way to Town from exposure to the heavy rain during the night, was laid up at Folkestone with a slight attack of inflammation on the Chest for three or four days waited on my Commander Capt. Mansell⁹³¹ & on the following day repaired to this dreary spot.

About three months ago I had applied for the Coast Guard Service & received a favourable answer from Sir J. Graham⁹³² & about a fortnight ago I renewed my application which was answered by return of Post by [unclear] my appointment. Romney is about five miles distant & between that place & 4 miles all round it is one extended desert of Sand & Shingle having been formerly covered by the Sea no vegetation save some stunted thistles here & there & a few patches of long sorry

[unclear] grass peculiar to such a surface are only to be seen. I left home without an article of furniture & yesterday I was occupied in procuring every necessary

for my Barrack room, Government allowing only two Chairs & a deal table. I set off at 3 O'clock yesterday this being the 21st on foot accompanied by my Cart loaded with all sorts of stores. I am three hundred miles from home, my Wife expects to be confined early in Sept., & here am I in the desert, (for the Baker & Butcher visit us only twice a week) & likely to be all alone during a long dreary Winter, unless Capt. Barrington⁹³³ can get me removed to a Station neared Dartmouth through Capt. Wm Bowles⁹³⁴ R.N. Comptroller General of the Coast Guard at the Custom house London. Our duties are various & Severe & as the night Service is peculiarly so, being obliged to visit all the stations in my Guard twice ever night once before midnight & once after, I fear it will try me very much. My District extends three miles, I have three men & last night I began by walking 6 miles over the Shingle which sinks deep every step & is consequently very fatiguing I slept well after it I assure you & being rather weak from the effects of the cold I had so lately caught. The pay is from four Shillings a day in addition to the half pay. Dungeness light house is about a mile to my right.

I hope you are all recovered from the Influenza which has been so prevalent, many at Dartmouth & neighbourhood were very ill, I among the number, & in one parish at Plymouth thirty Seven were buried in one week through that disease.

The Smugglers on this Coast are a desperate set coming down to the beach in parties of 100 or 150 all well armed & determined to fight, or land their Cargoes. Many used to come close to the stations a night with long Duck Guns loaded with Slugs & shoot the men on their posts & we never go out on watch or to visit the patrols without two brace of pistols & a Sword & for better protection I add my Dirk in case of being seized by the Smugglers. Winter is the time that we may expect them.

I shall be glad to hear how all our friends are going on in the north as it is long since we had the pleasure of having any accounts. Henry Seale told me he had expected your Son William this Summer, it would have given us great satisfaction to have seen him. Have you heard of Carolus⁹³⁵ since his departure? We have had no recent news from Bombay, but they were well & happy when they wrote from Poonah, their little girl Marion⁹³⁶ very well & growing away finely. I hope the new garden is in a fine state of cultivation & that the grafts are thriving & likely to be productive. I shall be much pleased to hear that they are so, as some of a very valuable kind, the owners being unwilling to spare them Even the gardeners were reluctant to part with them. I have not heard from Forsyth lately. Have you heard any thing more from Finlay about settling the debt of Ardoch Penn. By the bye would it be agreeable

to you to receive any monies that may arrive for me from the West at the usual rate of Interest. If so, I suppose John Dundas will manage it & indeed I think I could sent £100 through from the bill in Sterling & Gordon's hands due the end of Augst. if agreeable to you. Write me if convenient & mention this & be assured I shall have much pleasure at all times in hearing from the members of your family to whom give

my kindest remembrances Mrs Stirling was of course much affected at my going on such a dangerous service but I hope to be removed elsewhere to a near & better station & she will become reconciled seeing that our Children demand every Sacrifice. My little Mary promises to be tall & still is interesting but shy, good bye My dear Airth & do let me hear from you & you all are Believe me very truly yours Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling
Airth Castle

Falkirk

[stamp indistinct]

MS. 10952 ff. 198-199

New Romney
Kent

Sept: 18th 1831

My Dear Airth

I was much gratified by your good wishes & the feelings of satisfaction your kind Sister expressed at hearing of my appointment to this Service. I got it entirely through my interview with Sir James at Christmas & I was not a little pleased to think I obtained it by return of Post to my application well backed up with good promise of zeal &c &c Capt. Bowles our Comptroller General visited this District lately & was pleased to give us all much praise in general orders. I perceive he is appointed Aid de Camp to the King £200 a year in addition to his already £1500 & 5 guineas a day travelling allowances. He married a Sister of Lord Palmerston & has no family. I am happy to say Mrs Stirling was safely delivered on the 8th of a fine handsome healthy girl⁹³⁷, both continue

to thrive & if possible I hope to have all hands removed to this Station by the end of October. Although 300 miles, I have no doubt that she who proved herself so strong on her long journey from Scotland two years ago will perform the present with equal strength & firmness.

I have lately had most discouraging letters from Forsyth he sends me a Copy of a letter from Mr Bullock saying that there being no possible chance of any remittances he can hold out no hope but on the Contrary charges the Penn with a debt of a Thousand Pounds! This you will believe after all the former promises, is very disheartening. Can any thing be done by your writing to Alex. Finlay or do you think he will fulfil the promises he held forth in the letter you enclosed to me the Copy of which I returned to you. It would be a very gratifying circumstance to know his real intentions & if you think it advisable to do so by all means lose no time, to shew that we are

thinking about him & his engagements regarding the Jamaica Affairs. I beg you will write me soon and let me know what you think or what you have done. I ordered Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Co. to remit you £100 which by their account I perceive has been accordingly done. Will you be good enough to send me the proper document or receipt for that Sum. Its being paid about the 20th Augt. I suppose the Interest will commence on the 1st of September.

Wm Wife & girl were quite well when we heard lately. They were at Poonah. They talk of paying Europe a visit in 1833. As it is long since I heard from Scotland a letter with all news will give me much satisfaction. Are your Sisters quite well & your young men? Have you heard of Carolus & Tom lately? How is the game this year with all its accompaniments of friends &c. I daresay you are all at Strowan as usual at this Season, our Weather here has been very fine but on our Shingle 14000 acres of which we have there is little variety. I desire to be very kindly remembered to your household & shall

shall be gratified by hearing from you soon with your news. My Brats have got the measles & in a few Weeks a Change of air will be of great good especially to the Cool breeze of the Sea & Shingle. Thank Miss Jane for her letter I felt for the Laird of Keir⁹³⁸ & but for her kindness I should not have heard of it. An officer appointed

a few days ago to a neighbouring station who was with me in France called on me yesterday of of whose first questions was where is Jack (Charles) he was a good deal struck on hearing the fate of poor Charles who died Sept. 19th 1826 Good bye my dear Airth & Believe me yours very sincerely

Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
[c.o. Airth Castle
Falkirk]
Strowan
Crieff

NB

Stamped: D 20 SE 20 1831
FALKIRK SE 22 1831

[noted in another hand at top] Tom Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 200-201

New Romney
Kent

March 1st 1832

My Dear Airth

I have been anxiously looking for a letter from you will all your news as well as for the Frank containing the acknowledgement or receipt for the hundred Pounds. This last I should like as soon as possible & I hope it will be convenient by an early day. I wrote to John Dundas some time ago for information about the Payment of Mrs Fergus Legacy which would be most satisfactory could the Papers be found and copied for me. I have not heard from him & I would thank you to apply to him for that purpose if quite convenient. The accounts from Jamaica are melancholy but all seemed quiet in our part of the Island, yet I suppose we shall continue to hear the same story that no money is forthcoming.

How have you all been this mild & pleasant Winter [unclear] as it is so long since I heard from Scotland I [unclear] know nothing of your proceedings or health or situation

but it will afford us much real satisfaction to hear all the family news.

As for ourselves we are still on Dungeness with no immediate prospect or indeed wish for a removal the expence would be so great, as it cost be about £80 to bring my family & furniture here. Mrs Stirling continues as usual, never very strong, but the four elder little ones enjoy excellent health appetites & Spirits your two little friends still preserving their good looks & growing tall and often talking of Duncan & Wm Baird & the man with the gun (Tom Robinson) our fifth⁹³⁹ is at home with Grand Mama⁹⁴⁰ who is doatingly fond of her. Mrs Stirling's brother⁹⁴¹ who was in Edinburgh has got an appointment to Bombay as assistant Surgeon in the Army he first chose Madras but had it changed. I hope experience will have taught him the value of character & lead him to an honourable & manly conduct, for his extravagance during the three years he was in Edinburgh cost his Father just £1500 Stg!

The Cholera I perceive is still spreading although slowly & as the warm weather comes on I believe it ravages will become more perceptible, then who will escape!

The Coasts of Kent & Sussex so near the French Coast are of course Demons for smuggling & you

may have seen

in the Papers what dreadful work there has been lately in this District right & left of us. Lieut Parry⁹⁴² in resisting the attack received 3 Slugs in his Shoulder & a copper nail, one Slug in his arm and another in his finger all of which have been extracted he is slowly mending & four of his Crew desperately wounded 34 Smugglers were killed & wounded 15 have been buried & some still lie very ill. I have not been attacked but expect an attempt will be made this week when we shall do our best. Parry is promoted & we propose giving our Inspecting Commander Capt. Mansel a Dinner in consequence of his exertions to that end. It is now 9 oClock the night is dark & the Weather favourable so I shall march out in ½ an hour. The only fright I have yet had was last month in returning [torn] neighbouring Station & without fire arms I walked through a Party of about 80 who had assembled at a Particular spot for the purpose of running a Cargo. It was the third time they had been down. I was in the midst of them before I knew my situation, which I discovered from unusual appearances on the beach it was very dark & they were lying down in clumps of 12 or 15 I think for on walking along I saw within 3 feet of the Path a large black mark which I had not seen in passing about 2 hours before. I suddenly stopped, looking again intently, cast my eyes to the right saw the same appearance, then it was I discovered that there were the Party we had been looking out for for a week past. The [torn] I made was only a few seconds I resolved on proceeding & they suffered me to pass lest I should alarm the Coast by firing. I had a mile to go afterwards & you may grasp what a nervous feeling as well a narrow escape I had They show no mercy beating out the brains of all they capture in revenge for the loss of their friends. So much for Coast Guarding.

My wife has long been talking of writing to Miss Graham & I hope she will soon accomplish it to show she has not forgotten the very great kindness she experiences from her & her family. How are your Boys Wm & Tom? Of Carolus you perhaps have not yet heard although no doubt very anxious. Wm & his Wife were quite well she promising to present him with a Son about this time⁹⁴³. He had got the command of his regiment which has raised his spirits much.

Present our united kind remembrances to Miss Graham & Miss Jeany of whom we shall be well pleased to have good accounts & accept them yourself & believe me My Dear Airth yours most truly

Thomas Stirling

P.S. Capt. Wm Bowles Comptroller General of Coast Guard will visit this Station in a few days. Do you know him he married a sister of Lord Palmerston I think.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

Stamped: 2 MR 1832

MS. 10952 ff. 204-205

No 1 Battery May 24th 1832
Dungeness

My Dear Airth

Your promised Frank containing the receipt reached me in due course for which accept my

thanks.

We were much pleased with the good accounts Miss Jane gave of you all & of other friends & also glad to hear that Carolus was so well pleased with the hospitality of India.

All this month the weather has been most trying, fresh Breezes from the East & NE have annoyed us a good deal & I believe they have prevailed pretty generally throughout. Mrs Stirling as Invalid as usual but as we have a pony we look with hope to the fine weather admitting of Exercise in that way as well as in my Boat. The Children thrive & grow fast. I am pretty well & enjoy my Situation much now that the short

nights have come. We are in the Parish of Lydd the good people of which Town have treated us with great kindness, amongst others a Mr & Mrs Robinson a young & genteel couple She I believe the niece of Sir somebody Russel He is in the Army & proposes taking his wife to see her relations in Edinburgh this Summer & as it is their intention if possible to see a little of the Interior I could not resist the temptation of giving them a letter of Introduction to you thinking how much they would be delighted with Airth & depending on your well known hospitality. I trust you will not consider that I have done wrong, we have had reason to value the kindness shewn to us in this Desert & any attention that you could show them would be felt as sincerely as shewn to myself, should they have an opportunity of availing themselves of the letter I have given them. Having seen us so recently they will be able to give you some tidings of us & we in return will look forward earnestly to receiving some particulars

of you & yours. It will be a gratifying circumstance to me on their return to know that they have seen you. I hope your garden continues to prosper & that the grafts are thriving & I shall be much pleased to hear all about your beautiful place. Do you continue your Improvements? & have you succeeded in effectually shutting up the old roads? all this will Interest me much. The Society here is most respectable they are all connected with your old friend Capt. Lamberts family & intermarried. Thank Miss Jane most kindly for her full account of friends as she is the only source whence we derive any knowledge whatever of them. Is Miss Russel still alive? The Cholera is happily decreasing, by the daily reports Falkirk seemed to suffer. Reform seems to be the prevailing epidemic & to absorb all other considerations. We are well prepared to secure the Peace of the Country side but I hope it will be unnecessary now that matters have taken the only safe channel. I hope you continue well & are renewing your strength like the Eagles. Indeed I should

like to hear from you in reply to this & to know if you have discovered what sum was remitted to Finlay to pay the Legacy. I wrote to J. Dundas twice but he has not answered my letters which strikes me as very odd. Letters from India of Jany. say all well Wm. still in command of his regiment. Sir Colin Halkett⁹⁴⁴ the Governor, Capt. Lambert Wm & myself dined with him at Government house in Jersey in 1825.

Mrs Hockin has had a severe bilious attack but is better &

my Wife thinks of taking to Sea in a Steamer for a month at Dartmouth. Give our united best wishes & affectionate remembrances to Miss Graham & to Miss Jane & I hope to seize an early opportunity of returning my acknowledgements to Miss Jane for her former kind & friendly letters. Good bye My Dear Airth accept our good wishes & believe me Yours very truly

Thomas Stirling

Remembrances to all the Boys.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: 25 MY 1832

MS. 10952 ff. 206-207

New Romney May 30th 1832
Kent

My Dear Airth

Yesterday I received your letter enclosing Mr Alex Finlay's of May 12th relating to Ardoch matters. In the absence of advice I am indeed at a great loss as Mr Stirling does not Venture to offer his & you are ignorant of the Parties.

I can write to London to enquire the character of Messrs. Le Blank Oliver & Cook Solicitors, & to know if the three Bonds for £500 Stg each are Payable at Mr Gordon's correspondents Messrs Mitchell & Co. But as I am so entirely ignorant of business & my duties preventing me moving I should like you to request of John Dundas to undertake all the business part which I hope he would not hesitate to do, to bring the matter to a settlement as soon as possible. The £1500 are offered "towards Payment of the Balance of Ardoch" But nothing is said when the Remainder is to be settled the sum due being

upwards of £4000 Stg & the time long passed since the whole was to have been made good. If the Bonds be good & the first payable at once I see no reason for hesitating. Would that this harassing & distressing business were brought to a close for ever! Mr Finlay writes "I think £500 Stg per Ann. (Guaranteed by a London House) is not bad thing in these times".

Could this be depended upon & proper Security given for the fulfilment of the agreement I should gladly embrace it. This is my decided wish & I only beg of you to show your friendship in this instance by writing to Finlay (if it be required) for a more complete development of his plans that you may be enabled to consult with Mr Ad. Stirling as well as with Mr John Dundas on the propriety of acceding to the arrangement, & how & when he intends making good the remainder of the debt.

Mr Bullock I say decidedly acted most unfairly throughout & being beyond my reach I was compelled to submit to the pain which his unprincipled conduct inflicted

I would therefore now gladly accept a certain Sum than prolong the unsatisfactory & harassing warfare. I shall leave it to you to arrange with Mr Ad. Stirling & it is with perfect confidence believing you will do your best for me, & as you have seen how painful has been the contest & how endless in prospect if we do not now (that it is in Finlay's own hands) come to some clear distinct & decided arrangement.

I thank you for this fresh proof of your kindness & I trust you will persevere & finish it after 25 years of fighting, disappointment & loss[torn]

To foreclose the mortgage would be a sad blow to Mr Finlay's prospects of realising the Legacy due to his Sisters from Ardoch as well as to himself & to me not so great as I have not received a great deal from it & yet seeing how I am treated I am almost tempted to give immediate instructions to Mr Forsyth to proceed at once in doing so, as then all accounts must be produced & sums made good from the date of Sale. I should like to have some idea of the probable expence of doing so.

However I shall wait to see what settlement you can

can arrive at that [torn] be safely depended upon.

I shall look anxiously for your next, hoping it will bring some satisfactory news relative to this matter.

I am sorry you have been complaining but the Summer I hope will bring you round. Accept our united best wishes with the same for your Sisters whom we think of often & with much affection Also to your Boys. Good bye

My Dear Airth

I am yours very truly

Thomas Stirling

The friend I wrote you about is now in London & proposes being in Scotland middle of June I hope if agreeable to you that he may see you. T.S.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: 31 MY 1832

MS. 10952 ff. 208-210

Top in another hand: Received from T Stirling Augt. 7th
ansd. T.S. Augt. 9th

Wrote Finlay from Edin abt. the 10th or 12th

New Romney July 5th 1832
Kent

My Dear Airth

I had calculated that about this time I should be hearing from you something relating to Jamaica matters with Finlay in reply to my last on that Subject. I have no doubt you duly received mine wherein I expressed my decided wish to be guided by Mr Archd. Stirling & your opinion regarding his offer of the £s [illeg.] per An. The fact is, that under the circumstances it is perhaps wiser to close with him (provided the security is good) than to throw obstacles in the way of a final arrangement. I hope the matter has not been allowed to rest as Finlay seemed anxious for an answer & I also have been looking daily to know what you have been doing respecting it. I mentioned that my ignorance of business prevented me from settling the

business spoils & that I would willingly submit to your United judgements to bring things to a settlement & which I trust you are doing Were my presence required in Edinburgh I could certainly join you there any time before the middle of Sept. altho. I should prefer avoiding such a measure but if necessary no delay would be suffered to arise on my part. If the proposal of the Bonds be acceded to Should he not run all risks Personally & cash them on his own responsibility?

I hope you continue well & enjoy this fine Summer & Season lovely & delightful as it is with us. I thank you

for your good wishes for us all but I regret to say Mrs Stirling has been very unwell lately & continues so still from a Bilious attack which has rendered her very weak & nervous. The young

ones are well & flourishing like the green Bay tree full of life & Intelligence. I am pretty well & get on pretty well with my situation & it is now exactly one year since I recd. my appointment to it. Wm. has been presented with another Daughter in Feby, mother & child [illeg.] doing well. He continues to hold his appointment & holds out no prospects of speedily returning to Europe; his health is good & seems very happy. We were much pleased with a long letter from Mrs C. Stirling recd. yesterday, full of kindness & affection & I rejoice to find her health & strength are so much restored. I did not know that the Russels had died! What becomes of Woodside⁹⁴⁵? Remember us most kindly to your Sisters & my next letter after this business shall be to my good & amiable friend Miss Jane. I hope you continue to hear favourable accounts of your Sons abroad

& that Wm is quite well. Has my friend Mr Robertson [sic but looks as though it is an error for Robinson] paid you a visit yet? I begged him to do so that he might bring us some Accounts of Airth & its worthy owner. He cannot fail to be be pleased with both & I shall be glad to hear that he has seen you. Since he left this he has sold his Commission in the army for £700 How do you like the Scotch Reform Bill? The Duke of Wellington was sadly hissed & hooted & pelted by the rabble of this

County a few days ago at a review of the Yeomanry of which regiment he is the Colonel.⁹⁴⁶ Let me hear how your garden progresses as I feel much interested in all improvements Write soon in reply to this as I am very anxious to bring matters to an end with Finlay. With best wishes to yourself & family Believe me my Dear Airth Yours very truly Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr
Airth Castle
Falkirk

Stamped: 7 JY 1832

MS. 10952 ff. 202-203

Copy to Mr Ard. Stirling of Keir

Castlemains⁹⁴⁷ by Douglas
May 12th. 1832

Dear Sir

By last Packet I recd. A letter from Mr Joseph Gordon of St. Andrews Jamaica, who is Mr Jones's⁹⁴⁸ Attorney on his Estate of Twickenham Park near Spanish Town. It is dated the 15th of March, & announces the Death of Mrs F's⁹⁴⁹ Cousin Mr Willm. Bullock⁹⁵⁰, who being the only surviving Executor of my Brother David the management of Ardoch Penn devolves upon Mr Gordon. To whom I transmitted a Power of atty. which was recorded in the Jamaica Courts Mr G. states that Mr Hamilton Brown had acted under Mr Bullock for Phoenix Park & Ardoch & Mr G. was to take Possession on my Acct. in a few days after the date of his letter. The Jobbing of negroes is still good & Mr Joseph Gordon sayd "I have lately got the management of a Property in that neighbourhood, I shall be there [illeg.]

to give them constant Employment" This is a very fortunate Circumstance as the Jobbing alone has netted, for the last 3 or 4 years from £500 to £600 a year. Mr Gordon is worth a Considerable Sum of money, besides a large Income from Commissions having the Attorney Ship of Estates containing a Population of between 7000 & 8000 Slaves. He sent home to Messrs. Le Blanc, Oliver

& Cook (Successrs. Of Robert Shaw Solicitors in London 3 Bonds for £500 Stg each payable in one, two & three years at his Correspondents, Messrs Mitchell & Co. These were intended for the use of Mr Jones, but are not now required by him. As I doubt not that Mr Gordon would consent to their being transferred to your friends the Messrs. Stirling towards Payt of the Balce. of Ardoch, I shall be glad to know if this should prove agreeable to them, & from the very critical & alarming state of the West Indies & especially Jamaica, I think £500 Stg per Ann. (guaranteed if necessary, by a London house) is no bad thing in these times. By my having Possession I shall be enabled to pay my Dear Sisters the Interest of their Legacy (£80 a year) which in their limited Income, is of very material

Consequence. In hopes of a few lines when you have communicated with Mr Graham of Airth & Mr Thos. Stirling

I remain

My Dear Sir Signed Alex. Finlay⁹⁵¹

To. Archd. Stirling Esqr. of Keir.

No 1 Battery Augt. 14Th 1832
Dungeness

My Dear Airth

This Evening your letter of the 9th reached me & according to your desire I give you the copy of Mr Finlay's letter to Mr Archd. Stirling. I full empower you to act in this affair & as it is desirable that a settlement should take place, the sooner the better. Mr Finlay is evidently much mistaken if he thinks £1500 be nearly the sum due, for your Information I shall state the Sums that have been actually received by us in reduction of the debts.

£307.8.10 Dec. 1826

£267.12.2 Nov. 1827

£147.14.2 Jany. 1829

£329.12.7 Sept. 1830

£281.10.6 May 1831

£1354.0.3 Total

68.10.9 add attorney's Commission Expenses fees &c

£1422.11

In Decr. 1826 the first Paymt. Was made. The original Sum was £9500 Currency equal to about £5600 Stg. & the whole Sums paid in reduction are only £1422.11 leaving a Balance of about £4177 Stg in our favour. If Mr Finlay would agree to pay £3000 Stg. in two years & conclude the affair in toto I would willingly close with him. I am much pleased that you have entrusted the affair to the Glasgow house & I shall be anxious

to know the Progress you are making in settling this harassing business & I particularly request that you will hasten it as much as possible.

I beg to thank Miss Jane for her very kind letter, the Contents were very interesting as we had not heard of our many friends for a very long time. Willm's Lady presented him with a Daughter in March last. He still held a good appointment in [illeg.]

Mrs Stirling here is delicate but has been a little stronger lately but there is no wonder when you know she has been living & Sleeping in newly plastered Walls these 6 weeks past. Government is

repairing all the buildings along the Coast & as Smuggling is expected to be carried on next winter pretty briskly we are to have 100 more men in this district. Let me hear soon of your Successful progress in the business & with our united good wishes to yourself & Sisters believe my Dear Airth
Yours very truly Thos. Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
 Airth Castle
 [c.o. Falkirk]
NB Strowan Crieff

[readdressed on the back]

Stamped: 16 AU 1832

[in another hand – Speak to Uncle Tom about old Kealley [unclear]]

Copy of letter from Thomas Stirling to Andrew Hutton

MS. 10867 f. 313

Copy Letter
Thomas Stirling Esqr
To
Mr Andrew Hutton Wr. Stirling
New Romney Kent Decr 5th 1832

Sir,

The Interest of the £100 sent to Mr. Graham Stirling of Airth by Stirling Gordon & Co. by my order has been due commencing in August 1831 being 15 months As the amount will be about £5 I have to request that you will have the goodness to remit to me the sum of £5 in the most convenient way either by a draft or Bank of England note whichever may appear the safest I beg you will endeavour to let it reach me not later than the 21st of this month

I hope your are quite well and Believe me, Dear Sir &c
(signed) Thomas Stirling

Letter from Alexander Finlay to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 69-70

Edinburgh 6 Dean Terrace
St. Bernards
Octr 13th 1834

My dear Sir,

I believe you are aware that Missives were exchanged in the beginning of this year between Mr Gauld upon the part of Messrs Stirling, and Mr Gordon as acting for me, by which all right and interest in Ardoch Penn was to be surrendered, on Mr G. remitting to England the sum of £1000 Sterg.

I was much surprised however at finding that Mr Gordon, instead of acting as he had agreed to

do, in terms of the formal [c.o. agreement] Missive, had made some frivolous objections & I am as much disappointed at his breach

breach of faith, as Messrs Stirling could be, and have written to him accordingly expressing my displeasure at his conduct.

Being a Constituent Member of the Pitt Club⁹⁵², and being anxious, though a very humble individual, [c.o. individual] to support the good Cause whenever an opportunity presents itself, I have some thoughts of attending in Sir George Murray's grand Dinner,⁹⁵³ if I am not too late to get admission – I only returned from England two days ago, but if through your good Offices I can be assured of a ticket, I shall go over to Perth, & shall then perhaps have the pleasure of

of a few minutes Conversation with you, when I can show you what has passed between Mr Gordon & me in relation to Ardoch -

My Letters from Jamaica were dated 16th August when the new System⁹⁵⁴ promised fairly and my yesterday's London [illeg.] Herald) says that [illeg.] reached London to the End of August from Trinidad, St Vincent, Antigua, Barbados, & St Kitts, in all of which Colonies, the negroes were working as formerly – Begging the favor of two lines as to the ticket, I remain Dear Sir

Yours Sincerely
Alex. Finlay

To T. Graham Stirling Esq. &c &c

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq
Airth Castle
Falkirk

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 271-274

Forbes, Forbes & Co.
Angel Court
Throgmorton St.
London
2d May 1835 [in another hand]

My dear friend -

I put off writing to you so long in the hope that I should be able to tell you all my plans, and how my application to the India House had terminated – I have not received a final answer, tho' I have been so far informed that the Court will grant me my Indian Allowances & count the time I have been absent from India in my Service, provided I return to the Cape on route to India with as little delay as possible – I have [c.o.] replied that my necessities compel me to say at present that I accept their offer but that I yet hope they will be able to set aside the Law or Regulation that obliges me to do so, and that they will in compliance with the prayer of my Memorial make

an effort to save me & my family from such a hard alternative -

In my Memorial I have made several claims upon the Court of Directors, the principal of which is that they will grant me my allowances, & Service and allow me to remain in England instead of the Cape – that they will pay my passage from the Cape & back again – That they will give me security

against certain losses, I apprehend – and that they will give me as full and liberal a compensation as many can afford, for all the hardships, anxieties & injuries I and my family have suffered by the resolution of the Cape Govt. to prevent our landing at the Port to which we were bound, and had arrived at &c &c⁹⁵⁵

I have also claimed that if they cannot give, they will endeavour to get me redress which they have agreed to – and accordingly they have approved of my Memorial laid it before the Board of Control who have I am happy to say concurred in the view taken of my case by the Court of Directors – as the Govt. of

of the Cape is under the King & not the East India Company – the Court of Directors have forwarded my Memorial and documents (which I took the precaution to get complete) to H.M. Colonial Govt. with a letter recommending it to their favourable consideration – On account of the change of Ministry no answer had yet been recd. but I have no great hopes of getting money from them, though Lord Aberdeen who gave me a long audience on the subject while in office confessed it was a very hard case. Should they not pay me, I must again appeal to the Company & try what I can get there – Tho' at last I may be obliged to place my case in the hands of the Opposition, and have it brought before Parliament. One Member has volunteered to do so for me, but I am in hopes that such a cause will be rendered unnecessary – It being however, a claim of such a distinct nature, resting on its own undisputed justice, [c.o.] the most moderate proceeding would be the best at all events till driven further – and now, my friend let me thank you for your kind and ready introduction to Mr Clarke⁹⁵⁶ – He received me

with great affability, and attention, and spoke of you with the greatest regard. I cannot but feel how much my business has been advanced by his influence exerted for me, on your account – I am afraid it will not be in my power to pay you a visit before I sail, (which if the Court cannot relax these Laws) will be early in July. I must accept their offer, because it gains me my time (to say nothing of money) which is more precious than almost any thing they can give me.

You are aware that my Brother Tom agreed to accept £1000 from Finlay on liquidation of his debt to us, and that Finlay did not fulfil the engagement.

I gave Mr Oliver in London Finlays agent to understand that in consequence of Finlays nonpayment, we should stand on our original rights

and that I would spare neither trouble nor money to oblige Finlay to pay or give us back the estates -

We accordingly placed our Cause in the hands of Messrs Forbes & Hale Ely Place London – and we had no sooner done so that we received a letter from Oliver & Co offering to pay the £1000 down.

We have handed the offer over to F. & Hale and it will depend upon their opinion and advice what resolution we adopt – Tom at my request, on my arrival, wrote to Finlay to say that although he had not fulfilled his agreement yet we were willing to allow him till the 12th Inst. to do so, but that in the event of his not paying the Cash on that day, we should consider the whole transaction null and void, & stand on our original rights. He did not answer that letter

at all, nor did we hear from him till the 28th Inst. when in consequence of his silence, we had placed the business in the hands of my Solicitors. We are therefore free agents to act as we may be best advised. It certainly seems strange that we should accept £1000, when by the end of the year we may expect twice that sum as compensation⁹⁵⁷ besides obliging him (Finlay) to pay the balance of his debt to us -

You will be glad to hear that now we have recovered from the effects of our [c.o. voyage] long passage, having been brought to England in the depth of Winter, unprovided with necessary clothing and comforts for such a voyage at such a season, Mrs Stirling and myself are fast

recovering our health & spirits, and are able in great measure to forget the many distresses

of mind and body which we have been exposed to, and are almost disposed to look upon our being brought to England a blessing rather than a subject of regret – Our poor Baby⁹⁵⁸, about whom we were so anxious is fast recovering its health which relieves us from a load of anxiety and care which has long oppressed us. My Marion is a sweet affectionate mild, retiring child, and altho' we must leave our children behind us when we sail from England, we are grateful to find that heaven has raised up friends to us in whose worth kindness and ability we can confidently trust. They are to be placed with their Aunt⁹⁵⁹, a pious & most exemplary person, perfectly capable of instructing them or superintending their education -

In closing this letter allow me once more to thank

1835

you for your many acts of kindness to me, and to assure you they will never be forgotten -

With kind and affectionate remembrances to your Sisters and

the young Gentlemen if with you

Believe me yours most Sincerely

W Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire

Airth Castle

Falkirk

Stirlingshire

Stamped: MY 2 1835

MAY 4 1835

[Noted in another hand] Tom Stirlings Letters & Wm. [unclear]

POSTSCRIPT

Thomas Graham Stirling died at Airth 6th July 1836, and a month later, on the morning of 12th August, William, his wife and their maidservant, were shipwrecked in the Seychelles on their way back to India. Less than two month's before, Sibella had given birth to a son, Charles, in Cape Town but the baby had died soon after birth. They survived almost six months on a desert island until rescued, finally arriving in Bombay 16th March 1837. William retired from India in October 1841 with the rank of Major and they finally arrived back in England in the following May. They documented the experience of their shipwreck in a book, privately printed in Exeter in 1843.⁹⁶⁰ Tragically, a year later, Sibella died of scarlet fever, and their youngest daughter died of the same the following day. William, left with two young daughters, married again in 1845, fathering four more children. He died in Heavitree, Devon, 2nd November 1871.

His brother, Thomas, did a further stint in the coastguard service in the Romney Marshes, Kent, where they were living in 1841. His family continued to grow and he depended on his wife's eldest brother, Rev. William Hockin, to help educate them. His wife died at or near her brother's house in Salulary Place, Exeter in 1850. When his daughter Maria married Juxon Henry Jones, an assistant surgeon in the Bengal army, the following year, Thomas and four of his children were also living nearby in Salulary Place so they may have moved some time before his wife's death. Juxon writing to his mother from India in December 1855 mentioned.."I have not much news of ourselves, so I

will speak of dear Minnie's family - Their household is broken up & there is now not longer a No. 7 - the title my [sic] which Minnie's father's house was always known. The girls are scattered every where - some gone to brothers the eldest - a most sweet woman - will I know be taken care of by dear old uncle Luxmore, who by the by is promoted to the rank of Port Captn. You perhaps know that he has gone out twice to the Baltic..". Another link from the past which throws light on the family was Mrs Charles Stirling who visited Thomas in Dartmouth in the early years of his marriage. She responded to a request for help with a promotion in a way which is familiar to the reader of earlier letters.

Letters from Mrs Charles Stirling to her nephew William Stirling-Maxwell

T-SK-29/8/117 ff. 182-192

Dearest William

I am much annoyed at troubling you but I know you will help these poor Stirlings if you can. I have copied out from Mrs Hockin's⁹⁶¹ letter what she says of her Nephews, to save you from having a long letter

to get through before arriving at the business matter - She begins by saying that her Nephew William⁹⁶² writes that he thinks if Mr Stirling would kindly use his interest very strongly in his favor he might get his

Company - Tho' the general rule is, that the Marines are promoted in rotation - Of Course - it seems hard that the Marines in so special a case should not be rewarded but you must judge of the propriety of making the Application or not -

and act as you think right - My sister has been very ill for nearly three weeks -- but she is so much better that I hope .. she may soon be able to go to Edinb.

With much love--

I am ..dear William

Your Ever Affect.

Aunt C Stirling

Linlathen⁹⁶³ 16 Oct. [1858]

Extract from Mrs Hockin's letter to me--

We hope that neither yourself nor Mr Stirling will think we are troubling you - too much is we again remind you of Henry L- Stirling⁹⁶⁴ - A Friend of ours in Exeter - has just received a Nomination - for his son to a Marine Cadetship, & he is appointed to go up for his Exam-

-ination of the 1st December -

The next Examination after this, will be (we believe) on the 2nd March: but in order to be able to get up then, his nomination must be dated, prior to the 2d Decr. which will be his 17th Birthday"--

Extract from a letter of W. Stirling's dated from the Shannon - Augt. 1858

"You are perhaps aware that every Officer - in The Shannon, from the Commander to the Carpenter has been promoted with the Exception of the useless Marine Officer! - who nevertheless did his duty well - I believe I have been recommended

strongly to the Admiralty by Sir William Peel⁹⁶⁵ - but I suppose they do not think it worth my while to recognise my services -

I have a Copy of the dispatch that Capt. Vaughan sent home & he says it was Capt Peel's last wish that Wilson, Hay, & Stirling should be mentioned

& that Capt Peel would have done it himself if he had lived -

Fifty seven Marines & two Officers went up - & twenty four Marines & one Officer came down - & that Officer was twice wounded in the leg and thigh -

I do not deserve any promotion in the abstract but it has been deemed

right to promote all other Officers for their services"-----⁹⁶⁶

26 Octr. 1858

My dear William

I cannot tell you how much I am disappointed at the Contents of - Sir J Pakington's⁹⁶⁷ letter - What is to become of the poor boy I know not. - His father having only £95 Pr -Ann - being his half pay as Lieut. R N - and with this he has to support two unmarried daughters

besides himself -

Henry has been kept on at his Studies, at the expense of myself and an Uncle, (who has a small salary for a Chaplaincy) in the Expectation of obtaining a Marine Cadetship - and at his Age it will be a difficult matter to get any thing Else for

him - Would it do any good to get Sir John's former letter, which Certainly gave strong hope of a Cadetship before December - to shew to Sir John? If so will you write to Mrs Hockin - 18 Salutory Place Exeter, & ask her to send you the letter immediately - When

I forwarded the letter to Exeter, I begged of Mrs Hockin to Keep it carefully - in case we should wish to refer to it, at a future time - I am sure you will do what you can for this poor fellow: but I am aware how unpleasant it is to annoy any one with repeated Applications
We shall be delighted to see you on the 2d - Yrs Affect. C Stirling.⁹⁶⁸

The significant help given to the family by the Rev. William Hockin and his wife Mary resulted in the two eldest sons, Charles and Waite, graduating from Exeter College, Oxford, from where William Hockin had also graduated. Charles became Vicar of New Malden with Coombe, Surrey and Waite became the Bishop of the Falkland Islands. Both lived into their nineties.

Thomas Stirling himself lived the rest of his life with his unmarried eldest daughter, Mary, until his death on 31st March 1878 at Felixwell Cottage, St Thomas near Exeter.

NOTES ON SOURCES

Graham of Airth Papers and additional papers National Library of Scotland
MS10866, MS10867, MS10872, MS10873, MS10924, MS10925, MS10943, MS10947, MS10951,
MS10955, MS10960 and ACC 12290

Papers of the Family of Stirling Home Drummond Moray of Abercairny National Records of
Scotland
GD24/1

Records of the Stirling Family of Keir and Cawder CSG Archives <Archives@glasgowlife.org.uk>
T-SK

Graham Papers SAA South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge

House of Lords Sessional Papers 1875 Vol. XII

Much of the genealogical information has been built up and checked over time using many sources. One of the most useful has been the site provided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, most particularly access to the scans of the original parish registers for Jamaica. See <https://familysearch.org/>. I have also used the commercial databases <http://ancestry.co.uk/> and ScotlandsPeople at <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

- 1 Frederick C. Macdonald *Bishop Stirling of the Falklands, The adventurous life of a soldier of the Cross whose humility hid the daring spirit of a hero & an inflexible will to face great risks*. Seeley, Service 1929.
- 2 Born in Russia in 1731, second son of Sir Henry Stirling , 3rd of Ardoch and Anna Gordon, daughter of Admiral Thomas Gordon. Stirling, a Jacobite, went to Russia in 1716 to try and arrange a pardon for his uncle, Sir John Erskine, through the influence of another uncle, Robert Erskine, Peter the Great 's doctor. Gordon had joined the Tsar's Navy in 1717 and remained a Russian officer until his death in 1741. Sir Henry Stirling married Anna Gordon in 1726 and they remained in Russia until the death of Admiral Gordon. Thomas was sent back to Scotland with his older brother, William, in 1738. They lived with their father's sister, Isabella, and her husband, Patrick Linton at Pendrick near Dunblane. He served in the Scots Brigade in the Dutch service from 1747 until he joined the 42nd Highlanders in 1757.[Rebecca Wills *The Jacobites and Russia 1715-1750*. An excellent source on a little-known aspect of the Scottish diaspora]
- 3 Sir William Stirling , 4th of Ardoch, elder brother of Thomas, born in Russia in 1729. He was also in the Dutch regiment from 1745 until 1754. His father died in 1753. He married Christian, daughter of John Erskine of Cardross, in 1760.
- 4 Sister Mary married Captain James Campbell 11th August 1760
- 5 Sister Ann married William Graham of Airth 7th February 1760
- 6 The British established a trading post in the area [now New York state] in 1722 and fortified it with a log palisade later called Fort Oswego. The first fortification on the site of the current Fort Ontario was built by the British in 1755 and called the "Fort of the Six Nations." Fort Ontario was destroyed by the French upon capturing it in the Battle of Fort Oswego, during the French and Indian War. Construction of a second British fort began on the same site in 1759, but Fort Oswego was only used as a cannon emplacement. During the American Revolution, the British abandoned the Fort, and in 1778, American troops destroyed it. In 1782, the British reoccupied Fort Ontario, and didn't forfeit it to the U.S. until 1796, thirteen years after the cessation of hostilities in the Revolution. During the War of 1812, a weaker American garrison at Fort Oswego was overwhelmed by superior British forces, in order to stem the flow of supplies from the interior of New York state. Throughout the 19th Century, the U.S. military maintained a presence at Fort Ontario. [Wikipedia]
- 7 Son of Lord Strathallan who was killed at Culloden, Henry Drummond was from 1759 the army agent for the 42nd and 46th regiment of Foot.
- 8 Francis Maclean, son of William of Blaich, was appointed captain in the 2nd battalion of the 42nd Highlanders on its being raised in October, 1758. At the capture of the island of Guadaloupe, he was severely wounded, but owing to his gallant conduct was promoted to the rank of major, and appointed governor of the island of Marie Galante in the Caribbean.
- 9 He wrote to George Stirling on 27th August although he had already died 4th July 1760. George's mother, Christian, was a sister of Sir Henry Stirling, and his father was John Stirling of Belleville, Auchyll, and Herbertshire.
- 10 Ann Stirling a daughter of Sir Henry of Ardoch married William Graham in 1760. He was son of James Graham, 1st of Airth and Lady Mary Livingston, born in 1730.
- 11 Town in Donegal, Ireland. Thomas became a notable soldier. He had joined the Scots brigade in the service of the Prince of Orange in 1747 and served the Dutch for ten years. He became a Captain in the 42nd Highlanders in 1757 and served in Canada, Martinique and Havanna. He was sent to take possession of the Illinois country in 1765 and returned for garrison duty in Ireland in 1767.
- 12 John Hamilton of Bellfield, near Hamilton, husband of his sister Isabella Stirling, so a brother in law common to both Thomas Stirling and William Graham
- 13 Writer of the Signet. Fourth son of the Rev. John Erskine of Cardross, D.D. and Anne Stirling of Keir, his second wife. Born in 1739.
- 14 His brother.
- 15 Banker in Edinburgh and member of the town council for a number of years. In 1782 a notice that creditors should lodge their claims suggests that he went bankrupt. He was described as merchant in the notice. His death was noted in 1785 "Lately, in India, Mr John Wordie, late one of the magistrates of Edinburgh". [The Scots Magazine, Vol. 48]
- 16 House of Mary Campbell, widow of Captain James Campbell, son of Colin Campbell, Master of Cask, who died in 1761. She was the eldest child of Sir Henry Stirling & Anna Gordon, born 1720 in Kronstadt, Russia. Married in 1760. Died without issue in 1801. Lochlane house in the parish of Monzievaird and Strowan near Creiff, still stands. The building listing describes it as a small mansion dating from 1710.
- 17 His mother, Anna Gordon, who died 23rd September 1776
- 18 Probably Anthony Murray who had five daughters, the fourth named Frances, before his son was born. He married Miss Helen Murray of Octertyre in 1765.
- 19 Douglas, Isle of Man
- 20 He was promoted to Major 12th December 1770
- 21 Near Stirling
- 22 Motto on the Coat of Arms for the Isle of man meaning "whichever way you throw, it will stand"
- 23 It is possible that this is a veiled reference to his sister, Isabella Stirling, who was accused of adultery. Her

- husband, John Hamilton, initiated divorce proceeding in September 1772. The evidence from the case suggests that the affair between Isabella and Duncan Macfarlane, who could be described as a footman but was also the groom, was witnessed soon after his arrival at Martinmass (11 November) 1770.
- 24 Noted in Paymaster General's account in 1771 and 1772 he received money for reimbursing sundry Regiments of Foot [Journals of the House of Commons, Vol. 34]
- 25 'Unto the Right Honourable the Lords of Council and Session, the petition of William Watt, merchant in Airth-[Edinburgh, 1771] (On the terms of a sub-lease)
- 'Answers for John Wordie: Sometime Tenant in Dykes of Polmaise, Now in Cowmoors, Pursuer, to the Petition of William Watt Merchant in Airth, Defender'.
- 26 Thomas, fourth son of William Graham born 1st March 1768.
- 27 David Graeme (1716-1797) was the son of James Graeme of Braco and Catherine Stirling, the daughter of Sir William Stirling, 2nd of Ardoch. Between 1764 and 1773 he was Member of Parliament for Perthshire.
- 28 Sallow or willow
- 29 Possibly youngest brother of John Erskine of Carnock and Cardross, advocate, Professor of Scots Law at the University of Edinburgh, and author of the *Institute of the Law of Scotland*. Charles was born in 1731 and died unmarried in 1771.
- 30 Home of Sir James Stirling until his death in April 1771. In Campsie, Dunbartonshire.
- 31 Possibly Susanna Erskine, daughter of Charles Erskine of Alva, who married Robert Campbell of Monzie 26 March 1749 in Edinburgh.
- 32 His five daughters range in age from ten to five.
- 33 Possibly Robert Ross, music seller, Back of the Fountain Well, Edinburgh 1774-77 [Scottish Book Trade Index, NLS]
- 34 Most likely to be writing to her son, Charles Stirling. If so, this is the first reference found for his being in Jamaica.
- 35 Possibly Anne Stirling widow of John Erskine of Cardross. She had adult sons and may have been with David, noted at the bottom of the letter.
- 36 Jean Stirling (c.1725-1797) daughter of Capt. John Stirling and Christian Stirling of Herbertshire. Sir James Stirling of Glorat, the third baronet had taken her as his second wife. Sir James died on 30th April 1771 and was succeeded in his baronetcy by his cousin Sir Alexander Stirling. His widow subsequently married James Erskine, Lord Alva.
- 37 Sir Alexander Stirling of Glorat (1715-1791). In a memorial for Sir Alexander Stirling of Glorat, dated 1771, it is stated, that in the year 1757, 'after Sir James and his Lady had been married about six years, and having no prospect of children, she appears to have prevailed with her husband, who was a very easy man in his temper, to execute a most irrational and unnatural deed, whereby he vested the total life-rent of his estate in the Lady, with his whole moveable goods and gear whatever, and thus pillaged and robbed his own family.' [Fraser - *Stirlings of Keir* p. 147]
- 38 James Erskine of Barjarg and Alva (1722-1796), Lord of Session as Lord Barjarg then Lord Alva married 26th January 1772 in Edinburgh and on 31st January, repeated at Alva
- 39 Henry Erskine (1746-1817), lawyer and politician, was born at Gray's Close, Edinburgh, on 1st November 1746, the third son of Henry David Erskine, tenth earl of Buchan...On 30th March 1772 Erskine married Christian (1753-1804), only child of George Fullerton of Broughton Hall, near Edinburgh, comptroller of the customs at Leith.. [DNB]
- 40 Anthony Murray Esq. of Crieff and Dollerie (1746-1838). Married Helen Murray in 1765
- 41 A tragedy written by William Congreve published in 1697
- 42 David Erskine
- 43 Promoted to Lt. Col. 7th September 1771
- 44 Scotland was known as "Land of Cakes". He was referring to the banking crash of 1772, commonly known as the Black Year. "Black Monday (June 8, 1772), caused great failures in England, but in Scotland it simply proved disastrous. Scottish banks and bankers fell before it like the trees of the forest before a cyclone. The Ayr Bank of Douglas, Heron and Co. (bolstered as it was by London bills) went down with a crash, leaving a greater wreck than Scotland had suffered since the ill-starred Darien expedition. One hundred and forty Scottish land-owners suffered as shareholders. Among them were the Dukes of Buccleuch and Queensberry, who invoked the assistance of the Bank of England, and were informed that that Bank already held £150,000 in notes of Douglas, Heron and Co.
- In Edinburgh the fallen banks lay thick as leaves in Vallombrosa. Arbuthnot and Guthrie, Andrew Sinclair and Co., Fordyce, Malcolm and Co., Johnstone and Smith, William Alexander and Sons, Gibson and Balfour, Anthony Ferguson, and William Hogg junior, all went down before the storm, never to rise again. Alone among Edinburgh private banks, John Coutts and Co., Mansfield, Hunter and Co., and William Gumming and Son, stood fast..." [Coutts & co., bankers, Edinburgh and London...]
- 45 Brother Charles
- 46 Charles Graham was born 3rd November and baptised at Muthill, the Ardoch parish church, on 19th November.
- 47 James Erskine of Cardross married Christian Bruce daughter of William Bruce, 8th Earl of Kincardine. James was son of John Erskine and Anne Stirling of Keir.

- 48 Sir Henry Seton of Abercorn, Fourth Baronet. He was captain in the Seventeenth Regiment of Foot, and served in North America. He married Margaret, daughter to Alexander Hay of Drumelzier. His son ,Alexander, succeeded him on his death in 1788. He was noted as a good correspondent "notably with General Sir Thomas Stirling" [Sir Bruce Gordon Seton *The House of Seton: A study of Lost Causes* (Vol.2 p.529)]
- 49 James Murray (1734–1794), was the second son of Lord George Murray. He was in the same regiment as Thomas Stirling and had also fought in Martinique but was seriously wounded. Murray was elected Member of Parliament for Perthshire in 1773, a seat he held for the next 21 years.
- 50 Thomas Graham (1748-1843) inherited Balgowan on the death of his father in 1767. In 1772 he stood as a Whig candidate for Perth, was defeated, but he later served as M.P. for Perth from 1794 to 1807. He married Mary, daughter of Lord Cathcart in 1774. After her death in 1792 he joined the British Army, raising a regiment of infantry, the Perthshire Volunteers, and rose to the rank of General. He served until 1814 when he was raised to the peerage as Baron Lynedoch of Balgowan in the County of Perth.
- 51 William Pearson was the owner of Kippenross, Dunblane.
- 52 John Edmonstone of Cambus Wallace, Doune, Perth
- Not far to the east of Doune Castle, on higher ground, is the most attractive late 6th century lesser laird's house of Newton Doune, a small L-planned fortalice, harled and pink-washed, unusual in that its wing has a rounded not a square gable. It was the residence of a branch of the Edmonstone of Duntreath family, who became hereditary captains of the great castle close by, for the Earls of Moray. Like their masters, they remained loyal to the royal house of Stewart, and in 1708 the Edmonstone Laird of Newton was one of the five Perthshire lairds arrested in an abortive Jacobite attempt. It is interesting to note that, in September 1745, Prince Charlie 'pree'd the mou'--kissed the mouth--of Miss Robina Edmonstone, at Doune Lodge, near by--although this house was then called Cambuswallace. It is a handsome white mansion, standing pleasingly on a green terrace above parkland, just over a mile west of the town, and is now the seat of the Earl of Moray's heir, Lord Doune. [<http://www.visitdunkeld.com/doune-castle.htm>]
- 53 General [Michael O'Brien] Dilkes's Observations on the Sixty-second Regiment of Foot [commanded by Lieutenant-General William Strobe.] Reviewed by Him in the Phœnix Park near Dublin on the 3d Day of August 1773
- Officers—Made a good Appearance.—Well Armed.—Saluted Well but with Stiffness.—Uniforms agreeable to the Kings Regulation; But much too Short and Tight.
- Non Commisssd Offrs—Made a Good Appearance.—Very Clean and Alert.
- Drummers and Fifers—Beat Well, and Play Well.
- Men—The Front Rank full Size, Rear Rank Lower, and Center very Low.—Well made.—Mostly Young Very Clean under Arms.—Well Dressed.—Extreamly Steady and Attentive.—Hats Cocked with a Foreign Pinch.—Their Hair Qued with Art.—Black Gayters.
- Cloathing—Good.—But Remarkably Short and Tight, and Contrary to the Pattern approved of by the General Officers.
- Arms—Clean and Bright.
- Accoutrements—Good, and agreeable to the Kings Regulation.
- Recruits—Young, Good Size.—58 Inlisted Since Last Review.—of Which 47 In the Ranks.—17 unfit for the Ranks.—4 Discharged.—20 Deserted.—And 3 Entertained from Desertion.
- Complaints—None.
- Accounts—Properly Settled to the 24th of June 1772.
- Orderly Books—Properly Kept.
- Manual Exercise—Extreamly well performed but rather too Quick.
- Movements Evolutions Firings and Manœuvres—Exactly the Same as Described in the Observations on the 9th Regiment.
- General Observations—This is a Good Regiment Marched Well. Fired Well.—And performed the Several Movements Evolutions, and Manœuvres with great Spirit.—And will Soon be Fit for Service.
- Barracks—Vide Report of the Barracks of Dublin Annexed to the Observations on the 9th Regiment.
- [signed] OB Dilkes General
[http://www.62ndregiment.org/general_reviews.htm]
- 54 James Robertson of Lude (1736-1802)
- 55 Charles Graham was born 3rd November 1772 and baptised on the 19th at the Episcopal Church, Muthill, Perth.
- 56 Seat of William Macdowall 20th Garthland and 2nd Castle Semple, husband of Elizabeth Graham, William's sister. The estate was sold by Hugh Sempill, 12th Lord Sempill, in 1727, to Colonel William Macdowall (d. 1748), a younger son of Macdowall of Garthland. In 1735, Macdowall demolished the house and erected a new one on its site. The new Castle Semple was an elaborate gothic mansion which became renowned for its extensive gardens which formed the centrepiece of the 900 acres estate.
- 57 Possibly George Middleton, a Captain in the Scots Brigade and then Controller of Customs. He died at Leith in 1794.
- 58 Kersie Mains [Airth parish] is an interesting example of a small laird's house of about the middle of the 17th century, the plan and general scale of the building being typical of the period. The exact date of its erection is

unknown, but the house was the seat of John Wright of "Carsy" in 1707; it subsequently passed to the Earls of Dunmore and later became a farmhouse. [<http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/record/rcahms/47174/kersie-mains-farmhouse/rcahms?inline=true#map-wrapper>]

- 59 Hugh Seton, Baron of Touch and Tullibody, Hereditary Armour Bearer to the King. When James Seton, last direct Seton male of Touch, died in 1742 unmarried, his only sibling Elizabeth Seton inherited the estate. She had married Hugh Smith, and by arrangement, he assumed his wife's surname of Seton and continued the House of Touch and Tullibody.
- Hugh Seton, together with local lairds, brought families down from the highlands to start the mammoth task of draining the Carse of Stirling. Ditches were dug to float the peat which covered this bogland down to the River Forth, and eventually out to sea. In all an area some 60 square miles was reclaimed, and the rich clay soil which was exposed beneath and was for many years renowned for the production of Timothy hay. This was only the start of Hugh Seton's improvements to Touch. It is to him that we owe the magnificent south front which was commenced in 1757 and continued till 1770 when the Drawing Room ceiling was completed. As a result of his expenditure Hugh Seton found himself in considerable debt and left to travel abroad. His son, Archibald, determined to clear the estate of debt, joined the East India Company and sailed to India in 1779. He rose to high office, accumulated a considerable sum of money but sadly died on his way home before reaching Touch on whose behalf he has worked all his life. [http://www2.thesetonfamily.com:8080/history/Profiles/Hugh_Seton_Baron_of_Touch_and_Tullibody.htm]
- 60 Appin is a remote coastal district of the Scottish West Highlands bounded to the west by Loch Linnhe, to the south by Loch Creran, to the east by the districts of Benderloch and Lorne, and to the north by Loch Leven. [Wikipedia]
- 61 Muslin was introduced from Bengal in the 17th century while Nankeen, a yellowish cotton cloth, was originally made in Nanking, China and introduced in the 18th century, so both were foreign imports.
- 62 To hamstring or sever the Achilles tendon.
- 63 Charles born 3rd November 1772
- 64 James Bruce 7th of Kinnard, published his *Travels to Discover the Source of the Nile, In the Years 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772 and 1773* in 1790. Neighbour of the Grahams at Kinnard. His mother, Marion Graham, was stepsister to William by his father's first marriage to Marion Hamilton.
- 65 Faro, Pharaoh, or Farobank, is a late 17th century French gambling card game
- 66 Thomas Dundas (1750-1794) succeeded as Laird of Carronhall upon the death of his father (also Thomas) in 1786. He entered the army in 1766 and served in America during the Seven Years War, as Lieutenant Colonel of the 80th Regiment of Foot. His father was described as pretentious and dishonest. "...Appointed deputy Lord Lyon in 1744, married to an earl's daughter, the proprietor of Carronhall estate (purchased in 1749), Thomas increased his pretensions. It was probably at his instigation that his father in 1757 instituted proceedings before the court of session challenging the title of George Dundas of Dundas to be served heir as chief of the 'name'. During the hearing it was stated that Thomas the younger of Fingask was 'well known to have made an idol of this headship of the family' and that while he was deputy Lyon king of arms he had fraudulently entered the arms of Dundas of Dundas in the Lyon books under his own family name. The Fingask claim was dismissed in 1758 and Thomas later applied in 1769 to the Lyon office to have his arms differenced from those of Dundas of Dundas..." [*The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1754-1790*, ed. L. Namier, J. Brooke., 1964]
- 67 Mary Campbell
- 68 Eldest daughter born 1761
- 69 There is a son, Bruce, for whom no birth or baptism date has been found.
- 70 About 6km from Airth
- 71 It may be that William Graham was thinking of sending his eldest son, James aged 12, to Harrow.
- 72 Catherine Stirling sister of Sir Henry, aunt of the writer, married James Graeme of Braco and was mother of David whose daughter Catherine married Hon. Thomas Hampden in 1768.
- 73 James Finlay married Helen Wedderburn, daughter of Alexander, at Canongate, Edinburgh 22nd March 1774. There is a long association between him and his family and both the Stirlings of Ardoch and Keir.
- 74 Robert Ord, chief baron of the Scottish exchequer. 1755-1775.
- 75 T-LX/1/12/22-35 Writs of the property of the lands of Inchbelly, Inchbrek and Auchenririe, parish of Campsie, Stirlingshire, sold by William Graham of Airth to John Lennox of Antermony. 1616-1784, 13 docs. [City Archives, The Mitchell Library, Glasgow]
- 76 Owned by William Pearson who sold it to John Stirling of Kippendavie in 1778
- 77 Simon Harcourt, 1st Earl Harcourt, was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland from 1772 until 1777.
- 78 Probably son of John Erskine and Anne Stirling, younger brother of David Erskine whose second wife was Anne Graham, daughter of William of Airth. Captain in the 42nd at this date.
- 79 Hamilton, John, of Reidhall, in the Old Church p., and Miss Christian, in West Church p., d. of deceased Robert Grahame of Cambo 20 Mar 1774 [Edinburgh - Register of Marriages]
- 80 His son, John, noted in a letter from Charles Stirling in Jamaica in May 1788
- 81 A Tontine is an investment plan for raising capital, devised in the 17th century and relatively widespread in the 18th and 19th. It combines features of a group annuity and a lottery. Each subscriber pays an agreed sum into the fund,

and thereafter receives an annuity. As members die, their shares devolve to the other participants, and so the value of each annuity increases. On the death of the last member, the scheme is wound up. In a variant, which has provided the plot device for most fictional versions, on the death of the penultimate member the capital passes to the last survivor. [Wikipedia]

82 IRISH ANNUITIES

Bank, Grafton-Street.

Any Persons, desirous of purchasing Shares in the Irish Tontine or Annuities, may, by applying to the House of Sir William Desse and Company, Bankers in Grafton-Street, become Proprietors of the same, as the Company of the said House undertake to deliver the Treasury Receipts, by which Means they cannot be excluded the Benefit thereof.
W. DESSE and Co.

London Gazette 15-19 February 1774

By the following year Desse was bankrupt.

83 Eldest son of Airth born 1761

84 Probably his mother, Lady Stirling, who died 23rd September 1775.

85 Strike of the moors

86 Probably Christian, second daughter of Sir William, born 1762, as he usually refers to Sir William's wife as Lady Stirling.

87 Dowries

88 There was a mill at Airth but no information as to whether it was owned by William Graham

89 Flax used for making linen.

90 Possibly one of the daughters of Francis Masterton of Parkmill

91 Younger son of Patrick of Kippendavie. He later inherited the sugar plantation, Content, in the parish of St James . In September 1774 this was listed as belonging to Patrick Stirling, his elder brother. It was noted as having 8 men able to bear arms, no women and children, 201 slaves, 105 stock, producing 283 hogsheads of sugar. Patrick died the following year. John is noted in Fraser's book on the Stirlings of Keir as being present in Jamaica in 1771.

92 Anne Elmsall daughter of William Emsall, a St Petersburg merchant, and Mary Gordon, daughter of Admiral Thomas Gordon, was the second wife of James Kyd, a sea captain from Elie, Fife.

93 Lady Stirling, widow of Sir Henry, mother of the writer.

94 Alexander Clark was to be apprenticed to Charles Stirling in Jamaica.

95 Alexander, son of James Clark and Jean Harvie was baptised the 30th June 1754 at Carriden, West Lothian. Grangepan is one of four villages in the parish of Carriden.

96 1st Lt. Col. Archibald Montgomery, Field Officer, Militia of Horse, Eastern Division 1784 Almanac for Jamaica. [<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>]

97 William Barrington, 2nd Viscount Barrington, was Secretary at War so responsible for promotion in the army. Apparently he found the strain of persons constantly asking for military favours so great that he tried to retire from the War Office in 1776 but the King refused to accept his resignation.

98 Possible Helen or Jean Stuart of Castlemilk

99 Alexander Leslie (1731-1794). Son of Alexander Melville (also Leslie), 5th Earl of Leven by his second wife, Elizabeth Monypenny.

100 Thomas Hopkirk, merchant, partner in the Glasgow Arms Bank.

101 Lord Adam Gordon (1728-1801), son of Alexander, 2nd Duke of Gordon. A soldier, then M.P. for Aberdeenshire from 1754-1768 and Kincardineshire from 1774-1788.

102 Mathew, son of William Lewis and Jane Gregory, was born in Jamaica in 1750 where his family owned property near Savanna-la-Mar in Westmoreland. He was appointed Deputy-Secretary at War in 1775 through the patronage of Lord Barrington..

103 The withdrawal of General William Howe after the siege of Boston.

104 Captain Ninian Lewis of West Plean, Stirlingshire

105 William Erskine (1728-1795) son of Col. William Erskine of Torrie, great-grandson of David, 2nd Lord Cardross

106 Archibald, son of John Erskine of Cardross and Anne Stirling, brother of Christian, wife of Sir William Stirling. Born 1753, died 1804.

107 William Murray

108 William Grant

109 Argyle Square in Edinburgh was built about 1730 and full of massive houses. Brown Square nearby was described in 1764 as being almost finished and very elegant. Among those who lived there was Henry Dundas (afterwards Viscount Melville). [*Old and New Edinburgh* Vol. 4]

110 Lt. Robert Rollo was commissioned an Ensign in the 42nd Regt. in Aug. 1775 as the regiment was increasing strength for the American war. He initially served with the line battalion in New York/New Jersey campaign of 1776-1777 and the Philadelphia campaign of 1777-1778 and was promoted to Lieutenant in May 1777 in place of Lt. James Graham who was promoted into the 57th Regt. In Aug. 1778 Rollo transferred to the 42nd Grenadier Company and served as a Grenadier officer in the Siege of Charleston in 1780 before retiring from the Army in

- Sept. 1780. Appointments: Ens. Aug. 26, 1775; Lt. May 22, 1777; Retired Sept. 6, 1780.
- 111 Much work has already been done on the 42nd Regiment and the battles of the War of Independence so these letters are here to give a flavour of Thomas Stirling's involvement. [www.42ndrrh.org]
- 112 Sir Alexander Hepburn Murray (1754-1776) son of Sir Peter Hepburn Murray and Ann Hay. Captain in the 17th Regiment. His father died in 1756 and his mother remarried Archibald Stirling of Keir.
- 113 She died 23rd September 1776
- 114 Now Piscataway, Middlesex Count, New Jersey
- 115 Kippendavie
- 116 William Leslie, second son of David, 6th Earl of Leven. He lies in Pluckemin, New Jersey, where he was buried with full military honours on 5 January 1777, by the Rebels who had killed him two days previously, in the Battle of Princeton.
- 117 Probably what is now Perth Amboy, New Jersey
- 118 Eldest son of William Graham born 1761 finally got an appointment in India in 1780.
- 119 Possibly Jean (Jane) daughter of Sir John Stuart, 4th Bt., and Helen Orr. She married William Stirling of Keir as his second wife on 28th October 1781 at Cadder and on 3rd November at Castlemilk. Or It could be her sister, Helen, who died unmarried in November 1787.
- 120 Remains of a Roman fort at Ardoch.
- 121 A flat ruler with a widened end, formerly used for beating children.
- 122 New Jersey
- 123 John Stirling succeeded to Craigharnock in 1774 on the death of his father, James. The son referred to was the natural son of James, who was noted by Fraser in his book on the Stirlings of Keir to have enlisted as a private in the 42nd Regiment as a result of a dispute with his father. The note continues "Shortly afterwards a commission was purchased for him. He rose to the rank of a general, and commanded the 42nd Regiment in Alexandria..." [p. 135]
- 124 Henry Graham was born in 1766.
- 125 Lord John Murray, Colonel of the 42nd.
- 126 Archibald Erskine son of John Erskine of Carnock & Cardross and Anne Stirling of Keir, born 1753
- 127 Of Torrie. Posted to America and made Colonel of the 80th Foot on 4 March 1777.
- 128 The Battle of Bennington was a battle of the American Revolutionary War, part of the Saratoga campaign, that took place on August 16, 1777, in Walloomsac, New York, about 10 miles (16 km) from its namesake Bennington, Vermont. A rebel force of 2,000 men, primarily composed of New Hampshire and Massachusetts militiamen, led by General John Stark, and reinforced by men led by Colonel Seth Warner and members of the Green Mountain Boys, decisively defeated a detachment of General John Burgoyne's army led by Lieutenant Colonel Friedrich Baum, and supported by additional men under Lieutenant Colonel Heinrich von Breymann. [Wikipedia]
- 129 Major William Murray of 42nd Regt. of Foot promoted to Lt. Col. 5th October 1777
- 130 Anthony Murray of Crieff and Dolerie
- 131 The Murrays of Lintrose, Perthshire, are a junior branch of the Murrays of Ochtertyre. Mungo Murray, (1735-1805) was the only son of John Murray of Lintrose.
- 132 Graham (also Graeme), Yr of Inchbrakie Capt. Patrick (also Peter). Called Peter by his family and fellow officers, Graham was born on Feb. 17, 1755, second son to Patrick Graeme, 8th of Inchbrakie, a former captain in Gen. Colyears Regt. of the Dutch service, and his wife Amelia Oliphant (sister of Oliphant of Gask). Capt. Grahams uncle, Capt-Lt. John Graham, 42nd Regt., was killed at the battle of Bushy Run in 1763 in western Pennsylvania during Pontiacs Rebellion. Patrick was commissioned Ensign in the 42nd Regt. in Dec. 1772 in place of Ens. Colin Campbell who was promoted into the 55th Regt. As the regiment was increasing in size for the war in America in Sept. 1775, Graham was promoted to Lieutenant in the Additional Company. On arriving in America, Graham served with the line battalion in New York/New Jersey campaign of 1776-1777. He was seriously wounded in the arm at Fort Washington in Nov. 1776 and Lt. Col. Stirling noted in March the next year that Lt Peter Graham is recovering, but will be long eer he gets the use of his Arm... In Capt. Erskines absence as a Major of Brigade, Graham likely commanded that company for the Philadelphia campaign of 1777-1778 until June 5, 1778 when he was promoted to Captain in the Additional (or recruit) Company in place of Maj. James MacPherson who retired. From the Additional Company in Scotland and with the support of the Duke of Montrose, Graham was promoted to Major of the 2nd Battalion, 42nd Regt. when it was raised by Lord Murray in March 1780. The 2nd Battalion embarked for India in March 1781 but suffered from scurvy and a fever caught on the Island of Joanna and on reaching Calcutta in 1782, five officers, including Maj. Patrick Graham, and 116 non-commissioned officers and privates had died. [http://inchbrakie.tripod.com/inchbrakie/id68.html]
- 133 James McPherson, Captain in the Regiment from September 1771. Listed in 1778 but not in 1779.
- 134 George
- 135 Robert Ure, Minister at Airth, and wife, Anna Laurie.
- 136 Helen or Jean of Castlemilk. Their mother, Helen Orr, died in 1782 but other references to Castlemilk suggest a young woman.
- 137 Partners in the West India house of Alexander Houston & Co were two sons of the founder, Alexander Houston,

- Andrew Houston of Jordanhill, and his brother, Robert Houston-Rae of Little Govan. The other partners were William Macdowall of Castle Sempill, M.P., and his brother, James Macdowall, Provost of Glasgow.
- 138 Charles Hector, Comte d'Estaing (1729-1794) Following France's entry into the American War of Independence in 1778, he led a fleet to aid the American rebels. He participated in a failed Franco-American siege of Newport, Rhode Island in 1778 and the equally unsuccessful 1779 Siege of Savannah before returning to France in 1780. [Wikipedia]
- 139 Anne Stirling, Sir William's eldest daughter, married Captain Charles Moray or Abercairney 14th March 1778. Their first child was born 24th November 1779.
- 140 There are two estates called Batchelors Hall, one in Hanover and the other in St Thomas in the East. The latter was a Pen but appears to have been owned by Andrew Arcdeckne, noted as land patented by Robert Jacobs called Batchelor's Hall
- 141 John Young, Ensign in the 42nd Regt. from 3rd August 1778 [<http://www.42ndrhr.org>]
- 142 John Callander of Graigforth, St Ninians, Stirlingshire (1722-1789) An unnamed Callander noted Ensign in the 42nd Regt. from 3rd August 1778, top of the Ensign list in 1781 but no longer listed in 1782. John Callandar had seventeen children a number of whom were army men. [<http://www.42ndrhr.org>]
- 143 William Grant Major in the 42nd Regt. from 5th October 1777 but also a Lt. Colonel in the Army from 29th August 1777 [<http://www.42ndrhr.org>]
- 144 Charles Graham Major in the 42nd Regt. from 25th August 1778 [<http://www.42ndrhr.org>]
- 145 George Dalrymple Captain in the 42nd Regt. from 25th August 1778 [<http://www.42ndrhr.org>]
- 146 Henry Graham was born 1766 and was Airth's second son, He died in 1787, a Captain in the 42nd Regiment
- 147 Charles Grey, 1st Earl Grey (1729-1807)
- 148 Noted as an advocate of Paisley 1761 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.
- 149 The only McDonald listed in the regiment was Lieut John McDonald, Rank in Regiment 3 Sep 75, Rank in Army 22 Oct 62 Present in 1776 & 1777 list, but not afterwards.
- 150 Recorded for the first time at head of the Ensign list in 1779 [<http://www.42ndrhr.org>]
- 151 Hugh Fraser, Adjutant of 42nd. [<http://www.42ndrhr.org>]
- 152 The encampments were part of the national effort to produce a well-trained professional army, following British defeats in America and in the light of a possible war with France. The King frequently visited the camps to inform himself of the state of the army, and also to boost the morale of his troops. The camp at Warley Common, south of Brentwood, Essex, from 28 May to 11 November 1778, was also recorded in watercolour by Thomas Sandby. It consisted of four battalions of 'Regulars' and eight of militia, in addition to '2 corps with the Artillery', amounting to around 10,000 soldiers in all, under the command of Lieutenant-General Pierson. With the exactly contemporary camp at Cox Heath, it was one of the two largest encampments of the period.
- 153 Ensign Henry Graham 11 Nov. 1777. First appeared at the top of the list of Ensigns of the 42nd. in 1779. By 1780 he has risen to Capt. Lieut, Rank in Regt. 2 Feb. 79 [<http://www.42ndrhr.org>]
- 154 Possibly to suffer from dislocation of the hip
- 155 A West Indies merchant in Glasgow. He had married Isabella, daughter of Thomas Peters of Crossbasket. She died 28th December 1778.
- 156 Captain Hay Macdowall 20 Sept. 79 42nd Regt. but not in earlier lists. Younger son of William MacDowall of Garthland and Castle Semple and Elizabeth Graham, born 12 Nov 1759. By 1805 Lt. General, Commander in Chief, Madras. Lost at sea returning from India 1809.
- 157 Refers to the failure of Messrs. Douglas, Heron & Company, late Bankers in Air (Ayr), Edinburgh, in 1773 [<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/banking/chapter9.htm>]
- 158 Christian and Elizabeth Graham were born 31st December 1764
- 159 Gen. William Maxwell
- 160 James Robertson of Lude had several sons including William and John
- 161 Brother in Jamaica
- 162 Hay Macdowall
- 163 Lord John Murray, Colonel of the regiment.
- 164 First listed in 1st Battalion as a Captain in 1780 [<http://www.42ndrhr.org>]
- 165 Capt. John McIntosh last appeared in the list in 1779
- 166 Daughter Seton Graham was born 23rd December 1779
- 167 Thomas son of Thomas Dundas of Fingask,. At the Siege of Charlestown March 28th - May 12th 1780 the 2nd Battalion of Light Infantry was led by Lt. Col. Thomas Dundas. Clinton was the British Commander.
- 168 General Sir Henry Clinton, KB (16 April 1730 – 23 December 1795) was a British army officer and politician, best known for his service as a general during the American War of Independence. First arriving in Boston in May 1775, from 1778 to 1782 he was the British Commander-in-Chief in North America. In addition to his military service, due to the influence of the 2nd Duke of Newcastle, he was a Member of Parliament for many years. Late in life he was named Governor of Gibraltar, but died before assuming the post. [Wikipedia]
- 169 Andrew Bruce, who ranked as a captain in the British army by December 1761, became a major of the 38th Infantry

Regiment in July 1771, was promoted from that position to lieutenant colonel of the 54th Infantry Regiment on 10 March 1777, and remained lieutenant colonel of that regiment until at least 1786, being promoted to colonel of the army in November 1782. Henrietta Overing and Andrew Bruce apparently married in 1778, while he was a major in the 54th Regiment of Foot, part of the garrison in Rhode Island where she lived with her loyalist family. Twice her age, he stressed to her the importance of keeping the marriage secret until his elderly father in Scotland died, so as not to lose a substantial inheritance. She complied, and remained at home caring for her own sickly father when the British left Rhode Island and Andrew Bruce took a staff position in New York. Then he stopped writing to her. After her father died, she went to New York but he refused to see her. Her brother, although a junior officer in the same regiment, was unable to intervene favorably. Andrew Bruce addressed a final letter to Henrietta that coldly began, "My Dear Madam." In 1783, with the British about to evacuate New York, she made a plea to the British commander in chief but to no avail. She returned to Rhode Island humiliated, with a meaningless marriage and an administrative nightmare because her loyalist family's property was now in American hands. She did, however, remarry a few years later and eventually had her portrait painted by Gilbert Stuart; Andrew Bruce, on the other hand, died in obscurity soon after the war, while his elderly father outlived him.

[<http://allthingsliberty.com/2013/11/top-10-marriages-gone-bad/>]

- 170 William Alexander (aka Lord Stirling) (1726 New York City – 15 January 1783), who claimed the disputed title of Earl of Stirling, was an American major-general during the American Revolutionary War. In January 1780, he led an ineffective raid against Staten Island. [Wikipedia]
- 171 Charles, son of Gordon Graham of Drynie. Major directly under Thomas Stirling from 25th August 1778. When Brevet Maj. Gen. Stirling was formally promoted to Colonel of the 71st Regt. (Frasers Highlanders) in 1782, Graham was promoted to Lt. Colonel of the 42nd Regt. Graham left America on leave in April 1783. Graham was later appointed a Brigadier General for Sir Ralph Abercrombys expedition against the French and Dutch possessions in the West Indies in September 1794 and promoted Major General the following year. He was appointed Colonel of the 5th West Indies Regiment in November 1796 and was the temporary commander-in-chief at St Vincent from September 1796 to March 1797 in Abercrombys absence. Died in the West Indies, August 1800.
- 172 Archibald Seton son of Hugh Smith and Elizabeth Seton, born in 1755. Both he joined the East India Company Civil Administration in Bengal in 1780. Archibald had a successful career in India, finally becoming a Member of the supreme Council in Fort William. He made wills at various points in time from 1796 until 1818, the year of his death. It was proved in London in 1820
- 173 Presumably Hugh Seton
- 174 Kippendavie
- 175 In colonial New England Jonathan was such a common name around Boston in 1776 that the British called all American Revolutionary soldiers "Brother Jonathan". [<http://www.babynamewizard.com/baby-name/boy/jonathan>]
- 176 Brig. Gen. Stirling remained in the New York area during the 1780 Charleston Campaign, and while leading his brigade he was badly wounded by a musket ball in the leg in a skirmish near the Connecticut Farms in New Jersey on June 18, 1780. Capt. Peebles described the wound, which prevented further active service during the war, saying: "Br. Genl. Stirling was wounded near Elizabeth Town at their first going over by some skulking rascal from behind a house; his thigh bone broke, & very ill..." A statue placed by the state of New Jersey in Union Square in Elizabethtown marks the site of the attack on Stirling citing "On this spot, at daybreak, June 7, 1780, began the fighting against the British forces moving toward Springfield. Here fell General Stirling at the head of the advancing column.... Erected by the State of New Jersey, A. D. 1905." [*Kilts & Courage*, Vol. II by Paul Pace]
- 177 Major John Small (1726-1796) raised and commanded the 84th. Regiment of Foot (Royal Highland Emigrants).
- 178 Rear-Admiral Sir Edward Hughes commander of the East Indies Station
- 179 Back Bond and declaration of trust by Robert Hamilton of Wishaw to Charles Hamilton, eldest son of John Hamilton of Redhall, his brother german, dated 23rd, and registered in the book of Council and Session 24th December 1779.
- I, Robert Hamilton, of Wishaw, Esq., considering that upon a settlement of accompts of the date hereof, between John Hamilton of Redhall Esq. my brother german, and Charles Hamilton his eldest son, the said John Hamilton is found indebted to his said son in the sum of £471.0.4d sterling. And the said Charles Hamilton, my nephew, is immediately to set out for the East Indies as a cadet in the service of the East India Company, and as money will be wanted for paying for the necessaries already purchased for his equipment, and also for purchasing other necessaries for him and for defraying the expense of his journey to and abode in London, and his passage to the East Indies. And also for supplying him with cash to carry along with him, I have agreed to advance the money for these purposes upon the security afterwritten etc. etc.

[House of Lords case p. 184-5]

Cadet Nomination Book of EIC containing nomination of Charles Hamilton as cadet on the Madras establishment 31st December 1779.

List of passenger on board "Dukje of Portland" has entry in his name, aged 16, native of Scotland.

List of Officers on the Coast of Coromandel CH Ensign 4 Aug 1780

List of Officers Left Fort St George 7 Nov 1782 CH Ensign

- Not in list for 1786 (those between 1782 and 86 missing) and no evidence of death [ibid. p. 186-7]
- 180 Son of Sir Archibald Hope of Craighall, 9th Bt. and Elizabeth Macdowall, daughter of William Macdowall of Castle Semple. He died in 1782 at Seringapatam, a prisoner.
- 181 David Haliburton, Persian translator to the government of Fort St. George from 1778 to 1795. Son of John Haliburton of Muirhouse, a merchant in Edinburgh, nephew of John Haliburton of Pitcur.
- 182 Son of John Graham of Edinburgh and his second wife Helen Graham nee Mayne. Her brother was Sir William Mayne, 1st Baron Newhaven.
- 183 Eldest son of James Erskine of Cardross and Lady Christian Bruce. Born 1763.
- 184 Erskine
- 185 Oliver Colt married Hon. Helen Stuart daughter of Robert, 7th Lord Blantyre, in 1755.
- 186 Probably the eldest daughter of Sir William Stirling who had married Col. Charles Moray in 1778 although Anne Graham, born a year later, was also a niece.
- 187 Elizabeth, Widow of Charles Erskine, of Alva, Stirlingshire
- 188 Ensign, 31st December 1779, then Lieutenant, 2nd February 1781 in the 42nd regiment. He died 27 Nov 1790 At Kersie House, Mr William Edmonstone, late Lt. of the 60th foot, and son of John Edmonstone Esq. of Cambus-Wallace [*The Scots Magazine*, Volume 52]
- 189 The Siege of Charleston March 28 - May 12, 1780 - Known Patriot Participants captured included - Lt. Colonel's Company - Capt.-Lt. Thomas Callender, with 35 men
- 190 David, younger brother of Hay Macdowall, RN lost a hand at the Battle of the Saints 12 Apr 1782
- 191 Plantain?
- 192 Not clear who this can be.
- 193 Lady Christian Bruce, daughter of William Bruce 8th Earl of Kincardine, married James Erskine of Cardross in 1762. She died in 1810.
- 194 Not known
- 195 Andrew Bruce 38th Regiment of Foot. 1780 aide de camp to General Clinton.
- 196 Major James Gordon of the 80th Regiment Royal Edinburgh Volunteers
- 197 Lt. Col. James Stuart of Grenadier Guards killed at Battle of Guilford Court House, North Carolina, March 15th 1781. Son of Robert, 7th Lord Blantyre by Margaret Hay.
- 198 Ronald Craufurd merchant of the house of Speirs & Co., Glasgow, son of James Craufurd, merchant in Rotterdam. He was born in Rotterdam in 1753, lived at Frisky Hall, and died "a melancholy death" there in 1793. His testament dative in the Glasgow Commissary Court shows that he died in debt, mainly due to other merchants not honouring their bonds. Nothing has been found to explain Thomas Stirling's remark. Margaret, the eldest of his three sisters was married at this time. His sister Mary did not marry until 1794.
- 199 Mary Dundas, daughter of Thomas Dundas of Fingast and Carron Hall. She married James Bruce in 1776 and died in 1785 aged 31.
- 200 He was overseer at Hampden until his death in 1789. Archibald Stirling, in his first letter home to his father: "I cannot express the grief I feel to write you the melancholy news of the death of our most worthy friend Mr MLachlane who died on the 5th inst. with the Gout in his Stomach after 7 days illness. a most worthy good friend have I lost a loss which I feel most sincerely. I wrote Mr Charles Stirling on my arrival mentioning the melancholy news.." Dated Montego Bay. 18 Apr 1789 [T-SK/11/3/119 Archives@glasgowlife.org.uk]
- 201 John Rutherford was a Captain in the 42nd Foot. He was paymaster in New York in 1783.
- 202 A commune and sub-prefecture of the Pas-de-Calais
- 203 Spa town in the Pyrenees with the highest thermal baths in France.
- 204 Airth's daughter Mary married John Stirling of Kippendavie and was about to give birth to her first child.
- 205 Earlier in the year he had been promoted to command the 71st Regiment of Foot, the Fraser Highlanders. A second 71st Regiment was under the command of the Earl of Balcarres.
- 206 Patrick Stirling was born 30th April 1782.
- 207 Admiral George Rodney commanded the fleet that defeated the French at the Battle of the Saintes, off Dominica, in April 1782, and foiled the attempt of the French and Spanish to take Jamaica.
- 208 A farm at Airth. Andrew Higgins was there in 1797
- 209 Eldest daughter Anne married David Erskine W.S. in April 1781. Their son John was born in February 1782.
- 210 Hugh Pigot was promoted to Admiral in April 1782. An attempt to allow Rodney to remain in command failed as the news of the defeat of the French arrived in Britain after Pigot had left for Jamaica.
- 211 Anne to David Erskine and Mary to John Stirling of Kippendavie, both in April 1781
- 212 John Stirling of Kippendavie owned 'Content', St James
- 213 Archibald Stirling of Keir owned 'Hampden', St James
- 214 David, son of William Macdowall of Garthland and Elizabeth Graham. Born 1761. On 12 April 1782 he lost a hand in Rodney's engagement of The Saints. He gained the rank of Captain in the service of the Royal Navy. He lived at Arndilly, Banffshire, Scotland. Married 1790 Eleanor Mary (died 1832), daughter of Col Alexander Grant 4th of Arndilly, Banffshire and took the Grant surname. Later owner of Eden Estate in St Mary which had belonged to his

father in law.

- 215 Admiral Drake sailed in the West India fleet under Sir Samuel Hood in 1781. On 14th September, in a battle with the French, "the *Princessa* of seventy guns, lost all her masts, and had ninety men killed, and fifty that lost either their legs or arms, and was obliged to throw all her guns overboard two days after the action, as she made nine feet of water in her hold in one hour.." [<https://archive.org/stream/ser2newjerseyrev05newjuoft#page/300/mode/2up>]
- 216 Factor to William Graham's tutors. His accounts 1746-9 MS. 10859
- 217 Isabella Stirling married John Hamilton in 1762. She was the mother of William and Henry, divorced by her husband in 1772 for adultery.
- 218 Elizabeth
- 219 Noted as Assistant Judge of Common Pleas in St Ann's 1782 & 1784 but in 1787 Assistant Judge only. [JFS]
- 220 Born 19th April 1768, bapt. 20th April 1768 with two brothers.
- 221 Rear-Admiral Graves in the *Ramillies*, in company with a number of captured ships, left from Blue-fields, Jamaica on 25th July 1782. They were caught in a tempest and the *Ramillies* was so battered that it had to be scuttled and many lives were lost. Another account suggests the *Ramillies* was burnt on her passage from Jamaica, on the banks of Newfoundland, having been rendered unserviceable by bad weather, Sept. 11th. [Steel's *Naval Remembrancer* 1784]
- 222 Hogshead, a unit of capacity for alcoholic beverages
- 223 Private bank, established in Edinburgh in 1748
- 224 Possibly a reference to Henry's leaving for America.
- 225 Rev. Alexander Cruickshank, born 1752, of the family of Tillymorgan and Warthill, was previous to 1783 at Airth. He was at Muthill until his death in 1834. He married Christian, daughter of James Anderson, the factor to Moray of Abercairney, in 1784.
- 226 John Edmonstone, father of Lt. William
- 227 Captain Sir Andrew Snape Hamond, 1st Baronet (17 December 1738 – 12 September 1828) was a British naval officer and Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia from 1781 to 1782 when he was unexpectedly replaced by John Parr who had been appointed Governor of Nova Scotia. Hamond was surprised and embittered, having accepted the office of lieutenant governor "on the strongest assurances of succeeding to the Government." Parr arrived when Hamond was absent and promptly moved into the Governor's house, thus getting relations between the two men off to a bad start. Hamond quickly realised that the province could not contain both of them, and he resigned on 8 October. The pretext for Hamond's supersession was that the office of governor was incompatible with the duties for which he was so well qualified in time of war. The real reason, however, was that Parr's influence was stronger than Hamond's. In the new ministry in London Parr's patron, Lord Shelburne, was Home Secretary and then Prime Minister. Hamond remained in Nova Scotia performing his naval duties until January 1783. The *Caton* was a 64-gun ship of the line of the French Navy, launched in 1777. She was captured by the Royal Navy at the Battle of the Mona Passage, the strait separating Hispaniola and Puerto Rico, on 19 April 1782, and commissioned as the third rate HMS *Caton*, registered 29th January 1783. She was placed on harbour service in 1798, and sold out of the service in 1815. Hammond was supposed to have been lost in the *Caton* noted in [The Gentleman's Magazine (London, England), Volume 54, 1783 (p. 367) Gazette Promotions - 12 Apr 1783 Hen Duncan, esq; a commissioner of his Majesty's navy, vice Sir A.S. Hammond*, knt. - *Supposed to be lost in the *Caton*] [http://www.natgould.org/sir_andrew_snape_hamond]
- 228 Charles Cornwallis, 1st Marquess Cornwallis KG (31 December 1738 – 5 October 1805) was a British Army officer and colonial administrator. Promoted to colonel in 1766, he next saw military action in 1776 in the American War of Independence. Active in the advance forces of many campaigns, in 1780 he inflicted an embarrassing defeat on the American army at the Battle of Camden, though he surrendered his army at Yorktown in October 1781 after an extended campaign through the Southern states which was marked by disagreements between him and his superior, General Sir Henry Clinton (which became public knowledge after the war). Despite this defeat, Cornwallis retained the confidence of successive British governments and continued to enjoy an active career. Knighted in 1786, he was in that year appointed to be Governor General and commander-in-chief in India. [Wikipedia]
- 229 David Erskine and Anne, Airth's daughter
- 230 Possibly Rev. Hugh Blair (1718-1800) The son of a merchant, Hugh Blair attended Edinburgh University (M.A. 1739). Already a noted preacher, he delivered his lectures on composition under the patronage of Lord Kames, leading to his appointment as the first occupant of the chair of rhetoric and belles lettres at Edinburgh in 1762. Blair was a friend of David Hume, Alexander Carlyle, Adam Ferguson, Adam Smith, William Robertson — and James Macpherson, for whom he published *A Dissertation on Ossian* in 1763. His sermons were praised by Samuel Johnson and won the author a royal pension in 1780. [<http://spenserians.cath.vt.edu/AuthorRecord.php?&action=GET&recordid=33066>]
- It is possible that he was tutor to Thomas and William Stirling when they returned to Scotland in 1738 to live with their aunt and uncle, the Lintons of Pendrich. Two letters from their grandfather, Admiral Sir Thomas Gordon in St Petersburg, refers to Mr Blaire as their "governor". In a letter to Thomas:
" Croonstadt the 31st July 1740

My dearest Tom with pleasure I received your letter of the 3rd May, it rejoices me that you improve so well in your writing [c.o. and] I shall not doubt that you do the same in your other parts of Learning under the care of such a worthy man as Mr Blaire, observe the precepts he gives you from time to time and you will be a Comfort to me and to all your Relations..." [GD24/1/856/135]

- 231 Archibald Erskine youngest brother of David, married Margaret Barclay-Maitland in 1781 and had four daughters and only one son born in 1790.
- 232 Cambo? - cam=bent, crooked in Gaelic? [<http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/gaeilge/donncha/focal/focal147.html>]
- 233A *plook*, pronounced as it is spelt and with alternative spelling *plouk*, is Scots for a spot, pimple or boil.
- 234 Owned by Charles Gordon of Buthlaw & Cairness who bought it c1778.
- 235 Francis Grant was attorney of Georgia
- 236 By the beginning of the 19th century Suffolk Street and Little Suffolk Street had fallen into decay and disrepute and a plan for their redevelopment was included in the scheme for the extension of Pall Mall. Suffolk Street (later Gt Suffolk Street) was parallel to The Haymarket (west) and Pall Mall (south) [<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=68418>]
- 237 Thoughtless blunder
- 238 Charles Grant was a captain in the 1st Battn. 42nd Regt. in 1782, He had achieved this rank 20th March 1776. He was no longer there in the 1783 list, but William Dickson was. He had achieved the rank of captain 2nd February 1782. Apparently he was still an ensign in 1781 having achieved that rank on 15th May 1780, so he had apparently bought a commission some time after Henry Graham.
- 239 Son of John and Isabella. His mother's disgrace suggests that his father disowned her children.
- 240 Thomas was born 1768 and was the third son & later heir to Sir Thomas Stirling
- 241 Small village in Falkirk in the Forth Valley.
- 242 David Smyth, Scottish lawyer and judge, of Methven Castle. Took the title Lord Methven in 1793
- 243 John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore.
- 244 John Sinclair of Freswick was married to Margaret, daughter of James Moray of Abercairney. He was buried in Bath in June 1784.
- 245 James Stirling of Graigbarnet died at Craigharnet 25th January 1784
- 246 One of the many sons of Airth's sister Elizabeth
- 247 Presumably as a Chelsea pensioner.
- 248 This unit was initially raised in 1780 as the 2nd Battalion of the 42nd Foot, but turned into a regiment in its own right in 1786 while in India following service in the Second Mysore War (1780-84). It remained in India until 1805, taking part in the Third Mysore War (1789-92), the capture of Pondicherry (1793), Second Maratha War (1803-05) and Fourth Mysore War (1799) prior to its departure.
- 249 He was top of the list of Lieutenants when the second battalion was raised.
- 250 Possibly Charles Stuart brother of Alexander, 10th Lord Blantyre, who was an army officer, died in 1821.
- 251 He inherited Abercairney on the death of his brother, Alexander., who died in April 1784.
- 252 Also Lochlane, house of his sister Mary Campbell
- 253 James, son of James Graeme of Garvock by Mary Nisbet. Of his five sons, only the heir, Robert, survived. James, Henry, Moray and Lawrence all died abroad without issue. Garvock is in Perthshire.
- 254 The number of white men to be kept on a cattle pen was 2 for 200 cattle [*Laws of Jamaica* 33 Car.11]
- 255 Kippendavie
- 256 Hamilton Foster born Port Glasgow in 1749. Elijah/Eliza, British vessel, Capt Hamilton Foster, on way from Jamaica to Glasgow, taken 15 Nov 1781, by American Grand Turk, recaptured by British 21 Nov 1781. [*Mariners of the American Revolution*. Kaminkow:223, C113-114,]
- 257 South eastern Jamaica.
- 258 Son of William Anderson of Ardoch, Perthshire.
- 259 Frontier had been owned by Robert Stirling of Keir and was inherited at his death by his brother, Archibald. By will in 1783, Archibald Stirling left it in trust to his brother, William, John Stirling of Kippendavie, and David Erskine, to the use of John, second son of William Stirling. Francis Grant was attorney but nothing found about Neish.
- 260 This is the same Henry Hamilton for whom Thomas Stirling had purchased an Ensignship in his regiment noted in a letter above 11th December 1783.
- 261 John
- 262 Later appears to be associated with Mary Baird who received money from an annuity
- 263 Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters - Bounty Land Record of Thomas Callender Capt. Issued Aug. 12, 1789. No papers
- 264 The marriage of his second daughter, Christian, to George Dundas on 24th December.
- 265 Ballindean, Perthshire.
- 266 Older brother, born in 1748. At this time he was living in Torryburn, Fife.
- 267 Handsel Monday, celebrated the first Monday of the new year when it was the tradition to give children and servants presents.

- 268 Possibly Euphemia Gordon, widow of James Francis Edward Drummond, 5th Viscount of Strathallan. She died in 1796.
- 269 Son of Patrick Grant Esq. of Glenlochy, and younger brother of John Grant who succeeded Thomas French as chief Justice of Jamaica in 1783 and held the office until 1790. John died without issue in 1793 and was succeeded by his brother Francis Grant Esq. of Kilgraston. Francis was attorney at Georgia, Trelawny, for Charles Gordon, 7th of Buthlaw and 1st of Cairness in Aberdeenshire, who had bought it in about 1778.
- 270 Phillips Cosby (1729–1808)
- 271 Richard Howe (1726–1799) From 1783 until 1788, he served as First Lord of the Admiralty
- 272 James Graham, Marquis of Graham (1755–1736) Lord of Treasury 1783–9. He was oldest son of William, 2nd Duke of Montrose.
- 273 From the baptism records it appears that Alexander had three sisters, Elizabeth, Janet and Isabel.
- 274 *Celosia cristata*, a crested variety of flower.
- 275 Son of daughter Anne and David Erskine
- 276 Patrick, Ann and Margaret Douglas Stirling were the children of his daughter Mary and John Stirling of Kippendavie
- 277 Archibald Stirling died 3rd November 1783
- 278 William Macdowall, 2nd of Castle Semple died 1776
- 279 Mary Dundas married James Bruce in 1776 and died aged 31 10th February 1780. Her surviving son and daughter were James and Janet Maitland Bruce
- 280 Thomas Dundas died 17th April 1786
- 281 Correspondence of Hugh Seton from leaving England in disgrace in 1786 to his death in 1795. Using the pseudonym Christopher Roberts or Robarts, he travelled widely in the East and places visited include Alexandria, Cairo, Mocha, Massowa, Hodeida, Bombay, Poona and Seringapatam. The correspondence, mainly with his son Archibald in India, provides a detailed picture of Hugh Seton's bohemian life style, his imprisonment in Hodeida for assault and impersonating a doctor (ff315), which led to his three hundred mile walk from Poona to Chittledroog to seek redress from Lord Cornwallis (ff334) and his involvement in the fighting against Tippoo Sahib at Seringapatam in 1793 (ff3740). These letters reveal him in his later years as an eccentric, compulsive traveller whose wanderings only ceased on his death in 1795. [National Library of Scotland MS.19207]
- Elizabeth Seton daughter of Archibald 10th of Touch, inherited Touch in 1742. She married Hugh Smith in 1745. He took the name Seton, and the couple set about extending their property. Debts were incurred during the building of the house, and Hugh Seton continued to borrow money to fund agricultural improvements, including drainage works on the carse (floodplain) of the Forth. Hugh was eventually imprisoned as a debtor in Dover Castle, leaving the country on his release. Elizabeth Seton died in February 1775. [See also *The House of Seton*]
- 282 Sarah Siddons (1755–1831)
- 283 The Carron Company was an ironworks established in 1759 on the banks of the River Carron near Falkirk, in Stirlingshire, Scotland. After initial problems, the company was at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution in the United Kingdom. The company prospered through its development and production of a new short-range and short-barrelled naval cannon, the carronade. The company was one of the largest iron works in Europe through the 19th century. [Wikipedia]
- 284 John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore. Could the Mrs Hamilton mentioned be Isabella Stirling? The context is suggestive.
- 285 There was always in the parish of Girthon a vague but, I believe, an unfounded opinion that the obscure family to which I belong was related to the Murrays of Broughton. Certain it is, however, that at my mother's death, in 1798, the mother of the late Alexander Murray of Broughton, then a minor, and who died in July, 1845 — the last of one of the oldest families in Scotland — took my youngest brother, William, to Cally House, and my sister, Mary, to take charge of him. Neither of them returned to their father's roof, but received their education and were altogether supported by the kind and generous lady to whom I have referred. This lady was Grace Johnston, sister of Peter Johnston of Carnsalloch. James Murray of Broughton, who had married Lady Catherine Stewart, of the noble house of Galloway, separated from that lady, and cohabited with Miss Johnston, by whom he had three daughters and two sons, all now dead without leaving issue. Mrs Johnston, for she assumed that designation after the death of James Murray, lived much at Cally, which was bequeathed to her during the minority of her son. She was extremely kind and beneficent, and was as much an object of respect and regard as if she had been the widow of the late proprietor. The people in the parish and throughout the Broughton estate called her Mrs Murray, but among her dependants and in the neighbourhood of Cally she went by the name of "The Lady." She visited even the lowest hovels, was kind to children as well as to all others, and was in all respects a blessing to the place. My brother might have chosen any profession, however high, that attracted his taste, but being much in the company of servants and much about the stables, he preferred the trade of a saddler. When Mr Murray came of age he adopted his mother's protegee as his own; at least so far as my brother was concerned, my sister having previously left Cally and gone to London with Mrs Johnston, in the capacity of lady's maid. William was sent to Edinburgh, and maintained there at the expense of Mr Murray, who also advanced about £500 for his outfit to Australia, and for a large supply of saddlery goods for

commercial purposes on his arrival; acts of kindness quite princely, and which we all duly appreciated.

[Autobiographical notes by Thomas Murray, Author of *The Literary History of Galloway*

<http://www.archive.org/stream/transactionsjour21dumf#page/n415/mode/2up>]

- 286 On 18 July 1781 James Drummond succeeded to his father's claim to the Earldom of Perth, but did not use the title. (His elder brother Thomas, styled Lord Drummond, had died the previous November.) In 1784 an Act was passed allowing the Crown to grant to the heirs-male the estates that had been forfeited in 1745, and on 8 March 1785 the Court of Session declared that he was the person entitled to the Drummond estates (including Drummond Castle), which he was duly granted. [Wikipedia]
- 287 William Forbes was a self-made man. The son of an Aberdeen merchant, he began work as a coppersmith and won a government contract to sheath ships' hulls in copper. With the fortune he made (equivalent to over \$1 billion in today's terms), he purchased the estates of Callendar and Linlithgow near Falkirk, which had been forfeited by the Jacobite Earl of Linlithgow after the 1715 Jacobite Rising. He bought the estates at auction and is said to have astounded bystanders by producing a banknote for £100,000, specially printed for the occasion, at the age of just 40. At the time he was the greatest landowner in the county, with some of the largest collected lands in Scotland. He was not popular with local people, but nevertheless his family retained great influence over the area for two centuries. [Wikipedia]
- 288 Papers in action of reduction at instance of Colonel Adam Livingston [Livingstone] of Bantaskine against William Forbes of Callendar of decree of reduction in Forbes' favour, dated 13 July 1785, of decree in Livingston's favour against York Buildings Company adjudging to him parts of estate of Callendar in excambion [Scots law, exchange] for parts of lands of Bantaskine [1785-88 Forbes of Callendar Papers, Falkirk Archives (Archon Code: GB558)]
- 289 Sir Alexander Livingston of Westquarter and Bedlormie tried to claim the Callendar Earldom in 1784. William Graham's mother was daughter of the 3rd Earl. Her brother, the 4th Earl, was attainted in 1716 for his participation in the Jacobite Rising of 1715 and all his peerages were forfeit. His son predeceased him so the direct male line died out.
- 290 Possibly Lillias Seton, born 1752, the youngest of three daughters of Hugh Seton. Her eldest sister, Barbara, married Lewis Brotherson of St Kitts, at St Martin in the Feilds, London in November 1783. Lillias married Henry Steuart of Allanton in 1786. Of their sister, Elizabeth, nothing has been found.
- 291 Possibly a Seton relative. Hugh Seton's father, Charles Smith, had been a liqueur merchant in Boulogne and a Jacobite spy in France before the 1745 rising. He died at Touch in 1768.
- 292 Son of Hugh and Elizabeth. After being educated in Hamburg his father sent him to a business house in St Petersburg. Finding his prospects poor, he went out to India where his older brother, Archibald (later 13th of Touch), gave him money which he lost. Returning to England in 1808, his ship was wrecked and he was drowned. He left debts which his brother had to meet. [*House of Seton*]
- 293 Possibly Alexander Colvin, father of James of Calcutta, buried at Dunipace, Stirling, 1791.
- 294 Third son of Claud Alexander, born 1758 and entered the service of the East India Company. He purchased the estates of Southbar and Boghall, Renfrewshire. In 1796 he was chosen M.P. for Renfrew. [*Memorials of the Earl of Sterling and of the house of Alexander* (1877)]
- 295 Day Hort Macdowall, son of William of Garthland, and his sister Elizabeth Graham, born 1753.
- 296 Younger brother of Day Hort, born 1759. He was a Captain in the 42nd Regiment in India.
- 297 Second son of Claud Alexander, born 1753. Entered the East India Company Civil Service and became paymaster general of the Company's troops in Bengal. He purchased the estate of Ballochmyle, Ayrshire, in 1783 and married Helenora, daughter of Sir William Maxwell of Springkell in 1788.
- 298 David, son of David Erskine W.S. and his first wife, Mary Melvin. Born 1768, a merchant in India.
- 299 James Colvin, son of Alexander, baptised at Dunipace, Stirling in 1768, was a merchant in Calcutta. He and Richard Campbell Bazett founded the agency Colvin Bazett & Co.
- 300 Thomas Graham (1752-1819) youngest son of John Graham and Helen Mayne. Joined the East India Company as a writer in 1768. He became a merchant and partner in the bank of Graham, Mowbray & Skirrow in Calcutta. He was a member of the Supreme Council of Bengal in 1793. He married Ann Paul in Bengal in 1783 and a daughter, Helen, was buried at Fort William in 1786
- 301 Helen Mayne second wife of John Graham, a merchant in Edinburgh. Her daughter Jean married Alexander Park of Lochern in 1784.
- 302 Margaret Oliphant of Gask, wife of Patrick Graeme, 8th Baron Inchbrakie died 6th July 1785
- 303 Graeme
- 304 William Moray born 1st June 1785
- 305 Christian Dundas born 21st October 1785
- 306 Thomas Dundas of Fingask and Carronhall married Lady Eleanora Elizabeth Home daughter of Alexander, 9th Earl of Home in 1784. He went to Nova Scotia to examine the claims of loyalists settled there.
- 307 Dr Walter Stirling of Stirling
- 308 References from this letter appear in the Memorandum written by him in 1803. He also quotes from a letter from his mother in the same year. "my Mother thanks me for a Shawl wch Jas. Campbell carried home to her. She accuses the

- East Indian Nabobs of having introduced Luxury in the mode of living and from thence accounts for the many changes in Landed property. She adds "many friends of our family have advised the sale of the Estate of Airth but your ffather and I have resolved to keep it if possible in the hope of your living one day able to clear off all the burthens on it..An attachment to paternal property ought to be an incitement to industry."
- 309The Jardines are south of Havanna, Cuba, near the Pinos Isle where the sea is shallow and dangerous. For instance, the vessel *Amelia*, Captain Williams from Jamaica and Trinidad de Cuba to the Clyde, ran on shore on the Jardines, near Isle of Pines, Cuba, on May 2, 1818.
- 310 Either a copy or never sent.
- 311Graeme Macdowall, born in 1763. Married George Ferguson, later Lord Hermand, in 1793. George Fergusson, Lord Hermand FRSE (1743–1827) was a Scottish advocate and judge. Fergusson was the eighth son of Sir James Fergusson of Kilkerran, bart., by his wife Jean Maitland, only child of James, viscount Maitland, and granddaughter of John, fifth earl of Lauderdale. He was admitted a member of the Faculty of Advocates on 17 December 1765. He practiced at the bar for thirty-four years with considerable success. On the death of Robert Macqueen of Braxfield, Fergusson was made an ordinary lord of session, and took his seat on the bench as Lord Hermand on 11 July 1799. He was also appointed a lord justiciary on 4 August 1808, in the place of Sir William Nairne of Dunsinnam. He resigned both these offices in 1826, and died at Hermand, in the parish of West Calder, on 9 August 1827, upwards of eighty years of age. His wife survived him several years. There were no children of the marriage. [Wikipedia]
- 312 Son of Francis Masterton of Parkmill who married the granddaughter of Sir William Stirling, the writer's own grandfather.
- 313 The Beggar's Benison, was a Scottish gentlemen's club devoted to "the convivial celebration of male sexuality". [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Beggar%27s_Benison]
- 314 Elizabeth Graham married William McDowal of Garthland & Castle Semple. Known as 'Black Bess'.
- 315 Elizabeth sister of Alexander Clark was baptised 11th February 1750 at Carriden, West Lothian
- 316 Mary Stirling born 24th February
- 317Probably Christian, daughter of Sir William Stirling who married George Dundas in 1784. Her daughter Christian was born the previous October but survived to marry in 1804. Another daughter was born in July 1787. This reference could have been to a miscarriage.
- 318Alexander Hay of Drumelzier, born 1701, died 13 March 1789
- 319East India ship *William Pitt* under Captain Charles Mitchell sailed 26th March 1786 (Patrick Begbie was purser) [*A Register of Ships...East India Company, from 1760 to 1810*. Horatio Charles Hardy]
- 320General Charles Cornwallis, the 2nd Earl Cornwallis, was appointed in February 1786 to serve as both Commander-in-Chief of British India and Governor of the Presidency of Fort William, also known as the Bengal Presidency.
- 321Alexander Ross (1742-1827) the youngest of the five sons of Ross of Auchlossin. He was aide-de-camp to Lord Cornwallis during the American war of independence. He represented Lord Cornwallis as commissioner in arranging the details of the surrender of Yorktown. In May 1782 he was sent to Paris to arrange for the exchange of Lord Cornwallis, which was only effected by the peace of 20 Jan. 1783. In August 1783 Ross was appointed deputy adjutant-general in Scotland, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and he served in a similar capacity in India under Lord Cornwallis. [DNB]
- 322Martha Bruce, Countess of Elgin and Kincardine (1739 – 21 June 1810), born Martha White and known for most of her life as Lady Elgin, was the wife of Charles Bruce, 5th Earl of Elgin and 9th Earl of Kincardine, mother of the collector Thomas Bruce, 7th Earl of Elgin, and governess to Princess Charlotte of Wales, daughter of the future King George IV, at the time second in line to the throne. [Wikipedia]
- 323 Not known.
- 324 Noted as a Magistrate in St Ann's from 1776-1796 when he died. 1792 slave owners in St Ann includes:
Scrogie, John, 30 slaves & 3 stock
- 325John Erskine of Dun, owned the estates of Lima and Dun Pen in St. James, Jamaica. He died during 1786 in his 58th year. [*James Irving of Ironshore* p. 8]
- 326Possibly William Callender, noted of St. Ann, a passenger leaving Jamaica 21st July 1793 [Royal Gazette]
- 327Simon Taylor
- 328The younger brother of the Hon. Simon Taylor (1740-1813), the richest Sugar Planter resident in Jamaica during the Late 18th Century. Sir John and Lady Taylor first lived at Lysson's Estate, near Morant Bay, in St. Thomas-in-the-East, Jamaica, but later moved to England to live in a Town House in London. Sir John died in 1786 at Prospect Penn (now Vale Royal) in St. Andrew, Jamaica, while he was on a visit to his Sugar Plantations in the Island. He is buried in an elaborately carved Marble tomb bearing the Taylor Coat-of-Arms at Lysson's Estate. [*Caribbeana* Volume 6]
- 329Captain Sir Henry Seton, of Abercorn and Culberg - Sir Henry Seton, Fourth Baronet of Abercorn was a captain in the Seventeenth Regiment of Foot, and served in North America. Sir Henry married Margaret Hay (1770), daughter to Alexander Hay of Drumelzier, by whom he had a son Alexander, who succeeded him on his death in 1788.
- 330Robert Graeme Ensign and Adjutant in St Mary's Battalion 1796, Ensign in 1799, Captain in 1802. 1811 Almanac for St Mary's, Robert Graeme held Dunkeld with 37 slaves. His father, James, died in 1812 and he as only surviving

- son was his heir. Dunkeld did not remain in his hands. He was born in 1766 and married in September 1802 to Jane-Anne, only daughter of William Aytoun. [<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>]
- 331 Charles, son of George Cruickshank and Ann Harper, aged tenants at Airth. His brother George was a doctor in St Catharine's noted from 1782 in various official roles in the yearly almanacs. [<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>]
- 332 Alexander Anderson, lawyer.
- 333 Possibly Collin Rae of Little Goven, a Justice of the Peace for the underward of Lanarkshire. [*Jones Directory of Glasgow* 1787]
- 334 Probably James Somerville Esq. of Hamilton Farm. He was on the Committee for the management of the Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Clyde Marine Society in 1787, a merchant. Also a member of the West India Club with John Gordon, among others. There is no member of the Stirling family in this club at this stage, but there is a Robert Findlay. [*Jones Directory of Glasgow* 1787]
- 335 Son of John Hamilton, brother of Henry.
- 336 William, son of Mary and John Stirling of Kippendavie, born 26th June 1787
- 337 Procure money
- 338 James Henry of St Ann - see letter 9th Sept 1782
- 339 There is a series of letters from Robert Hunter of Bunkershill North Side, Edinburgh, to William Graham enlarging on the family situation. Cruickshanks' parents lived at Airth on one of William Graham's tacks although he was not their direct landlord.
- 340 Dr Joseph Robertson
- 341 Charles Cruickshanks carpenter in Jamaica was named as executor of the deceased Mrs Jean Harper, widow of William Stewart, his aunt – Robt Hunter his Attorney accounting Nov 1787.
- 342 Possibly William, son of Sir Alexander Livingstone mentioned by William Graham in a letter to his son James in 1785.
- 343 John Anderson now an overseer in St Thomas in the Vale.
- 344 Christian, only daughter of John Erskine of Carnock, married Sir William Stirling at Keir 17th April 1762, died February 7th 1788
- 345 The firm of William Sibbald & Co were long in the West India sugar and rum trade. They owned the *Isabella Simpson*, the *Lady Forbes* (Capt Gourlay), the *Roselle*, *Lune*, &c. Their office was in the Kirkgate. They had to give up business somewhere about 1826. [*Reminiscences of Port and Town of Leith* (1888)]
- 346 The Act of Union of 1707 brought 45 Scottish members to the House of Commons. Of these 30 were elected by the 33 Scottish counties, while 15 were elected from the Scottish burghs (called burghs in Scotland). The electoral system which had operated in the Scottish Parliament since its creation was preserved for the election of Scotland's representatives at Westminster.
- Twenty-seven counties elected one member each (this included Orkney and Shetland, which were strictly speaking not counties but fiefs of the Crown, but were treated as if they were a county). The six smallest counties were grouped together into three groups of two (Buteshire and Caithness, Clackmannanshire and Kinross-shire, and Nairnshire and Cromartysire), with one of each pair electing a member at alternate elections.
- The Scottish county franchise was even more restrictive than for the English counties. A voter either had to own land worth the equivalent of two pounds sterling "of old extent" — meaning that the land had to have had that value since the creation of the Scottish Parliament in the 14th century — or to hold as a Crown tenant land to the value of 35 pounds sterling. This restricted the franchise to a handful of wealthy landowners, and in most counties there were fewer than 100 voters. In some it was far fewer: in Sutherlandshire the Duke of Sutherland owned almost the entire county, and all the voters were his tenants, while in Orkney and Shetland there were seven voters in 1759. The total Scottish county electorate was fewer than 3,000 in 1800.
- The 15 Scottish burghs consisted of the city of Edinburgh, where the 33 members of the city corporation elected a member, and 14 groups of four or five smaller burghs, each group electing one member between them. The franchise in the groups of burghs was held by the corporations of each of the burghs making up the group. Each burgh corporation would choose a delegate, and the delegates would then meet to elect the member. The representation tended to rotate among the burghs in each group. Since most of the burghs were little more than villages, the leading county families could usually bribe the corporation members to get their nominees elected. For many years the Scottish representation was manipulated by Henry Dundas, the Scottish agent of the Tory party, who spent government funds liberally ensuring that Tories were elected. This was one reason why the Scottish members were unpopular at Westminster, being regarded as corrupt even by the standards of the day, as well as uncouth. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unreformed_House_of_Commons#Scottish_members]
- 347 On 18 July 1781 James Drummond succeeded to his father's claim to the Earldom of Perth, but did not use the title. (His elder brother Thomas, styled Lord Drummond, had died the previous November.) In 1784 an Act was passed allowing the Crown to grant to the heirs-male the estates that had been forfeited in 1745, and on 8 March 1785 the Court of Session declared that he was the person entitled to the Drummond estates (including Drummond Castle), which he was duly granted. He submitted a claim to be Earl of Perth in 1792, but withdrew it in 1796, and on 26

- October 1797 was created a Peer of Great Britain as Lord Perth, Baron Drummond of Stobhall in the County of Perth. [Wikipedia]
- 348 A reference to the death of his son, Henry, 15th October 1787 [Noted p. 122 Fraser - Stirlings of Keir]
- 349 Basket making: the good old trade of basket-making, copulation, or making feet for children's stockings. [Francis Grose (1731–1791), *A Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue* (London, 1785) page 8.]
- 350 Prince William Henry, 3rd son of George III. Commander of frigate Andromeda, arrived Port Royal Harbour Saturday 15 November 1788. On 2nd December the House of Assembly voted 1000 guineas to purchase a diamond star... "for support and defence of the British Empire in general, and that island in particular" [*The Annual Register* Edmund Burke]
- 351 A small estate in St Ann's parish.
- 352 See reference in previous letter
- 353 Deficiency tax - raised as a result of absentee landowners resident in England not bearing the cost for dealing with slave insurrections. This tax doubled in 1761 but allowed resident proprietors to save his own deficiency for 30 slaves or 150 head of cattle, and all proprietors under 21, sent off for the benefit of their education, to save half a deficiency. By this measure they threw an extraordinary weight of taxation for that year upon the absentee. [Long - History of Jamaica]
- Deficiency Law in Jamaica enacts that a white person shall be kept for every thirty negroes, and for every 150 head of stock, and in the case of such deficiency, the proprietor of the plantation pays a tax called the Deficiency Tax. That deficiency sometimes varies: what is called the single deficiency is 13l, double deficiency is 26l. treble 39l. which is the highest deficiency.
- [From evidence given by Lewis Cuthbert to the House of Lords 25th May 1792. p. 106]
- 354 This is possibly the estate of James Jones, Twickenham Park, St Catherine's. His daughter, Lucy, married James Finlay's son, Alexander, in 1825
- 355 Perhaps James Stirling of Dunblane whose son William (born 1772) became an architect used by both Thomas Stirling and his nephew, Thomas Graham Stirling of Airth. William married Jean, daughter of David Erskine by his first marriage to Mary Melvin.
- 356 Probably birth of daughter Ann - no date found
- 357 In Scottish geography, a Carse (the modern form of older Scots kerse) is an area of low-lying, typically alluvial and fertile land occupying certain Scottish river valleys, such as that of the River Forth.
- 358 Not known
- 359 Presumably her sister Wilhelmina
- 360 Mary Stirling, sister of Anne Moray, married Ebenezer Oliphant 10th June 1790.
- 361 Daughter of Sir William Stirling married Ebenezer Oliphant of Condie 10th June 1790.
- 362 William Graham died on 12th November
- 363 Possibly a hotel built by Robert Wingate on the site of the old Gibs' Inn in Stirling. It was opened in 1786 and known as Wingate' Inn.
- 364 District of Rungpoor (Rangapura) - Now the Rangpur district in Bangladesh.
- 365 Noted in 1802 that he built the bridge over the westerly ditch of Patna at his own expence [Parliamentary Papers: Papers etc. (East India Company) : Third ..., Volume 3] Of Calcutta 1804
- 366 Robert Collins, a doctor in Rungpore. He wrote his will in 1806 with a legacy to his natural son Amherst Wright then a Cadet in the Royal Artillery. He had returned to England by 1794 when he married Elizabeth Jopling at St James, Piccadilly. At his death he was living in Ipswich, Suffolk and had a legitimate son and three daughters. He also had a daughter by the mother of his son, Ambrose, who was to marry Mr Craigie, and officer of the North British Dragoons. He left an annuity of 600 sicca to be paid by his agents in Calcutta to their mother. [PROB11/1505]
- 367 Possibly John Lumsden, civil servant, appointed in 1778. In 1802 Register to the Sudder Dewanny and Nizamut Adawlut. [Register. 1802] Appointed president of the Board of Revenue July 1808. [*Asiatic Annual Register*. Vol. 9]
- 368 William Kervil Amherst Esq. died 20th April 1792 aged 31 in Rungpore. [*The Bengal Obituary*]
- 369 Goalpara, Assam
- 370 Robert Brydie, an indigo manufacturer, Gualparah [List of European Inhabitants. Register 1802]
- 371 chukar - A native of southern Eurasia
- 372 Henry Nock (1741-1804) From 1771 until 1804 Nock was a contractor to the Board of Ordnance and from 1777 until a year before his death, he was a contractor to the East India Company for the supply of arms.
- 373 Youngest daughter of Sir William Stirling, known as Maddie.
- 374 Possibly from Elizabeth, wife of David Erskine, eldest sister of Thomas Graham.
- 375 Margaret Stirling married Andrew Stuart in 1790. She gave birth to a son, Archibald, 9th October 1792.
- 376 Second son of Archibald Stuart of Torrance. A lawyer, and at this time member of Parliament for Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, living in Grosvenor Street, London.. He was one of Sir William Pulteney's nominees for the seat, and after his death in 1801, his widow married Pulteney. He succeeded his brother to Torrence in 1796 and his cousin, Sir John Stuart, to Castlemilk in 1797. He was an antiquarian and was author of the *History of the Stewarts*.

- 377Seton was born 23rd December 1779 at Airth
- 378Anne Macdowall was born 10th September 1792
- 379Lord Cornwallis. Fought in the American War of Independence. Active in the advance forces of many campaigns, in 1780 he inflicted an embarrassing defeat on the American army at the Battle of Camden, though he surrendered his army at Yorktown in October 1781 after an extended campaign through the Southern states which was marked by disagreements between him and his superior, General Sir Henry Clinton (which became public knowledge after the war). Knighted in 1786, he was in that year appointed to be Governor General and commander-in-chief in India. From 1789 to 1792 he led British and Company forces in the Third Anglo-Mysore War to defeat the Mysorean ruler Tipu Sultan. [Wikipedia]
- 380James Erskine, first of Cardross, purchased from his father's cousin, Henry David, Earl of Buchan, in 1745.
- 381The Sunda Strait campaign of January 1794 was a series of manoeuvres and naval actions fought between warships and privateers of the French Republic and a squadron of vessels sent by the British East India Company to protect trade in the region, later augmented by Dutch warships.
- Among the East India Company ships, Commodore Mitchell's squadron - 'Houghton', East Indiaman, Captain Hudson Engaged on 25 January. [Wikipedia]
- 382The chief administrative official of an Indian Zillah or District. The special duty, as the name implied, is as Collector of Revenue. The Collector's duties were not formally settled until 1793 when these appointments were reserved to members of the covenanted Civil Service.
- 383'Winterton' 1791/2 Madras and Bengal. Capt George Dundas. Downs 2 May 1792 - lost off Madagascar 20 Aug. [<http://www.wrecksite.eu/wreck.aspx?139284>]
- 384John Burn, Stirling lawyer and factor to the Airth estate.
- 385David Erskine W.S. died in 1791. After his death his wife and young children went to live with her mother at Airth.
- 386Dagobert Sigismund, Count von Wurmser (7 May 1724 – 22 August 1797) was an Austrian field marshal during the French Revolutionary Wars.
- 387River on which Maastricht stands.
- 388Graeme Macdowall was born on 25 May 1763.2 She was the daughter of William Macdowall, 18th of Garthland and 2nd of Castlesemple and Elizabeth 'Black Bess' Graham. She was baptised on 7 June 1763 at Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire, Scotland. She married George Fergusson, Lord Hermand, son of Sir James Fergusson of Kilkerran, 2nd Bt. and Jane Maitland, on 23 December 1793 at Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire, Scotland. She died on 19 March 1833 at age 69, without issue.
- 389Sir Adam Fergusson of Kilkerran, 3rd Bt. was born on 7 May 1733 at Kilkerran, Dailly, Ayrshire, Scotland. He was the son of Sir James Fergusson of Kilkerran, 2nd Bt. and Jane Maitland.3 He died on 25 September 1813 at age 80, without issue. He graduated in 1755 with a Doctor of Law (LL.D.).1 He was a practising Advocate in 1755.1 He unsuccessfully claimed the Earldom of Glencairn.1 He succeeded to the title of 3rd Baronet Fergusson, of Kilkerran [N.S., 1703] on 20 January 1759.1 He held the office of Member of Parliament (M.P.) for Ayrshire between 1774 and 1780.1 He was Commissioner of Trade and Plantations in 1781.1 He held the office of Member of Parliament (M.P.) for Edinburgh between 1784 and 1789.1 He held the office of Member of Parliament (M.P.) for Ayrshire between 1790 and 1796.
- 390George Dundas of Dundas, 25th Laird. Capt. H.E.I.C.S. who was shipwrecked off the coast of Madagascar in the *Winterton* Aug. 20, 1792. Married Christian Stirling second daughter of Sir William 24th December 1784.
- 391Archibald Stirling of Keir. In a letter to his father soon after his arrival in Jamaica he wrote: "I am going to see Mr Charles Stirling before I am fixed as planter; I had a very kind letter from him inviting me to come & see him, which I certainly will do.." written from Hampden 27th April 1789 [T-SK/11/3/12] In a letter a month later he wrote: "...I was up at Ardoch Penn Charles Stirling's which is a very pleasant romantic Spot with a very good house, it is very high up in the mountain and from the Situation the house Stands upon he enjoys for the most part fine agreeable breezes, I had a most kind reception from him, and Stayed with him 6 days, he desires to be remembered to you and all at Keir - Please remember me to Sir William & his family.." dated 21st May 1789 [T-SK/11/3/121] There are also letters from Archibald's older brother John (who died 24th March 1793) to his father, referring to Charles's involvement with Frontier estate.
- 392James Connell married Marianne, James Finlay's eldest daughter in 1792
- 393Noted as holding land and slaves in St Ann's parish in 1792. Appointed one of the executors of Charles Stirling's will in 1795. He was a member of the Assembly for St Dorothy in 1796. A commissioner of public accounts in 1799 although by that time he may have been in Scotland. He is mentioned later as Alexander Macleod, of Muiravonside, Esq, in the County of Stirling, although the estate of Muiravonside was sold in 1798. An announcement of his marriage in 1801: "Yesterday, by special licence, at Lullingstone Castle, Kent, the seat of Sir Joseph Dixon Dyke, Bart. by the Rev. Marmaduke Lewis, Alexander Macleod, of Muiravonside, Esq. late of Jamaica, to Miss Dalmahoy, sister of the late Sir John Hay Dalmahoy, Bart." Caledonian Mercury - Thursday 13th August 1801
- 394Sister Elizabeth Graham married James Dundas 16th October 1794
- 395Third son of Ralph Dundas, merchant of Edinburgh. Born 1752. He joined David Erskine's legal firm, and after his death in 1791 was joined by William Wilson to form the successful Edinburgh firm of Dundas & Wilson. He

- succeeded his cousin, John Ramsey, to Ochtertyre in 1814. He died 2nd April 1831.
- 396George Murray, Lord Fincastle (1762-1836), of Dunmore Park, nr. Falkirk, Stirling.
- 397Could be her step-daughter, born 1777, or her sister.
- 398Possibly Ann Erskine who died in 1804
- 399Magdalene Stirling
- 400No copy of the will was found in Jamaica but a chance e-mail from Paul Hellier alerted us to the existence of this copy which revealed much more about the family dynamics than we could ever have hoped to find.
- 401Evidence before Lords Committees for Privileges etc. Belhaven and Stenton Peerage. Exhibit No. 128
- 402Listed as an Attorney at Law admitted to practice at His Majesty's Supreme Court of Judicature. Almanac 1782, 1784, 1787, 1790, 1796 [<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>]
- 403McRobbie, William, Smallwood Pen, 71/214 S Catherine 1817 [<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>]
- 404Sale
- 405 Sugar estate in the hands of Lynch and James in 1774 and Edmund F. Green in 1811. Nothing else found [<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>]
- 406Murshidabad; is a city in Murshidabad district of West Bengal state in India.
- 407The *General Goddard* was an East Indiaman launched in 1782 that made six voyages to the East Indies for the Honourable East India Company. After she was sold, she made one journey to the West Indies, where the Spanish captured her in November 1799. Voyage 6 - *General Goddard's* third letter of marque was issued to Captain Thomas Graham on 23 February 1796. He sailed from Portsmouth on 12 April 1796, and reached Simons Bay on 22 July. From there *General Goddard* sailed to Madras, reaching there on 17 September. She took a detour to Trincomalee, which she reached on 28 December, before she returned to Madras on 5 January 1797. She then sailed up to Calcutta, reaching there on 28 February. She made a second loop, passing Kedgerie [on the east side of the Hooghly River, near its mouth] on 1 August, on her way to Penang, which she reached on 24 August, before returning to Diamond Harbour on 30 October. She then sailed homeward bound, passing Saugor on 19 December and arriving at Madras again on 4 February 1798. From there she reached the Cape on 23 April, St Helena on 26 May, and the Downs on 2 August. After *General Goddard* had returned to England in 1798, Robert Wigram sold her. She became a storeship, with a new letter of marque being issued to Captain John Bennet on 11 June 1799.[Wikipedia]
- 408Monzievaird and Strowan, a parish of Upper Strathearn, central Perthshire, whose church, ½ mile from the Earn's N bank, is 33/8 miles ENE of Comrie and 3¼ WNW of the post-town, Crieff. It comprises the ancient parishes of Monzievaird and Strowan, united prior to 1662, and consists of a main body and three detached sections, the area of the whole being 26, 4932/3 acres, of which 5988 belong to those sections, and 400½ are water. The main body is bounded N by Monzie (detached), NE and E by Crieff, S by Muthill, and W by Comrie. Its utmost length, from N to S, is 77/8 miles; its utmost width, from E to W, is 55/8 miles; and its area is 20, 505½ acres. [<http://www.scottish-places.info/parishes/parhistory513.html>]
- 409A teind was a tithe or tenth derived from the produce of the land for the maintenance of the clergy.
- 410Robert Hobart, 4th Earl of Buckinghamshire PC (6 May 1760 – 4 February 1816), styled Lord Hobart from 1793 to 1804. In 1793 he was invested a member of the Privy Council, and appointed Governor of Madras, in which post he remained until 1797. [Wikipedia]
- 411England is to be destroyed....
- 412Alexander Macleod of Muiravonside
- 413Charles Stirling died 17th January 1795 of a fever and was buried the following day at St Catherine's Cathedral, Spanish town. He was fifty-two.
- 414This is the first reference to children born to Charles Stirling by Rebecca Ash. Charles was born 29th May 1791 and baptised 22nd of October,; Thomas was born 6th October 1792 but no baptismal record has been found; was born 5th June 1794 and baptised 22nd October the same year. He was recorded as "the son of Charles Sterling by Rebecca Ash". All of them were acknowledged as her sons in reference to the inheritance of Ardoch Pen.
- 415Ardvorlich House, near Comrie, Perthshire. William Stewart, 8th of Ardvorlich married Helen Maxtone, daughter of James Maxtone of Cultoquhey 28th August 1797.
- 416An agent appointed by the owner of a ship, and invested with authority to make the requisite repairs, and attend to the management, equipment, and other concerns of the ship he is usually authorized to act as the general agent of the owners, in relation to the ship in her home port. [legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Ship's+husband]
- 417Major General Hay Macdowall was the 6th General Officer commanding Ceylon from 19th July 1799.
- 418Welbore Ellis Doyle, third Military Governor of Ceylon. Died 30 June 1797.
- 419James Begbie - India Merchant. Begbie, Hunter and Co. He died in 1815. Decree in Chancery 1818 has Alexander Begbie etc. plaintiffs & David Hunter etc. defendants, creditors of James Begbie, late of York Street, Portman Square, & of the Old South Sea House, Broad Street, London, deceased. [Times Oct. 29 1818]
- 420Sir Thomas Andrew Lumisden Strange (November 30, 1756 – July 16, 1841) was the first Chief Justice of the erstwhile Supreme Court of Madras (which has since become the High Court of Madras) and in that capacity was also the first Chief Justice of the Madras Presidency, British India from 1801 to 1817. Earlier, from 1789–1797, he had been the sixth Chief Justice of Nova Scotia.

Thomas Strange was the son of Sir Robert Strange, a Scottish artist. His mother's family were staunch Jacobites: his maternal uncle Andrew Lumisden was private secretary to Charles Edward Stuart in Rome. After developing a friendship with Lumisden while they were both in Rome, Strange's father enrolled in the Jacobite life guards during the rising of 1745. Andrew Strange's colonial career depended heavily on his family's Scottish connections. He was born in England, studied law at Lincoln's Inn, and was called to the bar in 1785. After practicing law for only four years he was appointed Chief Justice of Nova Scotia in 1789 and sent to Halifax to quell a growing upheaval due to the "judge's affair."

However, after a few years, he became unhappy with his position and attempted to find a new position in Upper Canada. Unsuccessful, he moved back to England in July 1796. While at Ramsgate in the summer of 1797, Andrew Lumisden introduced Strange to Jane Cecilia Anstruther (*d.* 1799), whose brother was a barrister in Madras. Jane and Thomas were married on 1 September 1797. He was knighted on 14 March 1798 and the same year was appointed Recorder of Fort St. George (Madras), British India. In 1800, consequent to the Regulating Act of 1797, the Recorder's Court was superseded by the Supreme Court, and Strange was appointed Chief Justice. He commanded two of the four companies of Madras Militia and played an important role in suppressing the Vellore Mutiny of the soldiers of the East India Company in 1806. After his retirement from service in India in 1817, he returned to England and in 1825 published the book, *Elements of Hindu Law*. [Wikipedia & DNB]

421 March 1801 Mr. James Graham, fourth judge of the provincial court of Appeal and court of Circuit for the division of Dacca. [Asiatic Annual Register, 1801. Civil Appointments].

422 Died at Calcutta on 1st Feb last [1807] of a fever of ten days illness, Richard Threipland, Esq. son of the late Sir Stuart Threipland of Fingask

423 He was the second son of Sir John Anstruther of Elie House, Fife. He was born 27 March 1753, educated at Glasgow University under John Millar, and called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1779. He practised chiefly before the House of Lords in Scotch appeals; and was M.P. for Cockermouth, 1790-96.

He was an active supporter of Charles James Fox, and one of the managers appointed to conduct the Impeachment of Warren Hastings, his duty being to sum up the evidence on the charge relating to Benares, and to open the charge relating to presents. In 1797 he was appointed chief justice of Bengal, and created a baronet; in 1806 he returned to England, and was sworn on the privy council. He re-entered parliament as member for the Anstruther district of burghs. In 1808 he succeeded to his father's baronetcy; and died in London 26 January 1811. [Wikipedia]

424 Benares? While in Madras Strange pursued an interest in the antiquities and architecture of ancient India, collecting drawings of south Indian temples. [DNB]

425 Richard Wellesley, 1st Marquess Wellesley, Governor-General of the Presidency of Fort William between 1798 and 1805.

426 Mary Hamilton was most likely the youngest child of Isabella Hamilton, youngest sister of Sir William and Thomas Stirling who was divorced by her husband for adultery in 1772.

427 Mary Campbell died 15th December 1801

428 Henry Hamilton left his sister Mary £500 by his will which was proved 19th February 1802.

429 The sons of Charles Stirling. No note of when they came from Jamaica has been found but it is likely that it was soon after their father's death. Their mother had a son by William Galbraith in September 1798.

430 James Rennell constructed the first nearly accurate map of India and published 'A Bengal Atlas' in 1779.

431 Possibly a reference to his sister Mary, wife of John Stirling of Kippendavie, whose son Thomas, born 1800 died young.

432 James Ruthven Elphinstone arrived in India as a Writer in 1790. By 1823 he was Senior Member of the Board of Revenue in the Central Provinces. Died Aug 1st 1828 at St Helena

433 Mountstuart Elphinstone

434 Illegitimate daughter of Col. William Stuart, 9th Lord Blantyre. She married Thomas Brooke 1st February 1793 at Bhagalpore, India.

435 James Graham made his will in Calcutta on 16th February 1803. According to a final note to a 'Memoranda of James Graham' by his mother, he returned to Airth in September 1803.

436 M.P. for Renfrewshire 1802-10

437 David and Lawrence McDowell, younger brothers of William

438 Jacob Bosanquet Chairman of the East India Company in 1803

439 McDowalls

440 David Colvin was born at Dunipace, Stirling in 1761, his brother James, in 1768. Together they ran a merchant house in Calcutta. David arrived in India in 1784 and in 1793 was noted as living in Patna as an agent for the opium contractor. His will suggests he did not marry but two daughter are recorded as born in 1798 & 1799, baptised February 1805.

441 James Colvin married Maria Jackson c1802-3 but they only had one daughter by this date. Suggests that he had already had children by a native woman.

442 Lt Gen 1805 Commander-in-Chief Madras; lost at sea returning from India 1809

443 Tanjore

- 444Inland from Fort St George, Madras
- 445Sir Thomas Stirling of Ardoch
- 446William Macdowall, 21st Garthland 3rd Castlesemples
- 447Sir William Pulteney (nee Johnstone) married for a second time in 1804 Margaret , widow of Andrew Stuart, aged 35 with two daughters (son and daughter noted). He was 76. She was, in fact, Margaret Stirling daughter of Sir William Stirling of Ardoch. In 1805 Sir William Pulteney was reported to be the richest Commoner in Britain in The Gentleman's Magazine. He died intestate in 1806. Margaret Pulteney was born 1765, died in 1849. (Emma Rothchild *The Inner Life of Empires*)
- 448Charles eldest son of his dead brother, Charles. He does not refer to him as "nephew" but he does address Thomas Graham as such.
- 449Henry Dundas, 1st Viscount Melville, Baron Dunira PC FRSE (28 April 1742, Arniston, Midlothian – 28 May 1811, Edinburgh) was a Scottish advocate and Tory politician. He was the first Secretary of State for War and became, in 1806, the last person to be impeached in the United Kingdom, for misappropriation of public money. Although acquitted, he never held public office again. Dundas was a key actor in the encouragement of the Scottish Enlightenment, in the prosecution of the war against France, in opposing the abolition of slavery, and in the expansion of British influence in India, dominating the affairs of the East India Company. An accomplished machine politician and scourge of the Radicals, his deft and almost total control of Scottish politics during a long period when no monarch visited the country, led to him being pejoratively nicknamed King Harry the Ninth, the "Grand Manager of Scotland" (a play on the masonic office of Grand Master of Scotland), the "Great Tyrant" and "The Uncrowned King of Scotland". [Wikipedia]
- 450East India Houses of Agency, in London includes Begbie and Hunter, No. 17, New Broad Street
- 451 Windham, 820 Tons, 2 Voyage, Ceylon and Madras (Robert Wigram, Esq.)
- Capt. Thomas Graham
- 1 William Brabazon
- 2 Richard Cha. Blunt
- 3 Samuel Pope
4. Edw. Smith Ellis
- sur. George Campbell
- Pur. John Cotterell
- Sailed Downs, 7 Feb. 1803
- Moorings 15 Oct. 1804
- [*A Register of Ships, Employed in the Service of the Honorable the United East India Company* By Horatio Charles Hardy p. 224]
- 45210th Lord Torphichen. Married Margaret Douglas, daughter of John Stirling of Kippendavie 3rd November 1806. Like Thomas Graham, he also captained East India Company ships.
- 453George Baillie of Jerviswoode and Mellerstain (1763-1841) married Mary Pringle, daughter of Sir James Pringle of Stichill in 1801.
- 454In 1784 Colonel Charles Moray inherited Abercairny from his elder brother, Alexander. By his marriage to the heiress of Sir William Stirling of Ardoch, the Ardoch estates were acquired and the name of Stirling adopted by Colonel Charles. He began improvements to the grounds and commissioned Thomas White Senior to prepare an improvement plan of the policies, dated 1793. The architect John Paterson was requested to provide drawings for a new house in 1796 but he eventually submitted designs for only a new oval drawing room for the old house in the following year. Architects Archibald Elliot and Charles Tatham were asked in turn to prepare designs for the new house but the commission eventually went to Richard Crichton in 1804 for his Gothic Revival building, which became known as Abercairny Abbey. Colonel Charles died in 1810. The house was incomplete and considerable debts were inherited by his son, Colonel James Moray. [clanmacfarlanegenealogy]
- 455The lands of Pitkellony were purchased from Sir William Bruce of Airth during the 15th century, and passed to John Drummond circa 1560. Pitkellony is sited on raised ground overlooking the village of Muthill just a few miles south of Drummond Castle. The house probably dates from the 17th century. The house remains as the Drummond Castle Estate Office to the and present day (2007) [<http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/sc-50898-pitkellony-house-muthill>]
- 456Probably son of John Stirling of Kippendavie and Mary Graham, born in 1787. He went to Jamaica to run the family estate Content, St James.
- 457Mr Robert Collins, Surgeon, resident in India 13 yrs, stationed at Rungpore, a correspondent - Observations on the remarkable effects of Sol-lunar influence in the fevers of India, &c. Asiatick Researches, Or, Transactions of the Society Instituted in ..., Volume 8 Pub. 1805.
- 458 Son by a native woman. Born in 1789 and died in Calcutta 7th October 1821, then of the firm Bull & Jameson - shipwright. He appears simply as Jameson in later letters.
- 459John Corsar, member of the firm of Colvins, Bazett & Co. Calcutta, married Anna Ludivina Pringle in Calcutta in 1803. Will made 1837 (proved in 1853) formerly of Calcutta but now of Barnstaple, Devon. Wife according to her

marriage settlement to have receipts and rents from house in Ranymoody Gullee, Calcutta, for life, then to their children. [PROB11/2170]

460A southern extension of Comrie in Strathearn, Perth and Kinross, Dalginross lies to the south of the River Earn at its junction with the Water of Ruchill. A Roman fort and camp have been identified to the southwest. The expansion of Comrie took place in the late 18th century with the influx of dispossessed Highland crofters who came to work in local textile, brewing and distilling industries.

461Thomas married Caroline Mary Home on 9th February 1807. She was the daughter of Major James Home who died in 1793 and his wife, Margaret. Both left wills which show that they were of Jersey in the Channel Islands. Caroline was born in 1786.

462Thomas Stirling, middle son of Charles, born 6th October 1792

463Thorp Arch, a parish, 3 miles SE. of Wetherby. There is no indication that he stayed there or what he was doing at this time. Thomas Graham was presumably on his way to London.

464The date given in registers for the marriage was 9th February.

465Mary Hamilton?

466In 1806, Vellore fort was used by the British to station Infantry Military units of the Madras Regiment. The British Commander in chief of the Madras Army prescribed a new round hat for soldiers, which would replace turbans, and the removal of beards, caste markings and jewellery. The Sepoys considered this offensive, and the situation was worsened by rumours that the hat was made of the hides of cows and pigs.

On July 10, 1806, before sunrise, Indian sepoy soldiers stationed in the fort attacked the European barracks there, and by late morning had killed about 15 Officers and 100 English soldiers and ransacked their houses. Some of the rebelling soldiers also instigated the sons of Tipu Sultan to lead the campaign. The news quickly reached the colonel commanding the Cavalry Cantonment in Arcot, who reached the Fort with heavy battalions. The rebelling Sepoys, numbering more than 800, were mercilessly hounded and killed, and by noon the rebellion was put down. The events lead to a Court inquiry by the British, who decided to shift the Tipu Sultan's family from Vellore to faraway Calcutta, in isolation.

The news of the Vellore Rebellion sent shockwaves to England. The Governor, William Bentinck, and Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army, Sir John Cradock both were recalled on this count. This was the first rebellion experienced in the fort by the British.[Wikipedia]

467From 1795 (aged 15) captain in Perthshire Regiment of Fencible Cavalry commanded by Colonel Charles Moray (his father). Remained in the local militia.

468William Moray-Stirling of Abercairny and Ardoch succeeded his mother in Ardoch, and added the name of Stirling. He reached the rank of Major in the army and was present at Waterloo.

469Auction

470House of Gen. Thomas Graham east of Crieff

471Robert Graham (later Cunninghame Graham), of Gartmore and Findlaystone, M.P. bn 1735; 1753-65 Receiver General Jamaica; before 1771 Roaring River planter, Jamaica. 1794-96 M.P. for Stirlingshire. Died 5 Dec 1797 Married Ann Taylor, bn. c1740 married Jamaica c1760

Eldest son William Cunningham Cunninghame Graham (later Bontine Cunninghame Graham), of Gartmore & Findlaystone (later also of Ardoch). bn 16 Aug 1775 at Gartmore, Port Of Menteith, Perthshire. Died Nov 1845 in London

472East India College, Hailebury

473Could this have been an attempt to find an opening for his ward, Thomas Stirling? In his letter to Thomas Graham Stirling of 3rd June 1809 from the *Victorious*, Thomas referred to an offer made to him earlier to take a commission in the army.

474Sir Thomas Stirling died 8th May 1808

475Possibly John Graham of Gartur, owner of Three Mile River in Westmoreland, Jamaica. He married Matilda , daughter of James Erskine and Lady Christian Bruce in 1800 at Cardross. He died in 1818

476He was the only son of John Campbell of Clathick, Perthshire, provost of Glasgow, and Agnes, the only child of Laurence Colquhoun of Killermont, Dumbartonshire. On succeeding to the estate of Killermont upon the death of his father in 1804, he assumed the additional surname and arms of Colquhoun. Colquhoun, as the Lord Advocate, took part in reforming the constitution of the court of session, and was appointed one of the thirteen commissioners who sat for the first time on 30 November 1808 for the purpose of inquiring into the administration of justice in Scotland. [Wikipedia]

477William Erskine, Lord Kinneder (1768–1822), was a friend and confidant of Sir Walter Scott, and a scholar and songwriter. Erskine was the son of the Rev. William Erskine, episcopalian minister of Muthill, Perthshire. He passed advocate at the Scottish bar on 3 July 1790. By Scott's unwearied exertions on his behalf Erskine was in January 1822 promoted to the bench as Lord Kinneder. [Wikipedia]

478*Windham* Built by Perry, launched 1800, 3 decks, 4in bottom, length 146ft 3½in, keel 118ft 9½in, breadth 36ft 1½in, hold 14ft 9½in, wing transom 23ft 5½in, port cell 26ft 9in, waist 1ft 6in, between decks 6ft 2½in & 6ft 4in, roundhouse 6ft 5½in, ports 13 middle & 11 upper, deck range 83ft 8in, 823 tons. Principal Managing Owners: 1-5

Sir Robert Wigram, 6 Thomas Price. Voyages: (1) 1800/1 St Helena and China. Capt Thomas Graham. Portsmouth 31 Mar 1801 - 10 Jun St Helena - 7 Oct Whampoa - Second Bar 21 Jan 1802 - 12 Apr St Helena - 12 Jun Downs. (2) 1802/3 Madras and Bengal. Capt Thomas Graham. Downs 11 Feb 1803 - 16 Jun Trincomalee - 27 Jun Madras - 7 Aug Masulipatam - 9 Aug Vizagapatam - 21 Aug Diamond Harbour - 18 Sep Kedgeree - 16 Oct Madras - 13 Dec Diamond Harbour - 5 Jan 1804 Saugor - 27 Jan Vizagapatam - 21 Feb Madras 24 Mar - 28 Jun St Helena - 9 Oct Downs. (3) 1804/5 Madras and China. Capt John Stewart. Portsmouth 8 Mar 1805 - 21 Jul Madras - 26 Aug Penang - 15 Sep Malacca - 20 Dec Whampoa - Second Bar 28 Feb 1806 - 26 Mar Penang - 2 Jul St Helena - 3 Sep Downs. (4) 1806/7 Bengal and Benkulen. Capt John Stewart. Portsmouth 21 Jun 1807 - 15 Nov Diamond Harbour - 8 Dec Kidderpore - 31 Jan 1808 Saugor - 28 Mar Benkulen 20 Apr - 17 Jun St Helena - 14 Aug Downs. (5) 1808/9 Bengal. Capt John Stewart/Joseph Lautour (from 22 Nov 1810). Portsmouth 7 Jul 1809 - 19 Jul Madeira - captured by French La Venus 22 Nov - retaken by HMS Magicienne 29 Dec - Feb 1810 Cape - 3 Jul captured by French La Bellona - retaken, supplied with a new crew at Bourbon 22 Nov, left Bourbon 3 Feb 1811 - 19 Feb Port Louis - 21 May St Helena - 8 Aug Downs. (6) 1815/6 China. Capt Joseph Andrews. Downs 21 Apr 1816 - 11 Aug Penang - 7 Sep Malacca - 11 Oct Whampoa - Second Bar 10 Jan 1817 - 18 Mar St Helena - 23 May Downs. [National Archives]

479 Thomas Bruce, 7th earl of Elgin, (1766-1841, Paris), British diplomatist and art collector, famous for his acquisition of the Greek sculptures now known as the "Elgin Marbles". [Encl. Brit.]

480 Scottish - auction

481 Second son of Thomas Graham Stirling, born in 1811. He succeeded to the property of Stowan on his father's death.

482 Son of James Dundas one of the original trustees.

483 The sons of his brother Charles. It would appear that their names were in a Deed of Instruction that accompanied the Trust Deed which was the document proved in London.

484 Thomas Graham took the additional name of Stirling.

485 *Barfleur* - Type: 2nd rate ; Armament 98; Launched : 1762; BM: 1947 tons; Complement: 758

[<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com> Naval Database]

486 He entered the Royal Navy 15th February 1809 as L.M. (L.M. = Landman (ratings of A.B., Ordinary, L.M., etc. were often during the war nominally given to young gentlemen on entering the service owing to there not being at the time vacancies among the volunteers and midshipmen) [O'Brien *Naval Biography*]

487 Wilhelmina Graham married Day Hort Macdowall in 1791. He died 16th June 1809

488 *Victorious* - Type: 3rd rate; Armament 74; Launched : 20 Oct 1808; BM: 1724 tons

28 Jul 1809 a part of a large fleet which sailed from the Downs, with troops, with the aim of demolishing the dock-yards, and arsenals at Antwerp, Terneuse, and Flushing, often known as the ill-fated Walcheren Expedition. 13 Aug bombardment of Flushing.

24 June 1811 Reported to be off Malta.

16 Feb 1812 *Victorious*, accompanied by the *Weasel*, arrived off Venice. 21st-22nd chased a French squadron, during which the *Weasel* destroyed the brig *Mercure*, whilst the *Victorious* caught up with and captured the *Rivoli* following a long and severe action, shortly after the arrival of the *Weasel*. The *Rivoli* was purchased into the service.

Plymouth 8 Jul 1812 Arrived in Cawsand Bay with her prize, the *Rivoli*, 74, and are just come to anchor.

Portsmouth 19 Nov 1812 Arrived from the river and to be fitted for foreign service.

Portsmouth 22 Nov 1812 Sailed with the West India convoy from St. Helen's on Friday.

Bermuda 18 Feb 1813 Sailed on a cruise to the coast of America.

Portsmouth 10 Aug 1814 Arrived from St. John's, Newfoundland, very leaky, having struck a sunken rock near Disko Island.

Portsmouth 11 Aug 1814 Came into harbour.

1826 Receiving Ship, Portsmouth.

21 Dec 1861 Receiving Ship, Portsmouth, taken to pieces, per Parliamentary estimates etc. 1861-62.

<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com> Naval Database

489 Captain Graham Eden Hamond - Noted captain of *Blanche* 1801, Lively 1804-5. Promoted Captain 1798

<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com>

490 David Hamilton (11 May 1768 – 5 December 1843) was a Scottish architect based in Glasgow. He has been called the "father of the profession" in Glasgow. Noted as starting on Airth House (Castle) 1807. Remodelled the facade and the work finished in 1809. Cost £9510; final instalment of £2680 never paid. Papers relating to settlement after Stirling's death [Wikipedia]

491 Son of Day Hort Macdowall and Wilhelmina Graham, born 1794.

492 Thomas Graham Stirling's promotion to Captain noted 24 September 1808, Eastern Regiment of Stirlingshire but this suggests a further promotion in the Militia.

493 William Stirling was appointed a Bombay cadet in the East India Company army in 1810

494 William Fullerton Elphinstone (1740-1834) was at director of the East India Company and Chairman in 1804, 1806 and 1814. [see below for confirmation]

495 Stuart Donaldson, merchant of Broad Street, London. He married Betty Cundate 4th July at Christ Church,

- Southwark. His son, Stuart Alexander Donaldson was born 16th December 1812. He was to become the first Premier of New South Wales.
- 496 William Dick, from St Andrew's - Rector of the Grammar School of Perth - Succeeded Mr Alexander Watson in 1790 [*Memorabilia of the city of Perth: containing, A guide to Perth; Historical ...* By James Cant, Alexander Duff]
- 497 Indian papers of Thomas Graham Stirling of Airth, both as captain of an East Indiaman and as a speculator in Indian trade: photocopies of accounts and correspondence relating to the ships *Busbridge*, 1789 - 1796, and *General Goddard*, 1796 - 1797 (originals in the Cambridge Centre of South Asian Studies)
- 498 A house near Houston, 2 miles from Paisley, Renfrewshire. Day Hort Macdowall, Thomas Graham Stirling's brother in law had purchased the house from his brother William's trustees following the failure of the trading house of Alexander Houston & Co. in 1801. Day Hort Macdowall died 17th June 1809 but appears to have been in debt, hence the need to let the estate.
- 499 Lt. Gen. Hay Macdowell made his will 13th February 1809 in Colombo just before leaving for England. His ship was lost at sea.
- 500 Decision of the Commander-in-Chief, Madras, Lieut General Hay Macdowall, not to implement the suggestion of the Court of Directors that the uniforms of the Madras Native Cavalry should be changed from red to grey - question of the wearing of leather breeches by the Bengal Native Cavalry.
[National Archives IOR/F/4/345/8012 Apr 1808-Mar 1809]
- 501 Sir George Barlow, Governor of Madras 1807-13.
- 502 David Macdowall Grant
- 503 William Fullerton Elphinstone (1740-1834) was at director of the East India Company and Chairman in 1804, 1806 and 1814.
- 504 Robert Collins' will was proved 1st November 1809.
- 505 Patrick Stirling eldest son of John of Kippendavie.
- 506 *Triumph* - Type: 3rd rate ; Armament 74; Launched: 3 Mar 1764; BM: 1825 tons; 29 Apr 1810 At Cadiz.
15 May 1810 is reported by the *Leda* to be at Cadiz.
[<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com/> Naval Database]
- 507 Samuel Hood Linzee. Lt 1790, Capt. 1794. [<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com/>]
- 508 On 18th November 1809, *Windham*, *Charlton* and *United Kingdom*, under the command of Captain John Stewart on the *Windham*, were attacked by French frigates in the Bay of Bengal under the command of Commodore Jacques Hamelin. Both the *Charlton* and *United Kingdom* were captured the same day, but the *Windham* held them off until 22nd when it, too, finally surrendered.
- 509 Of Ochertyre. Probably relates to firm of Dundas and Wilson that appears to deal with TGS estate.
- 510 Adam Anderson, Rector of Perth Academy, Mathematician and Engineer (1783-1846)
- 511 Perth Academy - Rose Terrace, Perth - The original academy building stands in Rose Terrace; a street named after the wife of Thomas Hay Marshall, Provost of Perth from 1770-1808. The school was designed by Robert Reid, the last King's architect in Scotland.
- 512 Mary Graham Stirling born 20th May 1810 at Airth
- 513 Died 20 May 1810
- 514 Son Charles, born 1791, noted as an Officer in the 1st Dragoon Guards in 1810 [http://www.napoleon-series.org/research/biographies/GreatBritain/Challis/c_ChallisM.html]
- 515 Mount Stromboli is an active volcano on a small island off the north coast of Sicily
- 516 James Macdowall
- 517 In 1810, two British ships, HMS *Triumph* and HMS *Phipps*, salvaged a large load of elemental mercury from a wrecked Spanish vessel near Cadiz, Spain. The bladders containing the mercury soon ruptured. The element spread about the ships in liquid and vapor forms. The sailors presented with neurologic compromises: tremor, paralysis, and excessive salivation as well as tooth loss, skin problems, and pulmonary complaints. The events are reviewed in the context of what was known about mercury vapor inhalation.
[Doherty MJ. *The quicksilver prize: mercury vapor poisoning aboard HMS Triumph and HMS Phipps*. *Neurology* 2004;62:963-966.]
- Address correspondence and reprint requests to Dr. M.J. Doherty, Swedish Epilepsy Center, 801 Broadway, Suite 901, Seattle, WA 98122; e-mail: michael.doherty@swedish.org
- 518 James Erskine, son of David Erskine and Ann Graham, born 1787 and died in 1816.
- 519 Mary was born 30th May 1810.
- 520 *Dreadnought* - Type: 2nd rate ; Armament 98; Launched : 13 Jun 1801; BM: 2110 tons
7 Sep 1810 on the west side of Ushant, the ships' boats recaptured the Spanish merchant ship *Maria-Antonia*.
Plymouth circa 12 Sep 1810 Arrived with the *Antonio Maria*, Capt. Aspilga, from Teneriffe, which had been taken by a French privateer, and had been cut out from near Ushant.
Portsmouth 21 Apr 1811 Arrived from Lisbon.
Deal 24 May 1811 Arrived from Portsmouth bound to the Baltic.

Deal 26 May 1811 Sailed to join the Baltic fleet.

Wingo Sound 30 Oct 1811 Remains.

Harwich 15 Dec 1811 Reported to remain at Wingo Sound.

Portsmouth 26 Dec 1811 Arrived from the Baltic.

Portsmouth 28 Dec 1811 Sailed.

Portsmouth 31 Dec 1811 Sailed for Plymouth, to be docked.

Plymouth 2 Jan 1812 Arrived from the Baltic, last from Portsmouth.

Plymouth Dock 12 Jan 1812 Came in from Cawsand Bay to Hamoaze.

[<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com>]

521 *Abercrombie*, 1809

Type: 3rd rate ; Armament 74

Taken : 17 April 1809 (late D'Hautpoul) ;

Disposal date or year : 1817

Notes:

27 Jan - 22 Feb 1810 *Abercrombie* and *Sceptre* involved in a naval and military expedition to take the island of Guadeloupe, and the peaceable surrender of the Dutch islands at St.-Martin, St.-Eustatius, and Saba.

Falmouth Sep 18 1811 Has sent in a small prize.

etc.

[<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com>]

522 Probably Margaret Home, mother in law of Thomas Graham Stirling.

523 Cephalonia is the largest of the Ionian Islands in western Greece

524 Zakynthos - After a second period under French control (1807–1809) following the treaty of Tilsit, it was conquered by Great-Britain on 16 October 1809 and became a dependency of the British Empire, named the United States of the Ionian Islands from 1815 to 1864.

525 Mary Hamilton daughter to John and Isabella Stirling daughter of Sir Henry Stirling of Ardoch was married to Alexander Dow 20th October 1810 in Edinburgh. She had previously lived with Sir Thomas Stirling.

526 William Abington was Clerk to the Military Seminary Committee for passing Cadets, Assistant Surgeons &c [Hardy *A Register of Ships*. 1811

527 Son of James Dundas and Elizabeth Graham was born in 1799 and at this time was at Westminster School.

528 Patrick son of John of Kippendavie married Catherine Georgina Wedderburn in 1810. She was the third daughter of John Wedderburn of Spring Garden, Jamaica, grandson of Sir Alexander Wedderburn of Blackness.

529 Probably to her cousin, Thomas Edward Forbes of the Navy Pay Office, named as a trustee and executor of her will which he proved in 1817.

530 1811, January 30. - *The Victorious*, 74, J. Talbot, destroyed the Leoben Italian schooner of war, of 10 guns and 60 men, with ordnance stores for Corfu. [Norie *The Naval Gazetteer*. p. 308]

531 1810/1 Bombay, Madras and Bengal. Capt Robert Rankine. Portsmouth 12 Mar 1811 - 4 Apr Madeira - 24 Jul Bombay - 3 Sep Madras - 20 Oct Calcutta - 16 Dec Saugor 13 Feb 1812 - 12 May St Helena - 25 Jul Downs. [National Archives]

532 Youngster

533 A shallow sandbar off the northeast coast of the Isle of Wight used as an anchorage.

534 William Taylor Money was superintendant for the Bombay marine and had captained the *General Goddard* on its fifth voyage (the sixth voyage being captained by Thomas Graham). On his return to England he was returned to Parliament and became a director of the East India Company in 1819.

535 David Eskine, daughter of David Erskine and Anne Graham born 1st October 1791 after her father's death.

536 Christian, the other living daughter of David Erskine and Anne Graham.

537 House of William Graeme at Braco. There is no direct link with the Stirling or Graham families.

538 Rebecca Ash married Henry Longbotham 24th March 1811

539 A Commissioner of Public Accounts in Jamaica in 1805

540 Captain William Moray noted later to be at Surat.

541 Pantelleria

542 Wilhelmina Graham the widow of Day Hort Macdowall who died in 1809 leaving many children ranging from 18 to 2 in age in 1811

543 Hildebrand Oakes, Civil Commissioner of Malta, 1810-1813.

544 Thomas James Graham-Stirling born 11th June 1811

545 Christian Moray born 1779. Married Henry Home Drummond in 1812.

546 Youngest daughter who died unmarried in 1834.

547 Charles Moray born 1791. Joined the 13th Light Dragoons. Died unmarried in 1820

548 Captain William Marshall took charge of a newly formed Cadet establishment at Bombay under the direction of the Hon. the Com. in Chief 13th May 1810. He retired from ill health and was appointed Recruiting Officer in the Edinburgh district in 1814. [*The East India military calendar*, Volume 3. By John Philippart]

- 549 William son of David Erskine and Mary Melvin, born 1773. He went to Bombay in 1804 with Sir James Mackintosh and married his daughter, Maitland, in 1809.
- 550 John Kirkpatrick born 1766 and died in Windsor in 1816. He captained this ship from 1802 until at least 1809. The original ship named "Henry Addington" was lost in 1798, the new ship of that name was built in 1800 by the owner David Hunter, Esq, of Old South Sea House, Broad Street, London.
[<http://www.genealogy.kirkpatrickaustralian.com/archives/getperson.php?personID=I7181&tree=TKA>]
- 551 Surat a port city in Gujarat. In 1608, ships from the English East India Company started docking in Surat, using it as a trade and transit point. In 1615 an English factory was established by firman. The prosperity of Surat received a blow when Surat was ceded to the English as part of the dowry for Catherine of Braganza's marriage to Charles II in 1662. Shortly afterwards, in 1668, the East India Company established a factory in Bombay (Mumbai) and Surat began its decline. By 1687, the English East India Company moved the presidency to Bombay. The British re-took control of Surat in 1759 and assumed all government powers of the city in 1800.
- 552 May 10 [1811] On his passage to Bombay, on board the Henry Addington East Indiaman, William Bromley Cadogan Stirling, Esq. fourth son to Sir John Stirling, Bart. of Glorat, in the artillery service of the Honourable East India Company. He was an uncommonly fine and promising young man, whose loss is most deeply felt...He had nearly attained his twentieth year. [*The Scots Magazine and Edinburgh Literary Miscellany*, Volume 74]
Apparently died on board ship May 18, 1811, from the effects of wounds received when on shore at the Cape of Good Hope, where his boat's crew were attacked. In covering their retreat he was mortally wounded.
- 553 Rear Admiral George Dundas of Manour was the Navy Board Commissioner at Bombay.
- 554 Most likely Agnes, daughter of George Dundas. She married Rev. Robert Jones in 1815. Her sister Maria had married Capt. Thomas Graham in 1809 in Bombay.
- 555 Ann Pitcairn married David Carnegie 19th August 1811 in Bombay. He was of the Medical Board in Bombay and died in 1818. She died in 1875. [Recorded on a memorial stone in Inverkeilor parish church, Angus.]
- 556 D. Atkins, promoted Captain 1798; Jn. Serrell, 1803
- 557 Margaret daughter of Sir William Stirling of Ardoch, after the death of her first husband Andrew Stuart of Torrance married Sir William Johnson Pulteney, fifth baronet of Wester Hall.
- 558 Regulations & Instructions - 1808
Relating to His Majesty's service at sea.
Section IV - Chapter II
Appointment of Officers.
Article IX
No Person shall be appointed to the rank of Lieutenant, or Sub-Lieutenant unless he shall have attained the full age of nineteen years, and shall have been borne on the Books, and actually served on board, of one or more of His Majesty's Ships six complete years, two years of which he must have been rated as Master's Mate or Midshipman ; or, having gone through the established Education at the Royal Naval College at Portsmouth, he shall have served four complete years on board one or more of His Majesty's Ships ; two years of which he must have been rated as Master's Mate or Midshipman : nor unless he produce such Certificates of his age, the time of his service, and the regularity of his conduct, and shall undergo such examination, as may from time to time be directed from the Admiralty. And if any person shall produce false Certificates of his age, his good conduct, or the time of his service, he shall thereby be rendered incapable of ever receiving any Commission in His Majesty's Navy; and if the falsehood of such Certificate shall not be discovered until after he shall have obtained promotion, he shall, whenever it is discovered, be dismissed from the Navy, whatever Rank he may at that time have attained.
[<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com>]
- 559 *Jason* - Type: 5th rate; Armament 32 (12-pounder); Launched: 1804;
23 Mar 1805 Convoy to West Indies
Circa 16 Oct 1805 captured the French brig-corvette *Naiade*. Taken into the RN as *Melville*.
[<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com>]
- 560 *Amelia* - Type: 5th rate; Armament 38; Taken from the French: 13 Jun 1796 Cape Clear bearing west by north distant 12 leagues, the capture of the French frigate *Proserpine* by the frigate *Dryad*, Captain Lord Amelius Beauclerk, following a relatively brief chase. The *Proserpine* was taken into the RN as the *Amelia* the name *Proserpine* being in use. B.M. 1059 tons. [<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com>]
- 561 *Zealand* - Type: 3rd rate ; Armament 74; Type: 3rd rate ; Seized in trust: 19 Jan 1795
- 562 *Inconstant* - Type: 5th rate frigate ; Armament 36-gun - 18-pounder; Launched on the River Thames in 1783; Tons (BM): 890; Complement: 267 [<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com>]
- 563 *Defence*, 1763
Type: 3rd rate ; Armament 74
Launched : 1763 ; Disposal date or year : 24 Dec 1811
Disposal Details : Wrecked, *St. George & Defence* off the coast of Jutland, on passage from Baltic.
BM: 1603 tons
Complement: 594

Notes:

Etc.

9 Nov-24 Dec 1811 a series of gales which resulted in the loss of the *St.-George* and the *Defence*, wrecked on the western coast of Jutland. [<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com>]

564*Helder*, 1809

Type: 5th rate ; Armament 36

Renamed : 1809 ; Disposal date or year : Jun 1817

Notes:

19-20 May 1808 *Virginie* captured the Dutch frigate *Guelderland*, which, for a few years, served as a cruising 12-pdr 36 gun frigate in the British navy.

1809 Renamed *Helder*.

Deal 7 Jan 1812 Arrived from the Baltic.

[<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com>]

565The Great Comet of 1811, formally designated C/1811 F1, is a comet that was visible to the naked eye for around 260 days [Wikipedia]

566Thomas Fremantle (1765-1819) had command of the Adriatic campaign of 1807-1814. During the campaign, the Royal Navy occupied Vis and established its base there in Port St. George. The campaign reached its climax in the 1811 Battle of Lissa, and ended with British and Austrian troops seizing the coastal cities on the eastern Adriatic coast from the French.

567Admiral Sir Francis Laforey was at this time military commander in chief of the Leeward Islands.

568Sir Patrick 'Peter' Murray, 6th Bt. (1771-1837), of Ochertyre, Perth. Member of Parliament for Edinburgh, 1806-27th February 1812. King's remembrancer, ct. of Exchequer [S] 1799-1837; sec. to Board of Control 1810-12, baron of Exchequer [S] 1820-d. [<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org>]

569 9 Nov-24 Dec 1811 a series of gales which resulted in the loss of the *St.-George* and the *Defence*, wrecked on the western coast of Jutland. [<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com>]

570 Specialist dealers for supplies necessary for India -No. 124 Leadenhall Street.

571 Admiral George Elphinstone, 1st Viscount Keith. Fifth son of the 10th Lord Elphinstone, he was born in Elphinstone Tower, near Stirling, Scotland.

572Spencer Percival, Chancellor of the Exchequer, was shot 11th May 1812.

573The East India Company Act 1813, also known as the Charter Act of 1813, was an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom which renewed the charter issued to the British East India Company, and continued the Company's rule in India. However, the Company's commercial monopoly was ended, except for the tea trade and the trade with China. [Wikipedia]

574*Christian VII*, 15 Aug - 20 Oct 1807 taken in accordance with the terms of the capitulation following the siege of Copenhagen. Type: Former Danish 80; armament 98; Launched: 1803; BM: 2131 tons

Portsmouth 9 Apr 1812 Dropped down to St. Helen's.

Deal 2 Aug 1812 Arrived from off Flushing.

Deal 9 Oct 1812 Sailed for off the Texel.

Portsmouth 29 Dec 1812 Sailed to cruise off Cherbourg.

Portsmouth 1 Jan 1813 Sailed to join the squadron off Cherburgh.

Portsmouth 7 Jan 1813 Arrived from off Cherbourg.

Harwich 20 May 1813 Remains in Hoseley Bay.

Deal 25 Jul 1813 Arrived from off Flushing.

[<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com>]

575*San Josef*, 14 Feb 1797 Captured at St Vincent. Type: 1st rate; Armament 112; BM: 2457 tons

Portsmouth 19 Feb 1812 Came up from St. Helen's.

Portsmouth 9 Apr 1812 Sailed for Plymouth.

Plymouth 8 Jun 1812 Arrived from a cruise off Brest.

Plymouth 10 Sep 1812 Arrived from off Brest.

Plymouth 9 Nov 1812 Arrived, anchoring in Cawsand Bay.

Plymouth Dock 1 Dec 1812 Came to anchor again on Sunday night, and this evening is under weigh again.

Plymouth 2 Feb 1813 Arrived from off Brest.

Deal 28 Feb 1813 Sailed for Portsmouth.

Plymouth 22 May 1813 Put back by contrary winds, whilst bound for the Straits.

Plymouth 26 May 1813 Remains in Cawsand Bay due to contrary winds, bound for the Mediterranean.

5 Nov 1813 arrived off Cape Sicie and was involved in a skirmish with a French squadron off Toulon.

12 Feb 1814 a part of the fleet off Toulon which chased a French squadron into that port.

Plymouth 26 Jul 1814 Arrived from the Mediterranean, and put under Quarantine.

Plymouth 2 Sep 1814 Is reported to have been paid off.

[<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com>]

576 John Ferrier. Appointed Rear-Admiral of the Blue 1810 (c.1759-1836)

577 Philip Charles Calderwood Henderson Durham (1763-1845)

578 William Johnstone Hope (1766-1831) Hope served with Nelson, Duncan and Lord Keith through several campaigns, making connections which enabled him to secure a lengthy political career after his retirement from the Royal Navy in 1804 due to ill-health. After 26 years in Parliament, Hope was largely inactive and instead served as a Lord of the Admiralty and commissioner of Greenwich Naval Hospital. The Hopes were descendants of the first Earl of Hopetoun and maintained strong political links with the family. [Wikipedia]

579 Robert Dundas, 2nd Viscount Melville. His father died in 1811. He was First Lord of the Admiralty from 1812.

580 H.L. Ball, promoted Captain 1795 [<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com>]

581 William Champain, promoted Captain 1801 [<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com>]

582 John son of Sir John Wedderburn of Balindean and Alice Dundas was born in 1789. He entered the Indian Civil Service and went out to Bombay in 1807. He held a number of important posts there during the following 30 years. Mrs Patrick Stirling was a distant cousin. They shared a great-grandfather Sir Alexander Wedderburn 4th Baronet of Blackness.

583 William Taylor Money, son of William Money. His father was Captain of several East Indiamen and later a Director of the East India Company. He was also a friend and business partner of Robert Wigram. William Taylor Money entered the East India Company navy, serving in the *General Goddard* (1791-9) and the *Walthamstow* (1799-1801). Made his will in 1815 before a voyage around the Cape on his return to Britain. In 1816 Money was returned to Parliament for Wootton Bassett having borrowed the expenses from his friend Charles Forbes, nephew and heir of John Forbes. Charles had worked in his uncle's merchant house in Bombay until his return to Britain in 1811. He became MP for Beverley the following year on a platform of opposition to the East India Company monopoly. William Taylor Money died in Venice in 1834 and his will was proved in February 1836. [PROB11/1858] [www.historyofparliamentonline.org]

584 In 1764, John Forbes (1743-1821), descendant of an ancient family of Lord Forbes of Pitsligo, set sail on board the ship *Asia* as a purser on the East India Company's service. After three years in India as a 'free mariner' and later as 'free merchant', independent of the East India Company, he started his own business by trading Indian cotton. Forbes' company quickly widened its interests into ship brokerage, ship building and eventually into banking. Within a few years, his company was appointed banker to the Government of Bombay. [BL] His will proved in December 1821 shows that he made a fortune in India. [PROB11/1651]

585 16 Feb 1812 *Victorious*, accompanied by the *Weasel*, arrived off Venice. 21st-22nd chased a French squadron, during which the *Weasel* destroyed the brig *Mercure*, whilst the *Victorious* caught up with and captured the *Rivoli* following a long and severe action, shortly after the arrival of the *Weasel*. The *Rivoli* was purchased into the service [<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com>]

586 This is the last reference to Mrs Home in the letters. She left Scotland and returned to Jersey after her daughter's death on 10th June 1812. She made her will in July 1816 with a codicil the following June that her executors should propose to her son in law that her eldest grandson, William, should be sent to a school in England "that they think suitable for him". If he agrees, then she will leave £300 a year to defray the school expenses. She makes the same bequest to her granddaughter, Mary Margaret, if she is also educated in England under the direction of her daughter's late teacher, Miss Elizabeth James. The youngest grandson, Carolus Home should also be schooled in England. She leaves nothing to her second grandson, Thomas James Graham "as he is amply provided for by his uncle the late Sir Thomas Stirling.". Mary and Carolus are noted as residuary legatees at 21 but if by chance, Carolus becomes Sir Thomas's heir then the residue should go to Mary, "provided she does not marry a Scotch cousin within the third generation & if marriage does take place then I dispose of it as allows the one half to her brothers William & Carolus to be spent in travelling either in England or France so far as it will go and that if thought proper by my executors that they should have any attendance that it should be an English or French gentleman ". [PROB11/1595]

587 Mr H. Gilbert, mercer and tailor of Plymouth Dock noted *Edinburgh Gazette* 1814

588 Reference to the name Carolus? Born 24th May 1812, Carolus James Home Graham.

589 Possibly John Motteux whose father, also John, had been a director of EIC in the 1780's

590 Son of James Graham.

591 *General Kyd* was an East India Company ship launched in November 1813 of 1200 tons. It was the largest ship built at the Kidderpore dockyard of James Kyd (1786-1836), the East India Company's master ship builder at Calcutta. It was in service until 1830.

[*Poor Relations: The Making of a Eurasian Community in British India, 1773-1833* By Christopher J. Hawes]

592 *Impetueux* - Type: 3rd rate; Armament 74; Taken : 1 June 1794; Disposal date or year : 1813

1795 Captured as *Amerique* (America) at the Battle of 1 June 1794, but since there was a vessel already in the Navy List with this name she was renamed *Impetueux*, thus replacing the *Impetueux*, captured on the same date, which was accidentally burnt in Aug 1794.

22 Mar 1808 action between a British squadron and the two French frigates *Italienne* and *Seine*, off the port of Lorient.

Portsmouth 10 Jan 1810 Sailed for Plymouth.
 Deal 20 Sep 1811 Sailed for off Flushing.
 Portsmouth 16 Oct 1811 Arrived from the Downs.
 Portsmouth 8 Jan 1812 Sailed for off Cherbourg.
 Portsmouth 1 Mar 1812 Sailed for Lisbon.
 Lisbon 9 Apr 1813 Sailed with a convoy for England.
 Falmouth 4 May 1813 The Duke of Kent spoke yesterday HMS *Impetueux*, with convoy from Lisbon for England.
 Plymouth 7 May 1813 Passed by this port to the eastward with a convoy.
[\[http://www.pbenyon.plus.com\]](http://www.pbenyon.plus.com)
 593 Thomas Graham Stirling's wife had died six days before this letter was written.
 594 Captain Charles Frederick Napier - Lt 1799, Capt 1808. ".On the 11th of October, [1811] in the morning, the British 38-gun frigate *Impérieuse*, Captain the Honourable Henry Duncan, being off Possitano in the gulf of Salerno, discovered three gun-vessels, of one long 18-pounder and 30 men each, moored under the walls of a strong fort...In a few days afterwards the *Impérieuse* was joined by the 12-pounder 32-gun frigate *Thames*, Captain Charles Napier ; and on the 19th the two frigates anchored close to the shore near Palinuro on the coast of Calabria...On the 14th of May [1812] the 12-pounder 32-gun frigate *Thames*, accompanied by the *Pilot*, attacked the port of Sapri, defended by a strong battery and tower, mounting two 32-pounders, and garrisoned by an officer and 38 men. After being battered for two hours within pistol-shot, the garrison surrendered at discretion; but, " says Captain Napier, " in consequence of their gallant defence, I allowed them to march out with the honours of war, but not to serve against us in this expedition. "
[\[http://www.pbenyon.plus.com/Naval_History/Index/Index_N.htm\]](http://www.pbenyon.plus.com/Naval_History/Index/Index_N.htm)
 595 See file from <http://www.earsathome.com/letters/Previctorian/namur.html>
 596 Eldest son of Dr James Finlay and Helen Wedderburn, born 1776. From 1811 he was living at Ardoch Pen, St Ann's. as overseer. Noted as Cornet in St Catherine's Troop, Regiment of Horse since 30th March 1796. Quartermaster in the same troop in the same year. A DF listed at Master Extraordinary for the County of Middlesex in 1824 Almanac.
[\[http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/\]](http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/)
 597 Of St James parish & Trelawny 1817 [\[http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/\]](http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/)
 598 Robert Dundas, 2nd Viscount Melville, First Lord of the Admiralty from 1812 to 1827
 599 Captain Sir Andrew Snape Hamond, 1st Baronet. He resigned from Parliament and the navy in 1806 on the death of Prime Minister William Pitt (the younger). He retired with a pension of 1,500 pounds per annum. His retirement had been hastened by problems that developed over investigations involving accounting differences for naval funds between civil and naval authorities. In 1809 Sir Andrew purchased an old estate at Terrington (now called Terrington St Clement), Norfolk.
 600 HMS Royal William was a 100-gun first rate launched in 1670 as HMS Prince. She was rebuilt in 1692 and renamed HMS Royal William, rebuilt again in 1719, and rearmed to 84 guns and fitted as a guardship in 1790. She was broken up in 1813. [Wikipedia]
 601 Charles Austen brother of Jane Austen.
 602 Capt. Henry Duncan (1786-1835) son of Admiral Adam Duncan, of Camperdown, 1st Viscount Duncan (1731-1804)
 603 Implies thieves
 604 *Pompee* - 18 Dec 1793 Captured at Toulon; type: 2nd rate; Armament 80; BM: 1901 tons
 Portsmouth 28 Aug 1812 Gives instructions to vessels waiting for the convoy bound to Portugal and the Mediterranean.
 Falmouth 6 Sep 1812 Arrived off this port with the outward-bound Portugal and Mediterranean convoys.
 5 Nov 1813 arrived off Cape Sicie and was involved in a skirmish with a French squadron off Toulon.
 Portsmouth 30 Jul 1814 Arrived from the Mediterranean.
 Portsmouth 11 Aug 1814 Came into harbour.
 Portsmouth 18 Apr 1815 Passed by for the Downs with troops from America.
 Sheerness 6 Nov 1815 Is returning her guns, and store &c. preparatory to her being paid off.
[\[http://www.pbenyon.plus.com/18-1900/P/03597.html\]](http://www.pbenyon.plus.com/18-1900/P/03597.html)
 605 George Martin was born in 1764, the son of William Martin, a captain in the navy, and his wife Arabella, the daughter of Admiral of the Fleet Sir William Rowley. George's great-uncle was Admiral Sir William Martin, who had fought in the War of the Austrian Succession under Admirals Norris and Vernon. His name was entered on the books of the yacht HMS Mary on 13 December 1771, but he did not actually enter the navy until 20 November 1776, when he became a captain's servant aboard his uncle, Joshua Rowley's ship, HMS Monarch. He remained in Rowley's service for several years, rising to able seaman and then midshipman. Etc...
 1805 he saw action at the controversial Battle of Cape Finisterre under Robert Calder. Promoted to rear-admiral shortly afterwards Etc...
 Martin returned to England and went ashore on striking his flag on 14 October 1810. He returned to sea in 1812, flying his flag aboard the 78-gun HMS *Impetueux* and took command of the forces off Lisbon. He remained in this role for

the next two years, shifting his flag to HMS Stately and then HMS Rodney in 1813. He struck his flag on 24 June 1814 and the following day was nominated a Knight Bachelor on the occasion of the Prince Regent's visiting the fleet at Spithead. On 2 January 1815 he received a further honour, when he was appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath, and on 23 February 1821 he was further advanced to a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath. [Wikipedia]

606 Charles Elphinstone Fleming, promoted Captain 1794

607 The Siege of Cádiz a siege of the large Spanish naval base of Cádiz by a French army from February 5, 1810 to August 24, 1812 during the Peninsular War. Following the occupation of Madrid on March 23, 1808, Cádiz became the Spanish seat of power, and was targeted by 60,000 French troops under the command of Marshal Claude Victor for one of the most important sieges of the war. Defending the city were 2,000 Spanish troops who, as the siege progressed, received aid from 10,000 Spanish reinforcements as well as British and Portuguese troops.

During the siege, which lasted two and a half years, the Cortes Generales government in Cadiz (the Cádiz Cortes) drew up a new constitution to reduce the strength of the monarchy (a constitution eventually revoked by Fernando VII). [Wikipedia]

608 Thomas Graham Stirling's wife, Caroline, died 10th June 1812 less than a month after the birth of another son, Carolus.

609 Christian, unmarried older sister of Thomas Graham Stirling born 1764

610 Sir Patrick Murray, 6th Bt. (1771-1837), of Ochertyre, Perth. Member of Parliament for Edinburgh 1806-27th February 1812. 'Sir Peter' Murray owed his return to Parliament to Lord Melville, who was his father's cousin and his wife's brother-in-law. [<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1790-1820/member/murray-sir-patrick-1771-1837>]

611 *Trident* - Type: 3rd rate; Armament 64; Launched: 1768

Malta 1 Jul 1811 Remains.

Malta 23 May 1813 Remains.

Malta 15 Dec 1815 Remains.

[<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com/18-1900/P/04879.html>]

612 Charles Bayles

613 David Macdowall Grant (also known as David Macdowall) was born on 20 July 1761, son of William Macdowall, 18th of Garthland and 2nd of Castlesemple and Elizabeth 'Black Bess' Graham. On 12 April 1782 he lost a hand in Rodney's engagement of The Saints. He gained the rank of Captain in the service of the Royal Navy. He married Eleanor Mary Grant, daughter of Colonel Alexander Grant, 4th of Arndilly, in 1790. Through his wife he held Eden Estate in St Mary. His sons David and James both died in Jamaica. He died in 1841.

614 Muiravonside in the county of Stirling. Alexander Macleod, late of Jamaica, married Frances Ayliffe Dalmahoy sister of the late Sir John Hay Dalmahoy, Bart. in 1801. Macleod appears to have sold the estate in 1798.

615 Of Hampden. Married Sarah Newton Steel. He died 1808

616 Finlay, James esq. Bogside, 13. Picardy place

[*Scottish Post Office directory* 1811-12 but not 12-13]

617 The United States established a consulate in Morocco in 1797. President Washington had requested funds for this post in a message to Congress on March 2, 1795, and James Simpson, the U.S. Consul at Gibraltar who was appointed to this post, took up residence in Tangier 2 years later. Sultan Sidi Muhammad's successor, Sultan Moulay Soliman, had recommended to Simpson the establishment of a consulate because he believed it would provide greater protection for American vessels. In 1821, the Moroccan leader gave the United States one of the most beautiful buildings in Tangier for its consular representative. This building served as the seat of the principal U.S. representative to Morocco until 1956 and is the oldest piece of property owned by the United States abroad.

[<http://morocco.usembassy.gov/early.html>]

618 *San Juan* - Type: 3rd rate ; Armament 74

21 Oct 1805 Late *San Juan Nepomuceno*, captured at Trafalgar, renamed *San Juan* and appears to have been used for harbour service.

Malta 1 Aug 1811 Remains.

Gibraltar 18 Jun 1813 Remains.

Gibraltar circa 29 Jul 1813 Remains.

[<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com/18-1900/P/04086.html>]

619 Son of John Stirling of Kippendavie and Mary Graham. Born 1789.

620 <http://www.mariners-l.co.uk/GreenwichRoyal.html>

621 John Begbie, his brother? - noted that James Begbie never married but forgave his brother John all monies owed by him in his will of 1815 [PROB 11/1573]

622 *Walpole* - Built by Perry, launched 1798, 3 decks, 4in bottom, length 146ft 4in, keel 118ft 10½in, breadth 36ft 1in, hold 14ft 9in, wing transom 23ft 4in, port cell 26ft 9½in, waist 3ft 11½in, between decks 6ft 2¼in, roundhouse 6ft 6in, ports 13 middle & upper, deck range 84ft 3in, 823 tons. Principal Managing Owners: 1 Robert Wigram, 2 Robert Anderson, 3 Corbyn Morris Venner, 4-5 George Clark. Voyages: (1) 1797/8 China and Madras. Capt Corbyn

Morris Venner. Portsmouth 29 Apr 1798 - 5 Jul Rio de Janeiro - 4 Dec Whampoa - Second Bar 8 Jan 1799 - 23 Feb Madras - 14 Mar Calingapatam - 19 Apr Madras 11 Aug - 26 Oct St Helena - 17 Jan 1800 Cork - 31 Jan Downs. (2) 1800/1 Madras, Bengal and Benkulen. Capt James Sandilands. Portsmouth 31 Mar 1801 - 26 Jul Madras - 20 Aug Diamond Harbour - 30 Nov Saugor 23 Jan 1802 - 24 Feb Benkulen 6 Apr - 25 Jun St Helena - 30 Aug Downs. (3) 1802/3 Madras. Capt James Sandilands. Downs 2 Mar 1803 - 21 May Johanna - 15 Jun Madras 12 Sep - 27 Nov St Helena - 24 Mar 1804 Downs. (4) 1804/5 Madras and Bengal. Capt James Sandilands. Portsmouth 8 Mar 1805 - 13 Jul Madras - 9 Aug Diamond Harbour - 31 Dec Saugor 21 Feb 1806 - 12 Mar Point de Galle - 14 May St Helena - 18 Jul Downs. (5) 1806/7 Madras and Bengal. Portsmouth 18 Apr 1807 - 9 Sep Madras - 25 Oct Diamond Harbour - 22 Nov Saugor 1 Dec - 15 Dec Penang 12 Jan 1808 - 8 Feb Kedgeree - 16 Mar Saugor 26 May - 10 Sep St Helena - 13 Dec Downs - wrecked in a storm in Margate Roads 18 Dec.

623 Possibly Adam Wilson, writer of 4 St James Square, Edinburgh and also a Session Clerk. [1813 PO Directory]

624 Rear-Admiral Sir George Johnstone Hope, KCB (6 July 1767 – 2 May 1818) was a British naval officer, who served with distinction in the Royal Navy throughout the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, including service at the Battle of Trafalgar. A close personal friend of Admiral Nelson, he received many honours following the battle, and later served as a Lord of the Admiralty. [Wikipedia]

625 *Blossom*, - Type: Surveying Sloop; Armament 16; Launched : 1806

4 Nov 1810 cruising off Cape Sicie, the ship's boats were detached to capture the privateer-xebec *César* the river Barbate.

15 Jan 1811 captured the French privateer *Caesar* on the Home station.

23 Feb 1812 captured the French privateer *Jean Bart*.

Portsmouth 22 Sep 1814 Passed by with a convoy of transports from the Mediterranean for the Downs.

Deal 23 Sep 1814 Arrived with a convoy.

Deal 28 Sep 1814 Sailed for Sheerness.

Sheerness 12 Nov 1814 Refitting.

[<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com>]

626 *Impérieuse* - Type: 5th Rate ; Armament 40; Taken : 5 Oct 1804

5 Oct 1804 Spanish frigate *Medea* captured by a squadron of four British frigates under Captain Graham Moore etc.

21 Oct-3 Nov 1811 the frigates *Impérieuse* and *Thames*, having acquired troops from Sicily to destroy military facilities ashore captured six gun-boats, 22 feluccas laden with oil, cotton, &c., and 20 large spars brought off from the beach.

Portsmouth 3 Feb 1812 Has dropped down to St. Helen's and will sail with the East India convoy tomorrow.

9-10 May 1812 the ships' boats of the *America*, *Leviathan*, *Impérieuse* and *Eclair*, involved in operations against French convoys in the Languedoc and Alassio district.

18 Aug 1812 Reported to be off the coast of Sardinia, and Corsica.

31 Aug 1813 captured the French privateer *Audacieux*.

5 Sep 1813 a part of a squadron involved in operations in and off the port of D'Anzo.

Portsmouth 14 Jul 1814 Arrived from Palermo, (12 Jun), with dispatches and is under quarantine.

[<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com>]

627 Christian Moray married Henry Home Drummond 14th April 1812

628 Mountstuart Elphinstone (1779-1859)

629 Finlay and Murray, esqs. W. S. 8, York place & Finlay, Alexander esq. W. S. 8, York place, Edinburgh

[*Scottish Post Office directory* 1811-12 & 12-13]

630 Son of William Macdowall 20th Garthland, 2nd of Castle Semple and Elizabeth Graham Macdowall. On 12 April 1782 he lost a hand in Rodney's engagement of The Saints. He gained the rank of Captain in the service of the Royal Navy. He married 1790 Eleanor Mary daughter of Col Alexander Grant 4th of Arndilly, Banffshire. Through her he inherited not only Arndilly but a Jamaican estate in St Mary called Eden.

631 Mary Stevenson is at Riverhead in the At Ann's Almanac for 1816 [<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>]

632 John Lens one of His Majesty's Sergeants at Law of Lincoln's Inn.

633 A charge payable to the owner of a chartered ship on failure to load or discharge the ship within the time agreed.

[O.E.D.]

634 Elizabeth, sister of Thomas Graham Stirling.

635 Bengal Civil Service 1816-29, Assistant in Office of Register of Sadr Diwani and Nizamat Adalat 1817-20;

Principal Assistant under Deputy Superintendent of Delhi Territories 1820-23

636 James Kyd (1786-1836) son of Lt. Gen. Alexander Kyd by an Indian mother. Went to England as a boy with his brother, Robert, to learn shipbuilding. They returned to Calcutta in 1800 and were apprenticed to Waddell, the East India Company's Master Shipbuilder. On his retirement in 1807, they bought the Kidderpore dockyard near Calcutta, and James Kyd became Master Shipbuilder to the Company. In 1814 he visited England in the *General Kyd*, which he had built. Between 1808 and 1835 he built over twenty-five ships for the Company, including the *Hastings* man-of-war. He was recognised as the head of the Eurasian community in Calcutta as a philanthropist having inherited

considerable wealth from his father. He never married although his did leave a legacy to Mary Kyd whom he recognised as his daughter. On his death the Kidderpore dockyard was bought by the Government, his brother having died in 1825. [*Dictionary of Indian Biography*]

637The *General Kyd* was launched in November 1813

638Roger Hamilton built Torrance House in 1605, on the site of Torrance Castle. In 1650, James Hamilton of Shields inherited the estate and sold the house and accompanying lands to James Stuart of Castlemilk. It was during the Stuarts' occupancy that the house metamorphosed from the original L-plan tower house into a sprawling mansion house. East Kilbride, Glasgow.

639Sir Alexander Inglis Cochrane (1758-1832) GCB RN was a senior Royal Navy commander during the Napoleonic Wars and achieved the rank of Admiral. He was knighted for his service. In 1810 Cochrane, in reward of his services, was appointed governor and commander-in-chief of Guadaloupe and its dependencies. In this situation he continued till 1813, when a war with the United States called him once more into action. He was appointed to the command of the fleet on coast of North America, and on assuming office, he shut up and watched the ports of the United States with a most vigilant and effectual blockade. In 1815 Sir Alexander Cochrane returned to England. He was raised to the rank of full admiral in 1819, and held the office of commander-in-chief at Plymouth from 1821 to 1824.

640Panmure House was a 17th-century country house in the Parish of Panbride, Angus, Scotland, 4 miles (6 km) to the north of Carnoustie. The Panmure estate was inherited by the Maule family in 1224, and the remains of Panmure Castle are located close to the site of the house. William Ramsay, 1st Baron Panmure (1771-1852) was a Scottish politician. He was the younger son of George Ramsay, 8th Earl of Dalhousie and Elizabeth Glen. His father was the son of Jean Maule, granddaughter of George Maule, 2nd Earl of Panmure.[2] In 1782 he succeeded to the Maule estates on the death of his great-uncle William Maule, 1st Earl Panmure, and assumed by Royal license the same year the additional surname and arms of Maule. He represented Forfarshire in Parliament in 1796 and again between 1805 and 1831, when Maule was raised to the peerage at the coronation of William IV.

641Sir Gilbert Stirling (1779-1843) son or Sir James Stirling and Alison Mansfield. (The Right Honourable James Stirling, c.1740-1805. Lord Provost of Edinburgh 1790-1791, 1794-5 and 1798--1799, and partner in the banking house Mansfield, Ramsay and Co. Created baronet in July 1792.) He served in the Coldstream Foot Guards at the Helder and in Egypt under Abercrombie, and in the Peninsula under Wellington. He retired in 1812 as a Lieutenant-Colonel, having succeeded to the baronetcy in 1805. As he never married, the Stirling Baronets of Mansfield died out at his death.

642*Spencer* - Type: 3rd rate; Armament 74; Launched : 1800

Portsmouth 4 Apr 1814 Sailed from St. Helens with a convoy of transports for Canada.

Halifax, Nova Scotia 28 May 1814 Arrived from England with the Quebec convoy.

Portsmouth 30 May 1815 Arrived from Halifax.

Plymouth 7 Aug 1818 Arrived from a 2 month cruise and exercises in the Channel.

27 Nov 1821 Is in commission and based on Plymouth.

[<http://www.pbennyon.plus.com>]

643Lady Mary Murray, daughter of John Hope. 2nd Earl of Hopetoun. Married Sir Patrick Murray of Ochertyre in 1794. (Ochertyre Estate was a mile outside the town of Crieff, so neighbours of the Stirlings at Strowan House)

644Richard Raggett (1758-1829)

645Archibald Cochrane, 9th Earl of Dundonald (January 1st, 1748– July 1st, 1831) was a Scottish nobleman and inventor. The son of Thomas Cochrane, 8th Earl of Dundonald, he joined the British Army as a youth and also served time in the Royal Navy before returning to Culross in 1778 after inheriting the Earldom of Dundonald from his father. [Wikipedia]

646Possibly Jean Wilhelmina, youngest child of John Stirling of Kippendavie & Kippenross who married Mary, 2nd daughter of William Graham of Airth by his wife Ann Stirling of Ardoch. She was born 1804 (Stirling biog. p. 141)

647Meer Khan leader of the Pindaris who were menacing the North-West Frontier

648Jalna?

649Assaye is a small village in the Jalna district of the state of Maharashtra in western India. The village was the location of the Battle of Assaye in 1803, fought between the Maratha Empire and the British East India Company.

650Present Jafrabad, also in the Jalna district of the state of Maharashtra in western India

651Cutch or was an Indian princely state, situated on the north of the Gulf of Kutch having its Northern boundary with Sindh. It was ruled by the Jadeja dynasty from its formation in 1147 until 1948 when it seceded to newly formed, India.

652The regiment landed at Calcutta in August 1808 and were to remain there for a year before being transferred to Surat 200 miles north of Bombay. Here they were more than pleased with the high quality mounts that they were provided with. In 1810 the unit were to see their first action in the sub-continent when they were sent to Mandavi to put down a religious insurrection. There was one serious battle where the unit was forced to engage the locals armed with 14 foot spears. The lancers opted for the more traditional hand to hand attack rather than employ there more than adequate firepower. This decision cost three lives and countless wounds to the unit, although they did triumph

- over the religious fanatics who had lost some 200 men on the battlefield before being dispersed for good. These small scale wars were a common occurrence at this stage of India's history in the British Empire, the next action that the Light Dragoons were involved in was of a similar nature. In 1817, there was a serious uprising of the Mahrattas and Pindari forces in the interior of the Sub-Continent. The 17th Light Dragoons spent over a year tracking down the fast, mobile and efficient Indian forces in difficult terrain. Although, the biggest danger to the Light Dragoon was not to be any soldier, but sickness and disease. In its fourteen years in India, the regiment lost about eight hundred men to cholera and other illnesses and only some 150 due to fighting. The regiment eventually sailed back to England in 1823 at only a quarter of the strength that it had when it had arrived some 14 years previously.
- On their way back to Britain, the 17th put in at St Helena for resupplies. It was here that they learnt that their name had been changed and that they were now to become the 17th Lancers.
[<http://www.britishempire.co.uk/forces/armyunits/britishcavalry/17thlightdragoons1759.htm>]
- 653 Belongs to Archibald Stirling
- 654 Noted in 1805 Almanac among list of Attornies at Law admitted to practice at His Majesty's Supreme Court of Judicature. Dead by 1816 noted in St Catherine's Almanac 1817 [<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>]
- 655 John Shand (c.1759–1826) was the son of a North East wine merchant. He sailed for Jamaica in the early 1780s, having failed in his first business venture in Scotland. There he became a successful manager of other people's estates and eventually bought four properties of his own. In about 1800 he began a relationship with Frances Brown, with whom he was to have seven children. Frances was a woman of African and European ancestry who was apparently a former slave from Belmont Estate, one of Shand's properties. According to the slave lists for Belmont, members of her extended family remained in slavery on the plantation.
- As a free woman and the partner of a wealthy man, Frances Brown had a relatively comfortable life in Jamaica. She received a permanent allowance from John Shand and owned several slaves and a house in Spanish Town. But she paid a high price for her relationship. John Shand left her in 1816 to retire to Scotland and all her children were taken from her at an early age to be raised in Scotland. She had a portrait of each one made when they left her, and, on writing her will in 1834, asked that each child be given their portrait as a memento of her.
- Back in Scotland, John Shand invested his profits in The Burn and Arnhall Estate near Fettercairn. He expected to die a wealthy man and in 1821 he made a will leaving £5000 to each of his children. But his Jamaican properties were mismanaged and he lost much of his fortune, which means that his children may not have inherited as much as he intended for them. His Scottish estate was inherited by his brother William Shand who was also a planter in Jamaica.
[<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/slavery/5p3.htm>]
- 656 1805 Almanac among list of Barristers admitted to practice at His Majesty's Supreme Court of Judicature; 1817 Almanac Court of Vice-Admiralty, Judge and Commissary, Hon. Henry John Hinchliffe
[<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>]
- 657 Goshen in St Ann's owned by Hon. James Laing 1816 Almanac [<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>]
- 658 The firm of Bruce de Ponthieu and Company, merchants and East India agents, of 71 Old Broad Street, became Bruce de Ponthieu Bazett and Company (1805-12); Bruce Bazett and Company (1813-16); Bazett Farquhar Crawford and Company (1816-28); and Bazett Colvin Crawford and Company (1829-33).
- 659 The 50-gun English frigate *HMS Glasgow* was launched in 1814. Captain Henry Duncan (1786-1835) took command of the ship later that year, following his return from service in the Mediterranean Sea on board the *Imperieuse*. The *Glasgow* cruised between the Isles of Scilly, Great Britain, and the Iberian Peninsula until early 1815. Following Napoleon Bonaparte's return to Europe from the island of Elba, the *Glasgow* joined the fleet of Admiral George Elphinstone, 1st Viscount Keith. Captain Duncan led a squadron assigned to the Bay of Biscay, where the *Glasgow* remained until Napoleon's surrender. The ship had returned to Plymouth, England, by late August.
- 660 Alexander Cruickshank (1752-1834) a clergyman of the Scottish Episcopal church, was Pastor at Muthill.
- 661 *Armada* - Type: 3rd rate ; Armament 74; Launched : 22 Mar 1810; BM: 1749 tons
Plymouth 12 Jan 1811 *Nancy*, a former French prize, subsequently abandoned in bad weather has been brought into port by a prize crew from the *Armada*.
Plymouth 21 Jan 1811 Sailed for Basque Roads.
Plymouth 30 Jan 1811 Arrived from Cork and a cruise to the westward.
Deal Jul 6 1811 Arrived from off Flushing
Deal Oct 16 1811 Off North Foreland.
Deal Nov 5 1811 Remains in the Downs.
Deal Dec 25 1811 Sailed for Portsmouth.
Portsmouth 26 Dec 1811 Arrived
Off Toulon, Aug 18 1812 Victualling at Minorca.
4 Nov 1813 arrived off Cape Sicie and on the 5th was involved in a skirmish with a French squadron off Toulon.
12 Feb 1814 a part of the fleet off Toulon which chased a French squadron into that port.
3 Jul 1814 At Port Mahon.

4 Sep 1814 The Grace packet from Malta, spoke with the Armada, en route to England with a convoy from Gibraltar.
[<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com>]

662St James Almanac 1811 & 1816 Peterkin, Alexander [<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>]

663 17 Mark Lane

664Admiral Thomas Cochrane, 10th Earl of Dundonald, 1st Marquess of Maranhão, GCB, ODM (14 December 1775 – 31 October 1860), styled Lord Cochrane between 1778 and 1831, was a senior British naval flag officer and radical politician. He was a daring and successful captain of the Napoleonic Wars, leading the French to nickname him *Le Loup des Mers* ('The Sea Wolf' or 'The Wolf of the Seas'). He was dismissed from the Royal Navy in 1814, following a conviction for fraud on the Stock Exchange and he then served in the rebel navies of Chile, Brazil and Greece during their respective wars of independence. In 1832, he was pardoned and reinstated in the Royal Navy with the rank of Rear Admiral of the Blue. After several further promotions, he died in 1860 with the rank of Admiral of the Red, and the honorary title of Rear-Admiral of the United Kingdom.

His life and exploits served as one source of inspiration for the naval fiction of nineteenth and twentieth-century novelists, particularly C. S. Forester's *Horatio Hornblower* and Patrick O'Brian's *Jack Aubrey*. [Wikipedia]

665 "...A frequent intimidation tactic deployed by the British was to ransom small towns in return for their safety. This was especially frequent on Cape Cod where the British has easy access to ports. This note from Captain Richard Raggett of the HMS Spencer to the people of Orleans demands \$1,000 for the guaranteed safety of the town's saltworks.

...

Ransom Note

His Britannick Majesty's Ship Spencer in Cape Cod Bay

September the 30th, 1814

Gentlemen,

It being my intentions to petition as far as lays in my Power the Conduct of the American Forces towards the Defenses of Towns in Upper Canada.

I call upon you to come forward with a contribution of One Thousand Dollars for the preservation of your salt works which as I consider of Public Utility will otherwise be destroyed.

I have requested the Selectmen of Eastham to deliver or forward this to you.

The very moderate sum of One Thousand Dollars will I hope cause you to come forward without delay and shall expect on the sixth of October next you will have the above sum ready to deliver on board any one of his Britannick Majesty's Ships belonging to the squadron under my orders that may arrive in the Bay.

On delivery of said sum a Certificate Guaranteeing the safety of the Salt Works of Orleans, during the present war will be given and its safety insured.

Your not complying with the Terms as above will cause me to suppose you Intend defending the said works and I must therefore take steps accordingly,

I am - Gentlemen Your Most

Humble Obedient Servant

Rich Raggett Captain His Britannick Majesty's Ship Spencer Senior Officer in Boston Bay

To: The Selectmen and Proprietors of the Salt Works of Orleans.."

[<http://www.behance.net/gallery/Footnotes-and-Cannonballs/11409747>]

6661816 Almanac St Mary Cuthbert, Hon. George, Preston [<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>]

667Alexander Macleod late of Muiravonside

668John Abercromby (1772-1817) The second son of Sir Ralph Abercromby, he became Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army in 1809. From there he led the forces that captured Mauritius in 1810, returning to Bombay in 1811. In 1813 he transferred to become Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army and temporary Governor of Madras, with promotion to lieutenant-general. The Indian climate had broken his health, however, and he had to return to Britain at the end of 1814, where he received the KCB. He became GCB in 1815, and succeeded his elder brother George as MP for Clackmannanshire. However, his worsening health drove him to the Continent, and he died in Marseilles in 1817. [Wikipedia]

669Pemberton Valley, St Mary's Parish was owned by the wealthy family of Col. John Hamilton of Sundrum Castle in Ayrshire, Scotland. Alexander West Hamilton of Pinmore, Ayrshire, second son of John Hamilton, Esq. of Sundrum.

670Of Content. Son of John Stirling, born 1787.

671A naval lieutenant wore one epaulette on the left shoulder whereas commanders and captains wore two.

672Marshal of France and Grand Admiral or Admiral of France Joachim-Napoléon Murat, brother-in-law of Napoleon Bonaparte, through marriage to Napoleon's youngest sister, Caroline. Napoleon made Murat a Marshal of France on 18 May 1804, and also granted him the title of "First Horseman of Europe". He was created Prince of the Empire in 1805, appointed Grand Duke of Berg and Cleves on 15 March 1806 and held this title until 1 August 1808, when he was named King of Naples and Sicily. He was in charge of the French Army in Madrid when the popular 2nd May uprising that started the Peninsular War happened. Murat was equally useful in Napoleon's invasion of Russia (1812)

and in the Battle of Leipzig (1813). However, after France's defeat at Leipzig, Murat reached an agreement with the Austrian Empire in order to save his own throne. During the Hundred Days, he realized that the European powers, meeting at the Congress of Vienna, had the intention to remove him and return the Kingdoms of Naples and Sicily to their pre-Napoleonic rulers. Murat deserted his new allies and, after issuing a proclamation to the Italian patriots in Rimini, moved north to fight against the Austrians in the Neapolitan War to strengthen his rule in Italy by military means. He was defeated by Frederick Bianchi, a general of Francis I of Austria, in the Battle of Tolentino (2–3 May 1815). He fled to Corsica after Napoleon's fall. Joined by around a thousand followers, he hoped to regain control of Naples by fomenting an insurrection in Calabria. Arriving at the Calabrian port of Pizzo, Murat attempted to rally support in the town square, but things went very wrong. The crowd was hostile and he was attacked by an old woman blaming him for the loss of her son. Calabria had been badly hit by Murat's repression of local piracy and brigandage during his reign. Forces of the king, Ferdinand IV of Naples, arrested him, and he was put on trial for treason. He was eventually sentenced to death by firing squad at the Castello di Pizzo, Calabria on 13th October 1815.

673 Sir George Warrender of Lochend, 4th Baronet PC, FRS (5 December 1782 – 21 February 1849) was a Scottish politician. In 1799, he succeeded to his father's baronetcy. Due to his lifestyle, he was nicknamed Sir George Provender.

Warrender was Member of Parliament (MP) for Haddington Burghs from 1807 to 1812 and for Truro from 1812 to 1818. He was further Member of Parliament for Sandwich from 1818 to 1826, for Westbury from 1826 to 1830, as well as for Honiton from 1830 to 1832.

Between 1812 and 1822, Warrender was Lord of the Admiralty and between 1822 and 1828, Commissioner of the Board of Control. [Wikipedia]

674 Possibly the *Spencer*, his brother Charles' ship.

675 There is a stark reminder of the financial value of a slave to the owner from David Finlay's accounts which were sent to the trustees. In the 1815 list of female slaves, Margaret was aged 26, Rosey, 23, and Pamela 17. They were all part of the field gang and all described as "Able, healthy & well disposed". The cash account for December records, "Paid Rosey, as a reward, on weaning her child 6/8" and for March 1816 payments were made to Margaret & Pamela "whose infants are a month old as a reward & to take care of them the like sum to be paid when wean'd 6/8 each". The meticulous recording of the increases and decreases of slaves for 1816 confirm that 24th February, Pamela was delivered of "a female Mulatto child named Charlotte". The next day "To Margaret delivered of a Male child named William", and Rosey had a further child on September 19th "a male child named Cupid". [MS 10925 f. 80-86]

676 Described as book-keeper or under-overseer at Ardoch Penn in 1815 accounts. Paid £80 a year.

677 The mouth of the river Tamar.

678 Lieutenant James Stirling, of the *Prometheus* noted 1809 re boat attacks in the Baltic.
[www.pbenyon.plus.com/Naval_History/Vol_V/P_181.html]

679 Lavatory

680 In the list of slaves for 1815 Betty alias Mary Campbell heads the list, aged 55, by occupation "Washer & Doctress" and her condition and character "Weakly fm age - healthy & well disposed". In the following year there is an additional note that she had had fourteen children. [MS 10925 f. 80]

681 Hon. Henrietta Duncan, daughter of Admiral Adam Duncan, 1st Viscount Duncan of Camperdown and Henrietta Dundas, married Sir James Fergusson of Kilkerran, 4th Bt. on 5 December 1804. Sister of Henry Duncan, Captain of the Glasgow.

682 Dee - Type: 6th Rate ; Armament 20; Launched : 1814

Deal 11 Nov 1814 Came down the River from Sheerness, and sailed for Portsmouth.

Portsmouth 8 Dec 1814 Sailed for Leith.

Deal 9 May 1815 Arrived with 2 French store-ships which she had detained and brought into the Downs, from Brest bound to Dunkirk.

[<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com>]

683 Probably younger brother of Archibald of Keir. He inherited from his father a thirteenth share in the copartnership of Somerville, Gordon & Co. West India Merchants in Glasgow. [Sterling Genealogy p. 80]

684 William Galbraith son of William and Rebecca Ash born 1798, baptised in St Ann's 1801

685 Archibald Stirling married Elizabeth Maxwell June 1st 1815, second daughter of Sir John Maxwell of Pollok, Renfrewshire, by his wife Hannah Anne, daughter of Richard Gardiner of Aldborough, Suffolk. [Sterling Genealogy p. 82-3]

686 Charles Stirling (1796-1839) son of John Stirling of Kippendavie. William and Charles held slaves on Content and several other estates in 1834. Noted "Charles Stirling (known as Charles Stirling junior, until the death of Charles Stirling in 1829), partner in Stirling, Gordon (q.v.)" on UCL site. [<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/project/researchowners>]

687 In St Mary's. Clarke named as owner 1817 almanac. [<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>]

688 St Ann's Almanac 1822 Brydon, David, River Head 58/ 246 [but not in 1816]

[<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>]

689He married Catherine Haughton James daughter of John Haughton James at St Marylebone, London, in April 1814.

690William Robert Broughton, promoted Captain 1791

Commodore Will. Rob. Broughton - 74 *Illustrious* 1811 Capture of Java

691*Illustrious*, 1803

Type: 3rd rate ; Armament 74

Launched : 3 Sep 1803 ; Disposal date or year : 1868

BM: 1746 tons

24 May 1811 *Caroline* and *Phaëton* sailed from Penang with their convoy, arriving Malacca 1 Jun, and were joined by the *Illustrious* : sailed for High Island, where they arrived 3 Jul.

3 Aug 1811 arrived Chillingching, on the coast Java and disembarked troops, having been joined by the frigates *Modeste*, and *Bucephalus*. The invasion of Java terminated with the surrender of Dutch and French forces on 16 Sep.

Plymouth 6 Nov 1813 Passed up Channel last evening with a small convoy from the East Indies.

Portsmouth 22 Nov 1813 Will sail tomorrow to the eastward with Marines.

1830 Portsmouth

692Sir Charles Edmonstone, 2nd Baronet (1764-1821), also 12th of Duntreath, was a Scottish politician. In 1806 he was elected Member for Dumbartonshire, but he lost his seat in the general election of the following year. In 1812 he became Member for Stirlingshire and held the seat until his death. A Tory like his father, he supported Lord Liverpool's government during the later part of the Napoleonic Wars.

693 Sir James Fergusson, of Kilkerran, 4th Baronet (1765-1838). Brother-in-law of Henry Duncan, Captain of the Glasgow.

694This may relate to December 1813 when Thomas was on the Imperieuse fighting of Livorno. There is a story about a possible event in A.M.W. Stirling 'Life's Little Day'. Thomas Stirling, her husband's grandfather, fighting the French around the Bay of Naples (error), saved the life of a French Dragoon who presented his sword to him in thanks.

695To lieutenant [Records of the Navy Board and the Board of Admiralty ADM 1/2179/70 1815]

6961781, Dec. 26. Lease for a year. Ind. betw. Robert McGhie of Bristol, Esq., & Eliz. Pomeroy his wife of the one part, & Wm. Miles of Bristol, Esq., and Tho. McGhie of L., Esq., of the other. Wit. that for 5s. R. McG. & wife sell to W. Miles & T. McG. one-third of the Retreat sugar plantation in Trelawny, also one-third of Hampstead and one-third of slaves, all formerly belonging to Jane Stone, decd. [*Caribbeana* volume 3]

697James Begbie of Saint Mary Le Bonne was buried at St Mary, Hendon 11th September 1815, aged 40.

698In 1814 the Peshwa asked that another agent should be sent both to adjust the accounts and to gain a renewal of the lease of the Peshwa's share of Gujarat. The Gaikwar's new agent was Gangadhar Shastri. Gangadhar Shastri had originally been in the employment of the Phadke family in Poona. He had gained a place at Baroda through Fatesing Gaikwar, had proved of the greatest service to Colonel Walker in settling the claims of the Gaikwar on his feudatory chiefs, and had recently been the leading man at Baroda. [Mr. Elphinstone (15th June 1814) describes Gangadhar Shastri as a person of great shrewdness and talent who keeps the whole state of Baroda in the highest order, and, at Poona, lavishes money and marshals his retinue in such style as to draw the attention of the whole place, Though a learned Sanskrit scholar he affects the Englishman, walks fast, talks fast, interrupts and contradicts, mixes English words with everything he says, and calls the Peshwa and his ministers old fools and dam rascal. Colebrooke's Elphinstone, I. 275.] So strong was the distrust of Bajirav and the dread of Trimbakji that the Gaikwar asked and obtained the formal guarantee of his minister's safety from the British Government. On a previous occasion in 1811, Bajirav had approved of Gangadhar Shastri's appointment. Since then he had heard from his supporters in Baroda that Gangadhar Shastri was a friend to the English. In 1814 when Gangadhar Shastri was again proposed as the Gaikwar's agent, Bajirav objected, stating that when he was a clerk under Phadke, the Shastri had once been insolent to him. As Bajirav had not raised this objection in 1811, Mr. Elphinstone refused to attach any weight to it. In 1815, as Gangadhar Shastri found that his negotiations with the Peshwa must end in nothing, with Mr. Elphinstone's approval, he determined to return to Baroda and leave the settlement to British arbitration. This determination produced a sudden change on Bajirav and Trimbakji. If these questions were left to Mr. Elphinstone all excuse for correspondence between the Peshwa and the Gaikwar would cease and intrigue against the English would be made most difficult and dangerous. At any cost Gangadhar Shastri must be won to their interests. Gangadhar Shastri's weak point was vanity. Trimbakji told him what an extremely high opinion Bajirav had formed of his talents from the ability with which he had supported the Gaikwar's interests. The Peshwa was most anxious to get Gangadhar Shastri into his service. He must not leave Poona at once. This was followed by marked friendliness on Bajirav's part, even by the offer of his sister-in-law in marriage to Gangadhar Shastri's son. Bajirav also agreed to an adjustment of the Peshwa's claims on the Gaikwar which Gangadhar Shastri proposed. The marriage preparations were pushed on. But as no answer came from the Gaikwar to the proposed settlement Gangadhar Shastri began to fear that his master suspected that this offer of marriage had won him to the Peshwa's side. Gangadhar Shastri hesitated about the marriage and much to Bajirav's annoyance it was put off. He further enraged Bajirav by refusing to allow his wife to visit the Peshwa's palace because of the bauchery from which it was never free. Still Trimbakji continued more cordial and friendly than ever. In July (1815) Bajirav asked Gangadhar Shastri to go with him on a

pilgrimage to Pandharpur. Contrary to Gopalrav Mairal's advice Gangadhar Shastri went. On the 14th of July Gangadhar Shastri dined with the Peshwa. In the evening Trimbakji asked him to Vithoba's temple where the Peshwa was.

Gangadhar Shastri went and found the Peshwa most gracious and pleasing. He left the temple in high spirits, and before he had gone 300 yards, was attacked and killed. The heinousness of this crime, the murder of a Brahman in holy Pandharpur, raised a strong feeling against the murderers. Gopalrav Mairal openly accused Trimbakji, and Mr. Elphinstone, after a long inquiry, proved that Trimbakji had hired the assassins. Bajirav was called on to give up Trimbakji to the British Government. He put Trimbakji under arrest but refused to surrender him. British troops were moved on Poona, Bajirav's heart failed him, and Trimbakji was surrendered on the 25th of September. Sitaram the Baroda minister, who was in the Peshwa's pay, had helped Trimbakji's plans for murdering Gangadhar Shastri. Between the time of Gangadhar Shastri's murder and Trimbakji's surrender Sitaram busied himself in raising troops. He was taken into custody by the Resident at Baroda much against the will of the regent Fatesing Gaikwar whose conduct showed that like Sitaram he had become a party to Bajirav's intrigues against the British. Trimbakji was confined in the Thana fort. In the evening of the 12th of October he escaped and reached a safe hiding place in the Ahmadnagar hills. [Grant Duff's *Marathas*, 632.]

699Both species of river herring found in Maine etc. [Wikipedia]

700John Graham (c1749-1818) owner of Three Mile River in Westmoreland, Jamaica.

701George Fletcher Coward owner of Islington in St Ann.

702Eldest son of John Stirling and Mary Graham Died 30 March 1816. His father died 7 June 1816

703Francis Graham, planter and plantation manager. Born 17/10/1778, Francis Graham was a son of Alexander Graham of Drynie (in the Black Isle), near Stornoway, the British Consul at Faial (Fayal), the Azores, and his wife, Donna Ighaive. By his own account, Francis Graham first arrived in Jamaica in April 1797, aged eighteen and a half. He briefly returned to Great Britain, sailing from Jamaica on 16/07/1812, to marry in 1813, at Edinburgh castle, his cousin Jemima Charlotte, the third daughter of lieutenant colonel Colin Dundas Graham of the Scots Brigade. He and his wife then returned to Jamaica. Their children by the marriage, Colin and Agnes, predeceased them. Graham died 01/02/1820. Following his death, his widow married Major George Gun Munro of Poyntzfield, Scotland. [http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146631129]

704Owner of "Arthur's Seat" in St Ann's parish and "Boscobell" in St Mary's. He was a churchwarden for St Ann's with George Fletcher Coward..

7051816 *Edinburgh Directory* :Mrs Ferguson at 68 George Street

706Captain Charles Napier (1786-1860) eldest son of Hon. Charles Napier of Merchistoun Hall, Stirling had married Frances Elizabeth Elers, née Younghusband, widow of Lieutenant Edward Elers RN, at Holy Trinity, Gosport, Hants. on 12th June 1815. In 1816 he sold Merchistoun Hall but in 1836 he bought an estate in Hampshire which he renamed Merchistoun.

707Error for Ormiston Hall? Ormiston was an estate in the county of Haddington East Lothian bought by the 2nd Earl of Hopetoun in 1747

708Accountant of Edinburgh

709Husband of Mary Hamilton, sister of Henry Hamilton.

710Appointed trustee, with others, of a trust deed made by Charles Donaldson in July 1806. Donaldson died in 1807 leaving a will confirming the trust. William Macfarlane acted as cashier and manager. The beneficiaries were the lawful children of Charles Donaldson and Berthia Hamilton who had predeceased him. She was the other sister of Henry Hamilton.

711Probably David Macdowall Grant who held Eden estate, St Mary, Jamaica.

712In its mother's womb

713From 1816 Wilberforce introduced a series of bills which would require the compulsory registration of slaves, together with details of their country of origin, permitting the illegal importation of foreign slaves to be detected. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Wilberforce]

714Zachary Macaulay (1768-1838) was born in Inveraray, Scotland, the son of a Minister of the Church of Scotland. He only had a basic education but taught himself the Classics, Latin and Greek. He worked at a merchant counting house in Glasgow. At only 16 years of age, he went to Jamaica. He worked for eight years on a sugar plantation, eventually becoming the manager. At first he was horrified by the way the enslaved were treated but became hardened to it.

On returning to Britain, he met William Wilberforce through his sister's husband. Thomas Babington Macaulay's time in Jamaica had left a deep impression on him and he became a member of the Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade. In 1794, he took the post of Governor of the Sierra Leone colony, that had been established by Granville Sharp in 1788, to provide a home and work for freed slaves. He even travelled as a passenger on a slave ship, so that he could understand what it was like to sail the Middle Passage.

When he returned to Britain in 1799, his ability at collating information and his good head for figures made him invaluable when it came to dealing with the huge amounts of evidence collected. He was also adept at drafting reports that highlighted the horrors of slavery.

He continued to work hard for abolition and, in the 1820s, focused on securing the total abolition of slavery in the British Colonies. He helped to set up the Society for the Mitigation and Gradual Abolition of Slavery (later known as the Anti-Slavery Society) in 1823 and edited the society's publication, Anti-Slavery Reporter. His hard work and clear arguments helped to pave the way for the 1833 act that saw the end of slavery in the British Empire. He died in London in 1838.

[http://abolition.e2bn.org/people_67.html]

715 Henry Hamilton free boy of colour aged 7 years of Deceased Parents Sponsors Archd. McLean John Campbell & Susanna Kaye, baptised 7th November 1806 in St Ann's, Jamaica. At the same time Susanna Kaye free woman of colour about 29 yrs was baptised.

716 Abraham Hodgson held four estates in St Mary's and was a magistrate for the same in 1816

717 St Ann's Almanac 1816, Horlock, Thomas W., Green-Park 78/ 148 [<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>]

718 John Stirling also of Kippendavie

719 St Ann's Almanac 1817, Brownrigg, John & Thomas, Phoenix Park, 68/394. 1820, Mitchell, William, Phoenix Park 77/ 426 [<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>]

720 Budaun, Uttar Pradesh

721 Governor-General of India from November 1812 until 1823. Two days before this letter was written he was made Marquess of Hastings.

722 Governor-General from 1798-1805.

723 Jodhpur, now in Rajasthan, then the capital of the kingdom known as Marwar.

724 Possibly Sir William-Saltonstill Wiseman, a lieutenant in the Royal Navy, born 1784. Married Catherine, daughter of Sir James Mackintosh. in Bagdad in 1812. [Debrett 1819]

725 Ann Stuart of Castlemilk

726 Charles Stirling son of John of Kippendavie.

727 Son of William, brother of Archibald Stirling.

728 Third son of Charles Moray of Abercairney and Anne, daughter and heiress of Sir William Stirling of Ardoch

729 Louis Joseph, Prince of Condé (1736-1818) During the French Revolution, the prince was a dedicated supporter of the monarchy and one of the principal leaders of the counter-revolutionary movement. He established himself at Coblenz in 1791, where he helped to organize and lead a large counter-revolutionary army of émigrés. In addition to containing the prince's grandson, the Duke of Enghien, and the two sons of his cousin, the late king's brother, the Comte d'Artois, the corps included many young aristocrats who eventually became leaders during the Bourbon Restoration years later.

The Army of Condé initially fought in conjunction with the Austrians. Later, due to differences with the Austrian plan of attack, however, the Prince de Condé entered with his corps into English pay in 1795. In 1796, the army fought in Swabia. In 1797, Austria signed the Treaty of Campo Formio with the First French Republic, formally ending its hostilities against the French. With the loss of its closest allies, the army transferred into the service of the Russian tsar, Paul I and was stationed in Poland, returning in 1799 to the Rhine under Alexander Suvorov. In 1800 when Russia left the Allied coalition, the army re-entered English service and fought in Bavaria.

The army was disbanded in 1801 without having achieved its principal ambition, restoring Bourbon rule in France.

After the dissolution of the corps, the prince spent his exile in England, where he lived with his second wife, Maria Caterina Brignole, the divorced wife of Honoré III, Prince of Monaco, whom he had married in 1798. She died in 1813.

With the defeat of Napoleon, Louis Joseph returned to Paris, where he resumed his courtly duties as grand maître in the royal household of Louis XVIII. [Wikipedia]

730 James Moray 16th of Abercairney

731 Probably Hon. James Cunningham who held estates in both St James and Trelawney. Member of His Majesty's Council. William Stirling was a member of the House of Assembly for St James.

732 Situated 7 miles W of Edinburgh, the home of Alexander Finlay. Will of James Finlay: At Edinburgh 17th Nov 1821 compeared Mr Thomas Thomson advocate procurator for Alexd Finlay writer in Edinburgh Ingiver of the last will and testament underwritten desiring the same might be registered in the Books of Council and Session conform to Act of Parliament made on the Registration of probative wills which the said Lords ordained to be done accordingly whereof the tenor follows I James Finlay Esqr. late of Bogside in the County of Stirling considering that I am now arrived at a very advanced period of my life etc goods & effects to four daughters Elizabeth Catherine Helen Hester Sophia & Margaret with the exception of a claim against the estate of the late James Hunter of Jamaica which I do hereby leave equally to my two sons in the Island David & John I also do hereby leave five guineas to my namesake James second son of James Connell Esqr. Merchant Glasgow to purchase a ring also to my daughter Margaret as a mark of my sense of her singularly dutiful attention to me while an invalid I leave my gold watch chain & seals and for carrying these my wishes into effect and making good the debts due to me I do hereby nominate my son in law James Connell Esq & my son Alexander Finlay Esq of Glencorse to be my execs. Made at Glencorse 5 Dec 1814 In addition to act with executors two very old & much respected friends Alex Macleod of Muravonside & John McFarlan of Kirkston Esq & recommend my daughters to their countenance & protection

signed 25 Sept 1815. Proved London 3 Dec 1821 by oath of Alexander Finlay power reserved to other three.
[PROB11/1650]

- 733 1817 St Mary's - Moncrieffe, John, Labyrinth, 13/40 & St Ann's Moncrieffe, John, Soho, 96/221. Also Deputy Postmasters for Northside - Bagnals and Soho, Mr. J. Moncrieffe & Moneague, Mr. Henry Longbotham. In 1808 Moncreiffe was Deputy Postmaster for both Bagnals and Moneague. He was dead by 1818 Almanac.
[<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>]
- 734 David Macdowall Grant and possibly his second son, David, who died in Jamaica in 1823.
- 735 Princess Charlotte daughter of the Prince regent died after giving birth to a dead son 6th November.
- 736 Sir Robert Thomas Wilson (1777-1849) was a British general and politician who served in Flanders, Egypt, Spain, Prussia, and was seconded to the Imperial Russian Army in 1812. He sat as the Liberal Member of Parliament (MP) for Southwark from 1818 to 1831. He served as the Governor of Gibraltar from 1842 until his death. He was involved briefly in South America in 1818, fighting at the side of Simón Bolívar, but this was cut short after Wilson fell out with the Venezuelan and returned to London.
- 737 Henry Abbott, ship prize money agent.
- 738 Possibly Hay Macdowall son of Day Hort Macdowall and Wilhelmina Graham, born 1803, died 23rd August 1820 at Banda, East Indies.
- 739 John Lumsden was a director of the East India Company from 1817. Son of John Lumsden of Cushnie
- 740 Philip Pinnock (1784-1831) of Shaftston Pen, St Elizabeth.
- 741 Postmaster General, John Milbourne Marsh, Esq. - 1817 Almanac [<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>]
- 742 Hays of Drummelie of Dunse (or Duns) Castle. William Hay, Convenor of Berwick, was proprietor of the castle at this time. He married Mary Garstin in 1816 and their only child, a daughter, was born the following year.
- 743 Third son of John Stirling and Mary Graham of Kippendavie died 21st May 1819 and his will proved by his mother, his executrix, 27th July 1819. "...Codicil 23 April 1819 Exec to settle all accounts between me & Mr James George of London Insurance Broker & also between me and those persons at Lloyds Coffee house to whom I have underwritten according to the spirit and intention of my Missive letter to Mr George when our underwriting concern first commenced in 1816 (any law of practice with regard to co partnerships in underwriting notwithstanding..Left Mr Jas George £50. Signed Brighton 23 Apr 1819
- Brighton 5th May 1819 any former legacies or gifts or promise of legacy formerly made I hereby revoke except or the gift to Mr Jas George as my poor Mother loses £500 a year by my death ..." [PROB11/1618]
- 744 John Finlay had slaves and cattle on a pen called Caledonia in Westmorland and there are slave returns from 1817. He was dead by 28th June 1826. In the slave returns for 1823 his was attorney for Archibald Stirling in St James.
- 745 James Connell married Marian (or Mary Anne) Finlay in Glasgow in 1792. James died in 1820 and a bankruptcy notice states he was a Glasgow and Montreal merchant.
- 746 It is the "rum" of Indonesia, because, like rum, it is distilled from sugar cane. [Wikipedia]
- 747 The Royal Caledonian Hunt was founded in 1777 as the Hunters' Club, becoming the Caledonian Hunt Club in 1778. The founding aim of the Hunt was apparently to 'further the interests of fox-hunting', but this was widened to include the encouragement of horse racing and breeding in Scotland. The Hunt did not, however, organise its own fixtures, instead sponsoring a race in local race meetings. Ayr was a regular venue in the early 19th century, but Edinburgh did not feature until there was turf track laid at Musselburgh in 1816. Mostly the membership was Borders-based, which influenced its choice of meets. The membership in general may have preferred social events in the early years of the Hunt's existence, rather than maintain racehorses, although there were exceptions. From the mid-1820s, the Hunt membership was more interested in racing than hunting. During the visit of King George IV to Edinburgh in 1822, he attended the Hunt ball, and agreed to become its patron, whereby the name then became Royal Caledonian Hunt. [<http://scotfamtree.blogspot.co.uk/2009/11/caledonian-hunt.html>]
- 748 Ahmednagar in the state of Maharashtra, about 120 km northeast of Poona was invaded by a British force under General Wellesley and captured. It was afterwards restored to the Marathas, but again came into the possession of the British in 1817, according to the terms of the Treaty of Poona.
- 749 Charles Colville was the second son of John Colville, 8th Lord Colville of Culross in the peerage of Scotland, was born in 1770 and died in 1843. In 1819 he was promoted to lieutenant-general and served as commander-in-chief at Bombay from 1819 until 1825.
- 750 His mother died at Airth Castle 13th May 1820 and also his cousin, Anne Moray Stirling, widow, at Ardoch on 22nd May following.
- 751 William Bullock held several public offices according to the 1824 Civil Lists including Island Storekeeper for which he was paid £500, Public Messenger, paid £500 and Secretary of the Island and Notary Public.
- 752 Henry son of Day Hort Macdowall and Wilhelmina Graham, born 1796. Collector of the Customs in Kingston, Jamaica 1822 [The Royal Kalendar, and Court and City Register for England, Scotland ...]
- 753 Son of Charles Moray and Anne Stirling, daughter of Sir William Stirling, born 1784. Known as Moray-Stirling
- 754 Son of Ebenezer Oliphant and Mary Stirling, daughter of Sir William Stirling, born 1793
- 755 Eldest son of Ebenezer Oliphant and Mary Stirling, born 1791 and since the death of his father, 8th of Condie. He died in 1862.

- 756Eldest son of Day Hort Macdowall and Wilhelmina Graham, born 1793 and died 1836. He married Elizabeth Christian Dundas daughter of James Dundas and Elizabeth Graham 25th June 1821.
- 757Buried in St Ann's December 1820
- 758The fact that he heard of the death which happened the week before suggests that William Galbraith was in Jamaica but no burial record in any part of Jamaica has been found.
- 759James Macdowall, born 1803 died in Jamaica 1837
- 760David Macdowall, born 1802 and died in Jamaica in 1823.
- 761Miss Farquharson at 60 Frederick St. in 1822 (and 1825 when William Stirling stayed there)
- 762John Finlay was attorney for Archibald Stirling and the heirs of Robert Stirling at Hampton according to the slave return for St James in 1823
- 763The Western Coastal Plain lies between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea. The Northern part of the coast up to Goa is called Konkan Coast and the Southern part from Goa to Kanya Kumari is called Malabar Coast.
- 764Noted that Ensign Earle, 1st Bat. 12th regt. N.I. is an officer sufficiently qualified in knowledge of Hindoostanee for the situation of interpreter. Bombay, 3 May 1823 [*The Asiatic Journal and Monthly Register for British and Foreign ...*, Volume 16]
- 765Most likely Eliza, daughter of Rev. Dr. James Dobie of Linlithgow.
- 766Ralph James Dundas, eldest son of James Dundas and Elizabeth Graham, born 1795. At this time working in his father's office 25, St Andrew Sq. Edinburgh, Writer to the Signet. He died the following year.
- 767House in Stirling owned by Charles Mercer Esq noted Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, Volume 16 1824
- 768Mary, only daughter of Thomas Graham Stirling, was born in 1810.
- 769Rev. Dr James Dobie. Possibly son of John Dobie and Anna Wilson, born 31st Oct. 1746 at Crawford, Lanark. Licenced by the Northumberland Class, and received by the Presb. of Kelso 5th Jan. 1773 ord. to Mid-Calder 27th July same year pres. to the parish by James, Lord Torphichen. Trans. and adm. to Linlithgow, 15th June 1792; D.D. (Edinburgh, 5th April 1806); died 10th Nov. 1826, in 81st year He marr. (1) 16th April 1778, Isabella Stodart, who died 26th April 1779, and had issue-James, bapt. 13th April 1779 died May 1781: (2) 29th Nov. 1782, Joanna Henry, died 7th March 1800, and had issue-Thomas, died in infancy; Henry born 30th Jan. 1783; William, born 1785; James, born 29th Sept. 1786; George Stodart, born 19th June 1788, died 1864 [no daughters are mentioned]. Publication-A Sermon preached after the Deaths of Lord President Blair and Viscount Melville (Edinburgh, 1811); Account of the Parish (Sinclair's Stat. Acc., xiv.).
- 770Robert Downie (1771-1841) M.P. for Stirling Burghs 1820-30. In 1788 he went to Bengal where he joined the agency house of Patrick Maitland in Bankshall Street, Calcutta. He was in partnership with Maitland by 1800. The agency was for a time styled Downie and Company, but it later became Downie, Cruttenden and Company, Downie's chief partner now being George Cruttenden, who died in 1822. When Downie left India with 'an ample fortune' in 1811 it became Cruttenden, Mackillop and Company, as his own role was taken over by his nephews George and James Mackillop. Downie now bought from the trustees of the 8th marquess of Tweeddale 'one of the largest estates in the Highlands' (about 35,000 acres) with the mansion of Appin House, on the eastern shore of Loch Linnhe, 12 miles north-east of Oban. He also acquired property in and around Dunfermline, where he owned the Appin colliery. [<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1820-1832/member/downie-robert-1771-1841>]
- 771Possibly reference to brother William
- 772Gibb's "Red Lion" Inn, King Street, Strling [William Drysdale *Old faces, old places and old stories of Stirling* p.30]
- 773St Fillan lies at the eastern end of Loch Earn, Perthshire. Thomas Stirling may have gone there for the Highland Games held in August.
- 774 Eliza Dobie
- 775James Stephen (1758-1832), lawyer and slavery abolitionist.
- 776In the Civil appointments for 1824 he is listed under Officers of the Customs as Acting Comptroller and not Comptroller.
- 777Sir John Hope (1765-1823) 4th Earl. of Hopetoun. His wife was Louisa Dorothea, daughter of Sir John Wedderburn of Balindean. She died in 1836
- 778Lieut. Gov. of Jamaica, Maj. Gen. Henry Conran
- 779Son of Day Hort Macdowall older brother of David Macdowall Grant of Arndilly
- 780Charles Nicholas Pallmer (1772-1848) of Nobiton Place. MP 1815-17 and 1826-30. Eldest son of Charles Pallmer of Cold Harbour, Jamaica. The Norbiton estate in Kingston, Surrey came through his wife. Lord Liverpool was a near neighbour and connection... Reports appeared in the press during March 1831 that several West Indian houses had stopped payment, on account of the disappearance of a major creditor. The *Observer* referred to the culprit, none too obliquely, as the person who, 'from being an attorney of no great eminence in Jamaica rose, by his suavity and pliancy of manner, to be the "hail fellow" of Lord Liverpool and the recognized of the highest in the land', and who had 'spent £20,000 in obtaining the representation of a metropolitan county'. Pallmer was listed as a bankrupt in the *London Gazette*, 26 Apr. 1831, where, presumably to allow him the protection of the bankruptcy laws, he was described as a 'ship owner, dealer and chapman'. He appears to have surrendered to his creditors *in absentia* and returned to Jamaica. He died in Boulogne-sur-Mer in December 1848. By his will, executed in Jamaica in 1837, he

left his entire estate, 'with the full concurrence of my most dearly beloved and excellent wife', to his sister, Eliza Parker. She renounced probate and administration was granted to John Parkinson of 60 Lincoln's Inn Fields, a creditor; the personalty was sworn under a nominal £20. [<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1820-1832/member/pallmer-charles-1772-1848>]

781 Rebecca Longbotham married George Bogle Fergus 22nd June 1822 in St Ann's. He was buried at Moneague Tavern, St Ann's on 8th September 1823 aged 28. One clue as to why such a young man should have married an old, rich woman, is an announcement in the Edinburgh Gazette about the discharged bankruptcy of George Bogle Fergus and Thomas Kidstone trading as wholesale grocers in Glasgow. Dated 14th January 1819.

782 Dr. T. Christie, Physician Extraordinary to the Prince Regent, Cheltenham

783 Christian, youngest dau. of James Erskine, Esq. of Cardross, Perth, N. Britain, died at Cheltenham, 19 May, 1805

784 Anna, Comtesse d'Orsay (1802-1882) married Antoine de Gramont, Duc de Guiche (1789-1836) in 1818.

785 It appears that he stayed at Airth which would explain the lack of a stamp

786 Dolerie House, Crieff, owned by Anthony Murray

787 Loch Tay is a freshwater loch in the central highlands of Scotland, in the district of Perthshire.

788 November 11th

789 Noted letter TS to TSG 22nd June 1810

790 Andrew Hutton, Writer of Stirling

791 Jean, younger sister of TGS is the more likely as letters between her and the Stirling boys are noted in their's.

792 William Robertson of Dundas & Wilson

793 House in Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire

794 Captain James Stirling RN. Born 1789 son of John Stirling, 6th of Kippendavie & Mary Graham. Married first, in 1820, his cousin-german, Mary daughter of Day Hort Macdowall of Castle Semple, which died without issue in 1839. He then married Elizabeth Christian, daughter of James Dundas of Ochertyre and Elizabeth Graham in 1844, also his cousin-german. She appears to have been born in 1801 and married to William Macdowall, son of Day Hort Macdowall and Wilhelmina Graham, on 3 July 1813. They had one daughter Ann. William Macdowall was born 1793 and died in 1836.

795 Rates of half pay per day 22 June 1821

Lieutenants

To each of the first 800 on the list 7s

To each of the next 700 6s

To the remainder 5s

796 W.T. Money elected Director of East India House 30th December 1818 [*Asiatic Journal*]

797 Miss Farquharson at 60 Frederick St. in 1825 (and 1822 when Alexander Finley stayed there)

798 Son and heir of Charles Angus of Tunberry Lodge. who died in 1820. Owner of St. Faith's Pen, St Ann's.

St Ann register August 2nd 1825 Thos. McQuestion Angus was interred at Faith Penn by Mr Rose & certified to me G.W. Bridge p. 360

799 William Crawford married Jane Ronald Angus 24 Jan 1820 at Dalrymple, Ayr. Dr William Crawford died in October 1826 leaving a son, William Ronald Crawford, and widow Mrs Jane Ronald Angus, executrix. She was awarded £2,344 9s for slave compensation with her sister Maria, wife of Nathaniel Taylor.

800 Archibald James Edward Douglas [formerly Stewart], first Baron Douglas (1748-1827). The estate was at Douglas, South Lanarkshire where Douglas Castle stood.

801 A branch of the noble house of Tweeddale. Richard Hay third son of the second Marquess of Tweeddale assumed the surname Newton on inheriting the estates of that family. His son, William Hay-Newton of Newton, Haddington (1747-1829), had five sons - Richard, William Waring, George Foster, John Stuart and Anthony James. . [A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great ..., Volume 3 By John Burke]

802 They were married on 6th September at St Savior's, Dartmouth.

803 Sybella Pearce Hockin, second daughter of William Lambe Hockin and Sarah Burd, born 2nd April 1806.

804 St Fillan's Highland Society held The first Highland games in 1821. The report on the event in the *Caledonian Mercury* in October, 1827 give a flavour of the event: "The annual meeting of this Society was held at St. Fillan's Mount; east end of Loch Earn, on Wednesday the 6th ultimo, under the direction of of Major-General Stewart of Garth, Chieftain, Lord Glenorchy, Moray of Abercairney, and Graham-Stirling of Airth, Vice President. Of all the institutions of similar objects and tendency with the present, which of late years have been established in this country, St. Fillans enjoys the pre-eminence not only from the striking magnificence of the scenery amidst which its meetings are held, but from the assemblage of rank, beauty and fashion who honour its amusement with their presence...".

805 The crew of this ship were in such a complete state of insubordination and disaffection, that, on the ship's arrival at Bombay, they were delivered over to the civil power, and were in consequence taken out of the ship and thrown into jail, where they were closely confined, until the Ogle-Castle was ready for sea; coolies or native labourers stowed the ship's cargo, and did the duty which these refractory seamen had bound themselves to perform. How this ship's company conducted themselves homeward bound, their melancholy fate deprives us from knowing. The Ogle-Castle

and, I believe, all hands perished, in a heavy gale of wind, on the Goodwin Sands, on the 3d of November, 1825. Several Deal boats, with the usual zeal and noble conduct displayed by these resolute and hardy men, approached the wreck, but the gale increased, and, the high sea breaking over her, they could not succeed in their praiseworthy efforts. [p.338-9 *Naval discipline : subordination contrasted with insubordination*: or, A view ... By Christopher Biden]

Ship carrying cotton, a private trader, Captain Meynton [The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser Saturday 25 March 1826]

806Governor of Dartmouth Castle [http://www.dartmouth-history.org.uk/content_images/upload/John_Holdsworth_genealogy.pdf]

807Charles Luxmore Hockin born 1810. Had reached the rank of Admiral by his death in 1902.

808HMS *Druid* - 5th rate; Armament 46. Launched 1 Jul 1825

Plymouth 29 Dec 1825 Will proceed to Lisbon to relieve the Glasgow when she has received her full complement. 10 Jun 1826, Jamaica, is reported to have landed Mr. Mackenzie, the British Consul, at Port au Prince.

6 Jan 1827 Employed in the West Indies.

[<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com/18-1900/D/01478.html>].

809Robert Rodney was born on 14 May 1786.1 He was the son of George Rodney, 2nd Baron Rodney of Rodney Stoke and Anne Harley. He married Anne Dennett on 20 July 1819.1 He died on 20 July 1826 at age 40. He was Captain Royal Navy. [<http://www.thepeerage.com/p56119.htm#i561181>]

810Edmund Pollexfen Bastard (1784–1838) was a British Tory politician, son of Edmund Bastard and his wife Jane Pownoll. He married Anne Jane Rodney, granddaughter of Admiral Rodney. He succeeded his father as Member of Parliament (MP) for Dartmouth from 1812 to 1816 when that seat was taken by his younger brother, John Bastard. In the same election Edmund succeeded his uncle, John Pollexfen Bastard, as MP for Devonshire from 1816 to 1830. He was appointed High Sheriff of Devon for 1834. [Wikipedia]

811Mary Pinson, daughter of Andrew and Ann Helling, married John Hine 22nd March 1779 in Dartmouth. Her sister Ann married Thomas Burd and was the mother of Sarah, wife of William Lambe Hockin. Mary and John Hine had a son John in 1782. I is probably this son who is to captain the Atlas as his father was born in 1747. He left a will proved 1842 in which he names his wife as Jane.

812John Hine – captained voyages 1825-6, 1827-8, 1829-30 which in EIC service. Owned by Charles Otway Mayne [<http://www.eicships.info/ships/shipdetail.asp?sid=837>]

On EIC ships: He was 1st officer under Capt. John Paterson on 'Duke of Montrose' sailed St Helena & Bengal left Portsmouth 26 Feb 1807 back 23 Dec 1808. 'Bombay' 8th voyage as Captain 1823-1824. Commander 'Marquis of Huntley' 1832-3. Presented letter to the EIC Board on behalf of Boatswains, Gunners & Carpenters as Senior Officer of the shops of the last season July 1834. etc. From 22 April 1835 to be paid £200 pension p.a. as Commander.

813A portrait of the East Indiaman 'Atlas', shown off South Foreland, near Dover, in broadside view. She sailed on her first voyage to India in 1813 and made at least nine more thereafter until 1830. As the picture is dated 1826, it was probably made at the end of her seventh voyage to Madras and China. The 'Atlas' was built in 1812 at Paul's Yard near Hull, her managing owner being James Staniforth. She was mounted with 26-guns and had a complement of 130 men at full strength. During her East India Company service she sailed to Madras, Bengal and China under the command of Captain Charles Otway Mayne, who was able to accumulate a fortune as a result of these voyages. This was not always without problems, since in 1817, the surgeon and second mate of the 'Atlas' complained to the council at Canton that Mayne had taken all the extra 30 tons of private cargo normally allowed by the Company to ships officers. Their claim was upheld. After six voyages Mayne became the ship's husbandman and placed the command of the vessel under Captain John Hine, after which the 'Atlas' undertook a further three regular sailings. She arrived at Gravesend at the end of her last voyage in August 1830 and was sold in May 1831 to C. Carter for breaking. [<http://collections.rmg.co.uk/collections/objects/14686.html>]

814Lt Col George Henderson (1783-1855) born Aberdeen, died Southampton. He Was founder/Chairman of Southampton to London Railway 1831, Southampton Gas and Light, and Hamilton-Henderson Engineering Co.

815James Henderson Esq. appointed in 1808 under the heading Junior Merchants, to be Secretary to Government in the Secret, Political, and Foreign departments, and Mint Master. Appointed 26th May 1822 to be Secretary to the Government in the Military, Commercial, and Public Departments. 1830 Mr. James Henderson to be warehousekeeper. 1832 Mr. James Henderson to be acting puisne judge of courts of Sudder Dewanee

816George Graham was the firth son of Day Hort Macdowall and Wilhelmina Graham. He was born in 1798 and died unmarried in 1826. He was described as a merchant.

817John Finlay, planter, was buried in St James 21st November 1825 so he was presumably still acting as attorney for Archibald Stirling at Hampton.

818George Forster Hay later (after marriage to heiress Jane Primrose, daughter of James Primrose of Burnbrae) George Foster Hay Primrose, surgeon in the service of the East India Company.

819Hugh Primrose Lindsay (1765-1844) son of James Lindsay, 5th Earl of Balcarres. He had joined the East India Company marine service in 1787 and was appointed commander of 'Rockingham' in 1793, another of Robert Wigram's ships. Thus he was a contemporary of Thomas Graham Stirling. In 1814 he was made a Director of the

- East India Company, a position he held unto his death, being elected Deputy Chairman for 1826-27 and Chairman for 1827-28. In 1820 he was elected MP for Perth Burghs, sitting until 1830.
- 820 William Stanley Clarke (-1844). He was appointed commander of 'True Briton' in 1796. This was also a Wigram ship so he was an exact contemporary of Thomas Graham Stirling. He became a Director of the East India Company in 1815, was elected deputy chairman in 1826 and chairman in 1827.
- 821 Masters Date of Warrants for service - Neil Morrison 24 Mar 1812 [New Navy List for November 1840]
Masters appointed.. Neil Morrison, to the Glasgow [Naval History of the Present Year 1814]
- 822 George Macdowall, fifth son of Day Hort Macdowall and Wilhelmina Graham, died at 24 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh, on 10th November 1826.
- 823 She clearly recovered as she did not die until April 1854.
- 824 Macdowall
- 825 The Stanhope was a gig, buggy or light phaeton, typically having a high seat and closed back. It was named after Captain Hon. Henry FitzRoy Stanhope (ca. 1754 - 1828, son of William Stanhope, 2nd Earl of Harrington), a well-known sportsman of his time, and built by the London firm of Tilbury, coachbuilders in Mount Street
- 826 John Waite Hockin
- 827 Andrew Pinson Hockin
- 828 Charles Anderson-Pelham, 1st Earl of Yarborough (8 August 1781 – 5 September 1846), styled Hon. Charles Anderson-Pelham from 1794 to 1823, was the founder of the Royal Yacht Squadron. He lived at Appuldurcombe House, on the Isle of Wight, which had been inherited by his wife Henrietta from her uncle, Sir Richard Worsley.
- 829 Rev. William Hockin
- 830 William Cunningham Cunninghame Graham of Gartmore (later Bontine Cunninghame Graham), of Gartmore & Findlaystone. His son Douglas went to Bombay as a cadet in 1824 and remained there until his death in 1856.
- 831 Brigadier General Alexander Walker was the Governor of St Helena from 1823 to 1828. He died in Edinburgh in 1831.
- 832 St Ann Almanac
1824
Sterling, Charles estate of, Ardoch 81/ 229
1825
*Stirling, Charles, estate of, Ardoch, 162/43 [torn] assessed
1826
Finlay, David, Ardoch, 86 / 200 [<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>]
- 833 Noted under Hotels and Inns in Pigot's Directory 1823 - White Lion & York Hotel (and wine and spirit merchant, livery stables &c) Matt Hanby, Parade, Douglas, Isle of Man.
- 834 Noted under Nobility, Gentry and Clergy in Pigot's Directory 1823 - M'Crone John, Esq. agent to His Grace the Duke of Athol - Mona cottage, Douglas, Isle of Man.
- 835 Noted under Professional Persons in Pigot's Directory 1823 - Quirk Js. jun- advocate, North-shr, Douglas, Isle of Man.
- 836 There is no 'F' Dundas
- 837 John Dundas was the 5th son of James Dundas and Elizabeth Graham and had joined his father's firm Dundas and Wilson.
- 838 Mary Sibilla Graham Stirling was born 1st September 1826
- 839 Mary Langworth married William Hockin, eldest son to William Lambe Hockin and Sarah Burd, in 1823. Studied at St. Paul's School, matric. Exeter College, Oxford, in 1817 aged 18; B.A. 1820.
- 840 Inglis, Forbes & Co was an East-India houses of agency in London. [The India Office and Burma Office List 1823]
- 841 Rebecca widow of Rev. Thomas Pearce Hockin and Anne Burd widow of Thomas.
- 842 Probably Ann Maria Burd Hine born 1801
- 843 John Braham was a famous tenor [<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/3618-braham-john>]
- 844 Catherine Stephens a famous soprano [<http://msteer.co.uk/biog/4KStephens.html>]
- 845 Lieut. Gen. Sir Thomas Bradford was Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in Bombay until 1829
- 846 M'Crone John, Esq. agent to His Grace the Duke of Athol- Mona cottage [From Pigot's Directory, 1823]
James McCrone 1767-1840
"Mr. McCrone came from Glasgow to Douglas in 1817, bringing with him his young wife, the daughter of a famous London minister. He lived first at Castle Mona and afterwards at Rock Villa, a handsome house a little further north. The site is now covered by large boarding houses. His name is perpetuated in "McCrone's Slip" near by. Later he bought and farmed Ballaquinney, in Marown parish. He was Crown Agent and also Commissioner for the Duke of Athol and for Bishop Murray, a scion of the ducal house." [<http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/people/business/jmccrone.htm>]
- 847 William Robertson esq. W.S. 1 Thistle Court [Edinburgh Directory 1823-1824]
- 848 Nothing found.
- 849 Clearly this issue was not settled at this point as ownership was not transferred until after 1840:

1845

MONEAGUE AND GUY'S HILL DISTRICT.

Finlay, A. Ardoch Pen, 1850

850George Graham Macdowall had died 10th November.

851Anne Macdowell, daughter of Day Hort Macdowell & Wilhelmina Graham, daughter of William Graham of Airth. Anne was born in 1792 and died 1808.

852William Macdowall married Elizabeth Christian Dundas, daughter of James Dundas and Elizabeth Graham 25th June 1821. There were living at 24 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh with brother George who died there 10th November 1826. This was presumably the reason for them leaving London suddenly.

853Mountstuart Elphinstone, Governor of Bombay from November 1819 to November 1827

854Possibly Anne Graham, sister of Thomas Graham Stirling, widow of David Erskine. She died in 1836.

855Mary Ann Atkinson, daughter of James Atkinson esq. of Newcastle upon Tyne, niece of Ralph Atkinson of Angerton esq. (Angerton near Morpeth Northumberland). She married first Lt. Col. Charles Ainslie, Major in 4th Dragoons 28 April 1808; served in Peninsula April 1809 to February 1811; Deputy Adjutant-General in Sicily 13 February 1811; died Messina 19 November 1811. They had a son and daughter. She then married General Sir Thomas Bradford. Colonel of the 4th Regiment of Foot was in Command of Bradford's Brigade in the Peninsula War, and was afterwards successively commander of the forces in Scotland, and Commander of the Army in the Bombay Presidency. Several of their children were born in Edinburgh in the early 1820's which is probably how she was known to Mrs Erskine.

856Probably George Keith Erskine born February 1809 who appears to have joined the Bombay Light Cavalry. He was son of David Erskine of Cardross and the Hon. Keith Elphinstone. She was a sister of Mountstuart Elphinstone.

857David (Davy) Erskine married Captain James Paterson 2nd September 1821.

858James Henry Hollis (later Atkinson of Angerton Hall by mother's uncle's will), Ralph, Elizabeth, Georgiana and Barbara Bradford.

859Atlas, an H C ship, left England 17th January 1827 under the command of Captain John Hyne (sic) and arrived at Bombay 13th June 1827. Captain & Mrs Sterling (sic) are on board, together with Miss Hine (sic) and J.W. Hockin. There is no list of troops. [FIBIS - Bombay Calendar]

860Henry Pinson Hine Hockin

861Governor of Madras from 1820. Came from a merchant background in Glasgow and initially was apprenticed to the accounting office of Somerville Gordon (Later Stirling Gordon). In 1779 became a cadet in the East India Company army and had a distinguished career through ability rather than patronage. While awaiting his successor he died of cholera on a farewell tour on 6th July 1827.

862Sir John Malcolm Governor November 1827 to December 1830.

863Died in Jamaica. No record of a burial there found.

864Christian Erskine, daughter of David Erskine and Anne Graham, wife of Charles Stirling of Cadder.

865Lt. Col Henry Rainey, Royal African Colonial Corps, was made Military Secretary and Aide-de-Camp to the Commander in Chief of Bombay, 1826

866David Erskine of Cardross, brother-in-law of Mountstuart Elphinstone.

867Referring to Battle of Navarino. Admiral Edward Codrington commanded the British fleet against Ibrahim Pasha, October 1827.

868Major-General Sir John Malcolm (2 May 1769 – 1833) was a Scottish soldier, statesman, and historian. He was employed in many important negotiations and held various distinguished posts, being Ambassador to Persia, Resident of Gwalior (1803–1804) and Governor of Bombay 1827–1830. He was the commander of the British Army which defeated the Holkars who ruled Indore at the Battle of Mahidpur in 1818. After defeating the Holkars he signed the Treaty of Mandsaur with them. It was under this treaty that the British were given the cantonment town of Mhow which is 23 km from Indore.

869Collapore (now Kolhapur) was a Maratha princely State, part of the Bombay Presidency.

870Probably Arthur son of William Hunt and wife Mary, christened at St Savior, Dartmouth 19th May 1797. Partner in Hunt, Roupe & Co. Oporto. He first went to Portugal aged seventeen and spent much of his life there, finally returning to England in 1852 and settling in Torquay.

871Son Charles Stirling had been born 28th November 1827 and christened 4th January 1828.

872Probably the son of Captain Macdougall whose death is noted in a letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling dated June 30th 1827.

873Noted Macpherson's (late Shaw's.) Hotel, 21, Prince's Street in a list of the principal hotels, inns, and taverns [John Stark 'Picture of Edinburgh: Containing a Description of the City and Its Environs' 1825]

874Parr Willesford Hockin born 7th June 1809 came to Edinburgh to study medicine and later became a surgeon in the East Indian Company army in Bombay.

875Sir George Clerk of Pennycuik, 6th Baronet (1787-1867) was a Scottish politician who served as the Tory MP for Edinburghshire, Stamford and Dover. He held political office as a Lord of the Admiralty from 1819 to 1830 (from 1827 to 1828 he was a member of the Council of the Lord High Admiral, the Duke of Clarence. [Wikipedia])

- 876 Sir Robert Christison, 1st Baronet FRSE FRCSE FRCPE (18 July 1797 – 23 January 1882) was a Scottish toxicologist and physician who served as president of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (1838 and 1846), as president of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (1838-40 and 1846-8), and as president of the British Medical Association (1875).
- Christison was born in Edinburgh and attended the Royal High School and graduated at the University of Edinburgh in 1819. He then spent a short time in London, studying under John Abernethy and Sir William Lawrence, and in Paris, where he learnt analytical chemistry from P. J. Robiquet and toxicology from M. J. B. Orfila. In 1822 he returned to Edinburgh as professor of medical jurisprudence, and set to work to organise the study of his subject on a sound basis. On poisons in particular he speedily became a high authority; his well-known treatise on them was published in 1829, and in the course of his inquiries he did not hesitate to try such daring experiments on himself as taking large doses of Calabar bean (Physostigmine). His attainments in medical jurisprudence and toxicology procured him the appointment, in 1829, of medical officer to the crown in Scotland, and from that time until 1866 he was called as a witness in many celebrated criminal cases. [Wikipedia]
- 877 James Syme - In 1824-1825, he started the Brown Square school of medicine, but again disagreed with his partners in the venture. Announcing his intention to practise surgery only, Syme started a surgical hospital of his own, Minto House hospital, which he carried on from May 1829 to September 1833, with great success as a surgical charity and school of clinical instruction. It was here that he first put into practice his method of clinical teaching, which consisted in having the patients to be operated or prelected upon brought from the ward into a lecture-room or theatre where the students were seated conveniently for seeing and taking notes.
- His private practice had become very considerable, his position having been assured ever since his amputation at the hip joint in 1823, the first operation of the kind in Scotland. In 1833 he succeeded James Russell as professor of clinical surgery in the university. Syme's accession to the clinical chair was marked by two important changes in the conditions of it: the first was that the professor should have the care of surgical patients in the infirmary in right of his professorship, and the second, that attendance on his course should be obligatory on all candidates for the medical degree. When Liston removed to London in 1835 Syme became the leading consulting surgeon in Scotland. [Wikipedia]
878. In memory of William Cullen, M.D., physician in Edinburgh, second son of Colonel Cullen, born 27th April 1798, died 28th May 1828 - from the the monumental inscription in Greyfriars churchyard in Edinburgh.
- 879 John Wilson Croker (20 December 1780 – 10 August 1857) was an Irish statesman and author.
- The notorious case of the Duke of York in connexion with his abuse of military patronage furnished Croker with an opportunity for distinguishing himself. The speech which he delivered on 14 March 1809, in answer to the charges of Colonel Wardle, was regarded as the most able and ingenious defence of the duke that was made in the debate; and Croker was appointed to the office of secretary to the Admiralty, which he held without interruption under various administrations for more than twenty years. He proved an excellent public servant, and made many improvements which have been of permanent value in the organization of his office. Among the first acts of his official career was the exposure of a fellow-official who had misappropriated the public funds to the extent of £200,000... [Wikipedia]
- 880 In Scotland the strips of alluvial land bordering a river are known as haughs, and where in estuaries they expand into wide plains they are termed carse
- 881 Vlissingen (historical name in English: Flushing) is a municipality and a city in the southwestern Netherlands on the former island of Walcheren.
- 882 Edward William Campbell Rich Owen - a Captain from 1798 & the same in 1805. Noted as a Lieutenant 1794 wounded as a Second Lieut. on board the Brunswick.
- 883 *Clyde*. Type: 5th rate ; Armament 38; Launched : 1796; Displacement : 1002 tons (BM); Built of fir.
May 1805 Woolwich, repairing in Ordinary
25 Aug 1807 ship's boats capture a coasting sloop off Ypont.
28 Jul 1809 a part of a large fleet which sailed from the Downs, with troops, with the aim of demolishing the dock-yards, and arsenals at Antwerp, Terneuse, and Flushing, often known as the ill-fated Walcheren Expedition.
6 Feb 1810 captured the French privateer Transet on the Home station.
7 Oct 1814 Arrived for the river to be broken up.
[<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com/18-1900/C/01011.html>]
- 884 Lieutenant [of a vessel]
- 885 Housing for a ship's compass.
- 886 Original name of Le Havre
- 887 Admiral Sir Edward William Campbell Rich Owen GCB GCH (1771 – 8 October 1849) was a Royal Navy officer who went on to be Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Fleet.
- Owen joined the Royal Navy in 1786. He was given command, successively, of HMS Nemesis, HMS Immortalité and HMS Clyde. In 1809 he took part in the unsuccessful Walcheren Campaign in 1809.
- He became Commander-in-Chief, West Indies Station in 1822 and, following promotion to Rear Admiral in 1825, was made Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station in 1828... [Wikipedia]

888 Robert Dundas, 2nd Viscount Melville KT, PC, FRS (14 March 1771 – 10 June 1851)...Melville filled various political offices and was First Lord of the Admiralty from 1812 to 1827, and from 1828 to 1830 [Wikipedia]

889 Son of John Stirling of Kippendavie and Mary Graham.

890 Waite Hockin Stirling born 14th January 1829

891 Jean Erskine, daughter of David Erskine by his first wife, Mary Melvin, born 1777, who married William Stirling, architect of Dunblane, in 1803. He worked on both Airth Castle and Strowan House.

892 Son of Day Hort Macdowall and Wilhelmina Graham.

893 Lieut. John Waite Hockin died at Mhow, India 2nd July 1828

894 Henry Pinson Hine Hockin, born 18th September 1812

895 Prodding

896 *Arrow*; Type: Cutter / Ketch ; Armament 10; Launched at Portsmouth : 1823 ; Disposal date or year : 1852
Complement : 47 Officers and men, 10 boys and 8 marines.

Notes:

16 Jan 1826 Portsmouth Has sailed on a cruise.
Portsmouth, Aug 20 1828 Sailed on a cruise.
Portsmouth, Sep 1 1828 Sailed on a cruise
Portsmouth 3 Mar 1829 Arrived from a cruise and sailed again.
Portsmouth 16 Mar 1829 (Lieut. Brooking), Assisting in raising the *Nightingale*, recently lost on the Shingles Shoal.
Portsmouth Jul 27 1829 Sailed on a cruise.
Portsmouth Aug 27 1829 Has sighted the mastheads of a schooner sunk about 2½ miles NE of the Owers Light.
Plymouth Nov 24 (Lieut. Thruckstone), Arrived from Portsmouth and returns tomorrow.
Plymouth 29 Nov 1829 Sailed to Portsmouth.
Portsmouth 20 Jan 1830 Arrived from a cruise.
25 Apr 1838...

Monthly Naval register 1829

26 Aug Portsmouth arrived H.M.C. *Arrow*, Lieut. Brooking

2 Sept. Portsmouth sailed "

3 Sept Plymouth arrived "

5 Sept Plymouth sailed "

6 Sept. Portsmouth arrived "

10 Sept. Portsmouth sailed "

897 Arthur Brooking, appointed one of the twelve Masters and Councillors of Dartmouth in 1830. Noted as Lieutenant R.N., residing in Dartmouth, aged 41. Noted as a cousin of the Houldsworths. [*Report of the Commissioners Appointed to Inquire Into the Municipal Corporations of England and Wales*..1835 - p.477]

898 December 1813. See A.M.W. Stirling *Life's Little Day* p. 239 on.

899 Jean Erskine wife of William Stirling, architect. This hints at her death but if this is the wife of the architect this did not happen until after his death in 1838

900 May be a reference to Thomas Graham (later Graham-Stirling) who was in the 42nd Highlanders (Black Watch)

901 Airth....The Pow Burn, entering from St Ninians, winds through the middle of the parish to the Forth, a little above Kincardine Ferry, and is crossed by the 'Abbey Town' and other bridges: and a spring, one of several said to have been medicinal, is called the 'Lady Well',- both names suggestive of Airth's former connection with Holyrood Abbey. [<http://www.scottish-places.info/towns/townhistory295.html>]

902 Robert Hepburn of Clerkington (1766-1846) married Catherine Gordon 1800

903 Near Comrie, Perth. May have been Drummond family land.

904 Richard Sauders Dundas (1802-1861)

905 Roman Catholic Relief Act got Royal Assent 13th April 1829 and was the culmination of the process of Catholic emancipation throughout Britain.

906 Alexander Mudie M.D. was a doctor in St James, Jamaica, from at least 1790 when he married Elizabeth Motte Irving. He was closely linked thereafter with the Irving family who owned Hartfield and Ironshore in St James and Irving Tower in Trelawney. He was an executor of the will of John Beaufain Irving of Ironshore and when the will was made in 1806 he was described as "Alexander Mudie, Doctor of Medicine, of St James Parish." Both he and Archibald Stirling were executors of the will of Jacob Emilius Irving of Ironshore in 1815. It was he who found a position of book-keeper for Thomas Corbett Irving, the second son of Jacob Emilius, who had taken "Mr Stirling's advice with regard to learning the planting business, and have told Dr Mudie my desire of undertaking the drudgery of a book-keeper's life" (letter dated 13th March 1821). Other letters from Edinburgh until 1827 show Mudie to be engaged in trying to get better positions for him and by 1826 he is overseer at Irving Tower. Sadly he became ill there, as Mudie described it "a very unhealthy place", and died at Ironshore in July 1826. It is this experience and the connection with Archibald Stirling that makes Dr Mudie an appropriate person to give advice on a Jamaican estate. [L. Homfray Irving Ed. *James Irving of Ironshore and his descendants, 1713-1918* (1918)]

- 907Very near Thistle St and Thistle Court. Edinburgh, 6 St Andrew Square, Scottish Provident Institute was demolished in 1966/67.
- 908Mary Sibilla Graham Stirling born September 1826 appears to be travelling with her mother and father, and her two brothers as well.
- 909Sir Archibald Edmonstone of Duntreath, 3rd Baronet (1795-1871). On the death of his father in 1821 he fruitlessly contested his father's parliamentary constituency, Stirlingshire.
- 910Elizabeth Barrett wife of William Stirling died 19th April 1830
- 911John Dundas married his cousin Jemima Christian Macdowall 12th January 1830.
- 912Crag near Stirling.
- 913Died 30th January 1830.
- 914Vice Admiral Sir Henry Hotham KCB (19 February 1777 – 19 April 1833) was a Royal Navy hero who saw a great deal of service during the Napoleonic Wars. Following the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo, in July 1815, Napoleon surrendered to Captain Frederick Maitland of HMS Bellerophon off Rochefort. Hotham's ship, HMS Superb was in company with the Bellerophon. He was appointed Commander-in-Chief on the Mediterranean Station in 1831 and was still serving in that role when he died in 1833. [Wikipedia]
- 915Marion Henderson Stirling, the first child
- 916Only Forsyth in St Mary at this time is James – of Pembroke & Preston
- 917Sir Thomas Sydney Beckwith, KCB (1772 – 15 January 1831) was an officer of the British army who served as quartermaster general of the British forces in Canada during the War of 1812, and a commander-in-chief at Mumbai during the British Raj. He is most notable for his distinguished service during the Peninsular War and for his contributions to the development and command of the 95th Rifles.
- In 1829, he was appointed Commander in Chief of the Bombay Presidency Army of the British East India Company. In 1830, he was promoted Lieutenant General, but died of fever the following year at Mahableshwar. [Wikipedia]
- 918Foster Alumni Oxonienses: Vol. 4. Seale, (Sir) Henry Paul (Bart), 1s. John Henry, of Townstall, Devon, arm. Christ Church, matric. 12 Dec., 1826, aged 20; 2nd baronet. See Eton School Lists
- 919Foster Alumni Oxonienses: Vol. 2. Graham, William 1s. Thomas Stirling, of Southampton, Hants, arm. Christ Church, matric. 8 Nov., 1827, aged 19; B.A. 1831, M.A. 1834.
- 920Foster Alumni Oxonienses: Vol. 2. Houston, George. o.s. Ludovic, of Johnstone Castle, Paisley, co. Renfrew, arm. Christ Church, matric. 13 Oct., 1828, aged 10; M.P. Renfrew Jan., 1837-41, died 14 Sep., 1843. See Eton School Lists [Grandson of John Stirling of Kippendavie]
- 921Sylvester Douglas Stirling youngest son of John Stirling of Kippendavie married Anne Patricia Craigie, daughter of David Connell 20th August 1830. Both fathers were dead by this time. David was probably the brother of James who had married Marian, Alexander Finlay's oldest sister.
- 922Wilhelmina Macdowall, born 1804, who died in September 1830.
- 923Jemima Christian Macdowall, daughter of Wilhelmina Graham, who had married John Dundas in January 1830.
- 924Thomas James Graham-Stirling, second son of Thomas Graham Stirling, was possibly going to Gibraltar as an Ensign in the 42nd Regiment of Foot. In February 1832 the 42nd Royal Highlanders arrived in Malta. He was promoted Lieutenant 16th November 1833 [A List of the Officers of the Army and of the Corps of Royal Marines..1833]
- 925William Macdowall married Elizabeth Christian Dundas, daughter of James Dundas and Elizabeth Graham in 1821.
- 926Wellington's government lost a vote of no confidence on 15 November 1830. Edward Drummond was his Private Secretary.
- 927Bhiwandi is a city, in the district of Thane, in the western state of Maharashtra, in India, located 20 km to the north-east of Mumbai and 15 km to the north-east of Thane city. [Wikipedia]
- 928Christian, daughter of David Erskine, married Charles Stirling in 1817. Charles died 30th January 1830
- 929John Wedderburn, 2nd s. of Sir John Wedderburn of Balindean by his second wife, Alicia Dundas, was bap. on 1/5/1789, at Inchture. - Perth IGI. - John entered the Indian Civil Service and went out to Bombay in 1807. He held a number of important posts there during the following 30 years. - John m. Henritetta Milburn (only surviving child of William Milburn of the East India Company) at St. Thomas's Church, Bombay, on 7/9/1822. He retired on 1/5/1837 and he returned home with his wife and children
[<http://euroleader.pagesperso-orange.fr/wedderburn/blackness/zapg11.htm>]
- 930Member of Parliament for Devon 1830-32 taking the seat previously held by Edmund Pollexfen Bastard
- 931Captain Thomas Mansel son of Sir William Mansel, of Iscoed, Carmarthenshire. Entered the Navy in 1798. Appointed Lieutenant 1804, Commander 1814, and on 13 April 1831, to the Coast Guard. On 12 February 1834 appointed Captain when he left the service.
- 932Sir James Robert George Graham, 2nd Baronet (1792-1861) was First Lord of the Admiralty from 1830 to 1834.
- 933Captain The Hon. George Barrington (1794–1835) the son of Reverend George Barrington, 5th Viscount Barrington of Ardglass. He served in the Royal Navy becoming Fourth Naval Lord in 1830. He was elected at the 1832 general election as a Member of Parliament (MP) for Sunderland, but resigned his seat in 1833 through the procedural device of appointment as Steward of the Chiltern Hundreds.

- 934Admiral of the Fleet Sir William Bowles, KCB (1780–1869) was a senior Royal Navy officer and politician. Bowles joined the Royal Navy in 1796. He was made Lieutenant in 1803, Commander in 1806 and Captain in 1807. He was appointed Captain of the yacht HMS William and Mary in 1822, moving on to be Comptroller-General of the Coast Guard later that year. He married The Hon. Frances Temple, daughter of the 2nd Viscount Palmerston and sister of the 3rd Viscount, later Prime Minister. [Wikipedia]
- 935Carolus James Home Graham is noted in the records of Old Haileyburians where he did the preliminary qualifications for the East India civil service 1830-31. His career in India ran from 1831-46 and his final appointment was as Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector of West Bardwan. He lived as an annuitant until his death in 1877.
- 936Marion Henderson Stirling was born in Bombay 27th February 1830.
- 937Daughter Maria Hockin Stirling later the wife of Juxon Henry Jones [see Iris Macfarlane *Daughters of the Empire*]
- 938James Stirling (Laird 1793-1831). Born 1766. Died unmarried July 26 1831. Succeeded by brother Archibald
- 939Maria
- 940Presumably Mrs Hockin in Dartmouth
- 941Parr Willesford Hockin
- 942CAPTAIN HOWARD LEWIS PARRY . In February last I was chief officer commanding at Camber. On the 1st of February, between eleven and twelve o'clock at night, I was on the full of the beach, near Rose cottage, and observed an alarm-pistol fired; I immediately said to my men, "Come on my boys," and proceeded to the spot; we went down the beach, and perceived a boat full of water, and a number of tubs laying along the beach - I saw a number of persons on my left; they appeared to rise, as if they had been laying down, and when all had risen there appeared about one hundred of them: I presented my pistol, and said, "If you advance I will fire;" a discharge of fire-arms then took place - I returned the fire, and fell; I was wounded; the discharge came from under the full of the beach - I could not see the body of men from whom it came; I had been out from nine o'clock - this was the first firing that I had seen; I laid on the beach till I was taken up - I fell from the loss of blood, and on recovering turned to my men, to know why they did not fire; I then observed a man approach me with a large stick, in a position as if he was going to strike me; I was trying to raise myself, and when I saw him about to strike, I drew my pistol from my left breast, and fired at him; I saw no more of him - I suppose what that man had was a bat, but it was the only one I saw that night; a bat is generally a hop-pole, cut to about seven feet long, what we should call a bludgeon; I fired once afterwards, and a man came and took me up - five shots were extracted from my body, and I am now quite disabled. [Old Bailey Proceedings Online (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 7.0, 22 July 2014), May 1832, trial of WILLIAM NOAKES (t18320517-21).]
- [WILLIAM NOAKES was indicted for feloniously assembling, with divers other persons, armed with fire-arms and other offensive weapons, to wit, with guns and bats, in order to aid and assist in the illegal landing, running, and carrying away 100 gallons of spirits, which had been illegally imported . Not Guilty.]
- 943A daughter, Emily Stirling, was born in Poona 12th February 1832. She died a year later.
- 944General Sir Colin Halkett GCB GCH GCTE (1774–1856) was a British Army officer who Lieutenant Governor of Jersey until 1830. He was promoted to Lieutenant General on 22 July 1830 and appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army in January 1832 until 1834. [Wikipedia]
- 945James Russell of Woodside was colonel of the Stirlingshire Militia, and married Mary Stirling, daughter of John Stirling of Kippendavie, one of the partners in Stirling, Gordon & Co., and sister to Sylvester Douglas Stirling, who afterwards became laird of Woodside, which he named Glenbervie.
- Colonel James Russell died 17th December, 1830, and was succeeded by his eldest son, David, a lieutenant in the 9th Regiment of Hussars, and afterwards General Sir David Russell, K.C.B., who distinguished himself in the Indian Army. He captured Banks House, but was wounded and disabled in the attack on the hospital, and was specially mentioned in dispatches." He was born in 1809, and died in 1884. His father's trustees sold the estate of Woodside in 1832 to his uncle, Sylvester Douglas Stirling, who changed the name of Woodside to Glenbervie. Sylvester Douglas Stirling was the seventh son of John Stirling of Kippendavie, and grandson of Patrick Stirling of Kippendavie, by his wife, Margaret Douglas, daughter of James Russell of Woodside was colonel of the Stirlingshire Militia, and married Mary Stirling, daughter of John Stirling of Kippendavie, one of the partners in Stirling, Gordon & Co., and sister to Sylvester Douglas Stirling, who afterwards became laird of Woodside, which he named Glenbervie.
- [<http://www.ebooksread.com/authors-eng/john-charles-gibson/lands-and-lairds-of-larbert-and-dunipace-parishes-sbi/page-7-lands-and-lairds-of-larbert-and-dunipace-parishes-sbi.shtml>]
- 946In June 1832 the Duke of Wellington visited Wildernes House to review the yeomanry, where he was welcomed by 'a large proportion of the gentry of the county and hundreds of well-mounted farmers'. His visit was recorded by Francis Allnutt of Penshurst. In her diary she wrote: "There was 'a grand review at Wildernes of the Yeomanry cavalry by the Duke of Wellington. All the County was there. Lord Camden gave a luncheon to the officers and a dinner to the Troop, 550 men....' [Sevenoaks Chronicle]
- 947Castlemains, Douglas, South Lanarkshire, is the seat of the Earl of Home.
- 948Alexander Finlay married Lucy Ann daughter of James Jones of Great Baddow, Essex and Twickenham Park, Jamaica 16th August 1825

949Lucy Ann Finlay.

950William Bullock, who at the time of his death in 1832, was in possession of no less than five public offices (of which the chief were Island Secretary and Governor's Secretary) with a recorded income of 4,000 pounds per annum from only three of them – held for many years an important position in the island. As attorney for a number of absentee proprietors, he had much influence.

951Alexander Finlay was now factor to the laird, Lord Douglas, at Castlemains 1831

95212th April 1814 meeting Edinburgh of noblemen and gentlemen attached to the principles of the late Rt. Hon. Wm. Pitt. Agreed to form an association to be known at the Pitt Club of Scotland. The Duke of Buccleugh elected as President. The club assembles annually at dinner, either on the anniversary of the birthday of Mr Pitt or some other day appointed by the Committee of Management. Every third year the commemoration of the birthday of that statesman being publically celebrated in Edinburgh. Besides the club in Edinburgh, there are Pitt Clubs formed in all the principal towns of Scotland. [The New Monthly Magazine, Volume 5. 1816] On 7 December 1831, The Scotsman reported that 'some years ago, when the Members of the Pitt Club discontinued their meetings, they resolved to devote the residue of their funds' to the erection of a monument to Pitt. [<http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk>]

953At the general election of 1832 he was defeated at Perth, but regained the seat at a by-election in 1834

954Slavery was abolished in British colonies from 1st August 1834 when "slaves" became "apprentices" on the same estates, notionally for six years.

955William, his wife and two children sailed from Bombay on 13th October 1834 on the 'Lady Feversham', Capt. George Webster. They were due to dock first at Cannanore on the coast of Kerala and then at The Cape. Appears that they were not allowed to land at Cape Town. The only other passengers on the boat were the Hon. Capt. G.T. Upton HM 62nd Regt. & Capt. F. Stopford HM 40th Regt. with 1 European servant

B/190 Minute Book 145, 9 Apr - 7 Oct 1835 p149

The drafts of letters to the undermentioned persons, were read and approved, vizt:

To R W Hay Esq [Colonial Office] forwarding in compliance with his request of the 9th instant, copies of communications from the Government of the Cape of Good Hope relating to the refusal of that Government to allow Captain Stirling and his family to land there 13 May 1835.

956William Stanley Clarke Chairman of the Board of Directors of the East India Company in 1835

957Slave Compensation

Jamaica St Ann 153 (Ardoch)

20th Feb 1837 | 94 Enslaved | £1717 18S 4D

Parliamentary Papers p. 289.

T71/857: claim by David Brydon, executor of David Finlay deceased of Ardoch. Counterclaim by Thomas Stirling and William Stirling by John Hopton Forbes their attorney 'entitled to the mortgage money secured by Indenture of 1 Jan'y 1824 by virtue of deed poll dated 10 Jan'y 1831 being £5931 11s 8d & interest.'

T71/1181: Thomas Stirling of Kingston in the county of Surrey and Wm Stirling a captain in the East India Co.

Counterclaim also by Alexander Finlay, David Finlay's brother, of Pebble Hill near Godstone in the county of Surrey, as residuary legatee.

T71/1608: letter from Alex Finlay Newton Hall Haddingtonshire, Scotland, dated 29/11/1834, stating he is entitled to 336 negroes on Ardoch Pen in St Anns and Lyon Estate in St Caths.: 'Having at present a demand against me of £500 which I propose to pay out of the fund, I wish to now if I can give security by lodging a caveat with your Board, agreeing that you shall reserve this portion of my claim till the person to whom I owe the money is satisfied.'

T71/1608: letter dated 29/11/1834 from Alex Finlay Newton Hall, Haddingtonshire, Scotland, re anticipating the receipts of compensation and pledging them for this claim and another ostensibly on Lyon estate in St Catherine.

[No trace of Lyon Estate in St Catherine.]

Jamaica Almanac (1833): Ardoch estate the property of David Finlay.

Associated Individuals (2)

Thomas Stirling Awardee

William Stirling Awardee [*Legacies of British Slave-ownership* <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/claim/view/16738>]

958Emily Maria was born 16th November 1833.

959This is most probably Mary, the wife of Rev. William Hockin, Sibilla's elder brother. At this time he was Vicar of Blackawton, Devon.

960*Narrative of the Wreck of the Ship Tiger, of Liverpool, (Captain Edward Searight), on the Desert Island of Astova* by Major (late Capt.) W. Stirling.

961Mary, wife of Rev. William Hockin

962Fourth son of Thomas Stirling, born 1837 died 1869.

963House of her brother Thomas Erskine

964Fifth son of Thomas Stirling, born 1842 died 1866

965Captain Sir William Peel VC KCB (2 November 1824 – 27 April 1858) was the third son of the Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel. After the Crimean War, he served in the Indian Mutiny and was wounded at the Relief of Lucknow. At the age of 33, he died of smallpox at Cawnpore, India, on 27 April 1858.

966 On HMS Shannon Under the command of Sir William Peel, Shannon played an important role in the Indian Mutiny landing a naval brigade which fought at the Siege of Lucknow, including the Storming of the Sikandar Bagh. The frigate had been commissioned at Portsmouth on September 13th, 1856, by Captain William Peel, C.B., V.C., who has been already mentioned many times in these pages. On August 6th, 1857, she arrived in the mouth of the Ganges, and Peel at once offered the services of himself and his people to proceed to the front, and co-operate with the army. On the 14th, the Captain, several officers, and about 390 seamen and Marines, embarked in a flat, and were towed up the Hoogly to join the Lucknow relief force; and on the 18th they were followed by another party of 5 officers and 120 men (some of these were recruited from merchant vessels at Calcutta), the frigate then being left with 140 people in her, under the command of Master George A. Waters.

The officers with the Brigade were -

Captain William Peel, C.B.; Lieutenants James William Vaughan, Thomas James Young, William Charles Fahie Wilson, Edward Hay, Henry Rushworth Wratishaw, and Nowell Salmon; Brevet-Lieutenant Colonel Henry H. Maxwell (attached); Captain Thomas Carstairs Grey, R.M.; Second Lieutenant William Stirling, R.M.; Mates Henry P. Garvey, and Edward Hope Verney; Midshipmen or Naval Cadets Edmund John Church, William Henry Richards, Martin Abbot Daniel, John Lewis Way, Edward St. John Daniel, Lord Walter Talbot Kerr, Lord Arthur Pelham Clinton, Edward S. Watson, and H. A. Lascelles; Chaplain Edward Lawson Bowman; Assist. Surgeon James Flanagan (actg.); Assist.-Paymaster William Thomas Comerford; Assist.-Clerk James Edward Stanton; Assist.-Engineers John W. Bone, Frederick William Brown, and Henry A. Henri; Gunner Robert Thompson; and Carpenter Henry Brice. Lieut. Lind af Hazeby, Swedish navy, was also attached to the Brigade; and Captain Oliver John Jones, R.N. (half-pay), joined it as a volunteer. [<http://www.pdavis.nl/Mutiny.htm>]

1st November 1857 Lieut William Stirling, Royal Marines wounded at the battle of Kujwa, near Bindki, Uttar Pradesh

967 John Somerset Pakington, 1st Baron Hampton GCB, PC FRS (20 February 1799 – 9 April 1880), known as Sir John Pakington, Bt from 1846 to 1874, was a British Conservative politician. Held office under Lord Derby as First Lord of the Admiralty from 1858 to 1859.

968 There is no evidence that William Stirling-Maxwell took any action however on 12th May 1859 "Gentleman Cadet Henry Luxmoore Stirling" was enrolled in the Corps of Royal Marines as a Second Lt.