

... his energy, set about building a shanty, and was able in a few days to set up his family; one girl only, not so robust as the rest, was left in Elora. Brown and I, having occasion to go to Elora on the succeeding Saturday, were requested by Mrs. Mair to conduct her home. The forepart of the day was fair, but in the afternoon it rained heavily and the state of the road was—indescribable. We endeavoured at first to pick our footsteps, but it was useless, and we had to flounder on through mud and pool, as best we could, till we came to Irvinebank. But how get over the brook in front of the house? There was yet no bridge: a large cedar, fallen across the stream was the only pathway for foot passengers; it was now quite dark, and the brook swollen by the rains. We dared not venture upon the tree in the darkness, so half leading half carrying Miss Mair we got through the stream with no other damage than drenched limbs. But oh! miserable reception for a young lady just come from Britain—tired out and drenched from head to foot. There was not a fire in the house, and the shanty fire was drowned out by the rains. Fortunately there remained a little warm water, and Mrs. Elmslie, washing and drying her as well as she could, hurried her to bed. Such was Miss Mair's first introduction to Bon-accord.

The winter was now approaching, and the heavy rains and cold nights gave indications of a severe one. With all our means and appliances, and with abundance of warm clothing, we were but indifferently prepared for it. The best that could be said of our houses and shanties was that they would shelter us from the violence of the storms, and that they were uncomfortable; our crops had perished; and we had to weather another year on the interest of our little capital. Yet we were not discouraged: we had agreeable and intelligent society; and our new and isolated situation had increased friendship to attachment, and attachment to love. There were no jealousies, no backbitings, and no quarrels. If unwonted roughness and privations engendered a temporary fretfulness it was speedily soothed down and made a source of amusement. We were, as was afterwards said by several of us—"as one family." But an event was at hand which saddened us all and threw a gloom over the young settlement—the death of Mr. Melvine.

His constitution was feeble, with a hereditary tendency to consumption. From all that was then known of the climate of Canada, his physician judged that emigration there would be favorable to his health. He appeared and felt invigorated by the sea voyage, and during the summer he entered with eager interest into his new plans and labours; but the unfavorable weather of the Fall seemed to affect his spirits, and he occasionally appeared more irritable than he was formerly wont to do—the effect no doubt of lurking disease within. It was necessary to run our side-lines; the morning when the surveyor came up was raw and drizzly, and he and I, as had been agreed on, accompanied him. He was very lightly dressed; I in pilot cloth; and I urged him to put on at least a great coat, but he declined doing this. It continued wet throughout the day and we finished our survey by five o'clock p. m., drenched and fatigued. A volunteer Rifle Company had been formed at Fergus and he and I joined it. We were called out to drill on a Saturday. The day turned out fine and we walked down together. He seemed in his usual health, appeared in no way fatigued by the walk, but was more silent than was his wont. During the exercises I observed that he once or twice retired; and at the conclusion I missed him. The unusual exercise and exposure had brought on an affection of the lungs. He said it was nothing—"It came upon him sometimes—but soon went away—he felt quite well, but only a little fatigued with the long walk and the running." He sat a few minutes and we then walked home. The shanty being now very damp, by great exertion on the part of the workmen one

end of the new house was comfortably fitted up, and he was moved there, only to leave it for the tomb. The very night after his removal the unfavorable symptoms recurred. Dr. Craigie had been sent for, and he soon arrived—only to pronounce the fatal words, "No hope." * * * * *

Mr. Webster sent his horses to take the body to Fergus. The day of the funeral was intensely cold, and the snow about sixteen inches deep. It was indeed in every way a very dismal day to all.

Thus passed away, in his 31st year, the friend and companion of my boyhood and youth. * * * * *

I have been more diffuse in my account of the illness and death of Mr. Melvine because I reckon him one of the chief founders of Bon-accord; for without his presence and co-operation I would never have entered on the undertaking.

Shortly after this the Fergus grist mill was burnt to the ground, not long after its completion. This was not only a heavy private loss, but a grievous public calamity. A considerable quantity of wheat and other grain, together with a number of bags, was destroyed in the conflagration. It caused a grievous scarcity, almost a famine. I was a sufferer among many others. I had purchased a quantity of wheat for provisions and seed, and had sent it to the mill, in new bags brought out to me by Mr. Gibbon. All was lost, and I had nothing remaining but a quantity of wheat of a fair quality but damply got in, huddled not housed, for as yet we had no barn. Meantime I was able to purchase some barrels of flour, which I sold out among my necessitous neighbors, so that it did not last long—I could not keep it while my fellow settlers were in distress. There was no grist mill nearer than Shoemaker's, a distance of about twenty miles. Urged by necessity my neighbour Mr. James Moir, jr. and I resolved to go down together. We set off early in the morning with our oxen, (two yokes of oxen hitched to one sleigh,) and by evening reached Cox's Creek, where we staid over night, and reached Shoemaker's by noon of the following day. When we showed our wheat to our utter consternation he refused to grind it. We urged our necessity and the need of our neighbours; but he answered that he dared not put it through the bolt as it would completely unfit the mill for grinding any more. But he offered to chop it, which would give us all the substance of the wheat, though it would not bake well. He advised us however to take it home again and dry it, in which case it would make very fair flour. Thinking that I might in some way or other shift the difficulty I tied up my bags and replaced them in the sleigh, but my neighbour could not wait, and had his grain chopped. We then returned to Cox's Creek, whence we started next morning and got home by ten o'clock in the evening of an intensely frosty night. I returning after three day's travel, just as I went away—he with his wheat not ground but chopped. When, some considerable time after, we were talking over our bootless journey, I asked him how they managed with their "chop." The answer was brief—"Oh man! but it was tough eatin'."

This winter, began in severity, continued severe throughout, with frequent and heavy falls of snow and tremendous frosts. One morning, at sunrise, I found the mercury compressed within the bulb. It was one of Ramage's instruments and marked to thirty degrees below zero; it was on the north side of the house in the open air, unsheltered. The severity continued unmitigated till April, when Spring instantaneously burst in upon us. On Sabbath morning I went into the woods for the cattle—the trees were as bare as in January—you could have seen any distance in the forest. On the succeeding Thursday they were one mass of green foliage, and you could not see beyond the edge of the wood; no snow but in the hollows, and the ground covered with a profusion of leeks and myriads of little flowers.

my last by the wolves happened about a year and a half after this. Our saw-mill, which was ever breaking out and swallowing up the profits, and someth. more, in costs of repair—a constant grievance and vexation—so that I was sometimes tempted to join in the joking anathema of a humorous neighbour, (—Mr. Mair—)—"that d—d dam" had burst out in the midst of a press of work, and we had a "bee" of the settlement to repair it—a hard days work which we finished as darkness came on—and as the work was voluntary we had a feast in the evening. Just as the workmen had gone it began to rain heavily, and I asked the men whether the sheep had been shut up. In the hurry and confusion they had been forgotten. I seized the lantern and hurried out, but when I had gone a little way down the slope, I encountered such a storm of wind and rain that my light was extinguished and I had to grope my way back to the house in intense darkness. In the morning we found three sheep killed and nearly devoured.

For several years I observed that whatever intervals might have occurred, if by any chance or inadvertence sheep were left out, they were sure to be taken—plainly showing that the wolves were ever prowling in the very midst of us; though they never, so far as I am aware, took sheep or calves by day. It was strange too, that though most of the settlers were daily in the woods seeking cattle, not one of them, so far as I have ever heard, ever caught a glimpse of a wolf. It was clear that their habitual cowardice was never to be lulled to sleep. Occasionally, but very rarely, a bear might be seen stalking along, as once was by my daughter between my house and her uncle's (a distance of scarce a quarter of a mile) which stopped and gazed on her for about a minute, and then walked slowly away; but a wolf never showed himself. I have heard their yells, coming nearer and nearer, and, in a minute or two afterwards, detected the sound of their tread among the leaves, but none ever came nearer. We have some times hunted and killed a racoon, which had committed sad havoc among our crops; and now and then unearthed and killed a groundhog, but these were the greatest of our hunting exploits. In the earlier years of our settlement a very beautiful animal, the flying squirrel, was sometimes brought in by the cat. Its light silvery gray color, and soft velvety fur, with its "wings," a furry membrane extending from the shoulder to the thigh, expanding in its leap or flight, made us think it the prettiest and most wonderful little creature we had ever seen.

Little else occurred during our first winter's abode in Canada, worth chronicling. I went pretty regularly to oversee the carpenters' operations at the house, coming back to Elora in the evening. Having chinked and partitioned off a part of the house, we removed to it, with all our impedimenta, in the beginning of April—that year a most lovely month, mild and warm, with very mild frosts at night, the forest budding and leafing with amazing rapidity, and Mrs. Elmslie and I, and the servant, contrived to make some excellent maple molasses. We were not prepared for making sugar, and all the other hands were fully employed. But the molasses and milk were a delicious addition to our fare.

We now had letters from our intended fellow settlers, telling us that they were to sail in the beginning of April, by New York, and hoping to be with us by the middle of June, mentioning also some additions to our colony. I therefore urged on with all my might the small clearings I had engaged to get done for Messrs Melvine and Peter Brown. No additional hands could be got; it was the end of May ere we could put the seed in the small clearances we could make for ourselves; and it will be seen in the sequel that they had better not been sown. This spring I first took a share in logging—as well as I could. It

was hard work, and I first feelingly understood the Scriptural "laborer watching for the setting sun." After four o'clock, the day was hot, and my ankles sore with the unwonted straining, I often looked wistfully to the sun.

I had just got finished the two or three acres for my friends, when we got word that they were on the way up, and would be with us to-morrow. Next afternoon I set out and met them about a mile below Mr. Reynolds'. The meeting was joyful on both sides; though wearied out and travel-sore, and sadly bitten, I was glad to see no signs of discouragement—least of all in the ladies.

It may be easily supposed that after so long a separation and so many adventures by sea and land we were at no loss for topics of discourse; an uninterrupted fire of questions was kept up by me for the greater part of the road, which contributed greatly to enliven the jaded travellers. We got tolerably well over the road and even through the Elora slough till we came to "Robbie's swoggle" where one of the waggons stuck fast, and as the sun was set had to be left behind; while one of the ladies who was walking, left a shoe in the mud which could not be recovered. In about half an hour the whole cavalcade reached Irvinebank where the welcomes and congratulations were renewed. The party consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Melvine, their child, and a man and woman servant; Mr. and Mrs. Peter Brown, six children and a maid servant; Mr. Moir, Sr., his son James, and two daughters; Mr. George Davidson, afterwards Sheriff, making with our own family, &c., about thirty individuals. Next day we rested and on the following day I accompanied the gentlemen to show them their several lots.

I ought to have mentioned that old Mr. Moir stayed in Elora the first night being greatly fatigued. Next morning I perceived a stranger coming through the log heaps, and I was told it was Mr. Moir senior. I went across the burn to meet him and got a right Aberdonian salutation: "Hech man, this is a rough countree."

Among those who joined our colony and came out with this party in June, I omitted to mention Mr. John A. Davidson, who became a useful settler, as well as being an intelligent and agreeable companion, and who lodged with us a considerable time—as did also Mr. Moir senior, with his son and daughters, who remained under our roof till their own house was made habitable.

The newly arrived immigrants were immediately engaged in putting in what crops might yet be sown, in choosing sites for houses, building temporary shanties, &c., Mr. Melvine contracted with the late Mr. Charles Allan for putting up a large frame house, the first frame house on the north side of the Grand River and which he just entered to die. Mr. Moir's house was raised about the end of Summer; the supper after raising was spread on the ground; and it was then that for the first time I heard "The Highland Sergeant," sung by Mr. James Moir, Jr., and all present were convulsed with laughter. Darkness surprised us ere all the impedimenta were gathered together, and we went home by the light of cedar torches, making the woods ring, and the owl complain of being disturbed, for the first time, in her "ancient and solitary reign." How cheering was the shout and song and laughter of young men and maidens compared with the music we had been serenaded by during the past winter and spring—the yelling of wolves.

There was a good crop of wild grass in the Beaver Meadow; we resolved to cut and house it. There was not a large quantity, but it turned out to be of great service during the ensuing severe winter.

[Jean Keith, who married the late Thomas Connon, was born on the west side of the Grand River, in Elora, on the 19th of March, 1835, and has been a life-long resident].

On one of these occasions we had taken a round by Squire Smith's, Mr. Swan's, Jonathan Swift's and Yankee Miller's; returning by the Elora and Guelph Road, and close on Elora we came upon the mud-hole I have before mentioned. It was full of water and we would gladly have evaded it, but there seemed no possibility of turning it on either side. My companion, therefore, who was driving, shouting loudly to the oxen, and applying the wand pretty sharply, attempted to dash through it, when, with a sudden jerk, the waggon stuck fast. He geed and hawed and hawed and geed, shouting louder and louder still, making therewith divers threatening gesticulations, but in vain—the waggon could not be moved. Aware that my friend liked driving, and, as was natural, thought his own driving better than mine, I stood still without interfering, but looking carefully around and behind to see whether, by going backwards, we might not more easily get forward, and seeing that the driver was nearly exhausted, I said: "Just let me see what I can do." So he handed me the gad, I think not unwillingly. Having noticed, a few yards behind, a part of the wood on our right thinner and not so much encumbered by fallen trees, I jumped into the hole, unloosed the oxen, turned them round, and, attaching the chain to the hind axle drew the waggon back to dry and firm ground. Then, after yoking them in again, I turned into the forest, now and then shaving rather closely the standing trees, and drove them over rotten wood and fallen trees, some of them by no means small, into Elora. I have no doubt that many of the older residents have a very lively remembrance of this same slough at the very entrance to Elora. Our load only consisted of a few bushels of seed wheat and peas.

[The mud-hole described by Mr. Elmslie was about one hundred yards north from the present G. T. R. station.]

In January the snow fell more copiously, but not nearly to the depth of some succeeding years. When the alternations of frost and fresh had hardened and firmed the surface of it, then for the first time we heard the music of the wolves echoing all around every evening and often through the night. One morning, succeeding a night on which their howling had been unusually appalling, and evidently near, a little before sunrise it seemed to come nearer and nearer the shanty; the choppers rushed to the door, and in a minute a pack of between twenty and thirty were seen rushing in full cry after a deer. The deer went direct through the chopping, clearing by great bounds the brush piles and the logs in her way and dashed across the river in the direction of Elora, evidently gaining upon them. The next morning, the ice being bearing, one of our party, wishing to see the banks of the river above, proceeded upwards for about half a mile and came upon a deer run down and slaughtered but recently, for it was not yet cold. It was a good deal torn and mangled especially in the throat and hips but not much devoured. The choppers conjectured that it was the same deer they had seen driven through the chopping, that the wolves had dogged it all the time, giving it no rest, and at length had driven it on the river, the ice was covered with but a light sprinkling of snow, and on this treacherous surface the poor baited deer was soon within the fangs of its merciless pursuers. It had made a desperate struggle, and the surface all round was imprinted by the tracks of many broad paws. Their prey had scarcely fallen when they were frightened from it, for, as has been said, but little of it was devoured; and we supposed that it was either the fall of a large

tree, or the sound of the carpenters hammering on the roof of the house, heard in the calm severity of the frosty morning that had scared them from their banquet, hardly won and scarce tasted.

In conjunction with the subject of wolves, I may relate some of the losses we sustained by them. The first was a valuable cow and our first cow; it occurred about fifteen months after this adventure. That winter and spring had in all respects been a complete contrast to our first. On the 16th of November the thermometer stood more than 20 degrees below Zero, and the snow had fallen to the depth of two feet and in the course of the winter covered the stumps. I well remember on that morning the strange stinging feeling on touching anything; another phenomenon was seen—when we raised the cup to our lips the saucer followed, although the apartment was closely chinked and there was a large log fire blazing on the hearth. The feeling reminded me of Milton's description of the cold of the infernal regions—"The parched ground burned froze, and cold performed the effect of fire." The cow had calved a few days before, the morning was bright and warm, the snow was nearly gone and blades of green herbage were beginning to peep out. Led on by this she strayed into the neighbouring lot, Mr. Fraser's, where she got into a small swamp and stuck, and being weak was unable to extricate herself. The wolverine found her out and came upon her in the early part of the night. A settler lately came up, who was lodging in a small house not far from the spot, described the triumphant yells of the savage brutes combined with the bellowing and wailing of the poor suffering cow, as the most frightful and appalling sound he had ever heard and he dared not venture out. In the morning our man brought home all that remained of her—the bell and the strap. I have sustained many losses; to some of which this was but a feather in the scale to a ton but never any by which I was so much moved; it was in vain that we endeavored to restrain our tears. We left the carcase untouched, and a few volunteered to watch for the next two nights. The first night was very dark, and about midnight they came so near that their tread could be heard among the leaves; but either they had scented some thing else besides the carcase, or some incautious sound had given them alarm, so that in a minute they were heard scampering off, not giving the watchers a chance of a shot. The next morning the watchers heard not a sound during the live long night.

About two years after when we had got the small clearance around the house completely fenced and sown in grass, to save the labor and loss of time and vexation—for even after hours' search we not unfrequently came home without them—in hunting up the cattle, we regularly shut them up in this small field. One night about the end of June we were aroused by the noise of the rushing of the cattle, the ringing of their bells, and an occasional bellow. Starting up I hastened to the door. There was just a faint streak of dawn; and I could just see the whole of them, including two yoke of oxen, four cows, calves and sheep, rushing round in the wildest manner. On my appearance they became still; I ran hastily down the park towards the river, and, as I went, heard the splash of many feet rushing through the water. I immediately came upon a ewe stretched out, bleeding much, and evidently dying; a little farther on I came upon another severely wounded, and breathing hard, and then upon a third, not much hurt as it could sit up and soon after rose. By this time the men came to my assistance, and we took the wounded animals to a shanty behind the house. For the first one we could do nothing, it was dead. We dressed as well as we could the wounds of the second, and under the care of our skilful neighbour, Mr. Fraser, it recovered in a few days. The third had escaped with a scratch.

chief desire was to give to each of the settlers, so far as the position of the lots would allow, a share of the running streams. Messrs. Watt and Keith, and Miss W., chose their lots on Concession 11, and I agree to it making the reservation of the Beaver Meadow, Lot 10, which I apportioned to Mr. W. Jamieson, whose father-in-law, Mr. James Moir, senior, with his son and two daughters took possession of it in the ensuing year. To Messrs. Melvin and Brown's I assigned the lots on the 13th concession more particularly giving to Mr. Melvin and P. Brown the four lots through the centre of which the Irvine flows; to George Brown the lot later owned by Mr. Brockie, through which runs a fine streamlet. The lots on the 12th concession were reserved by me more particularly. I appropriated for myself Lots 15, 14, 13 and 12. Lot 15 was afterwards purchased from me by Mr. John A. Davidson, in the name of Dr. Sanger, of London, and Lot 14 by Mr. John Gibbon. One half of Lot 11 was purchased by Mr. J. Wedderburn, and on his leaving was taken up by Mr. William Gibbon; the other half of Lot 11 was bought by Duncan Barber.

We now set about clearing, and raising houses. Mr. Watt let thirty acres to be cleared and fenced, at about sixteen dollars an acre, to Messrs. Nicklin and Elkerton, together with cutting and hauling logs for his house. I let ten acres to be chopped at six dollars an acre; five to be cleared and fenced, and two or three acres, around the house to be cleared, but chopped close to the ground, at twenty dollars an acre. This job was taken by William and Richard Everett, and also the cutting and hauling of logs for the house, forty-two by thirty six feet, for which I gave fifty dollars. The remainder was cleared by Mr. Letson.

Sometime about the beginning of November, Mrs. Elmslie, William Gibbon and I, went to select a site for our house. We were not long in finding one—the top of an eminence sloping up from the Irvine, and at about fifty yards from the stream, and rising gradually from Elmslie Water (as we jokingly called it) on the south and at about seventy yards from its bank.

(This was near what is now the residence of Mr. David Scott, who is the present owner of Mr. Elmslie's farm).

On the twentieth and twenty first of November it was raised. Nearly the whole of the then population of Nichol and Woolwich were there. All the first settlers in Nichol, the English settlers in Woolwich, a great many workmen from Fergus, the first settlers on the Upper Irvine, all our choppers, the carpenters from Elora and its immediate neighborhood, old King Reeves, being our waggoner, carrier, purveyor, &c. The first day the work went rather heavily from the extraordinary size and weight of the logs, so that when night fell, it was little more than half up. Nearly all agreed to see it finished on the morrow. Those who were nearest to the scene of action went home; but the night being mild and dry, a great many remained on the spot and, as there was plenty of viands and punch, they made a large fire, and passed the night very comfortably. Next day all went to it with a hearty good will, and considerably before night, the last log was put up, amid tremendous cheering. As Mr. Watt's raising was to be next day, Messrs. Nicklin and Elkerton invited those who were to stay over the night to the shelter of the shanty. The night being cloudy and dark, a great many stayed, so that the shanty was completely crowded: we had scarcely sitting room: and a scene of mirth and fun, and somewhat boisterous play, without brawling ensued, such as I have rarely seen here, even in those early days. It continued till near morning, for there was no sleeping room. Some, however, took shelter under the thick cedars and hemlocks, which were in abundance on the bank. At daylight it began to rain; which, by the middle of the forenoon, changed into a thick fall of snow, and

continued throughout the day, making the work, though far easier than that of the former two days, much more cheerless and uncomfortable. An accident had like to have put an end to my further clearing the forest. The "corner-men" were vieing with each other who should lay his corner most quickly; the falling snow made the axe handles slippery, and the axe of one of them slipped and whizzed past my head with great velocity, almost grazing my cheek. This was one of the providential deliverances I have experienced during my life. The raising was finished early in the afternoon, and we went to our quarters cold and dripping.

About this time we formed a resolution to have Divine Service on Sabbath, at least once in the day. Our first meeting for this purpose, was in the shanty occupied by Mr. Keith, and Mr. Watt, on the north bank of the river, at Elora. Shortly after, Mr. Gilkison invited us to his house, where were assembled the villagers, and a few of the nearest settlers. We had the usual exercises—singing, praying, reading the Scriptures, and a sermon, sometimes of Blair's, sometimes of Newton's, sometimes of others. We continued this as long as we remained in the village.

Towards the end of December we got into our new lodgings—the building provided for us being now roofed and chinked, the doorway hung, and the windows in and glazed—things which did not always happen simultaneously in those days. Our beds were arranged in this wise: at about seven feet from the western gable a strong beam was fastened from side to side; this was divided into three compartments by white cotton screens; then boards were placed across, and on these were laid mattresses and beds. This was our common bedroom, partitioned off by a white sheet extending from side to side. Our cooking stove was placed towards the other end, and in the centre our common table, formed of the large chests; trunks and smaller boxes were our seats. Thus situated we felt comparatively comfortable, only at times the hive was too small for the swarm.

On Christmas morn we were serenaded with Christmas carols, sweetly sung, and accompanied by the flute—a greatly more pleasant arousing than the tumultuous noise in a Scotch town.

The leader of the choir, we found, was Mr. Patmore, carpenter, an excellent singer and a good musician; and certainly our absence from home for six months, and our position—a small spot, a

“Lodge in a vast wilderness,
A boundless continuity of shade,”

still roamed by the untutored Indian—greatly enhanced the delight of the concert.

The winter, as we were informed, was unusually mild, the thermometer not often going below zero, and seldom as low as that; there was no very great depth of snow; there had been, moreover, a singularly long and beautiful Indian summer—the former part of it bright, sunny and deliciously warm; toward the close of it, the thick, smoky atmosphere, and the sun rising fiery red and continuing his march until night as if half eclipsed.

Our sojourn was now and then cheered by visits of acquaintances and countrymen from other parts of the province. One of these, a visit from the Davidsons and the late Mr. Geddes from Cox's Creek, together with Mr. Gilkison, was long kept in mind by us as a “Nox Ambrosiana.”

Other events came to enliven and amuse us. There was a birth; Mr. Keith's first born, and the first born of the little colony (now Mrs. Cannon).

Loud were the complaints, dismal the groanings, dire the swearings, at the mad holes, the heavy loads—at the unhappy immigrants; while, as if to warn us of our approaching fate, we every now and then met with some shattered wheel, some broken axle, or scattered fragments of some unfortunate waggon. We several times, indeed, narrowly escaped the overthrow of our loads, in which case it would have been impossible for us to have reloaded, on account of the depth of the holes and the unstable footing.

Although the tavern we came to was not very inviting we were glad to get its shelter, and ordered supper for the party. The viands were salt pork, some fry, and bread, black, half-baked, the centre tough dough. The landlady made her appearance with the excuse that she was out of tea, and had expected it to-night, but it had not come; she, however, had done her best. We had some fragments of bread and meat, the tea was barely tasted and set aside—it was made of some of the Canadian herbs (sassafras it might be, or hemlock); we asked for water, but alas!—it was a solution of lime nearly as white as milk. We had therefore, no help but go to bed—almost supperless. Fatigue and the jolting made us sleep soundly.

The morning was clear, with a heavy, white frost. We started about six o'clock and reached Black's about ten. Here we had the comfort of tea and excellent well cooked viands. We got to Guelph about one p. m., and proceeded about four miles to a crossway of the direst kind, half broken up, with a mud hole at the end which we tried in vain to avoid, but had no help but to plunge into it, and there the waggons stuck fast. The hole being of unknown depth, it was thought useless and even dangerous for the horses to employ the former expedient of doubling the teams. Happily there were two farm houses near, whither we sent for two ox-teams, and by means of doubling them and prying with rails we got the waggons drawn without any serious breakage; the oxen drew on to Blyth's—three young men from the west of Scotland who had recently settled there and built an inn. The house was just roofed, partly chinked, the window frames in, but unglazed, the doorway posted up, but without a door. Though the accommodation thus seemed somewhat unpromising we were glad to embrace it, for it would have been madness to have attempted going further by such a broken and wild track; the teamsters, therefore, in African phrase, untrekked.

We entered under the roof, for it was little more than a roof, only one side of the building being chinked, and the blazing log pile diffusing light and warmth soon melted the ice of ceremony. The young men expressing themselves greatly perplexed as to how they could accommodate us, the lassies volunteered to look after the cooking department, and the married ladies to the beds. They were thus set at their ease, and the joke and the laugh went round.

Our servant Elsy greatly amused them by the fun of her jokes and her smart repartees, and we were soon as merry and comfortable a company as persons who had never seen each other until half an hour before could be. To our supper was added the luxury of venison steaks; and the novelty and strangeness of our circumstances, together with the fatigue and roughness of the day, reconciled us even to the Canada punch. The beds of the principal members of the party were spread along the upper floor, and we slept very comfortably.

We left about ten o'clock next morning to accomplish the last stage of our journey, and reached Elora about three p. m., with less obstruction than we expected, our greatest difficulty being within a quarter of a mile of Elora.

In about two hours we had the satisfaction of seeing the teams arrive that had gone the other way—and with no material damage.

Mr. Watt and his party got immediate possession of the shanty on the

north side of the river; we taking lodgings in the tavern till a house, which had just been raised, should be made ready for us. And here I would gratefully record the courtesy, the kindness and attention shown us by the late David Gilkison, Esq. Warm hearted, intelligent, and having seen a good deal of the world, and with considerable knowledge and experience of Canada, his house and society were an agreeable refuge, and caused many an evening pass pleasantly which otherwise would have dragged heavily; when any of us needed assistance he was ever as ready to give as we to ask it. His father's purchase here and his own exertion undoubtedly gave the first impulse to the settlement of this flourishing part of Canada West.

As was before mentioned, we took lodgings in the tavern till the house which was preparing for us should be ready for our reception. The landlord, Mr. Martin, and landlady, were exceedingly obliging and attentive, and we were as comfortable as one room, close to the bar-room and serving the manifold purposes of dining-room, bed-room, drawing-room, kitchen and wash house occasionally, and, as it unhappily turned out, hospital also, could allow us to be.

A few days after our arrival Mr. Gilkison had a 'raising,' to which our men were invited. All were willing and even eager to go; partly to see the (to them) strange sight of putting up a log house. Everything went well till the placing of the uppermost logs, when, by haste or inadvertence, one of them slid and struck down John Robb, one of the handiest of our workmen. When taken up, it was found that his thigh was broken. Mr. Gilkison instantly despatched his man, John Fergusson, on horseback to Guelph, for the Surgeon. Fergusson returned with the Surgeon about eleven o'clock the same night—a wonderfully short space of time, considering the state of the track, for road it could scarcely be called. The fracture was set and bandaged with much difficulty; and when he returned two or three days afterwards, to dress the wound, he pronounced it to be doing exceedingly well; and, in the end, his recovery, though somewhat tedious, was effected without much suffering.

The first thing now necessary to be done was to make a practicable road into our new possessions; it, of course, could only be at first a 'brush' road. The parties who were engaged in making this first road to Bon accord were Messrs. Watt, Mr. John Keith, myself, Mr. William Gibbon, Mr. John Fergusson, and Mr. Sam. Trenholme: the last two were the Engineers and Pioneers. We started from Elora immediately after breakfast, and taking the line between the eleventh and twelfth concessions, by four o'clock in the afternoon completed a very good 'brush' road to the Irvine, making the ford a little above the present bridge. The reasons why we took this line rather than the legal one between the twelfth and thirteenth concessions were: first, because it was nearer Elora and would form the front of our farms; but secondly, and chiefly, because this line was much easier and freer from obstructions than the other. We had only one or two short detours to make from the line; the first to avoid the corner of the swamp on the land first purchased by Mr. Robert Gerrie, and vulgarly called 'Robbie's swoggle'; another short one to the west to avoid the precipitous hill immediately north of Mr. Keith's, and then a slight deflection to the east, into Mr. John Gibbon's lot, to make the most favorable fording place across the Irvine river.

It was now the time to divide our purchase and to apportion the lots to the original Bon-accord settlers. These were Messrs. George Elmslie, Peter Brown, Robert Melvin, William Gibbon, Alexander Watt, John Keith and Miss Watt (afterwards Mrs. George Barron).

(Mr. Elmslie adds the names of George Brown, George Cornwall, William Jamieson and W. Carnegie, who, however, did not come to Canada. A list of those who came to Bon accord will be given in another place).

The lands on the whole block being deemed of equal quality, it was my

falling foul of a stump, and got to the chief Inn, where we found every room filled up, the village being crowded with workmen and artisans, employed at the canal and dam. We were told we might perhaps be better accommodated at another house, but we chose to remain and rough it with the rest. We therefore bivouacked on the floor along with many others. We started next morning early to go up the Grand River side to Brantford.

* * * * We reached Brantford late in the afternoon, tired out. We remained there over Sabbath, and on Monday took the stage to Oxford along the London road, and towards evening reached the clearing of the Messrs. W——, in Zorra.

The ground we had gone over since morning was rolling and hilly; we saw but few streams; and the long poles with bucket and balance attached to the draw wells showed they were very deep. The Messrs. W—— had the true spirit of backwoodsmen, and talked with pleasure, almost enthusiasm, of their roughings, discomforts, and privation, and of the feeling which their success had inspired. Next morning we started to examine their and the neighboring clearances; but, oh, how rough and uncouth these irregular, zigzag fence fields seemed to our inexperienced eyes! The fencing, the stumps, the irregularly cut stubble, about a foot and a half high, the profusion of weeds in the angles of the fences and about the stumps, and the shoots from the stumps, made us wonder how any crop could grow there, or having grown, be taken off or drawn in. And yet the crop had been a rich one, the thick, strong stubble bore witness to its luxuriance, and with all these drawbacks we were told it had exceeded twenty bushels an acre.

The houses, too, were strange and novel; for, unlike the shanty hovels we saw in Nottawasaga and Sunnidale, they were something like houses; they had at least a door and two windows in front, and the corners were roughly squared, although the perpendicular and the square were not always rigidly adhered to; but on the inside, the round, bark-covered logs, the rough chinking (not altogether impervious to the air and light), the huge, wide chimney built of cedar and mortar, the blazing log pile on the hearth, sending the heat to the farthest corners; the rough deal partition, with its door and wooden latch, the axe hewn stools and tables, alternating sometimes with the round blocks sawn from the trunk of a tree; the baking kettle covered with live coals; the rough deal shelves all around with their various utensils; the strong wooden pegs driven into the logs—these things, though afterwards perfectly familiar to us, were then altogether new, and conveyed to us the idea, not of squalid poverty, but of rude comfort and independence. On mentioning our purpose of settling in a little colony on some favourable situation, all, as may be easily believed, were extremely anxious that we should settle somewhere near them, and pointed out several blocks which they thought might suit our purpose; but on visiting them, the want of running streams, and especially of one considerable stream, proved an insuperable objection.

We then left, and travelling in the direction pointed out, came upon the road leading through Waterloo, where was a tavern kept by one Freivogel.

* * * *

At Elora, having taken lodging at the tavern, and got some refreshment, which we greatly needed, we enquired for Mr. Gilkison, (the late David Gilkison) and were told that he owned the large log house we had seen on entering the clearance, and kept a store there. We rested a while and then called there, when we learned that he was from home, but was expected to return next day.

From the door of the store we observed that a part of the opposite river bank was cleared, with a small shanty upon it—a saw mill,—beneath which were “the Falls.” We also observed a bridge on a line with the store. We hastened down to the saw mill, which was not then working, being out of repair, and from beneath it got our first view of the Falls, which, notwithstanding our having so lately seen Niagara, appeared to us really magnificent and extremely picturesque. We then returned to our lodgings at Mr. Martin Martin’s. Next morning, finding that Mr. Gilkison had not returned, we resolved to visit Fergus.

We were shown the brush road, the only road leading to it, and on enquiring for Mr. Wilson, who had left Aberdeen some months before us, were told that his clearance was right on our way, and would be the most direct route to Fergus.

We soon got there, and found him in his logging habiliments—picturesque, withal, but certainly not white as snow. We spent an hour very agreeably, and greatly admired the romantic position of his cottage, perched on a projecting ledge of rock, commanding a view of the Grand River, with its steep rocky banks and lofty trees, for a long way up and down—nor less admiring the comfort and even elegance within, embellished with old country ornaments and some wild flowers of the forest. He led us through his chopping, where we first saw the process of logging, into the path to Fergus, near which we met Mr. Webster and two of Mr. Ferguson’s sons, in the light deshabille common in those days, carrying axes.

On mentioning our object, Mr. Webster said he would be at home in the evening, and would be glad to show us his maps and further our object in any way he could.

We were soon in Fergus, then consisting of a tavern, unfinished; a smithie; two or three workmen’s shanties of the rudest kind; and Mr. Webster’s house, a neat log cottage with the best finished corners, roofing, and windows we had yet seen.

As a matter of course, we went to the tavern, where were workmen in every part of it, fitting up, planing, plastering and chinking. We sauntered about, seeing the little that was to be seen, looking at the dam, the falls, the black pool under the rude half finished bridge, and the stumps wherever there was any clearance, which was mostly confined to the village site; and the banks of the river, which appeared to us much less majestic than at Elora—although the lofty, precipitous, water worn, rocky banks attracted much of our attention. We then went to Mr. Webster’s, and saw the plan of his lands, but found that all the choicest situations, all the lots nearest Fergus, all the lots bordering on the rivers and streams, were already sold; and he had not a block left of any extent nearer than four or five miles from Fergus. On pointing out this to Mr. Webster, he then advised us to examine Mr. Gilkison’s land—that, as far as he knew, very few lots of his had been sold, and we would therefore have the pick of the block and many choice sites on the Irvine and other streams. We then took our leave.

When we entered the tavern in the evening, it was swarming like a hive with artisans, millwrights, and carpenters, together with several young men with capital, sons of Scotch proprietors—mostly intelligent young men from Perthshire, Dumfries, and the south of Scotland; and from all we received a cordial welcome in the genuine Scotch style and in hamely Scotch. On asking if we could be accommodated for the night, “I kenna what ye’ll ca’ accommodated; but ye’ll just get yer share o’ the flure—we’ll no can do mair for ye—an’ yer bite an’ yer sup wi’ the lave”.

The night was very joyous: The novelty of the situation—the rudeness of accomodation—the drollery of the make-shifts—the mixed yet entirely Scotch

character of society—the hopes upspringing in the breasts of all—imparted a loveliness to the conversation such as I have rarely experienced. The hackneyed lines, “The night drove on wi’ sangs an’ clatter, An’ aye the yill was growin’ better,” was not on that occasion a poetic fiction, but a literal fact, for, up to that evening I had small liking for “this Canada.”

We returned to Elora next morning, and found Mr. Gilkison, who showed us the map of his lands, pointing out how beautifully they were watered. We therefore resolved to spend the next two days in exploring a part, at least, of them.

Proceeding along the Fergus brush-road between the eleventh and twelfth concessions, we followed it up to the Irvine river, crossing a stream which falls into the Irvine, and diverging occasionally to the right or left to examine the land; thence we came to the stream falling into the Irvine, called, on the earliest maps, “Elmslie water.” Passing on to the north-west, we diverged to the left to see the Beaver Meadow which Mr. Gilkison had told us of, and soon found it—a very beautiful Beaver’s clearance of some acres, covered with natural grass, very thick and tall, studded with shrubs and small trees, whose spreading tops reminded us of “home,” and fringed about with an ugly hedge of brambles, canes, and brakes, though which we now and then had some difficulty in struggling. In looking about this pretty spot we almost lost our bearings, and it cost us some time to recover the “blaze.” Passing onwards as far as lots four and five, we came upon the stream already mentioned, and went up and down its banks a considerable distance the land gently rolling, the trees large, the under-brush thinner than in other places. The sun now descending low, warned us that it was time to return if we would escape a bivouac in the woods.

Next morning we passed on the line between the twelfth and thirteenth concessions, and following the “blaze” we came upon the largest and thickest swamp we had yet seen. We had great difficulty in penetrating it and keeping the blaze, owing to the underwood, the water dammed up, and the fallen trees. After crossing a rivulet we came to the Irvine spreading out to a considerable width—the opposite bank steep and high. Thence we came to the stream at Mr. Michie’s and thence to lots 4 & 5.

As on the day before we spent a considerable time examining the land to right and left, every now and then coming on some small stream. At length in our search we fairly lost the blaze and failing to recover it, we directed our course towards the Irvine, which we came upon, somewhere in the neighbourhood of “Dolachar.” Keeping therefore, the west bank, we followed it down holding close to the river; partly because we knew not its windings, and were afraid to lose sight of it, lest we might again lose ourselves. We found it in some places spreading out beautifully, with flats sometimes on one side and sometimes on both. Now and then the west bank was lofty and steep even to the water’s edge, and in several places the river was marred and blocked up by accumulations of fallen timber and drift-wood. We thus reached again the line between the 11th. and 12th. concessions, and following it, reached Elora when it was quite dark.

I was now satisfied. We had found a block suitable in all respects for our projected colony. The quality of the soil, as indicated by the trees and their size, was equal to any we had seen; watered in such a manner as we had nowhere seen; the streams living, clear, rapid, and the chief of them on a limestone bed, and therefore healthy; the society was superior to what we could have anticipated—the newer settlers almost entirely Scotch, the older, around and in the neighbourhood of Elora, respectable, intelligent Englishmen; the block bordering on the new and rapidly rising settlement of Fergus, with the immediate prospect of having a Church and Schools; the only draw-

back—far in the woods and the roads execrable. We there immediately called on Mr. Gilkison, to ascertain on what terms a block of 100 or 2500 acres could be purchased. His reply was that he could make no reduction from four dollars per acre, but he referred us to his brother in Toronto, Mr. Archibald Gilkison, who was agent for the estate of his late father. It now only remained that we should hasten to Toronto, which hitherto had been our headquarters, and we set off next morning. Nothing worthy of recording that I can remember, occurred on the journey back to Toronto. Conveyances there were none; as yet stages were not, at least northward from Hamilton; for ten years after that there was only a weekly conveyance by waggon from Guelph, so that we had to perform the whole journey to Hamilton on foot. On arriving at Toronto, we called together our party, ladies included, gave them a description of our travels, and, in particular, of the location we had in view, its appearance and the society, and an eager and almost unanimous wish was expressed to settle there. Mr. Watt alone hesitated; he had visited Whitby, and seemed to have a partiality for it, partly, I believe, because it was not so far back; partly, because he had several old acquaintances settled there; partly, it might be, because, being farther advanced, it would be more advantageous for one with some capital to settle there. The ambitious resolution, however, of his sisters and brother-in-law, Mr. John Keith, at length determined him to cast in his lot with the new colony.

We lost no time in going to Mr. Gilkison and finishing the bargain. He would make no deduction in the price, four dollars per acre, but agreed to allow half a dollar of the price per acre to be expended within the block in cutting roads and making bridges.

We remained in Toronto two or three days to make what arrangements were necessary, and Mr. William Gibbon having gone on the day before to secure waggons, on Friday the — day of October, we took steamer to Hamilton and landed amid an outpour of rain, through which we proceeded up a street of glutinous mud to Burleigh’s tavern. We dined at one common table there and I could perceive that our travelling costumes and drenched appearance caused some surprise as well as amusement to some of the diners.

Mr. Gibbon had engaged six waggons, including a light one for the ladies and children, and, it clearing up after dinner, the cavalcade started.

We made our way but slowly, heavily laden as our teams were, through the sticky paste of the road, or rather, mud canal—to Dundas, whose smooth liquid surface covered many a dangerous hole; but we began to realize the difficulties of our enterprise when we were ascending the hill above Dundas and had come to the flat about half way up the ascent. Here we were brought to a complete standstill; while on our resuming the steep ascent our two foremost teams stuck fast, and neither “geeing” nor “hawing” nor whipping of which there was too much—nor swearing of which there was much more—could move them. The teamsters, therefore, unhitching the horses from the last two waggons, and putting two teams to each waggon in succession, at length slowly and painfully dragged them to the top of the hill. When we came to the road which branched off to Galt, three of the teamsters announced their determination to take that route, as they were sure, they said, their team could not take them through the “short road”. The other three said they would venture it. Our party thus separated, some going with the teams by the long route, the rest, including the women and children, taking the direct road to Guelph. We got on less painfully, though with many a “dird” and shake, till we entered the “long woods” where (as it continued for many years) it was just out of one hole into another.

... and keeping close to the wild rice fields which grow luxuriantly on the borders. The noise of our wheels and the snorting of the engine scared the flights of birds that were feeding on the rice. When nearly two-thirds across, and so close to the shore that our wheels were almost clogged by the weeds and rushes, a she bear and two cubs burst from their concealment, scarcely twenty yards from us. Instantly rifles and fowling pieces were brought out, and many shots were fired, but harmlessly for Bruin, who kept dashing along by great bounds, nearly parallel to our course, disappearing among the thick rice, and we saw no more of her. We reached Barrie about one o'clock, and, after resting a while, took the great road through Sunnidale. Here, at least, we met with something new, though, we could scarcely say, pleasant. The road was just brushed, only here and there short detached pieces cut down to the width, and but partially logged; our feet, accustomed to the smooth pavement of the city, were constantly tripping on snags, causing us now and then, an awkward tumble; the afternoon was close, sultry and moist, around us an interminable forest of gigantic pines; and for miles and miles no sign of a house, or flocks, or herds, or human face divine. Lest, however, we should fall asleep, our hands and arms were kept in constant exercise, trying to defend ourselves from clouds of mosquitoes, which till then we had little more than heard of. At last, at nightfall, we reached a rude inn where we put up for the night, making our supper on salt pork and sugarless, creamless, green tea and a certain liquor which they called by courtesy "Canada Whiskey," of which "aqua fortis" was the chief constituent part.

"Aqua fortis as ye please,
He can content ye."—Burns.

Next afternoon we found the headquarters of Mr. Surveyor Rankin, to reach which we had to descend the high bank of the Nottawasaga river—a dull, brown, stagnant stream, so dead that we could not tell in which direction it flowed—to a flat near the water's edge. His summer place was roofed with cedar bark, carpeted with hemlock branches, fronted by a huge, smoky fire, now illuminating the woody banks, and now quenched by the dense smoke, which, suffocating as it was, by putting to flight our tormentors, felt tolerable and even pleasing. The utmost kindness and attention was shown us by Mr. Rankin and he gave us his best room. We sank into a feverish sleep, speedily broken by the awful hum and the tormenting stings, to be succeeded by another short slumber, and again to be rudely roused by the tormentors. And thus passed our first night's bivouac in the forest, on the banks of the Nottawasaga.

The observations of the few days since we left Toronto had satisfied our minds that Nottawasaga Bay was not an eligible sight for our projected colony. We took a good long circuit round the Bay, bathed in it, and left on the third day. A heavy rain had fallen—the weather was much cooler—and our return was much less painful than our outset. We reached Barrie about mid afternoon and, there being no steamer, and we anxious to get to Toronto, we hired a Highlander to take us across in an open flat bottomed boat. After getting over very agreeably one half of the navigation, a thick mist came upon us, about nightfall, and enveloped us so closely that we had no help but to lie to and wait the morning, or at all events, a clear atmosphere. We were quite unprepared for passing a night on the lake—no great coat, no cloak, no blanket, not even a glass of their despised Canadian whiskey. But we were not so badly off as we dreaded, for our boatman had some salt pork and he contrived to get up a fire and boil the pork, and he had some uncouth looking substance in the shape of bread, so that, night coming down on us and mist, we had

really a dainty supper, finished off with green tea infused with hot water in which the pork had been boiled, of course ornamented with bread beads. Our only pillow was Jacob's—the stones on which he made the bed that had boiled our supper. Without shelter of any kind the night drove heavily along, but about six o'clock next morning the mist evaporated as suddenly as it had come down upon us, and we reached Barrie in time to meet the stage to Toronto, where we arrived in the evening, tired and fagged out enough.

We remained at Toronto a few days, for the sake of rest, in which time we again met Mr. Watt and his relatives. We gave them an account of the late excursion, and our opinion of that part of the country, telling them it was now our intention to go West, to see the Canada Company's Lands, and especially the Huron Tract. Mr. Watt offered to go along with us and we gladly accepted his company.

On the following Monday, Mr. Watt, Mr. William Gibbon and I took the steamer to Niagara, where we arrived in the afternoon. It had then all the appearance of a falling village: the frame buildings, grey and rickety, few new buildings, scarcely any going up, and no signs of activity or improvement. We took the stage thence to Drummondville, where we remained all night. Next morning we visited the Falls. We stood for a long time with our eyes rivetted upon them, and the longer we gazed the more vast and magnificent they grew. I certainly felt no disappointment, but was quite of the Irishman's opinion, who, on being told that many persons were disappointed when they saw the Falls, exclaimed: "By japers, I don't know how anybody could be disappointed, unless they went to see a river fallin' up." But in truth the Falls must be studied. Every part of the vast amphitheatre is on so grand a scale—their height, their depth, their volume, the boiling surge below, the hills and landscape all around—measure and weigh each particular part in the mind's eye, then with the eye and the mind, and endeavor to comprehend the grand whole—then only will you have some faint idea of the overwhelming magnitude of the panorama before you. To attempt to describe more minutely a scene which any one may now view by a pleasant day's excursion, would be an abuse of the reader's patience and of the Queen's English. We went down the stair to the foot of the fall, and I, as many others have done, attempted to go in between the projecting torrent and the rock, but a mighty rushing wind, driving a dense spray, so blinded and almost choked me that after penetrating about three yards, I was fain to get back. We then ascended and stood on Table Rock, which at that time projected so far as almost to touch the edge of the torrent, so that lying down on my breast and stretching out my arm, I could put my hand in the fall. The look down here, was awful.

We left for Chippewa, and thence took passage in a covered barge of the Welland Canal, to Dunnville. The evening was rainy and all on board had to take shelter in the narrow and crowded space below. Our fellow-passengers seemed all to be Canadian farmers,—old settlers—comfortable looking persons in their grey homespun. Their talk was of the weather, the crops, the prices, the poor markets, the canal and such topics. But what shocked us much was the universal swearing. Though the conversation was carried on in a quiet, calm tone, without anything exciting, every other word was an oath, often a strange one. But we had no help but to sit still and hear it with what patience and resignation we could. At length the long, painful evening came to a close, and we were in Dunnville.

It was dimly dark, the rain pouring down, and what was called the street seemed a mud lake. We plunged through the darkness, occasionally

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For nine years after the death of Captain Gilkison, from 1833 to 1842, Elora made but little progress. Those who came to the village during this time will be mentioned later; in the meantime it is necessary to refer to

The Bon-accord Settlement

The following narrative was written by Mr. George Elmslie, one of the first settlers in that upper part of the Township of Nichol, called the Bon-accord. As will be seen, it is both interesting and authentic.

As originally written Mr. Elmslie did not give, except in a few cases, the full names of those he refers to. These we have supplied and have prepared lists of the first settlers in Upper Nichol, which will be given in another place. But before commencing his narrative it might be well to know something of Mr. Elmslie himself.

Mr. George Elmslie was born in the city of Aberdeen in the year of 1803. After receiving a good college education, Mr. Elmslie engaged in business in Aberdeen as a Dry Goods Merchant. As one might suppose, his early experience was not that best fitted for a pioneer. Mr. Elmslie was naturally a student and an interesting book would be very apt to make him forget all about farming, with its constant round of work that should be attended to. It was no wonder, then, that Mr. Elmslie became a school teacher, first, for two winters, in his own house; then in a school that was built on his farm, and afterward, at Elora, Ancaster, Guelph, Hamilton and Alma. One morning, while on his way to school, Mr. Elmslie was stricken with paralysis and died at Alma on the 19th of October, 1869. Mrs. Elmslie, whose maiden name was Agnes Gibbon, was born at Cullerlie, in the parish of Echt, in Aberdeenshire. She died at the home of her son, William, on July 2nd, 1889, at the age of 83, and was buried beside her husband in the Elora Cemetery.

In their family: Mrs. Robert Philip, formerly of Elora, now deceased; Mrs. James Middleton, living in Salem; William, living near Clifford; George in Hamilton; Alexander in Galt; Gordon, at Lachine, and Mrs. David Spragge of Victoria, B. C.

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In 1831-32 the agitation about the Reform Bill and long continued opposition to it, had caused a great stagnation of business. Trade was dull; here were many failures; all were in difficulty, and many in distress.

A little before this time appeared Mr. Fergusson's account of his first tour in the United States and Canada, and not long after it his second tour, while the Chambers' were publishing their admirable papers on Emigration to America, containing letters from actual settlers in Canada. The eyes of thousands were turned to Canada, as a place of refuge.

Three friends in Aberdeen, afterwards joined by others, were in the habit of meeting frequently to consider seriously the advantages or disadvantages of emigrating; and at length, after obtaining all possible information, they resolved to go out, settle side by side, and thus form a little Aberdeen colony and give it the name Bon-accord—from the motto of the town's arms.

Mr. Elmslie, as being able to wind up his business the most easily, was appointed to go before, and search out a fit location. His instructions were that it should be in a healthy situation—the land fertile, abundant in running streams—and lastly, if Fergus answered the description given by Mr. Fergusson, and a sufficient block could be got in its neighborhood, to prefer it.

All preparations having been completed, and abundant stores of clothing, etc., laid in, on the 30th of June, 1834, Mr. Elmslie set sail from Glasgow, in the Fania, Capt. Wright, Commander. The voyage was pleasant. We reached safely the banks of Newfoundland where we were becalmed two days. One terrible danger, through the goodness of Divine Providence, we escaped. A drunken steward sculked down to the spirit hold to get a stolen draught and, in his hurry and trepidation, spilled a quantity of rum, which caught fire from the candle. Happily he was just able to give instant alarm and it was speedily put out, the danger was past ere we knew of it. Our passage up the St. Lawrence was very rough—the wind ahead and constant tacking. At length we reached Grosse Isle, the quarantine station, and were immediately boarded by the authorities. Here first we met with Mr. Watt and his party—a blythe sight—for I had known him in Aberdeenshire. On the second day we reached Quebec, the next morning set sail for Montreal, which we reached in two days more. From there we proceeded up the river to Ottawa, and by the Rideau Canal to Kingston. We reached Kingston on the ninth day after leaving Bytown (Ottawa) and boarded the steamer for Toronto. On Sabbath, 14th August, a bright, beautiful day, we were walking its streets.

The cholera had preceded us, and there had been a great many deaths daily. Unfortunately for us, one of our party, through fatigue and the hardship of the Durham boats, took sick in the inn where we intended to remain. The landlord refused us rooms, pretending that they were all occupied, and we found great difficulty in obtaining lodgings. Next day we rented, by the month, the upper flat of a newly built house on Adelaide street. The most strange and appalling thing to us was the sight of the carts for the dead going their rounds several times a day.

We spent a day or two in looking round the city. The chief streets then were King St., Yonge St. and Bay St. These were of brick, well built and filled up, and in them were handsome shops and extensive warehouses. The other streets, such as Church St., Adelaide St., &c., had large gaps in them, without pavements, and the houses mostly frame.

Having letters of introduction from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Lieutenant Governor Sir J. Colborne, we set out for the Government House and found it to be a large, old, frame building, dingy looking, without any ornament, and situated in a garden surrounded by a high board fence. We entered by a small porch, in which stood the sentry, and were conducted by another soldier into the presence of His Excellency. Sir John Colborne seemed but little past his prime—tall, not burdened with much flesh, his countenance conveying the impression of one accustomed to command, yet frank and open withal. He wore a plain blue surtout, the one sleeve empty and attached to his breast, for he had left the left arm in the Peninsula.

He answered frankly the numerous questions we put to him, and gave a glowing description of the prospects of Upper Canada. He advised us to visit and examine the recently surveyed township of Nottawasaga, receiving from his secretary a note to the chief Surveyor, Mr. Rankin.

In the afternoon I called on Archdeacon Strachan and spent two hours very agreeably with him. Our conversation turned more on Scotland than on Canada and was now and then carried on in the 'guid auld Mither tongue'.

Having seen our families comfortably lodged, a fellow passenger, Mr. William Gibbon, and I took the stage to Newmarket, and thence to Holland Landing. In the morning, we took the steamer, sailing by the western shore

In the middle of July we heard of the arrival of Mr. Smith (seedsman) and family, and their settlement at Cox's Creek. Being known to several of our settlers, some of us determined to go and see them as well as other settlers in that neighborhood. Being in want of some necessaries from Shoemaker's mill we drove down in our ox waggon there and visited our friends on our return, getting a good deal of interesting news of our friends in Aberdeenshire. Mr. Smith brought me the happy intelligence that my elder sister, Mrs. John Gibbon with her family, accompanied by my younger, would be with us sometime in September. We had no letter from them lately and letters at that time were from two to three months in reaching us. One I had took five months, having by some mistake gone round by Nova Scotia. That day was the 31st of July bright and warm, but the evening was unusually chilly. Next morning, the 1st of August, was a severe frost—the fields white with hoar frost all over—the ice nearly a quarter of an inch thick on the water-trough—potatoes, melons, tomatoes, everything was cut down; and of course the late sown wheat, as ours was, shared the same fate. Mr. Smith was appalled: like ourselves not anticipating this he had sown some rare vegetables, and all were destroyed by this untimely frost. When we returned home I found that my worst fears regarding the frost were realized. The crops which but a few days before we left looking so rich and luxuriant were stricken down—the potatoes blackened, the wheat a sickly pale yellow, in a word our first crop was destroyed. I had often heard it objected to Nichol and the adjoining townships that they were so liable to frosts that there was no certainty of any crop coming to maturity; and this mischance seemed to confirm the statement. I therefore took pains to ascertain whether the ravages of this frost were confined to the northern part of the "Gore" district. I found that its ravages were universal, extending over Lower as well as Upper Canada, respecting Niagara and Sandwich as little as Nichol and Woolwich; destroying whatever was destructible in the New England States, and felt even to the Northern line of Virginia.

Worthless as our wheat was, we were fain to cut it down for the sake of the straw; and though we were told by the "old" settlers that cattle would thrive on straw and "browst" almost as well as on turnips and hay, our working oxen were reduced to such a state of weakness, notwithstanding the abundance of "browst" that one of them fell down by the way on our return, from Fergus with a small load, and we were unable to raise him till we got a warm mash at John Mason's. We got him home with difficulty, and by getting at an enormous price a small additional quantity of hay brought them through the remainder of the winter.

I now got word from my sisters that they had reached Montreal in safety and would proceed to Hamilton without delay. I went down to meet them. It so happened that I timed my journey most exactly. The very next morning after reaching Hamilton I went to the steamer and found them standing on the deck, and if my memory serves me right, Mr. Wm. Tytler along with them. I cannot describe our meeting; it may easily be supposed it was joyful and affectionate. I instantly procured teams and the same afternoon we were on our way to Nichol. The roads were not yet broken up by the "Fall" rains, and were perhaps in their best state, so that our journey was without accident. We had plenty of amusement by the way—the surprise expressed by the boys at the strange and new scenes—Mr. Gibbon's horror of "corduroy," his humorous and graphic descriptions of ship scenes and ship annoyances, in particular his relation of the sufferings of a "Garrioch" man, described in the genuine Garrioch vernacular, rich, racy and eloquent—these, with news of our near relations and friends, Aberdeen gossip, and of the eagerness with which any intelligence from the new "Bon accord" colony, was sought out—made the long rough road seem

short, and diverted the minds of the travellers, inexperienced of Canadian roads, from the many jolts and shakes and thumps they had to bear.

When we got to Irvinebank it was quickly arranged by the 'womankind' that my sisters and family should winter under our roof. Our servant Elsie was tired of the backwoods, and of service in our house, for she said it was as bad as any tavern and worse than some at home for we had not the conveniences. We were thus enabled to let her go. Soon after, Mr. Moir and family moved to their house in the meadow—"the back o' the world" as the old man familiarly termed it. Their company had been a great pleasure to us and, in several respects, a help. We had, ever since they came, nightly concerts of sacred and common music, on fine evenings on the log steps of the front door, overlooking the clearance—in unfavorable weather in the kitchen. These were attended by several of the neighbours, especially by Mr. Peter Brown, who greatly delighted in them. Nor have any of us forgotten or can forget those evenings. Mr. Brown spoke of them with rapture when I saw him in Aberdeen seventeen years later.

The Winter was now approaching, and we had to prepare for it by thoroughly chinking the house and plastering a part of it. Lime could not be got; we had therefore to manufacture it. We dug an excavation in the slope of the bank near the Irvine about twenty-two feet by sixteen, and about ten feet deep at the back where it was deepest. There was abundance of logs above and around it: we had thus only to select or cut the logs to the required length. Limestone lay all about on the surface, and we drew it, the smaller pieces in the waggon and the larger (for the chimney of the house) on a rude sleigh or hurdle. When a considerable quantity of the stones had been sufficiently broken we began to lay a tier of logs in the bottom of the excavation, leaving a square opening in the centre. We then placed a layer of limestone upon the first tier of logs, and then another tier of logs until we thought them of a sufficient height. We had not much labor in placing the logs, as they lay above the pile, so that we had only to take care that they did not roll too fast, and to see that the front log was properly secured. We raised the pile to about twelve feet in height. When set on fire it made a vast blaze, at night illuminating the forest far and wide and so bright that we could see not only the outlines of the trees but the leaves and branches. We kept rolling in logs as the pile burned away and in four or five days had a large quantity of excellent lime.

The most pressing business now on hand was the building of the chimney, and as we intended having four fireplaces—two above and two below—it required to be a considerable building; when finished it formed a large gable. The materials were now nearly all on the spot, and I had secured the builders. These were Messrs. Tytler, Lilly, and Kennedy—"Upright Kennedy," the appellation by which he was long known. The weather was favourable for the first few days, but it afterward broke and became excessively rainy, when our situation became very uncomfortable. We could have no fire in the house and our only substitute was a board shanty open in front, in which all our precautions could not prevent the fire from being not seldom dashed out by the excessive rains. If the situation of the inmates was comfortless, that of the builders and hodmen was more so; but we were obliged to persevere till at the end of nearly three weeks our labours were ended.

It was during this interval that one Sabbath evening, just as we were retiring to bed, Mr. Mair, accompanied by Mr. William Mackie unexpectedly came in upon us. I had heard from Mr. Brown, who had assigned to Mr. Mair one of his lots, of his intended coming; our meeting therefore, though at the moment unexpected, was most cordial on both sides. They remained with us that night, and next morning I accompanied them to Mr. Brown's. Mr. Mair,

CELEBRATIONS PHOTO FEATURE

Correction:

A feature story on this page on March 30 should have read George Emslie, not Emslie and Findlay Weaver was a journalist, not a publisher.

Adventure in her ancestry

BY VALERIE HILL

Consider your history. Are you the descendent of kings or vagabonds, of heroes or scoundrels? For most of us, such information has faded with the decades, lost to a time when record keeping was of limited importance and difficult to maintain. Not so for Mary McKay, a Guelph senior who counts explorer and adventurer George Emslie among her colourful ancestors and his diary as one of her most priceless possessions.

Emslie was born in Aberdeen, Scotland in 1803 and was sent by a group of fellow Scotsmen, later known as the Bon Accord Settlers, to find a suitable settlement site in Ontario. "He emigrated in 1834," says McKay. "He explored all over Ontario and settled on the Irvine River (Elora)."

In the 1950s, McKay worked as a proofreader at The Mercury. "The publisher, Findlay Weaver, found the (Emslie) diary at the museum but when I went to find it, it wasn't there," she says. The library at the time was moving locations to its present site between Elora and Fergus and all archives were securely packed. Several years later, her daughter encouraged McKay to return to the library when she not only found the diary, but was presented with her own copy.

McKay has read through the pages many times and is always enthralled with the descriptions of Ontario as a tough but pristine wilderness. Emslie wrote of arriving in Queenston, September 1834, and continuing on to Niagara Falls where he arrived in the evening, "being too late to see the falls our curiosity to see them has been intensified this evening by their thundering noise which is much more loud, and deep than that of the ocean in a storm. The stage was full and the company not of the best description...there was a sale of prints in the inn this morning. A few were sold but at low prices. Those bordering on the licentious sold best."

His first view of the falls moved him deeply. "You must see them to gaze upon them, measure the extent, the breadth, and the depth. You must study

them and their grandeur and will continually grow upon you." He wrote how he spread himself flat on Table Rock, looking over the edge "with nerves somewhat agitated. The biased end of the curve turned by the fall full below me." He then ventured closer to the falls "when the air came full upon me like a hurricane so that could neither see and scarcely breath and I unwillingly turned back, regretting I had not taken the oilcloth drop and the guide."

His descriptions of the trek from Niagara northward which he traversed with a companion showed how tough it was for new settlers to make a life for themselves. The land itself seemed to fight them at every turn. At one point, it required 30 minutes to travel 5/8 of a mile. They were faced with bush, swamp, heavily forested areas which made finding directions difficult. "It is not the brushwood alone which make the work so toilsome and the progress so slow...(it) catches your feet...you step upon a slippery root and in the twinkling of an eye find yourself flat on your back. Springing from one fallen trunk to another to serve for an ascent and descent you land upon a rotten one and sink up to your knee...sometimes you must climb over, sometimes creep over, huge trunks of which in every wood there is great number."

Food supplies were frequently low "had some remnants of dinner, only consisting of potatoes, soup."

When they eventually reached the Irvine River, months later, they discovered good soil, plenty of clean water with a good limestone bed and "a good Scottish name." This was the place they had searched for, longed for. The Bon Accord settlers, who waited patiently in rented quarters in Toronto for word from Emslie, packed up their belongings and headed for their new home.

George Emslie died in Elora, 1869, but he left behind an exciting legacy for future generations and as McKay flips through the diary pages she hopes her own grandchildren will feel that excitement, catch the spirit of an adventurous ancestor.



George Emslie was one of the first explorers in Wellington County. During the 1830s he searched for a settlement site for a group of Scottish immigrants who became known as the Bon Accord Settlers.

TO RAISE FUNDS

Framed works by five well-known Guelph artists - Ken Danby, Marlene Jofriet, Daisy Kurp, Elizabeth Raffan and Mary-Dawn Roberts, are the prizes in the Guelph Chamber Music Society's first-ever raffle to raise funds for the society and the Guelph Chamber Choir.

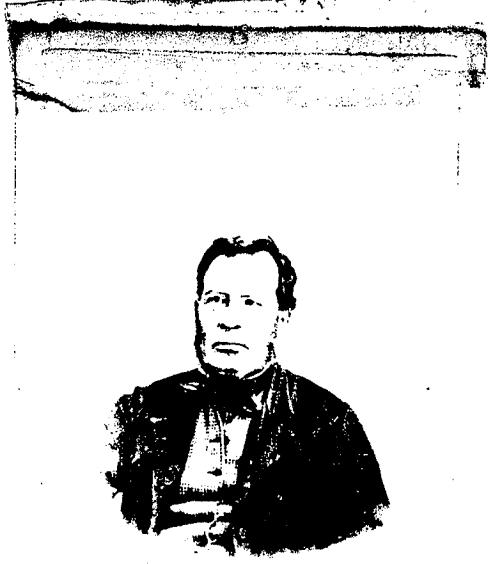
Raffle tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10 and can be purchased from members of the Guelph Chamber Choir and the Guelph Chamber Music Society board of directors or from Fraser Hale at 763-1498.

The draw will be held at the Guelph Chamber Music Society's final concert of the season, April 20 at 8 p.m. at Westminster-St. Paul's Church, 206 Victoria Rd.N., Guelph.

1



William Elmslie
George's father



GEORGE ELMSLIE

Maxwell Studio, Quincy, Illinois
May, 1973.
1977

"
Great great grandfather William
Elmslie photographed from original
portrait done in oils on vellum.
"Jackie"

William Elmslie of Aberdeen,
Scotland was the great great
grandfather of Wallace Parker
Elmslie, Quincy, Illinois,
and of Frances Mary Elmslie (McKay) of
Smith-Cuisin.
He was a merchant on Kidd
Lane, Aberdeen, Scotland.

7 like Smith-
see the Johnsons
1977

"Jackie" (Jacqueline Elmslie) is a
daughter of Gordon Elmslie, Senior,
of Montreal, Canada; a ^{great} granddaughter
of George Elmslie (the pioneer) of Elora,
Fergus and Ancaster, Ontario.

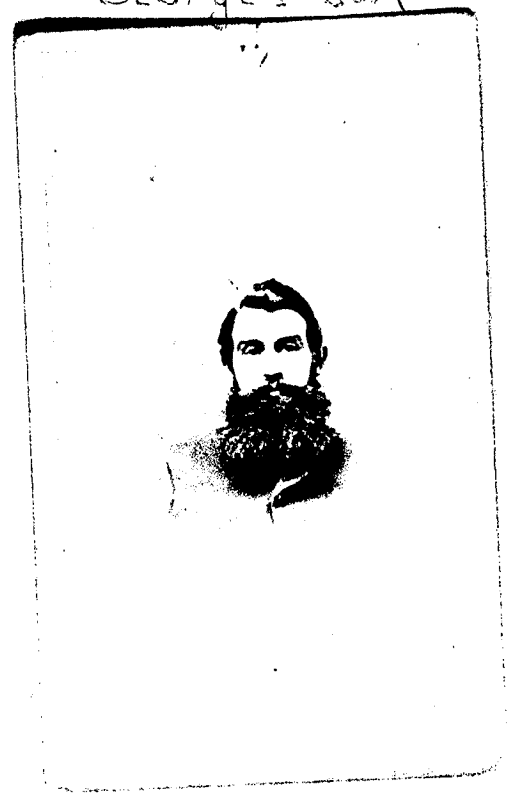
74521-A

George Elmslie is a
young man copy from a picture
in possession of Donald Spragge.
The white spots on his
suit are from dust on
the negative - I now have
a negative if anyone wants
a copy.

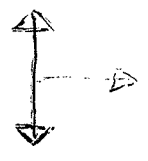
GEORGE ELMSLIE -
SEE HISTORY OF ELORA
BY JOHN CANNON
WHERE HIS DIARY IS
REPRODUCED -
(SON - ALEX ELMSLIE - GALT
GRANDSON - WALLACE
ELMSLIE
- OWEN SOUND
GREAT GRAND DAUGHTER -
FRANCES MARY (ELMSLIE)
MCKAY -
OWEN SOUND AND GUELPH.
(SEE ALSO HISTORY OF GUELPH
BY LEO JOHANSON
GRAND RIVER BY MABEL
DENHAM)

(2)

Alex Elmslie
- George's son



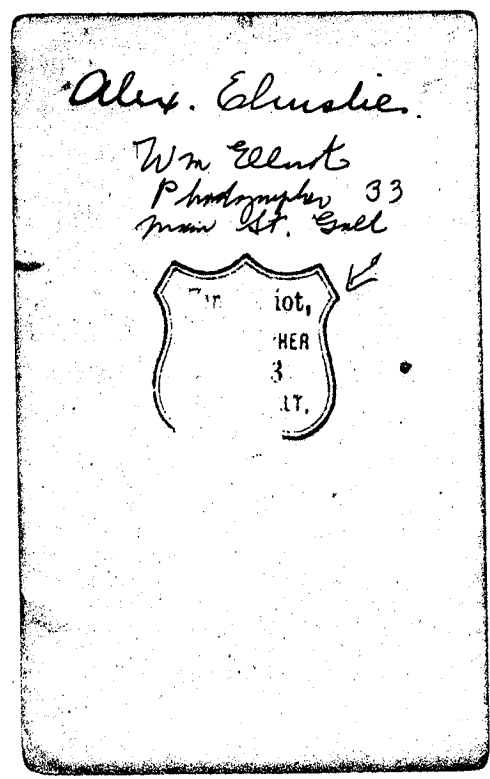
Wallace
Elmslie
George's
grandson



WALLACE ELMSLIE - 1878-1944
CADETS - OWEN SONS
COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE
(ABOUT 1908 APP.)

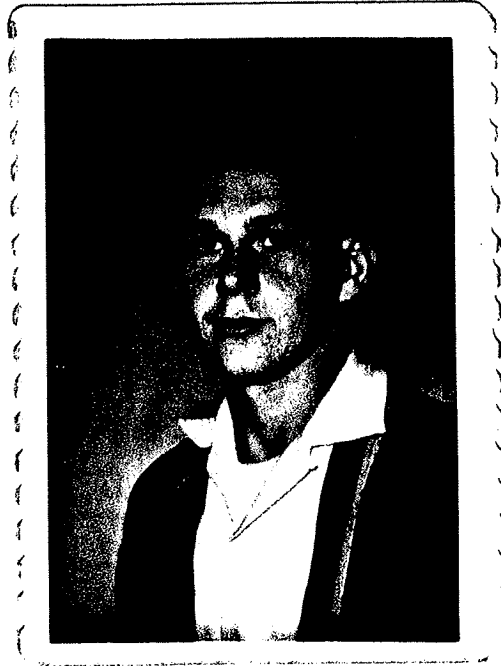
DAUGHTER - FRANCES MARY MCKAY
1915 -

COMPARE THIS PHOTOGRAPH
WITH ONE ATTACHED OF HER
SON, DAVID WALLACE MCKAY -
1945 -



Wallace Elmslie - 1878-1944
Son of A. G. Elmslie - who owned a
bookstore in Gall and grandson of
the original pioneer, George Elmslie -
who led a group of Aboriginians to Canada
in 1832 (34?) - Settled on the Irvine River
between Fergus & Elora - The "Bon Accord"
Settlement - named after the coat of arms of
Aboriginian - See J. Connors History of Elora -
also travel thruham's Grand River -
Wallace Elmslie graduated from University
of Toronto in 1901 - taught in Arthur for
one year (at a salary of \$900 a year, most
of which he sent to his mother in Gall) -
in Woodstock for five years - went to
Owen Sound in 1907 - approx. - Married
Olivia Barbara Morrison - granddaughter of
Rev. Herman Morrison and Elsie Christ
in 1918 - daughter Barbara Isabel born in
April - 1912 - Frances Mary ^(McKay) born in May 1915
Wallace Elmslie became principal of the Owen
Sound Collegiate, Vocational Institute about 192

originals with
Mrs McKay
129 Dovercliff
E. Suelph, Ont
March 1950



David
-George's great
great grandson

Accord settlement played their roles in this. Though a literate man, Davidson cannot be called a master stylist. His sentences too often are rambling; the ideas and thoughts qualified with a profusion of "buts" and "however's." This suggests a man who was indecisive and who scattered his energies in ways that were not always the most productive. The letters contain other evidence to support such a view of his personality, but Davidson could also be resolute and strong-willed.

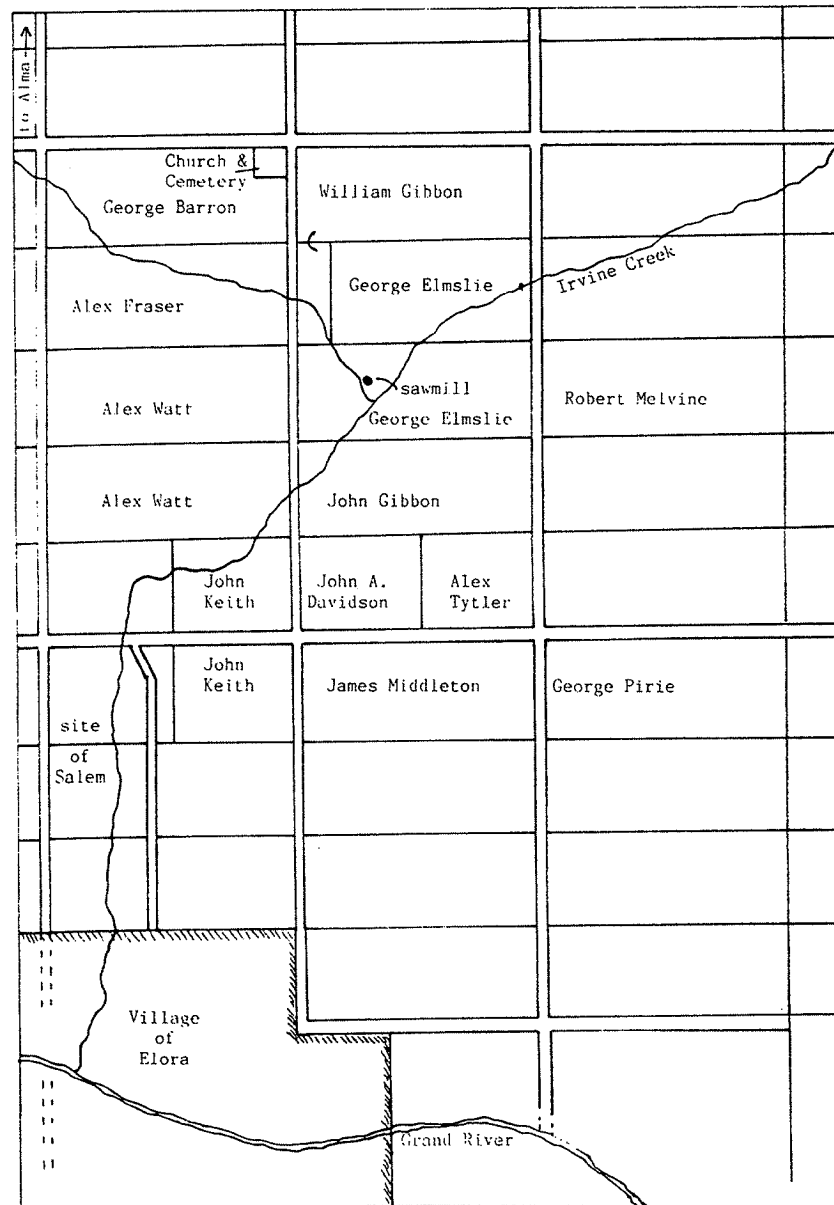
Davidson's letter to Robson of June 1838, written exactly three years after he settled in Bon Accord, begins with a long review of common friendships, and goes on to express his pleasure at James Middleton's arrival in the settlement.

Woodburn, Nichol, Upper Canada 13 June 1838³

My Dear Friend,

By my old acquaintance and friend Mr Middleton I have received your kind and welcome letter and I now take up my pen to acknowledge its receipt. I beg to assure you I never received one with more pleasure from any of my numerous correspondents in as much as it was unexpected because I had never acknowledged the receipt of the epistle I received two years ago. You state you have however heard from me indirectly. Well, I never took up my pen to write to Scotland but I recollected I had a friend in Mr Robson and wellwishers in Mrs Robson and family. I have often resolved and reresolved to drop you a line but I had so much to occupy my attention that I could barely get time to answer business letters much less letters on private friendship, but I am catching an hour from the time I should otherwise devote to sleep to scribble something or other to you, and to use your own words, "although separated by the wide Atlantic and forests of wood, you are never a week out of my mind," and therefore I feel confident that you will at least take the trouble of reading my communication.

There is, as you observe, something remarkable in the allwise providence of God in so ordering it that after a certain period, an old acquaintance and fellow pilgrim in this vale of tears should leave his native land and follow me to the strange land which our fathers knew not and be set down and settled alongside of his former friend. But after all I have ceased to wonder at any such kind of dispensations of providence for many were and will yet be sent to this country who never



The original settlers of Bon Accord:
The settlement adjoined Elora (and Salem after 1845), but a strong sense of community prevailed in Bon Accord in the 1830's and 1840's, and persisted to a lesser extent for decades after.

John Davidson's Letters from Bon Accord

by Stephen Thorning

Most of Wellington County's pioneer communities were centred on a village or town. There are, though, some notable exceptions to this general rule. The Paisley Block settlers of Guelph Township come immediately to mind. Perhaps the most significant of the totally rural pioneer communities was Bon Accord, a Scottish agricultural settlement immediately to the north of Elora. Surprisingly, there wasn't a farmer in the bunch. These were urban people: mostly merchants, clerks and tradesmen, and all were from Aberdeen on the east coast of Scotland. The subsequent success of many of them at farming was a notable achievement by any standard. Through connections of friendship and kinship they had pooled their resources, with the dream of founding a community in the backwoods of Upper Canada. The first of the group arrived in Nichol Township in late 1834, and purchased a block of land from the Gilkison Estate.¹ For the next decade, while Fergus stagnated and Elora struggled for its existence, the settlement at Bon Accord was the only thriving community north of Guelph Township.

Photographs of the Bon Accord settlers, taken decades after the founding of the community, show these people to be distant, patriarchal characters, clad in out-of-fashion clothing, their faces weathered and wrinkled, the men sporting thick, graying beards. When they came here they were much different. They were very young (most were in their early twenties); and they were extremely idealistic. Theirs was an idealism combining independence with communal cooperation, and steady personal material progress with a firm commitment to the evangelical zeal which had seized Scottish Presbyterianism.

With the second group of Bon Accord settlers, in June 1835, came John Alexander Davidson, the youngest and most idealistic of the

group and a carpenter by trade. A bachelor at the time, Davidson boarded with George Elmslie, an earlier settler from whom he bought his farm, for some months until he put up his own cabin. Davidson was soon acting as a spokesman for the group (they shunned formal leadership), and he was markedly vocal in matters dealing with the church. His literary ability was far above what would be expected of someone with his background, but perhaps more importantly, his religious zeal exceeded that of the others in the community. The few of his letters that have survived give us not only a glimpse of the Bon Accord community in its early years, but also of a man maturing and prevailing in the backwoods that much of Wellington County was in the 1840 era.

In the spring of 1838, a new arrival in Bon Accord, James Middleton, brought with him a letter from William Robson, a friend of Davidson in Aberdeen. Davidson's reply to Robson, written in June 1838, has survived, as have later letters from 1843 and 1845. Together, these are an important source for the early history of the Bon Accord settlement.

The vital role of letters to both the Bon Accord settlers and their friends back in Aberdeen is immediately evident in this correspondence. Letters acquired the status of communal objects: the news, if not the letters themselves, were circulated among friends and relatives in both Bon Accord and Aberdeen. The primitive state of the post office at the time did not aid such long distance communication. Scheduled mail packets were in service between New York and Liverpool, but there were plenty of opportunities for delays between Bon Accord and New York. Post offices were not opened in Fergus until 1836 and in Elora until 1839, and even then, service was only once per week. Compounding difficulties was the cost of postage: the rate for a single letter represented about a half day's wages for a labourer.² This was a strain on those in Aberdeen, and a major sacrifice on the Bon Accord people. The economy here ran largely on barter. The postage on a letter could, and probably did, require every coin in the household.

Davidson's solid Scottish education is immediately discernible in his style. In common with many others of the time, he employs the stiff formality of the eighteenth century in his writing – rarely referring to his wife or members of his family by their first names. These tendencies diminish in Davidson's writing over time. Undoubtedly, the backwoods society of Wellington County and the forced intimacy of the Bon

3 Kidd Lane
Aberdeen 30 March 1844

My Dear George

I received your letters on the 15th inst.

Thanks be to God that you are all well in health & so comfortably situated. Every day & hour we are wholly dependent upon him for health for comfort and for success, hence the suitability of the 4th petition in that first pattern of prayer A Give us this day our daily bread. @ (spiritual as well as temporal) and it is clear from this that Prayer is a daily and a morning duty and privilege, because when we ask any thing according to his will in the name of Christ believing we receive it.

Temporal mercies however both as to measure and kind we leave to his all wise and merciful providence, knowing that what is good he will give; still we ask of him all that he sees to be necessary & good for us, and his blessing there with. I am glad to learn also of the progress of the children and will be happy to receive their promised letter. I hope some of them at least have by this time fled to Christ as their only refuge and position. There is no safety & much guilt in wandering. You will take care & warn them of the danger of indiscriminate reading, as a Parent and a Public Teacher. Religion is the glory of the rational creature and you have golden opportunities of imbuing young minds with a knowledge & sense of its beauty and importance both to present & future happenings which I hope you will be enabled to improve and in so far as you do so you will be a blessing. The essence of Religion is Love B love to God & to Man, and this is a regenerating & transforming principle in connection with Repentance and Faith, all fruits of the Spirit, your heavenly Father in regard to [p]art of your Cross - you may rest assured he sees it need — that you should be in — by various trails B that the trail of your faith being more precious than gold may be found unto praise & honour & glory C what Son is he whom the Father

chasteneth not. I hope that you are learning to say in sincerity A Thy will be done. @

I have now to inform you of the Death of an old Friend.

Mr. Lymmers died on Sabbath morning the 22nd Dec^r. He was seized with apoplexy on the morning after I rec^d your letters, 17th Dec^r, he never spoke B but on my approaching his bed on that day he knew me & burst out into a fit of strange crying B he did not seem to know any other person but Maggie and the Doctor. He has left the largest part of his property to George Shirra vir all Cults & about L10000 more in land to be purchased & Entailed B to James Shirra part of Culter & about L5000 more in new lands B to Captⁿ Anderson part of Culter & L5000 more in Ditto to George Lymmers Anderson the remaining part of Culter and L5000 more entailed land Mr. Primrose & each of his family L200 Legacy (a grievous dissatisfaction!) Wm. Barker nothing B but L200 to his children amongst them Robert Gibb & family nothing, but L200 to Marg^t Gibb B Wm. Corbet & family nothing B but L200 to Miss Corbet B Thos. Primrose gets his L200 but is neither an Executor nor Agent, none of my family gets anything but Jane L200 less duty, I get L1000 (Less duty L100) and am appointed an Executor B Wm. Coultts L25, Wm. Elmslie Druggist L50. Prof^r Bentley L50 & a number of similar legacies to Persons charitable & Religious Institutions & I called on Mr. Torrie he said he had received only one letter from George Allan - he expressed doubts both as to his son being major at his Death and also whether he (George) would in Canada be held as the legal heir of his son & if so legal steps are necessary to confirm him. I suppose however he will write him . In the mean time he promised to send me a state of the account B which 3 or 4 days after he did and you have it in his own hand writing inclosed, by which

it appears he has received L108. 3. 2. & advanced L 49 B

besides the value of the Bank shares & Interest due to George.

I wrote you in January & shall be glad to hear in return
what you and the Fergus Church have done for poor Mrs. Gardiner.

I also am anxious to hear what John Gibbon is doing. I wrote

Jane also in January B & hope for an answer soon B.

You will have seen by the Aberdeen Journal notified the Death

of Robert Primrose aged 18 & last Saturday 23rd inst. I attended
the Funeral of Miss French aged 61 a most amiable Chris-

tian and one of my oldest acquaintances, she had hope in her Death.

George Primrose did no good here & left this for Australia
about 18 months ago B what prospect he had there I know not.

Many kind inquiries are still made for you all & I am
desired to send you particularly the respects of John Dunn
Ruthrieston B Miss Brown of Craig Udney to Jane & Marg=t B
& Peter & George Brown. Ms George Brown Jr. are warmly
interested in you all B Mother & Helen join me in
sending their love to Agness Margaret William &

Yours truly

Wm. Elmslie

My Dear George

Aberdeen 31 May 1844

I join with you in humble gratitude to God for his great mercy in bringing you from the gates of death reliving you from distress and restoring you to health and usefulness. Your death would have been a heavy stroke upon your family, friends and school. This morning I received the Newspaper postmarked 3rd May addressed by you in your usual steady quick hand by which I see your progressing strength. I thank you for it and I bless God for this & the preceeding (26 Feb=y) manifestation of his favor. Let us not forget our deep obligations & our daily dependance & let it not evaporate in mere words & professions. May he give you grace to help us to watchfulness, dilligance and fruitfulness. You are realizing the promise in Psalm 128. I earnestly hope and pray that Agness may recover health & strength and enjoy her comfortable change with less fatigue. She has been a great blessing to you and her family.

Margaret & George will please to pay their debt on receipt of this. William has paid his & done it well. I hope you are now engaged in your vocation & that you will prove a blessing to your pupils both for their temporal & spiritual interests. Have you a Sabbath evening school? And have you succeeded in your petitions ament the constitution and endowment of school.

John Dunn Ruthrieston is now very frail, but is just able to come in to town once or twice a week. I am still his Factor, he desires me to send his warm regards to you. Mr. Primrose & Family are just status quo. Mrs. Anderson Sen=r died several years ago. Mr. J. L. Anderson is still in business & in Bailie in Peterhead (or was so lately) but we do not correspond. The Rev=d Wm. Anderson BanArovy resigned his Parochial charge last year and is now residing with Miss A. in Edinburgh. Rev=d Mr. Pat. A. Cong=l Church Lanar. Wm. Dunbar is the first Haberdasher in Turuff, his mother & sisters have a shop there too but they do little, one of them is on the eve of marriage.

I am grieved about the state of Mrs. Gardiner=s affairs at Fergus.

She has an undemished affection still for all her professed friends there and is loath to give up her confidence in them and even does not complain. She is afraid to speak to her brother Bailie F. about Fergus, he is so enraged at their unworthy and unfeeling conduct in every respect and more especially after so many professions of love and regard. It is now more than 2 years since the Roup and no Remittance to her, nor does she know whether the debts she & Mr. G. were obliged to contract are yet paid although Mr. Webster had funds in his hands long ago. I should not wonder if Bailie Forbes employ a man of business to force a settlement. Have you, Jean, Marg=t paid what you bought at the Roup?

You will without delay communicate with the Trustees on the subject, let them make up a statement of Acc=t & remitt her immediately the full balance due to her. And you will also write her and not be always sending professions, excuses and apologies. I think shame!

If an opportunity occurs we will send your cotton. I conclude in the mean time, hoping you will write soon.

Yours Ever

Wm. Elmslie

Aberdeen 9th January 1840

My Dear George

I received Margaret's letter with your
cross communication thereon of 4 Nov^r (Postmark 15th Nov^r)
and your letter of 3rd Oct^r both together on the 16th Dec^r.

Wm. Gibbon & she too were very culpable in deferring so long
to answer my last as I could only account for it by sup-
posing they had not received it & that it might have been
lost or robb=d which made me very uneasy.

According to the order you sent me with Baxter I
purchased & sent with him in October all the writing
books paper and pens you wanted & added an old Paper
book & some other loose sheets all packed in a paper parcel
and inclosed a letter to you sealed containing 2 Sovereigns
(1 to Mary & 1 to Wm.) & a letter to Jane sealed containing
3 Sovereigns (2 to Wm. & 1 to Johnny) and also inclosed to her my
old watch. - from the unsatisfactory accounts I received
about him immediately after his departure from this in
Oct^r I regreted having sent the parcel with him - I feared
you have not & will not receive it - However if so it cannot
be helped - it is vexing to meet with any ---, but it is well it
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the bundle & small parcel sent to Jane by Mr. Tytler

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left you out in his will, but on other consid=s I feel satisfied that
it is the Lords will, to keep you dependent on him who is Wise

Good Faithful & all Sufficient, whose is the earth & fulness thereof.

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well that he has done so. The legacies are payable 20th Dec^r
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Ever mentioned the amount of he inclosed
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Bill on London L100 first of exchange at 60 days date
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Jane of this part to her pleasing intelligence and that she
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We are all much concerned on just hearing of the heavy breach in
Mr. P. Browns family. I pray God may support him with the Cons-
ulations of his grace and Spirit & that he may see it as the visitation
of a kind & gracious Father who does all things well, but he cannot
but feel deeply such a heavy stroke. We are all necessarily anxious
about our familys. Your outward estate, but we may see by what a slender
tenure we hold everything here - we wing our space to eternity. May
we be enabled so to run as to obtain the great Prize

Write me immediately & say whether you received the said parcel.

I had a call a few weeks ago by the Cook of the --- sailed out on

he had an affectionate rem^{em}ce of you all.

Yours affectionately
Wm. Elmslie

3 Kidd Lane
Aberdeen 30 March 1844

My Dear George

I received your letters on the 15th inst.

Thanks be to God that you are all well in health & so comfortably situated. Every day & hour we are wholly dependent upon him for health for comfort and for success, hence the suitability of the 4th petition in that first pattern of prayer AGive us this day our daily bread.@ (spiritual as well as temporal) and it is clear from this that Prayer is a daily and a morning duty and privilege, because when we ask any thing according to his will in the name of Christ believing we receive it.

Temporal mercies however both as to measure and kind we leave to his all wise and mercifull providence, knowing that what is good he will give; still we ask of him all that he sees to be necessary & good for us, and his blessing there with. I am glad to learn also of the progress of the children and will be happy to receive their promised letter. I hope some of them at least have by this time fled to Christ as their only refuge and position. There is no safety & much guilt in wandering. You will take care & warn them of the danger of indiscriminate reading, as a Parent and a Public Teacher. Religion is the glory of the rational creature and you have golden opportunities of imbuing young minds with a knowledge & sense of its beauty and importance both to present & future happenings which I hope you will be enabled to improve and in so far as you do so you will be a blessing. The essence of Religion is Love B love to God & to Man, and this is a regenerating & transforming principle in connection with Repentance and Faith, all fruits of the Spirit, your heavenly Father in regard to [p]art of your Cross - you may rest assured he sees it need — that you should be in — by various trails B that the trail of your faith being more precious than gold may be found unto praise & honour & glory C what Son is he whom the Father

chasteneth not. I hope that you are learning to say in sincerity
AThy will be done.@

I have now to inform you of the Death of an old Friend.

Mr. Lymmers died on Sabbath morning the 22nd Dec=r. He was seized with apoplexy on the morning after I rec=d your letters, 17th Dec=r, he never spoke B but on my approaching his bed on that day he knew me & burst out into a fit of strange crying B he did not seem to know any other person but Maggie and the Doctor. He has left the largest part of his property to George Shirra vir all Cults & about L10000 more in land to be purchased & Entailed B to James Shirra part of Culter & about L5000 more in new lands B to Capt=n Anderson part of Culter & L5000 more in Ditto to George Lymmers Anderson the remaining part of Culter and L5000 more entailed land Mr. Primrose & each of his family L200 Legacy (a grievous dissapointment!) Wm. Barker nothing B but L200 to his children amongst them Robert Gibb & family nothing, but L200 to Marg=t Gibb B Wm. Corbet & family nothing B but L200 to Miss Corbet B Thos. Primrose gets his L200 but is neither an Executor nor Agent, none of my family gets anything but Jane L200 less duty, I get L1000 (Less duty L100) and am appointed an Executor B Wm. Coutts L25, Wm. Elmslie Druggist L50. Prof=r Bentley L50 & a number of similar legacies to Persons charitable & Religious Institutions & I called on Mr. Torrie he said he had received only one letter from George Allan - he expressed doubts both as to his son being major at his Death and also whether he (George) would in Canada be held as the legal heir of his son & if so legal steps are necessary to confirm him. I suppose however he will write him . In the mean time he promised to send me a state of the account B which 3 or 4 days after he did and you have it in his own hand writing inclosed, by which

it appears he has received L108. 3. 2. & advanced L 49 B

besides the value of the Bank shares & Interest due to George.

I wrote you in January & shall be glad to hear in return
what you and the Fergus Church have done for poor Mrs. Gardiner.

I also am anxious to hear what John Gibbon is doing. I wrote
Jane also in January B & hope for an answer soon B.

You will have seen by the Aberdeen Journal notified the Death

of Robert Primrose aged 18 & last Saturday 23rd inst. I attended
the Funeral of Miss French aged 61 a most amiable Chris-

tian and one of my oldest acquaintances, she had hope in her Death.

George Primrose did no good here & left this for Australia
about 18 months ago B what prospect he had there I know not.

Many kind inquiries are still made for you all & I am
desired to send you particularly the respects of John Dunn
Ruthrieston B Miss Brown of Craig Udney to Jane & Marg=t B
& Peter & George Brown. Ms George Brown Jr. are warmly
interested in you all B Mother & Helen join me in
sending their love to Agness Margaret William &

Yours truly

Wm. Elmslie

My Dear George

Aberdeen 31 May 1844

I join with you in humble gratitude to God for his great mercy in bringing you from the gates of death reliving you from distress and restoring you to health and usefulness. Your death would have been a heavy stroke upon your family, friends and school. This morning I received the Newspaper postmarked 3rd May addressed by you in your usual steady quick hand by which I see your progressing strength. I thank you for it and I bless God for this & the preceeding (26 Feb=y) manifestation of his favor. Let us not forget our deep obligations & our daily dependance & let it not evaporate in mere words & professions. May he give you grace to help us to watchfulness, dilligance and fruitfulness. You are realizing the promise in Psalm 128. I earnestly hope and pray that Agness may recover health & strength and enjoy her comfortable change with less fatigue. She has been a great blessing to you and her family.

Margaret & George will please to pay their debt on receipt of this. William has paid his & done it well. I hope you are now engaged in your vocation & that you will prove a blessing to your pupils both for their temporal & spiritual interests. Have you a Sabbath evening school? And have you succeeded in your petitions ament the constitution and endowment of school.

John Dunn Ruthrieston is now very frail, but is just able to come in to town once or twice a week. I am still his Factor, he desires me to send his warm regards to you. Mr. Primrose & Family are just status quo. Mrs. Anderson Sen=r died several years ago. Mr. J. L. Anderson is still in business & in Bailie in Peterhead (or was so lately) but we do not correspond. The Rev=d Wm. Anderson BanArovy resigned his Parochial charge last year and is now residing with Miss A. in Edinburgh. Rev=d Mr. Pat. A. Cong=l Church Lanar. Wm. Dunbar is the first Haberdasher in Turuff, his mother & sisters have a shop there too but they do little, one of them is on the eve of marriage. I am grieved about the state of Mrs. Gardiner=s affairs at Fergus.

She has an undemished affection still for all her professed friends there and is loath to give up her confidence in them and even does not complain. She is afraid to speak to her brother Bailie F. about Fergus, he is so enraged at their unworthy and unfeeling conduct in every respect and more especially after so many professions of love and regard. It is now more than 2 years since the Roup and no Remittance to her, nor does she know whether the debts she & Mr. G. were obliged to contract are yet paid although Mr. Webster had funds in his hands long ago. I should not wonder if Bailie Forbes employ a man of business to force a settlement. Have you, Jean, Marg=t paid what you bought at the Roup?

You will without delay communicate with the Trustees on the subject, let them make up a statement of Acc=t & remit her immediately the full balance due to her. And you will also write her and not be always sending professions, excuses and apologies. I think shame!

If an opportunity occurs we will send your cotton. I conclude in the mean time, hoping you will write soon.

Yours Ever

Wm. Elmslie

Aberdeen 9th January 1840

My Dear George

I received Margaret's letter with your
cross communication thereon of 4 Nov^r (Postmark 15th Nov^r)
and your letter of 3rd Oct^r both together on the 16th Dec^r.

Wm. Gibbon & she too were very culpable in deferring so long
to answer my last as I could only account for it by sup-
posing they had not received it & that it might have been
lost or robb=d which made me very uneasy.

According to the order you sent me with Baxter I
purchased & sent with him in October all the writing
books paper and pens you wanted & added an old Paper
book & some other loose sheets all packed in a paper parcel
and inclosed a letter to you sealed containing 2 Sovereigns
(1 to Mary & 1 to Wm.) & a letter to Jane sealed containing
3 Sovereigns (2 to Wm. & 1 to Johnny) and also inclosed to her my
old watch. - from the unsatisfactory accounts I received
about him immediately after his departure from this in
Oct^r I regreted having sent the parcel with him - I feared
you have not & will not receive it - However if so it cannot
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Yours affectionately
Wm. Elmslie

Woodburn Nichol 15 Feb. '46

My Dear Friend (George Elmslie)

Happening to be at Elora on
Friday morning last your letter to your sister was
put into my hands by her husband Mr. J. Gibbon
and I read with deep regret of the painful visitation
you have experienced in your family

I am but a miserable comforter
but I cherish for you feelings of the deepest sympathy
and I do think in making your case my own
I can enter fully into the emotions you have felt
when the trying event of separation took place.
Most sincerely therefore do I sympathize with you
and Mrs. Elmslie in the loss of a beloved child
and sincerely wish you every consolation under
such a heavy dispensation of Providence.

I need not enlarge upon the
nature of this consolation you are so well acquainted
with it as I am nevertheless there is often
a blissful relish so to speak imparted to
those whom God has seen fit to chastize ----
when a fellow pilgrim tries to point to
the quarter from whence the balm of conso-
lation is to be brought. When I read of the dear
boy giving you his last kiss my heart did then
and still continues to bleed for you and to speak
the truth I write to relive myself as well as
to offer comfort to you. I have only to look
at my own dear babes to know your exercise
of mind. To the Christian parent there is much

encouragement to ---- the best concerning the
infant snatched away by Death. "Of such is the
Kingdom of God" was the declaration of our ever
blessed Lord when he tabernacled in flesh in this
world. Here is strong ground for the fond hope of
Infant salvation and I for one am inclined to view
this doctrine in the most favorable light and although
the Justice of Almighty God is not to be questioned
in the final condemnation of infants -- yet blessed be his
holy name there is nothing expressed in his holy word
to lead us to suppose that any of them will be lost.

And will this glorious hope that your
boy is now a glorified spirit before the throne of
God be a sufficient ground for comfort? To me
at last it is replete with comfort and although
to flesh and blood the separation is painful yet in
the exercise of faith in Christ it is a cause of re-
joicing. God is now his Father, Christ is now his
elder brother, his relationship to you -- has ceased.

But while we cherish and hold fast
this hope where is there the last shadow of
comfort to the unbelieving parent under similar cir-
cumstances? His child is removed and the separation
is eternal! The thought is horrid, above measure!
the child's final portion is amidst saints and angels.
The parents final portion is amidst devils and damned spirits.
The parents weep for the loss of their child when did
they but see their real state and character before
God they would weep for the loss of their own souls
without any further thought about their departed child.

Well, well my dear friend how
stands the account between God and your soul? Have
you given yourself body and soul to him? Is Christ
precious above measure to you? These are hard but
---- and eternally important questions. I write (section missing)

But I must have done. I scribble
this in expectation of getting it conveyed to you by
Mrs. Gibbon who leave early tomorrow morning
and although it is the Sabbath evening
yet I pray that a blessing may go
with it for it is lawful to do good on
the Sabbath Day. Mrs. Davidson joins in ----
and ---. I pray that it may prove
to be --- family, the necessity ---
ing for God.
Oh happy happy place
There shall we see each other's face
The Church of the first born
And crowned with endless joy return
Where Saints and Angels meet
And all our brothers greet
We shall with them be blest
To our eternal rest.

Yours in Christian love

G. A. Davidson

Addressed to Mr. George Elmslie B Ancuster

Cottage March 25 1846

My Dear Sister

A few days ago we had
a few lines from Mr. Elmslie informing us
of the Death of your two little boys. Sister Mary
and I feels with you in your great affliction.
The tears did fall when I thought of the Dear
little ones and the anguish of a Mother's heart
in parting with them, having passed through the
like trying scenes I well know the sorrows of
your heart. My Dear Sister I hope the Lord has been
your comforter & hath shown you and supported and
strengthened you in the trying hour & hath caused
you and your partner to say with humble resig-
nation the cup which my Father giveth me to
Drink shall I not Drink it. Trials from our
heavenly Father's hand are blessings in Disguise
and that when they can be unveiled and we can
veiw them in there Designs and effects they will
bring forth our gratitude and praise. They are
all founded in Love to our souls till we can
walk by sight may the Lord enable us to walk
by faith & may nothing weaken our persuasian that
all the ways of the Lord are mercy and truth to his
people & that all things work together for good to
them that love him. May we be enabled patiently and
cheerfully to submit to these afflictions which are
necessary to hedge up our ways they are not the
effects of chance but events in which the wisdom
and mercy of God are now concerned and will be
hereafter Displayed. When I lost my little John

this text was much impressed on my mind
what of --- thou knowest not now but then shall
hereafter God in his tender mercy removed
the tender plant to a better soil. I have had cause
to bless him for it. My Dear Sister I hope you will
try not to grieve you little ones. They are
now better than you could make them. They are
removed from a world of sin and sorrow to be with
Jesus who took up little children in his arms
& blessed them and said of such is the kingdom of
heaven. I hope the rest of your Family are all
better & will be spared with you for a blessing.
George feels sorrow for Gordon, he says he was a child
he always felt a particular interest in although
he never saw him. Little William has had the mea-
sles he is better the measles here has been prevailing
through the winter & scarcely any one has escaped them
in town or country, old or young. Brother Alan and
Sister Ann's Family has all had them are all getting
better. Ann Duncan give birth to her first child in
the 7 month when she was in the measles it lived a few
hours and Died. Ann was married last year to James
Sector Taylor who had been 4 years with the Merchant
beside them and is now on himself is furnishing
Taylor in the backtown of Eeight is doing well at present.
John Duncan is better in worldly circumstances than
he was. Mary Duncan has 3 children. I was not --
concerning Mrs. G. living in a small room she never
had less then 3 apartments since she came home has all-
ways had a servant girl she never took in work but is

teaching School children of the better sort her Brothers
allows her 20 pounds a year for her ---as much in a
complement. Her Sisters would not have the trouble
of her with them and she is better in her own home.

----- Ann is in an institution at Edinburgh for
----- Ministers children they keep --- from
--- me always send her kind Love to you
and George when I write. This brings my fault to

for which no apology can atone. I feel grieved with myself
and my Dear Sister you must have thought I had altogether
forgot you though this is not the case. My absent Friends
feels more Dear to me than ever. I had letters and put
in a parcel and sent to Aberdeen last year. I have not room
to state the circumstances of the disappointment if we find an
opportunity this year Mary will send a letter with a
parcel. George and her --- their kind love to you both my
kind love to you and George to E and M to all the boys ----
--- rember me if you could write soon we will be
very anxious to know how you and the family are if you
could not George might send a few lines to this George --- Sisters
M last year. I have not had a letter since
but I know she is keeping better.

Dear Sister I remain

yours affectionately

E Wilson

To George Elmslie
Grammar School, Guelph

Saint Louis, 14 Dec. 1847

My Dear Elmslie,

I expected one now, the pleasure of
an epistle from you. Never mind, perhaps like Gilpine
Wig, it is on the boat, and will soon be here.

On 27 Oct I ----you ----
before setting out for the Copper Mines and
have since posted some half dozen or so of ---
ness papers for you. The 150 miles between this city
and our Mines requires 5 days travelling to get over
them. In 70 ---- there is a kind of public road,
the remainder are travelled through the forest
& the track kept by attending to the notches on the
trees - and the latter portion of the route to there are of
---, no Taverns, or other ---, for the entertainment
of the public, and the wayfarer must find bed & board
in some one of the log cabins which are scattered,
longer intervals over the wilderness. It would have
amused you, - accustomed as you have been to such
scenes, - to see me in the "ingle-neuk" of one of their cabins
--- to ---- to myself to circumstances,
and to read a "Witness" by the light of a fir-stick, - the good-
wife meanwhile cooking the supper, (pork or venison) over the

7
log-fire, and the host trying to pacify the Baby, knock
his pipe, and "tarrogate" the stranger about the "news". It
seemed to be rather a nice question - how the inmates
could be best disposed of in the 2 or 3 beds in the apartment
so as prevent "mischief." Experience apparently had taught
them that if the parties were laid cross-wise - for instance -
the host & hostess alongside and a third person transversely at
the foot of the bed, the proprieties would be best observed.
I was sorry to see that the desire to give the stranger a whole
bed to himself generally caused the others to be inconveniently
crowded. However I consoled myself with the re-
flection that they were used to it. There are
no Bridges or Boats in these parts, and whenever a little
stream is pleased to become unfordable, the traveller
must, like ---- countryman, sit down and wait till
the flood well past. One were caught in this way,
and had to kill 24 hours in the "biggin" of a ---
----, some 40 miles from this place, on the return route.
I always travel provided ag't such contingencies - and
can sit down with pen & paper, and spite the untoward
circumstances, by turning them into a source of amuse-
ment for my friends. One of the longest of my American
Epistles to Silver --- was the rainy day's employment

at the Widow's.

Altho' the weather has been occasionally frosty --- be said to have had any winter yet. I hope we shall get off as cheaply as we did last season, in regard to frost & snow. If it comes to be severe, my half formed intention of dropping down to New Orleans for a few weeks, will be carried into execution. The distance is 1200 miles, and is usually done, in good stage of water, nay luxury, which a man can expect when afloat.

The season of the Carnival is said to be the best for seeing life "in that euphorism of wealth & wickedness."

We had a wonderful feat performed in the "great west" last week - the transmission over the Telegraph wires of the Message of President Polk. It fills 9 close columns of the newspapers - and altho' each letter - or rather the dots & lines standing for each letter - passed instantaneously over the 900 miles of wire, it required 19 hours to figure out the whole document. Such an enterprise could only be seen in the west - or at points so distant from Washington as to mark the Saving of time worth the expense. In all the Eastern cities the Railway could take the document as a whole, as speedily as the Telegraph. In reading the interminable ---- the feeling upper-

most in my mind was disgust at the barefaced falsehood - known and admitted by ninetenths of the people to whom the message was immediately through their representatives, addressed the falsehoods, - which "stick out" of every paragraph regarding the Mexican War. There is every probability of hot work in the Capitol this winter. The opposition having at length got the majority the ---- ---.

Matters would seem to have passed the worst and to be in the way of mending on the other side. Canada, so far as I have yet heard, have suffered but little. Well, these commercial ---- have their advantages - like a hurricane, which sweeps the finest of all the timber that is rotten at the core, however externally fresh - trying times dispose of the ricketts and unsound ----, and leave traders generally in a surer basis, in so far as the ---- than before.

My regards to Mrs. E. & family,
& all friends - to whom with yourself I wish
a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Ever Yours

Thos. Rimole

8
Aberdeen 17 April 1869.

My Dear Sir

I have now to inform you of the death of your father which took place on Saturday the 7th Inst. His mind had been gradually weakening with his body and for some time ^{he} had been paying little attention to what was passing around him. On the Tuesday previous to his death he became quite insensible and so continued till his death.

I send you enclosed an abstract of his settlements and I shall be glad to give you any explanation or such further information as is in my power or am empowered to enter his affairs.

George Elmhurst Esq. yours truly
Grammar School Terrace Edmonton
Edmonton
Canada West.

Elora July 1st 1867

Dear Aggie

I received your kind and welcome letter on Saturday night I rose early this morning on purpose to write you a few lines for I must go up to Father's to day for I have never been there since you left and it is two bad but the day you left I got very sick in the afternoon and next day I did not feel well and then I wanted to get my dress done then Maggie came down on Tuesday and wanted me to go with her and so I went then we went to Fergus both of us on Thursday night and stayed a day or two so I thought there was no use of going home untill Sabbath was over so here I am writing to you. there is to be no less than four picnics here to day and all your cousins will be at some of them so you will miss it, I saw Mr Allan last night and he said he could not get to Galt for they were so busy. Mr Blaine is a great deal better he is able to be up a little now, and Mr. Beer is to be home on Thursday night but there is to be no preaching in our Church next Sabbath so if you are home the end of the week following you will be in time to see him. Papa was down in Elora on Saturday but I did not see him He was saying Mothers hands was worse it is a great pity they are keeping so bad. I dont think Papa has got any money yet if I had a two dollar bill I would have sent it in this letter but I have not but I would just ask two dollars from either George or Alick and tell him I will pay it to him again when I come down. I have not seen Kate to give the letter but I will see her to day. I have just been picking out my light silk dress and I am sorry I did not do it before you went away and let you take it with you to get dyed but you might speak to Mrs Webster and ask her if she would be kind enough to get it done for me if I should get a chance to get it down to Hamilton be sure and speak of it because I might get a chance the week after next and it will save me buying another one. I am glad to hear you are enjoying yourself but dont be to long in comeing home, when you come home I must go to

Fergus a week Mr. Philip is to be up at Fathers on Saturday. I have not seen any of the Folks at home so think I cant say any thing from them but it is likely Father will be writting soon, give my love to Alick and Bella I hope Alick is keeping stronger now. my best love to yourself and all the rest of the friends, no more at present from your loveing

Sister

Amelia Philip

excuse this scrawl as I am in a hurry write soon

Kiddlane Aberdeen May 1847

My Dear George

At length I have received on the 17th inst (& too late for the Pa. which sailed 15th) your letter of 22 March - The Newspaper came alone by the previous Packet and you may judge of our surprise after anxiously looking for months & expecting by Packet after Packet letters or at least a letter from you - you remained silent from 20th Sept'r on receiving a Newspaper addressed to Mrs. Gardener, not to me nor any communication to me - although you had promised in said letter that Agness would write along with you or William by next Packet - none came from either and altho' I wrote you and posted the letter on 1st -- informing you of the death of Mr. Brodic, & - no answer was ever sent by any of you !!!! May to this day I know not whether Wm. Gobbon has got the land which I sent him out money to buy altho' he promised to write. And with respect to your William you nor he was prepared to give advice. I received the letter on the 16 or 17 Oct'r and in any event time has not been lost yet. It is a very important question. May the Lord lead and guide in determining. I shall write to him (Wm.). I waited for your next letter, which should have been here in Dec'r. When I look back I cannot charge myself with coldness or indifference towards any of my dear children and I trust my frequent and fervent prayers for you all will be graciously answered - indeed they have been answered eminently in temporal good. O may your souls prosper & be in health! Now George I say "cast the beam out of thine own eye & then shall thou see clearly to cast the mote out of thy father's eye" Had you been as regular in answering as I, there w'd have been shorter intervals, Indeed it is now very irksome to me to write anything or to any one, my hand is generally so tremulous that it is only now & then I can write at all. I therefore write as seldom & as short as possible, yet I have hitherto managed all that is necessary 'tho' I get slowly on with it and I have much reason of thankfulness that I enjoy general good health notwithstanding of other infirmities which may keep me very humble and which have

determined me to forage the pleasure of visiting you as well as the pain of a final parting. You need not wonder at not inviting you to come over for a visit to us I always considered that a 3 or 4 months absence from your charge would be a serious disadvantage & loss to you. It would not do for you to attempt such a thing this year but perhaps if spared till next year and if William were to come here to finish his education and you obtain the consent of your Trustees by finding a Substitute for a few weeks you might bring him with you & we all would be most happy to see you both. I shall pay part of your expenses -- I cannot send you any money at present -- I had to borrow in Jan'y last an additional sum of L70 which I have to pay at the ensuing term and after paying interest and acc't I will be very bare for next half year.

I read with much interest & pleasure the statements of the examinations of your Scholars especially of the honourable appearance of my children but where were the females? I received William's prize Bible. I have to inform you of our present church connection. Now that the Free Church of Scotland have taken the exact position of the original Session, and Wm. Kennedy having accepted a call to Stepney London, & took farewell of his church in Nov'r last, we thought it the time for us to join a reforming church whose principles & government we always held and we joined the Free West Church under the Rev'd A. D. Davidson.

I have read with pleasure the circumstances connected with your translation to Guelph and I think the hand of a kind Providence is to be seen in it. Lean upon him, trust him, pour out your heart before him, give all diligence in your vocation and embrace every opportunity of imbuing the youthful mind with the knowledge and fear of God, command Christ to them, and point out the road to present and future happiness - you have golden opportunities for this and my dear George, Watch over your own heart - Watch against the first risings of pride and profession, pray for humility, meekness & patience and the Lord is with you while ye be with him."

Mr. Brodie's Library was sold by Auction in Glasgow except a few Vols &

some lots of Mag'nes & pamphlets which we retained & bro't home with us.

His property is now equally divided. Miss Brodie has got the Houses
---- & a Bond of L400, with the interest of L300 I am due to her, beginning
with it. ---- & library all he had in & near Glasgow. We have got
the ---- he had here, which will make my --- come what it was years ago. The duties transfers &
stamps & agency & was --- L150.

years ago You will write to George Allan that his cause is now
at the Court of Session. There may be a decision of the Lord Ordinary
this present Session which terminates in July. If not, it cannot be till
after Martinmass and Torrie shews every disposition to procrastinate and
spin out the process as far as forms will permit - but Mr. Edmond
has little doubt of a favourable issue for George. There is however a
risk and I am involved in that risk. As soon as there is a decision I
will write him. I Remain Dear George

Yours affectionately

Wm. Eimslie

P. S. Mrs. Gardiner has got a Statement & Remit'ce
of L16 from Mr. Fordyce with which she is greatly dissap'ed.
You as a Trustee ought to look into this. W.E.

North Keppel June 3rd / 69

Caroline C Hay

Dear Friend

Please excuse my first scrol

write soon

Please give the enclosed to Mrs J Downing

I now take up my pen to write you a few lines. I have been very busy since I arrived here. I lived two months in a store and I liked the place well but I can make more at my trade I have got in a good deal of work since I came home but I will get up at the head of the Bay next week all well it is a beautiful place to live in summer but very Cold in winter the shore is green and there is a fine breeze off the Bay it is pretty to see the steam too the Champion sailing in She runs from Owen Sound to the head of the Bay 3 times a week we have a Presbyterian Minister preaching here for six months his name is Mr Gilroy he preached for Mr Davidson last summer and we knew him as soon as we saw him it a very rough road from our place to the Church but when I live at the head of the Bay I will go to Church in a boat I wish you were here we could get some fine boat rides instead of riding on horseback Mama often wishes she had your saddle for no conveyance can get through these woods but a one ox jumper and we had to bring in our seed on the horses backs the mosquitoes are here in Clouds and we must either be half smothered or stung unmercifully with their long nibs I hope these lines will find you all well I was very very glad to hear that your Papa was so far recovered as be able to teach please write soon and tell me how the bible Class is getting along if the attendance is as good as usual I would like to hear how Jane Hall is I am very lonesome on Sabbath Mr. Gilroy is speaking of taking up a bible Class but I do not know if it will be near but I must conclude please give my love to your Papa and Mama and Miss Massie and the Miss --- and yourself so good by at present

I remain your

sincere friend

Letter to George Elmslie, from Wm. Elmslie, dated 31 July 1824.

Letter was folded to also act as envelope. On front:

George Elmslie
Messrs. Geo Lynners [?]
Aberdeen

Favored by
[?] Thomson

Letter:

My Dear George Peterhead 31st July 1824

I hasten to reply to your letter of [???

I can only direct you to the blessed Physician – he only
can heal – And we are assured that ‘ those that are
‘broken in their hearts and grieved in their minds he
‘healeth and their painfull wounds he tenderly upbind’s
And that he sends his word and heal[et]h. O how-
precious is his word and how precious is faith resting
upon his word – but faith does not always get that length
Faith is often so weak as only to cast a wistfull look
clouded with great fears and without any comfortable
assurance. – And the Physician continues to administer
the bitter potion untill it operate to such a degree
as he sees necessary – the Soul needs purging – Now
we cannot doubt the skill nor the tender love and
Compassion of our Physician – he sees and knows you

are sick and he is touched with a feeling of your Infirmity
And the God of Peace will bur[ie?] Satan under your
feet shortly – your Groanings which cannot be uttered
he hears – he looks down from heaven to hear the groaning
of the prisoner and to loose those whom Justice and Satan
the executioner had appointed to death – Therefore Cry
mightily to God for strength to wrestle against the
enemy – And to put on and manfully to wield the
whole armour of God – he is teaching you your need of it

O my dear George I cannot describe my feelings anent you
I have frequently given vent to them while riding solitarily
on the roads – and yet I have been helped to trust in the
infinite mercy of God in Christ for you – And have been helped
comfortably through my business -- The discipline
is sharp and Sore but he is teaching you and me by it
and we shall have cause to praise his holy name for
it. – Your quotation from Taylors Sermon is just and
true if applied to those who continue in the practice
of the Sin or of any Sin but if you loath Sin & yourself
for it confessing and forsaking it you shall find mercy
through the atoning death of christ and the passage
quoted. doesnt apply to you but [?] so far as Sin defiles

[p.2]

the conscience Mars our peace and our confidence and access
to God, and he only can restore that in his own time & way
look into the sad falls and the horrible deeps and
the joyful outgates and liftings up of David Yothers –
and then to Jesus the same yesterday today & for ever
look to the name Jesus – O how precious is that name
Saviour of his people from their Sins – I as a Father
know & feell (more than I ever perhaps did) what it is to
pity a child – Now my Faith and Confidence is strengthed
in Gods word that as a Father pitieth his children so the
Lord pitieth them that fear him – his pity is infinitely
beyond mine – I must conclude at present
and command you to God & the word of his Grace Wm. Elmslie

Give my kind aspects to Margaret to Jean – to John

[p.3]

to Nancy and friends – I hope to get home by Friday

A1984.15: Letter to George Elmslie from William Elmslie, dated 1 April 1846.

Letter folded to also act as envelope. On front:

Mr. George Elmslie
of the Grammar School
Ancaster
Canada West

Ancaster 29th Apl. 46

Letter:

Kidd Lane

[p.1]

My Dear George Aberdeen 1st April 1846

I received your mournfull letter 16 ult. –

We sympathise with you both in the painfull bereavements and
mourn with you feeling the double stroke upon ourselves.

but it is the hand of our Father who is Wisdom and Goodness, and
whatever he does is not only right but best, as we shall see by & by –

what we know not now we shall know hereafter and shall praise

& glorify him who hath done all things well. Let us have our

confidence in our God & Redeemer in our Shepherd and Guide

and may his everlasting Covenant be all our salvation and all our

desire! “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stay [?] thee”

“Trust ye in Lord for ever” “Rejoice in the Lord alway”.

We cannot doubt that the dear children are transported into the

kingdom of Glory where teir angels will always behold the face

of Father Son & Spirit. the innumerable company of Angels and of

the spirits of the just made perfect. and we would not wish them

again into this world of sin & sorrow. They have made a happy escape.

and as you state, their comparaively tranquil transit was a mercy.

There are some discoveries which we may anticipate shall be made

to us when we get home to our Fathers house. Now we see darkly

the wisdom & righteousness of the Divine government both in his
Providence & in his plan of Redemption. Then we shall have a
Glorious display of all perfection shining in both, to all eternity.

we shall then see that it was a small matter whether our journey thro’
this life was what we call short or long, smooth or rough except in as
much as the Divine will was accomplished to us and by us, and we shall
wonder at our own blindness and folly and sin in being so carried off
from God the chief good by the allurments of a vain & sinful world and
by the temptatons of Satan & Self. I do not think that all sense of
sin will be obliterated in heaven but there will be no sting, neither sor-
row nor sighing, but eternal praise to God & to the lamb who was slain.

[p.2]

My Dear George my heart rejoiceth in the filial submission expressed
in your letter and in your exercise on this trying occassion and that
Agness had been so supported – we feel anxious to hear again of her and
of the children. I need not say nor need I conceal it that my prayers
for you all have been frequent and fervent_ and I believe that
the prayer of the poor & needy he will not despise – Often has he
granted me the desire of my heart and has dealt wonderously with
me hitherto and during the last 11 or 12 years you & your sisters
altho’ each of you have had you own trials yet he hath won=
derfully preserved provided for and blessed you and in your
family has this first breach by death been made – O say the Lord
gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord

and now George be devoted to God be active & zealous for him in
improving your station and influence especially in bringing the
children & youth to the knowledge of Christ & his salvation_ Every
soul is more precious than a whole world – and take heed of your

conduct when you come in contact with the Worldly & Prophane.

I have received a sympathising letter from Mr. Brodie and
a like feeling from the other friends of yours, George Gordon
brought in a letter to be address'd to you. Mrs. Emslie of
St. Andrews Street died last week – I have had the charge
of her & the property since July 1829. It will take some years
to pay off the debt and wind up the concern

Margaret & Helen send their love & sympathy to you all.

you will certainly have wrote by this time. We anxiously look
for it and also for an answer to this

Dear George

yours affectionately

My hand is now stiff & unsteady.

Wm. Emslie

[p.3]

Elmslie family letters, Nichol Twp., 1840 - 1894

Copies and transcription of letters sent mainly between George Elmslie, Nichol Twp. and other family members and acquaintances.
(Transcribed by Janie Dickinson 2002)

- Letter 1: Wm. Elmslie, Aberdeen, Scotland to George Elmslie,
9 Jan. 1840 (2 pages)
- Letter 2: Wm. Elmslie to George Elmslie, 30 March 1844 (3 pages)
- Letter 3: Wm. Elmslie to George Elmslie, 31 May 1844 (2 pages)
- Letter 4: G.A. Davidson, Nichol Twp. to George Elmslie, Ancaster, 15
Feb. 1846, (2 pages)
- Letter 5: E. Wilson to Dear Sister, 25 March 1846 (3 pages)
- Letter 6: Wm. Elmslie to George Elmslie, May 1847 (3 pages)
- Letter 7: Thomas [Primrose], Saint Louis to George Elmslie, Nichol
Twp., 14 Dec. 1847 (4 pages)
- Letter 8: Francis Edmonds to George Elmslie, 17 April 1849 (1 page)
- Letter 9: Page 2 of letter, front page missing, signed your
affectionate mother [Alice], n.d.
- Letter 10: George Elmslie to Agnes, 28 April 1867 (2 pages)
- Letter 11: Amelia Philip to Aggie, 1 July 1867 (2 pages)
- Letter 12: George Elmslie to Aggies, Saturday, Elora (2 pages)
- Letter 13: Carolyn Hay to Dear Friend, 3 June 1869 (2 pages)
- Letter 14: Dear Aggie, from Brantford, 11 Jan. 1870 (1 page,
incomplete)
- Letter 15: Miss Elmslie from Alma, Ont., 11 Jan. 1870 (2 pages)
- Letter 16: To Mr. Elmsley request to attend funeral of Robert Andrew
Washington Buchanan, 18 May 18-2 (1 page)
- Letter 17: James Middleton to dear brother [David Sprugye , 21 Jan.
1894, (2 pages)
- Letter 18: Wm. Elmslie to George Elmslie, 31 July 1824 (See also
A1984.15)
- Letter 19: Wm. Elmslie to George Elmslie, 1 April 1846 (See also
A1984.15)

From letter 7. note of Alex. Cameron
11. to note in low-lynes E.
S. 10/11/11

8.
I have not completed
writing and brought
out of the body of the
letter the comparison
between the two
sets of letters
I have not completed
writing and brought
out of the body of the
letter the comparison
between the two
sets of letters

9
I have not completed
writing and brought
out of the body of the
letter the comparison
between the two
sets of letters
I have not completed
writing and brought
out of the body of the
letter the comparison
between the two
sets of letters

[The text on this page is extremely dense and illegible due to heavy scribbling and overlapping lines. It appears to be a collection of names or words written in a cursive script.]

[Faint, illegible handwritten text in the upper right margin of page 4.]

[The text on this page is extremely dense and illegible due to heavy scribbling and overlapping lines. It appears to be a collection of names or words written in a cursive script.]

to receive from Father some things you may like.

Dear Saturday Morn's

My dearest Mary

Yesterday we felt to answer it. Thus (as you should) to be angry the

I am glad you have enjoyed yourself all the rest (Don't neglect the

to spend I would like you to be fresh brush - get it rather hard than

soft on Wednesday - too soft - as like as you can to

which is doubtful. I will be able to write with her, he is a regular

to assist you in various ways, tho' purpose she will leave towards the

not beside you - the old one Mrs's wife is here

We will not go into the end of next week

at house till about Wednesday

tho' I know it will have you a

tho' I know it will have you a

will be able to make it comfortable

it even elegant - I should dream to

that the piece of ground a good deal

of to plant or name and a fruit tree

houses etc. My affection and regards

stand D. V. to be a poem on and one

All parties are wary of the from year

My love to Annie

to be angry the

(Don't neglect the

get it rather hard than

as like as you can to

he is a regular

she will leave towards the

end of next week

Mrs's wife is here

he is a regular

she will leave towards the

end of next week

Mrs's wife is here

he is a regular

she will leave towards the

end of next week

Yours Affectionately

Wm. G. L.

Account in possession
of Donald Morgan
Nashville
- VON 3KO-B.C.
prohib code

W. S. Kodak

Commercial Street

Sue Clark

Sept 18 1911
From: Blank

Mr. George Brundage



Saint Louis, 14 Dec. 1847.

My dear Elmlee,

I expected ere now the pleasure of an Epistle from you. Your mind, perhaps, like *Ulysses*'s, it is on the road, and will soon be here.

On 27 Oct I wrote you hurriedly before setting out for the Copper Mines. and have since posted some half dozen or so of "business" papers for you. The 150 miles between this city & our mines require 5 days travelling to get over them. In 70 or thereabouts there is a kind of public road - the remainder are travelled through the forest, & the track kept by attending to the notches on the trees - on the latter portion of the route there are, of course, no Taverns, or other Hospitiae, for the entertainment of the public; and the wayfarer must find bed & board in some one of the log cabins which are scattered, & long intervals over the wilderness. It would have amused you, - accustomed as you have been to such scenes, - to see one in the "single bunk" of one of these Cabins, striving to accommodate myself to his circumstances, - and to see a "witness" by the light of a fir-stick, - the good wife meanwhile cooking the supper, (Pate & Venison), over the log-fire, and the host trying to pacify the Party, & smoke his pipe, and "tarragated" the Strangers about the "succession." It seemed to be rather a nice question - how the inmates could be best disposed of in the 2 or 3 beds in the apartment so as prevent "mischiefs." Experience apparently had taught them, that, if the Parties were laid cross-wise - for instance - the host & hostess alongside, and a third person transversely at the foot of the bed, the proprieties would be best observed.

I was sorry to see, that the desire to give the stranger a whole
had to himself generally, caused the others to be inconvenienced
crowded. However, I consoled myself with the re-
flection—that they were used to it. There are
no Bridges or Boats in those parts, and whenever a little
stream is pleased to become impassable, the traveller
must, like Horace's countryman, sit down and wait till
the flood will pass. We were caught in this way,
and had to kill 24 hours in the begin'g of a widow
Steer, some 40 miles from this place, on the return route.
I always travel provided wth such contingencies, and can
sit down with pen + paper, and in spite the untoward
circumstances, by turning them into a source of amuse-
ment for my friends. One of the longest of my American
Epistles to Silver Street was the rainy day's employment
at the widows.

Altho' the weather has been occa-
sionally fresh, we can scarcely be said to have
had any winter yet. I hope we shall get off as
cheaply as we did last season, in regard to frost
& snow. If it comes to be severe, my half formed
intention of dropping down to New Orleans for a
few weeks, will be carried into execution. The distance
is 1200 miles, and it is usually done, in good stage of water,
in 5 days. Our largest class of Boat afford every comfort,
very luxury, which a man can expect when afloat.
The season of the Carnival is said to be the best for seeing
"life" in that emporium of wealth & wickedness.

We had a wonderful feat performed,
in the great west. Last week the trans mission over the telegraph
wires of the message of President Polk. It fills 9 close columns

of the newspapers - and altho' each letter, - or rather the dots & lines standing for each letter, - passed instantaneously over the 900 miles of wire, it required 19 hours to figure out the whole document. Such an enterprise could only be seen in the West, - or at points so distant from Washington as to make the saving of time worth the expense. In all the Eastern cities the Railway could take the document, as a parcel, as speedily as the Telegraph. In reading the interminable signatures the feeling uppermost in my mind was disgust at the barefaced falsehood, - known and admitted by ninetyths of the people, to whom the message was, mediatedly through their representatives, addressed, - the falsehood, - which "stick out" of every paragraph regarding the Mexican War. There is every probability of hot work in the Capitol this winter, the opposition having at length got the majority in the Lower House.

Matters would seem to have passed the worst, and to be in the way of mending on the other side. Canada, so far as I have yet heard, has suffered but little. Still, these Commercial Crises have their advantages - like a hurricane which sweeps the forest of all the timber, that is rotten at the core, however externally fresh, - trying times dispose of the rickety and unsound "houses", and leave traders generally on a surer basis, in so far as the market goes, than before.

My respects to Mrs. E. Family, & all friends - to whom with yourself I wish a merry Christmas, & Happy New Year.

Ever yours
No. 11. 1862

MR. C. 50

Received
29th Apr 44

PAID
MAR 28 E
1846

PAID
MAR 28 E
1846

Mr. George E. ...

... School

Accounter

Lucas Street

to George's wife

Agnes Elmston, from sister or sister in law? probably sister as it mentions the parish of Eilat

My Dear Sister

Mencull's Cottage March 25 1846

A few Days ago we had a few lines from Mrs Elmston informing us of the Death of your late little boy Sister Mary and I feel with you in your great affliction the tears did fall when I thought of the dear little ones and the anguish of a Mothers heart in parting with them. Having passed through the like trying scenes I well know the sorrows of your heart. My Dear Sister I hope the Lord has been your comforter & hath stood by you and supported and strengthened you in the trying hour. & hath caused you and your partner to say with humble resignation the cup which my Father giveth me to drink I shall not drink it. Trials from our heavenly Fathers hand are blessings in disguise and that when they can be unveiled and we can view them in their Designs and effects they will show forth our gratitude and praise. They are all founded in Love to our souls. till we can walk by sight may the Lord enable us to walk by faith & may nothing weaken our persuasion that all the ways of the Lord are mercy and truth to his people & that all things work together for good to them that love him. May we be enabled patiently and

cheerfully, to submit to those afflictions which are necessary to hedge up our way, they are not the effects of chance but events in which the wisdom and mercy of God are now concerned and will be hereafter displayed. When I lost my little son this text was much impressed on my mind what I do not know but I am sure that hereafter God in his tender mercy removed the tender plant to a better soil & have had cause to bless him for it. My Dear Sister I hope you will try not to grieve for your little ones, they are now better than you could make them they are removed from a world of sin and sorrow to be with Jesus who took up little Children in his arms & blessed them and said of such is the kingdom of heaven. I hope the rest of your Family are all better & will be spared with you for a blessing George feels sorrow for Gordon he says he was a child he always felt a particular interest in although he never saw him little William has had the measles he is better the Measles here has been prominent through the winter & scarcely any one has escaped them in town or country old or young. Brother Alex and Sister Ann's Family has all had them we all getting better Ann Duncan gave birth to her first Child in the 7 month when she was in the Measles it lived a few hours and died, it was married last year to James Senter Taylor who had been 11 years with the Merchant

beside them and is now on himself as purchasing
 Taylor in the bookstore of Beight is doing well appreciate
 John Duncan is better in worldly circumstances than
 he was. Mary Duncan has 3 Children. It was not cor-
 rect concerning Mrs G living in a small room she never
 had less than 3 apartments since she came home has all
 ways had a servant girl she never took in work but is
 teaching School Children of the better sort her Brothers
 allows her 20 pounds a year for her money as much in a
 compliment her Sisters would not have the trouble
 of her with them and she is better in her own home
 for rather than is in an institution at Edinburgh for
 Deceased Ministers Children they keep them from
 to 14 she always send her love to you
 and George her if writ. This brings my fault to you
 for which no apology can atone I feel grieved with myself
 and my dear Sister you must have thought I had altogether
 forgot you though this is not the case. My absent Friends
 feels more dear to me than ever I had letters and put
 in a parcel and sent to Aberdeen last year. I have not now
 to state the circumstances of the disappointment if we find an
 opportunity this year Mary will send a letter with a
 parcel. George and her love to you both my
 and love to you and George to Edward M to all the boys I still
 think remembering me if you could writ soon we will be
 very anxious to know how you and the family are if you can
 not George might send a few lines to the George I writ Sister
 M last year I have not had a letter since Dear Sister I remain
 but if he is she is keeping better yours affectionally E. Nelson

George Elmslie Esq

Granville St

Hamilton

Canada West

London 17 April 1849.

My Dear Sir

I have now to inform you of the death of your Father which took place on Saturday the 7th Inst. My uncle has been gradually weakening with his body and for some time ^{he} had been paying little attention to what was passing around him. On the Tuesday previous to his death he became quite insensible and so continued till his death.

I send you enclosed an abstract of his settlements and I shall be glad to give you any explanation or such further information as is in my power or an investigation into his affairs.

George Elmslie Esq yours truly

Granville Street London



RECEIVED
JAN 1 1847
LIVERPOOL

PAID
JAN 1 1847

M^r George H. Arnold

Grammar School

Quebec

Upper Canada

Paid.

My Dear George

Hiddlam Aberdeen. May 1847

At length I have received on the 17th inst. (9th Oct) late
for the Pa. which sailed 18th your letter of 22nd March. The Newspaper came
alone by the previous Packet and you may judge of our surprise (after
anxiously looking for months & expecting by Packet after Packet letters
— at least a letter from you — you remained silent from 22nd Sept.)
on receiving a Newspaper addressed to M^{rs} Gardner, not to me nor any com-
munication to me — although you had promised in said letter that Agnes
would write along with you or William by next Packet — none came from
either and altho' I wrote you & posted the letter on 5th Oct^r informing you
of the death of M^r Brodie, &c — no answer was ever sent by any of you.
May to this day I know not whether W^m & Hon has got the beam which
I sent him out ^{as I wrote, promised to write.} motley to buy! And with respect to your William you
nor he was prepared to say decidedly what your wishes were, neither
was I prepared to give advice. I received the letter on the 16 or 17 Oct^r
and in any event time has not been lost yet. It is a very important
question, may the Lord lead & guide in determining. I shall write to
him (W^m). I waited for your next letter, which should have been here in 2^o.
When I look back I cannot charge myself with coldness or indifference to
wards any of my dear children and I trust my frequent & fervent
prayers for you all will be graciously answered. ~~indeed~~ indeed they have
been answered eminently in temporal good. O may your souls prosper
& be in health! Now George I say "cast the beam out of thine own eye, &
then shalt thou see clearly to cast the mote out of thy fathers eye".
Had you been as regular in answering as I, there w^d have been shorter intervals,

Indeed it is now very irksome to me to write any thing on to any one, my hand is generally so tremulous that it is only now & then I can write at all. I therefore write as seldom & as short as possible, yet I have hitherto managed all that is necessary tho' I get slowly on with it. I have ever been a reason of thankfulness that I enjoy general good health notwithstanding other infirmities which may keep me very humble and which have determined me to forego the pleasure of visiting you as well as the fear of a final parting. You need not wonder at my not inviting you to come over on a visit to us. I always considered that a Scots man's absence from your charge would be a serious disadvantage to you.

It would not do for you to attempt such a thing this year but perhaps if spared till next year and if William were to come here to finish his education and you obtain the consent of your Trustees by finding a Substitute for a few weeks you might bring him with you & we all would be most happy to see you both. I shall pay part of expenses.

I cannot send you any money at present. I had to borrow in Jan^r last an additional sum of £70 which I have to pay at the ensuing term and after paying interest and acc^t I will be very bare for next ~~half~~ year.

I read with much interest & pleasure the statements of the examinations of your Scholars especially of the honourable appearance of my children but where were the females? I received Williams prize Bible.

I have to inform you of our present church connection. Now that the Free Church of Scotland have taken the exact position of the original Secession and Mr Kennedy having accepted a call to Steping London St Luke farewell of his Church in Nov^r last, we thought it the time for us to join a reforming church whose principles & government we always held and we joined the Free West Church under the Rev^d A. D. Tomlinson.

I have read with pleasure the circumstances connected with your translation to Guelph and I think the hand of a kind Providence is to be seen in it. I can upon him trust him, pour out your heart before him, give all diligence in your vocation and embrace every opportunity of improving the youthfull mind with the knowledge and fear of God, commend Christ to them, and point out the road to present and future happiness. You have golden opportunities for this, and my dear George watch over your own heart. Watch against the first risings of pride and passion, pray for humility meekness & patience and "the Lord is with you while ye be with him".

Mr. Brodie's Library was sold by auction in Glasgow except a few Vols & some lots of Mag^s & pamphlets which we retained & bro't home with us.

This property is now equally divided. Miss Brodie has got the Houses & a Bond of £1000, with the interest of £300 I am due to her, being with the Mag^s & Library all he had in & near Glasgow: we have got one she would be had here, which will make my come what it was years ago. The duties for stamps & agency he was at £150. You will write to George Allan that his cause is now at the Court of Session. There may be a decision of the Lord Ordinary this present Session which terminates in July. If not, it cannot be till after Martinmas, and Torrie shows every disposition to procrastinate and spin out the process as far as forms will permit, but Mr. Erskine has little doubt of a favourable issue for George. There is however a risk, and I am involved in that risk. As soon as there is a decision I will write him. I remain Dear George

P.S. Mr. Erskine has got a statement & remittance of £14 from Mr. Erskine with which she is greatly dissatisfied. You as a trustee ought to look into this. 1886

Yours affectionately
Wm. Erskine

Mr. Geo. Tomlinson

Grammar School

Ancaster

Canada West

My Dear George

Aberdeen 31 May 1844

I join with you in humble gratitude to God, his great mercy in bringing you from the gates of death, relieving you from distress and restoring you to health and usefulness, & death would ^{have been a} heavy stroke upon your family, friends and school. This morning I received the Newspaper post marked 3 May addressed in your usual steady quick hand by which I see your progress. I thank you for it, and I bless God for this, ^{& the preceding (18 Feb)} manifestation of his favour. Let us not forget our deep obligations & our daily dependence on it not evaporate in mere words & professions. May he give you to help us to watchfulness diligence and fruitfulness! You are realising the promise in Psalm 128. I earnestly hope & pray that Agnes may recover health & strength and enjoy her comfortable change with less fatigue. It has been a great blessing to you and her family.

Margaret & George will please to pay their debt on receipt of this - William has paid his & done it well. I hope you are now engaged in your vocation & will provide a blessing to your pupils both for their temporal & spiritual interests.

Have you a Sabbath evening school? And have you succeeded in your petitions against the constitution & endowment of schools. John Dunn Northerton is now very frail, but is just able to come to town once or twice a week. I am still his Tutor, he desires me to send his warm regards to you. Mr. Pearson & family are just started. Mr. Anderson Senr. died several years ago. Mr. J. L. Anderson is still in business & a Bailie in Peterhead (or was so lately) but we do not know. The Rev. W. Anderson Banchoy resigned his Parochial charge last year & is now residing with Miss F. in Edinburgh. Mr. P. A. Cong. Church in

Mr. Dunbar is the first Huberduster in Turiff, his mother & sisters have a shop there too but they do little, one of them is on the eve of Marriage.

I am grieved about the state of Mrs Gardiner's affairs at Fergus. She has an undiminished affection still for all her professed friends there and is loath to give up her confidence in them and even does not complain she is afraid to speak to her brother Baidie F. about Fergus, he is so enraged at their unworthy and unfeeling conduct in every respect, and more especially after so many professions of love as I regard - It is now more than 2 years since the Roup and no Remittance to her, nor does she know whether the debts she & Mr G were obliged to contract are yet paid at the Mr. Webster had funds in his hands long ago. I should not wonder if Baidie Forbes employ a man of business to force a settlement. Have you, Jean, & Marg^r, paid what you bought at the Roup?

You will without delay communicate with the Trustees on the subject let them make up a statement of Accts & remitt her immediately the full balance due to her. And you will also write her and not be always sending professions excuses and apologies. I think shame!

If an opportunity occurs we will send your Cotton I conclude in the mean time, hoping you will write soon

Yours Ever

Wm. Elmslie

POST
OFFICE
JAN 9
1840

Wm. W. W.
27
5100

Wm. George Christie
Hamburg

Richard Jay Kora

New York
New York Post & Messenger

Aberdeen 4th January 1840
my Dear George

I received Marguets letter with your
cross communication thereon of 4 Nov^r (Post mark 15th Nov^r)
and your letter of 3rd Oct^r both together on the 16th Dec^r.
Wm Gibbon & she too were very culpable in deferring so long
to answer my last as I could only account for it by sup-
posing they had not received it & that it might have been
lost or robb'd which made me very uneasy -

According to the order you sent me with Baxter I
purchased & sent with him in October all the writing
books paper & pens you wanted & added an old Paper
book & some other nice articles all packed in a paper parcel
and inclosed a letter to you sealed containing 2 Sovereigns
(1 to Mary & 1 to Wm) & a letter to Jane sealed containing
3 Sovereigns (2 to Wm & 1 to Johnny) And also inclosed to her my
old watch - from the unsatisfactory accounts I received
about him immediately after his departure from this in
Oct^r I regretted having sent the parcel with him - I fear
you have not & will not receive it - However if so it cannot
be helped - it is vexing to meet with any loss but it is well it
not greater - ^{It sailed from Liverpool to New York in Oct^r} You have not acknowledged receipt of
the bundle I sent ^{to Jane} by Mr Tyler.

It appears you are still under the chastisements of your

you may rest assured he was a man of great worth & that the trial of your
in heaven by various trials. That the trial of your
faith being more precious than gold. may be found with
purity & become glory. What son is he whom the father
chargeth with? I hope you are learning to say in sincerity
"Thy will be done"

I have now to inform you of the Death of an old Friend.
Mr. Symmer died on Sabbath morning the 22^d Dec^r.
He was seized with apoplexy on the morning after rec^d your
letter 17th Dec^r, he never spoke but on Sat^r approaching his
bed on that day he timorously burst out into a fit of strange
crying - he did not seem to know any other person but
Miggie & the Doctor - He has left the largest part of his papers
to George Sherwin ^{all} ^{of} about £10000 more in land to
be purchased & Entailed - to James Sherwin part of Cullen's
about £5000 more in new lands - to Capt^r Anderson
part of Cullen's £5000 more in Ditto - to George Symmer Anderson
the remaining part of Cullen's £5000 more entailed land -
Mr. Pierson & each of his family £200 ^{Legacy} [a grievous disappointment!]
Wm Barker nothing - but £200 to his children amongst them
Robert Gibb's family nothing - but £100 to Mary Gibb
Wm Corbet & family nothing - but £200 to Miss Corbet
Thos Pierson gets his £500 but is neither an Executor nor leg^y
None of my family get anything but Jane £200 ^{less duty} I get £100
(less duty, £100) we are appointed an Executor - Wm Boutwell
Wm Christian suggests £50. Prof^r Boutwell £50 & a number of small
legacies to Persons Charitable & Religious Institutions, &c.

From various considerations I felt disappointment that he had left you out in his will, but on other consid^s I feel satisfied that it is the Lords will, to keep you dependent on him who is Wise Good Faithfull & all sufficient, whose is the earth & fulness thereof. I tho^t he might have had more respect for me & my family than he has shown - but thanks be to God I never had much expectation from him, my dependence has been on him no has never failed me nor forsaken me, and "I have all and abound, I am full" - often have I considered myself a far richer man than he.

The £200 he has left to Jane I take to be in lieu of the same sum I paid him as security for Johns Bill & it is so far well that he has done so. The legacies are payable 20 Dec

I am due £100 borrowed from him in July to send to Mr. ^{never mentions the amount of the inclosed} Bill on 2 idon £100 first of exchange at 60 days date.

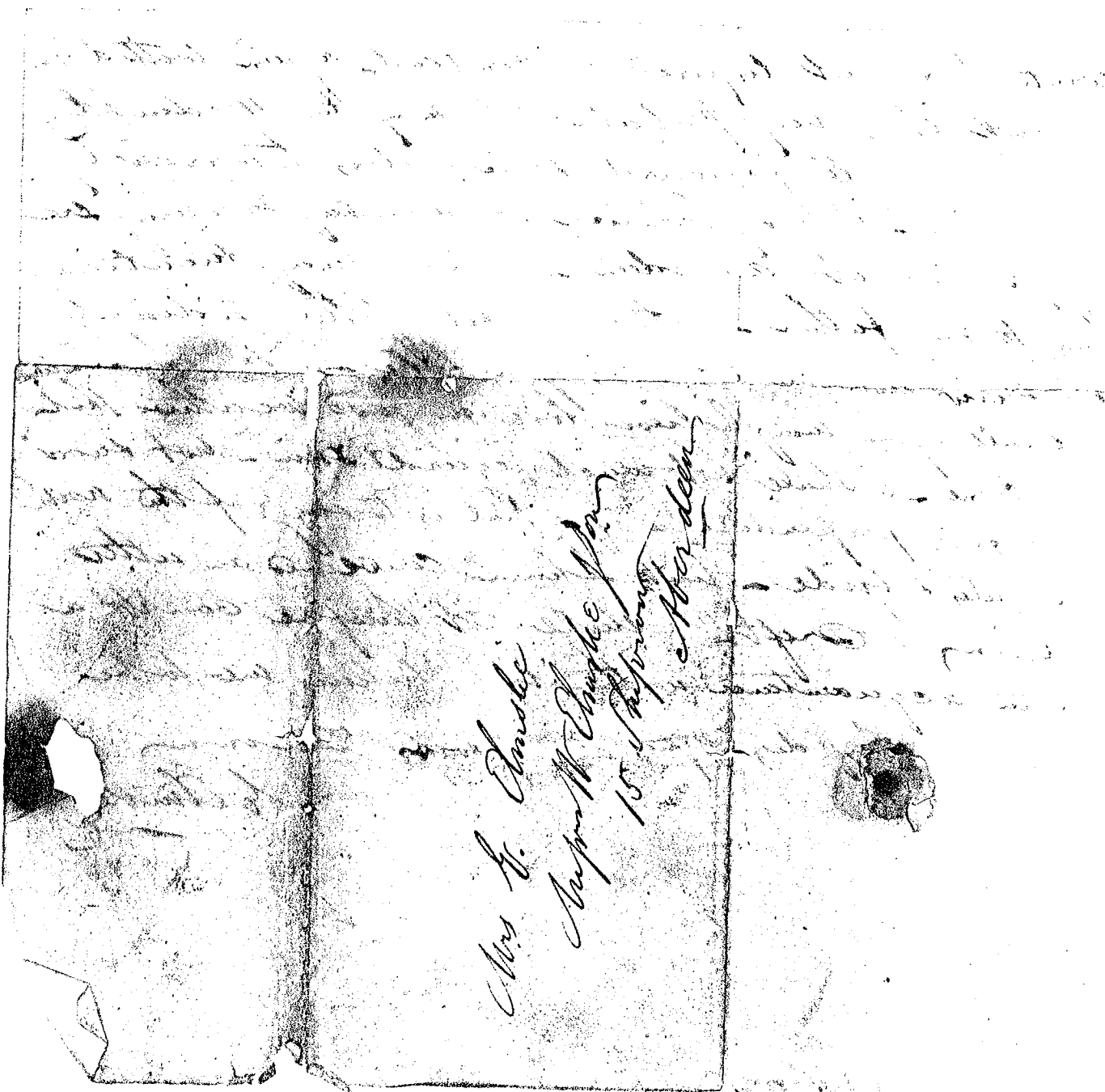
which I hope will set you to rights, you will inform Jane of this part to her pleasing intelligence and that she may receive her £180 in January or February next.

The 2^d of Exchange I shall send off in a few days to go with the succeeding vessel. I hope by this time Agness will have added to your family merriest.

we are all much concerned on just hearing of the heavy breach in Mr P Bawons family. I pray God may support him with the consolations of his grace and Spirit & that he may see it as the visitation of a kind & gracious Father who does all things well, but he cannot but feel deeply such a heavy stroke. we are all necessarily anxious about our family's & our outward estate, but we may see by what a slender tenure we hold every thing here. we bring our space to eternity. May we be enabled so to run us to obtain the great Prize. Yours affectionately

write me immediately ^{whether you have received the same parult} Wm Christie

... in the ... of the ...



(his wife)

Letter to Agnes Elmslie, from George Elmslie
while they are still in Aberdeen he is
on a business trip to northern Scotland.

15 Shiprow is the address of the family drygoods Co.
probably about 1831 -

Rosa Friday forenoon

My dear Agnes

I suppose you must be by this time somewhat anxious to know where I am & how employed. In the first place then I am in most comfortable quarters. I left Peterhead yesterday forenoon much against the wish of Mr Anderson's family but in the hope of getting on a little better here from Peterhead a distance of between 5 or 6 miles. I was about 3 hours being twice obliged to seek shelter by the road. Once I was enveloped in a cloud of Drift but both times fortunately I was near shelter. The last time I was within gunshot of a gentleman's house but before I got there both horse & I were well nigh exhausted. The drift was almost suffocating. I scarcely knew before what it was. The road was narrow between hedges which I scarcely could see. When the cloud blew over I was about a mile's distance from the place where I now am so I took horse again & got home just as the cloud equally terrible came on. Here then I have remained - I do much for the place. Now for my employments - I did my business quite leisurely. Then Mrs Nepp - a widow lady of property I believe of the farm & shop here invited me in to dine - by the time dinner was over - it was nearly dark & the storm tremendous. So I was glad to accept of her invitation to stop all night

Conversation of music - very good music too - from one
 of her daughters (she has two ~~sons~~ fair & accomplished) -
 made the evening pass tolerably - just as well at least
 as a prisoner could wish it - of now (Friday 12 o'clock)
 I am still here within 2 miles, or little more, of St. Jorges
 yet dare not venture out the showers are equally fre-
 quent of little if any help save that yesterday - here
 unless I must content myself - if possible I shall
 try to get to St. Jorges - if I cannot get northward
 I shall return to Peterhead - I have been very com-
 fortable - just as much so as anxiety of living is burden
 on entire strangers - though very kind ones - will permit
 me - If I shall get away - my first work will be
 to put this in the post office - I shall tell you
 my intentions - I hope that in the mean time you

Keep yourself quite easy
 Peterhead Friday night - I reached St. Jorges about 3
 o'clock the weather being a little more favourable - but
 the clouds appearing still very threatening - the wind right
 ahead - showers of sleet still very thick - I have
 come down here a another object I had was to send you
 this as I thought you might be uneasy - and stand no
 opportunity of sending before I got to Graceburgh in
 which case you could not have got it before Monday
 When I shall get home depends entirely on the
 weather - I cannot know be home sooner than Tuesday
 night - let it be as favourable as it may - at all

went, I am not disposed to contend again with drift
 I think it is very probable it may be Wednesday
 I shall forward some orders tomorrow by
 the mail - it may however be Monday morning ere
 they arrive at Aberdeen - You may mention
 this to my father - with the rest of the tidings
 or show him the letter as you like - In conclusion
 I think you may believe there is good weather that
 may come - I shall not much regard rain - not know
 if it fall perpendicularly - that is to say of the north -
 can gales subside - but I have conceived an utter
 aversion to drifts - I shall not therefore court a
 further acquaintance with it - Believe me to be
 My dear Agnes

your sincere son

E. M. M.

I should get
for me if it down to
me to get it down to
it then be sure and speak of it
as I might get a chance the
after next and it will save me
my another one. I am glad
and you are enjoying in coming
don't be to long in coming
I where you come home I must
I beguise a week in Saturday. I have
up and Father's on Saturday. I have
seen any of the folks at home or
I can't say any thing from them
it is likely Father will be writing
it is likely love to check and Bella
inquire my love to check and Bella
hope there is keeping stronger now
best love to yourself and all
the rest of the friends, no more
I present from your loving
sister
I love her Philip

excuse this several
I am in a hurry
with soon

Dear Aggie
I received your
letter

kind and welcome I rose
on Saturday night in purpose
early this morning in purpose
to write you a few lines for
I must go up to Father's
to day for I have never
heard there since you left
and it is too bad but the
day you left I got very sick
all the afternoon and next
day I did not feel well and
I was worried to get my
them I was worried
does down there I was worried
down on Saturday and went so
me to go up with her and so
I went there we went to
Father's both of us on Thursday
night and stayed a day or two

A981.15
Elmslie

1. letter to George Elmslie, Irvine Bank, Nichol Tp. from Wm. Elmslie, Aberdeen, Jan. 1840. re: sending of writing paper and books, death of friend.
2. Letter to George Elmslie, Ancaster from Wm. Elmslie, Aberdeen, May 1844. re: recovery from illness, Mrs. Gardiner at Fergus.
3. letter to George Elmslie, Guelph, from Wm. Elmslie, Kiddlane, Aberdeen, May 1847. re: family affairs, William's ill health,
4. Letter to George Elmslie, Hamilton from Grammar School _____ Hamilton, Aberdeen, April 1849. re: death of George's father.
5. letter to George Elmslie, Guelph, from - Primrose ?, Saint Laines, Dec. 1847. re: copper mines
6. letter to Agnes Elmslie, 15 Sipron, Aberdeen from George Elmslie, Rora ?, c.1831. re: being snowbound in northern Scotland.
7. letter to Agnes Elmslie, Grammar School, Ancaster, from her sister ?, March 1846. re: Death of two boys
8. letter to Agnes Elmslie (George's daughter) from Gordon Elmslie (brother to Agnes), April 1867. re: local happenings
9. letter to Agnes Elmslie, Jr. from sister Amelia Phillip, Elora, July, 1867. re: church, borrowing money.
10. letter to Agnes Elmslie, Jr. from father George Elmslie. re: new house
11. letter to Agnes Elmslie, Jr. from sister-in-law Bella Elmslie, Galt, March 1869. re: *Family*
12. letter to Agnes Elmslie from grateful pupils, Alma, Jan. 1870. re: teaching
13. letter to Agnes Elmslie from brother Gordon Elmslie, Brantford, Jan, 11, 1870. re: death of George Elmslie.
14. valentine to Agnes Elmslie ? from David Sprazze.
15. letter to Agnes Elmslie from David Sprazze, Guelph, Sept. 1870. previous to marriage
- 16.

Information taken from Wm. Elmslie Family Register
A986.75 stored in oversized framed storage

document is in shape of clock with parents Wm. and Christina
in middle, surrounded by twelve circles(one for each child)

parents-William Elmslie born in the City of Aberdeen Aug. 5, 1833
Christina McBain born in Aberdeenshire July 1, 1834
married Jan. 6, 1858

children

1. George born May 2, 1860
2. Isabella born Aug. 29, 1861
3. William born July 18, 1863
4. Jessie born Dec. 19, 1865 died Aug. 1866
5. Agnes born Aug. 30, 1867
6. Lachlan McBain born Apr. 18, 1869
7. John C. born July 11, 1871
8. Maggie born Mar. 1, 1873
9. Alexander G. born Nov. 9, 1874
10. Mary Jane born May 28, 1876 died June 2, 1887
11. Amelia Ann born May 28, 1876
12. Ida Kate? born Mar. 5, 1878

On Thursday last William Gibbon, of The Beeches, township of Pillington, near Elora, who suffered from paralytic stroke a few years ago, died from the effects of another seizure. Deceased was one of the early settlers in the township of Nichol, being associated with the late George Elmslie, Esq., in the purchase of the property known as the Bon Accord Settlement. He was born in the Town of Collieston, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, in 1800, and emigrated thence to Canada in 1834. He cleared fifty acres of land, afterwards purchased by George Elmslie, Esq., and after disposing of it purchased a farm from W. Wilson, Esq., south of the Grand River, in Nichol. He sold this to advantage, and moved into the village of Elora, where he acted as collector of monies for Crown land sales. After resigning this office he returned to a pleasant ten acre park lot near Elora, where he erected a comfortable dwelling and resided for several years. His death, although coming suddenly, cannot be said to have been altogether unanticipated. He leaves a widow and several children, and was buried in Elora cemetery on Saturday last, many of the old settlers accompanying his remains to their last place, and several of the stores being closed during the passage of the funeral cortege.

FEARED BLAST AS CLIFFORD'S FIRST OIL LAMP LIGHTED

Mrs. William Elmslie, Now 95,
Given the Honor At Town
Gathering 1894

HUSBAND FELLED TREES AND TAUGHT THE YOUNG

Seven Weeks Crossing Ocean
and Had Whale Spin Boat
Around

Mrs. Christina Elmslie, formerly Christina McBain, who resides with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. George Hay, in the Township of Howick, Huron County, near the village of Clifford, celebrated her 95th birthday on Dominion Day.

She was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1834, coming to Canada with her parents, brothers and sisters, celebrating her 20th birthday on the John McKenzie, a sailing vessel, which arrived in Montreal after a voyage of seven weeks. One incident during the voyage stands out in her memory, a whale struck the ship, causing it to spin around and spring a leak. The thought came into her head: "If I am ordained to reach America I'll get there if I have to float on a board."

The McBain family settled near Elora, where she was married to the late William Elmslie in 1858. They celebrated their golden wedding in 1908.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmslie, with their eldest son, George, went to Clifford in 1861, making the third family there. The other two families were those of Francis Brown, hotelkeeper, and Geo. McDonald, storekeeper.

Mrs. Elmslie honored the town's one-year-old party by lighting the first coal oil lamp in Clifford, but the guests were afraid it might explode.

SCHOOLMASTER SELLS TREES.

Mr. Elmslie was the first village schoolmaster, the school being situated one mile south of the village, in Minto Township, Wellington County. Mr. Elmslie, in his spare time, felled all the trees where Clifford now stands. After living in Clifford for a few years they purchased a farm of dense forest a mile and a half south of what is now Provincial Highway No. 9.

Mr. Elmslie died in 1915. Mrs. Elmslie has since traveled a great deal in the United States. She spent her 90th birthday in Washington, D. C., making a tour of the Government grounds, and shook hands with President Coolidge.

She is the only living charter member of Clifford Knox Church, her name being on the first communion roll, in 1871.

Mrs. Elmslie's family consists of two sons, George, of Devil's Lake, N. D., and Alec, of California; two daughters, Miss Ida Elmslie, of Michigan City, Indiana, and Mrs. George Hay.

She retains a wonderfully bright intellect and has always held a high place in the community.

St. Vincent

VII 1 2 3 5
 VI 1 2clergy 3 4clergy
 V 3 & 5
 IV 2 & 4
 III 3 5 6
 II 2 & 4
 I 3 & 5

pasture. We found a good many cattle, some very fine yokes of oxen and some good cows - pretty high prices were asked but we did not learn whether many had been sold. The Inn presented the same scene of bounteous merriment which is common to the Old Country on a Market night. The day was remarkably fine. We saw scarcely any bounty.

Cayuga

I C North 7 to 14 incl & 17 to 19 incl
 I C South Talbot Road 1 to 6 incl 8 to 20 incl
 II C 1 to 27
 III C 9 & 10 11 to 16 & 18 north half lots

 IV & V C 8/9/10/11
 V C 17 18 19 20 to 25 broken lots
 IV 17 18 19 20 to 25
 II C 30 31 32 33 34 to 37

Dunn 24th

I 1 to 11th incl $\frac{1}{2}$ lots
 II 1 to 8 incl whole lots
 III 1 to 6 broken do

Tuesday the 4th Novr--a most beautiful morning and forenoon - attended Crawford sale - everything went at astonishingly high prices - especially considering the terms were cash I bought woven hangings and crystal butter coolers of which I had a fair bargain. counterpanes were sold at 15/S and small English blankets at same price. On Monday evening I read a considerable part of History of Charles 1st - I was delighted with the flowing elegance of his style and the artfulness of his representations - He makes admissions in general of the tyranny of Charles' government and the service of the noble men who opposed him rendered to liberty - but he defends each particular act of Charles' while he throws suspicion and ridicule upon the patriotes and their actions - about two p.m. a havy rain fell and continued for an hour and a half.

Sabbath the 19th October - according to agreement we all met together at Mr. Watt's little house over the river for publick worship. A. W. began by saying prayer and reading chapters - I read a sermon of Newton and the disciples were first called Christians at Antioch and concluded by prayer and singing - In praying for our native land I was nearly overcome - We again met in the evening following the same plan we mean to continue. Today a good snow fell and in the afternoon it was 3 to 3 inches deep.

Monday the 20th October - A fine morn. and much warmer and the snow almost gone. Alex W., Gordon and I set off after breakfast to purchase oxen, cows and some seasoned timber. We had a pleasant walk but the road was very bad being a composition of black mud & soil clay & snow water. We called upon the Davids and I found them in a neat small log house and a _____ close by a fine stream with large clearance nearly free of stumps around. They directed us to a Dutch man of the name of Schneider who had oxen to sell and might also have timber.

We reached his house about and on enquiring for him were told he would be home immediately. We waited 3 or 4 minutes on the verandah, & 3 or 4 men came to the door as the first of whom I asked if Mr. S. were home - 'Why I believe he is' - was the reply - come in. We entered. We then told our errand and he informed us he had a pair of oxen to dispose of and also timber. We wished to see the oxen. I guess you must stay here all night you can see them in de morning. We needed no further invitation as we knew there was no Inn within many miles of us. We got a very good supper of excellent fish with potatoes, fine loaf - rather a scarce article - and some herb tea - without sugar - of this beverage we partook but sparingly - there were two blacks engaged in some work about the house, a young Dutch lad and two Aberdeenshire Scotchmen. We all sat down together. Mrs. Sn. stood behind and served. We went to bed at 8. We found no blankets but a fine soft light feather bed and another below.

Tuesday the 21st We were awakened at 4 am by the noise of wood chopping below and rose about 6. It was a fine clear frosty morning. We saw the oxen and found them a large heavy pair, but not in fine order. But after consultation we considered they might serve our purpose better than a pair in high condition as they would probably be more tractable We offered ♂5 [sic] dollars and settled ♂8d. We then went towards Shoemaker's Mills, Glasgow. We passed a number of houses belonging to Dutchmen or rather Germans - generally of two stories with a verandah on one side and a porties on the other. Immense frame barns and beautiful fields without a single stump. Passing one of these we saw a quantity of dry wood - cherry - lying upon the roadside by the garden fence. We met with the owner - a jolly looking old man about 100 yards further on working at this road with one or two of his sons and asked him whether he would sell a part of it. He was not very willing to part with it and

desired us first to go to the mills. We did so after a walk of comments arrived at Glasgow where we saw very grist and saw and fulling mills driven by an immense water power and also a large store but no wood could be got either seasoned or unseasoned. We then went back to the Dutogman and told him we could find none and said we should be much obliged to him over and above payment if he would sell us a part of them. Well I guess I must let you have them was the answer. We bought about 400 feet of 1 and 2 inch at 4/S for 1 inch and after paying them we gave him a dram from our bottle. In the meantime it being nearly noon the horn sounded for dinner and he invited us to partake with him which we were fain to do - considering it a lucky windfall. The fare was a large dish of a sort of hodge potch the chief ingredients of which were potatoes and cabbage - some excellent cold fresh pork - loaf 'Smier Kase' fully made of wild berries and sweet milk all of which tasted deliciously after a walk of four fours. He had come from Pennsylvania about 28 years ago. The whole township had been purchased by the Penns. land cog about that time and sold again at 3 dollars per acre - his grandfather emigrated from Europe. We then took leave and proceeded on our journey back again stumbled upon the Dutvman's alimer [sic] who keeps good ale and drank a couple of tumblers each and mentioning that we wanted cows he informed he had one to sell. We looked at them and even agreed to purchase one. We were driven down for four miles by some waggons and reached Galt about nightfall. We got a very good supper of strulls (?) and tea and after supper we brought in and I read one of LEL's novels 'Romance and Reality' - a very readable book.

Wed the 22nd We rose at half past six and called at the waggon maker there - a very decent Scotchman from Ayrshire. We saw an excellent waggon most completely mounted which had been purchased by a Dumfries farmer and he informed me he was making the fellow of it in all respects. We agreed to take it at 63 dollars.

Monday 8 Sept. 1834

Left Toronto for Steamer Canada at 7 a.m. The morning somewhat dull and cold. Nothing worth recording occurred while on the boat. Fair on deck 57c [sic] It is generally the custom on these boats to have black firemen as being I suppose best calculated by constitution and hue for the fiery region below. The two on the Canada had furniture somewhat grotesque - good humoured comical fellows. There were a number of black and col^d people on board. We reached Niagara about 12 passing close by Fort Niagara on the American side. Neither town nor fort furnished anything remarkable. An inquiry found that Mr. Maxwell had left N. on Saturday. After dinner we took the ship for the falls. It rained heavily for 3/4 of the way that we were obliged to keep down the curtains and consequently saw but little of the country. The road follows the bank of the river that are steep, precipitous and woody. Not being able to see about us I got drowsy and slept till I was wakened at Queenston to see General Brock's monument and the precipice down which the Yankees were driven with such slaughter. Opposite to Q. is Lewiston - a very neat village. After leaving Q. the rain came and we got a view of the country. The soil is light and sandy. The cultivation in many parts slovenly, in others superior but the cultivations shown good taste in sparing a number of fine trees around in their fields which gives the country a delightful appearance. We saw some beautiful oak, elm and chestnut. Upon the whole I thought the district after leaving Queenston equal in beauty if not unlike the Carse of Gowrie. It contains the best orchards I have yet seen in America. We passed through the villages of Stamford and Lundy and reached Drummondville where we put up for the night. Being too late to see the falls our curiosity to see them has been intensified this evening by their thundering noise which is much more loud, and deep than that of the ocean in a storm. The stage (?) was full and the company not of the best description. A respectable middle aged stout gentleman came in after leaving Q. with whom we had a little conversation. There was a sale of prints in the inn this morning. A few were sold but at low prices. Those bordering on the licentious sold best. Our fare to the falls from W. was 3/9 c

Tuesday the 9th Rose at half past six and left Drummondville for the pavillion at seven and reached it at half past seven. It being near half hour of breakfast my friend was for putting off the visit to the falls till after it but my curiosity could be restrained no longer so crossing the garden I descended the steep bank by a narrow winding path from various points of which you catch glimpses of the rapids, the fall and the thick white mist and soon stood on the 'Table Rock' with Horseshoe before me in all its terrific grandeur. It was vain to attempt to describe. One might speak of the great extant of rapids above by which by a regular flight of steps - the river not presenting the currents smoothness it does below, but broken and agitated as if by a tempest descends to the verge of the precipace of immens cloud of ehite spray which, shrouding the fall, increases its majesty. Rising with the clouds above of the deep thundering sound and the rock quivering beneath your feet of the boiling white fluid beneath of the beautiful and woody goat islands - the centre seen dimly through the clouds of mist and on the left the American fall a noble sight in any other situation but completely inferior by its neighbour and beyond which is a mixture of undulating field and woodland but this would give you adequate idea of the fall. You must see them to gaze (?) upon them, measure the extant, the breadth, and the depth. You must study them and their grandeur and will continually grow upon you. The whole is on the grandes scale and the greatest proportion and to know it rightly you must in turn analyse each part and combine the whole. After breakfast all 3 went down. I then spread myself flat on the rock and looked over with nerves somewhat agitated. The biased end of the curve turned by the fall full below me. I then had a better idea of its height which from the gigantic dimensions of every thing around seems much less than it really is. relates that he put his arm into the falling water by roading and by laying myself down I easily did it. I then determined to go to the foot of the fall. - although I had no wish to go beneath it. I descended the circular wooden stair and went along a narrow path close by the fist of Table

Rock which well named spreads out considerably above the head not unlike the leaf of table. I put up my umbrella to save my clothes from being wet but the agitation of the air by the fall creates a wind which increases in violence as you approach it until I was fain to take it down it being torn to pieces. I still, however, advanced until within a few yards of the Tartarus (?) behind the fall - when the air came full upon me like a hurricane so that I could neither see nor scarcely breathe and I unwillingly turned back regretting I had not taken the oilcloth drop and the guide. Had not time been passing and my companions impatient I had gone back for them. To recompensate (?) the innkeeper we took a glass of port wine which cost us 7⁰ each. Returning to the porch we ascended the roof whence there is a noble view of both falls and Goat Isl., of the rapids, the river about and its islets, of Manchester (?) to the companion side, of the district of Niagara as far as Brocks Monument above Queenston. We then left the pavillion for Chippewa 2 miles distant accompanied by a young man of colour who had been our companion in the steamboat and ship the day before. He had some good sense and was well informed. After a little sultry conversation I said there are a good many of you folks here but I wonder there are no more. A great many are coming he replied and many more would come if they could by the states. The black are not informal(?) being. They consider us brutes and treat us as such. But here I said you are treated as equal in all respects to the white population. Benham (?) has done a great deal for the slaves. Yes I think he has done it in the best way, gradually as they are little better than hogs and you know if you were to put up hogs and tend them and feed them and then turn them loose without a shephard they would all or if you give a young man without education or experience a large sum of money he will squander and ruin himself and if G.B. had set his slaves free at once without preparation they would have abused it. I hope G.B. will share the profits of the U.S., cut their infamous treatment of the Blk. and col^d. population. If they be not shamed out of it they will be forced out of it. In

reaching Chippewa we found to our great mortification that the steamer for Welland Canal had left an hour before and that we thus had lost a day. We resolved however rather than lole about C. all day to walk forward to P. Robinson, somewhat more than ten miles on. The road went along the banks of the Chippewa which is navigable for steamboats as far as P.R. It is a muddy bottomed flowing stream. The country on the banks has been long settled and we saw some good farms there in a variety soil, some good and some indifferent. We observed them on one farm thrashing their wheat by treading it out with their horses feet which is the usual way here. We called at a neat frame house where we found an old man and woman. The old man had left Ireland when a child above 40 years ago. We asked him what might be the value of land at that time. Why, says he, my father got 100 acres then for an old watch. The man he bought it from died soon after and he was very glad to give up the 100 acres and get back his watch again. We passed a farmer attempting to catch a black squirrel which had taken up its station on one of his apple trees and was very unceremoniously helping himself liberally to the apples. His dog, a large mastiff had got half way into the tree and it making a spring at the squirrel lost his balance and fell right down upon his back. On rising he showed ^{no} inclination to remount and as we entered a little into conversation with the farmer the squirrel was forgotten. He presented us with a few apples. Wages of servants here about £ per an. Soon after leaving him a heavy shower fell and we were soon glad to take shelter in the wood. I continued for about $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. We arrived at Port R. damp tired and hungry.

Wednesday the 10th Breakfasted at 7 and left Port R. about 8 travelling along the welland canal by the side of which the Chippewa meanders for a considerable way. This part of our journey was delightful. The settlement old and scarce a stump to be seen, the land beautifully undulating and the fields surrounded, ornamented with the finest trees. About 7 miles on we left the canal and proceeding along the bank of it _____

where the scene changed. The country was low and swampy and the running off of the water had driven it back upon the land in many places and killed the trees. The country in general is very flat. The canal for a space of 28 miles had not a high lock. At Marshville, an embryo of a village and well named being in the midst of a large marsh. We waited the coming up of the boat for Dunnville. There was rough company in it and it was but an uncomfortable place. We reached Dunnville about 9. Today has been cold and we had some showers.

Thursday the 11th Dunnville is the offspring of the Welland Canal. It contains a number of good houses but it has been very unhealthy this season partly on account of the quantity of stagnant water about it and partly by reason of draining off some of it in the hottest season of the year. Few in it has escaped severe agues [sic] and bilious fevers, of which several have died. Some of the houses stand in the midst of stagnant water. We saw the large dam of the Ouse which feeds the canal. A new bridge of great length and nearly complete is built upon the dam. We were not very certain how to proceed in our intended examination of the Cayuga in time but we were fortunately introduced to a Mr. Nick who gave us a great deal of information. The best land is on the south or west side of the river but it is the worst situation. A large portion of the land on the north or east side is wet and of a very hard clay, but he pointed out a spot behind the Mission house which he believed to be good land and which we resolved to inspect. On the south side the damming up the river had turned the brooks and rivulets into swale. Our road went along the river banks and a few miles after leaving D. we entered a beautiful country, undulating and covered with noble oaks, chestnuts and elm, but here and there with a considerable intermixture of pines, sassafras, shumack and hickory were abundant. We saw a few fine clearings near the waters edge. We called at the house of a Mr. Bruce.

Going down a fine green avenue to the house, we were met at the door by his mother, a lively old lady. 'Well' said she, 'a fresh import from the old country.' 'Exactly so ma'am.' I replied after mentioning our business that we were looking out for land and had come down by mistake. She requested us to go in which we did. She has a son and daughter being possessed of some land in the states. Her son went out to see it and was so delighted with the country that he determined to settle in it. They had settled about a _____ month before we saw them. The lady told us the farm they lived on consisted of 200 acres but she had another 100 a. which she had bought for her daughter but as she had not liked it she was inclined to sell it and would like \$250 for it, a good hint I thought for the butchilous (?) present. We arrived at the Indian Mission schoolhouse about two P.M. but the schoolmaster could give us no information about the tract in his neighborhood, but directed us up to the nearest house and theseagain directed us to the house below where we got lodgings for the night and a guide to take us through the wood. In all the houses there were some sick of the ague and the rest had an unhealthy appearance.

Friday the 12th We rose at half past five and had breakfast over by seven and proceeded forthwith to the wood. We passed _____ the schoolhouse which is a pleasant spot and came to a few Indian houses. Most of these huts have in front a sort of side verandah where the inmates sit, cook and eat. In one of these we saw an Indian, 2 or 3 squaws and some children roasting and cooking Indian corn. two of the boys amused themselves with bows and arrows. The men seem not unwilling to enter into conversation but the squaws are a little shy. They all wear nearly the same dress. The men a blanket coat with blue th _____ round the foot or blue cloth surtant(?) a sort of scarlet or many coloured silk notted around their middle and generally a handkerchief folded round the head in nearly the oriental

fashion from beneath which their own black hair descends or perhaps rather sticks out like the straw from an ill-thatched roof. Loose pantaloons cover their limbs and sometimes moccasins highly ornamented their feet and good many go barefeet. The women throw the blanket loosely over their shoulders where it reaches nearly to the ankle fastening it on the breast. They wear a petticoat then with sort of a loose pantaloon joining the moccasins and crowding the feet. Some of them display B_____ taste in their dress and ornaments. We spoke to the Indian who informed us that the clearing was for sale. It was a beautiful verdant knoll with a few shrubs scattered over it. Three or four huts were built around it and behind with a side clearing. We now entered the wood going along _____ the first and second concession and occasionally diverging to either side to examine the readiness of the lots. It was wilsome work although the brushwood was not by any means thick on account of the unevenness of the surface the many fallen trees we had to climb over. It was undulating and we came upon several open glades covered with a fine close turf, some shrubs and a few majestic trees. The trees were oak chiefly, maple, a few birch and chestnut, here and there were a large proportion of pines and very few bugs. The soil mostly a hard stiff clay with little vegetable mold and less loam except in the hollows and swamp of which there were a few but not large. There were no running streams and one creek only we saw upon had a little muddy water in it. After an examination of about six hours we by the help of a compass crossed the wood to the new Talbot Road which we reached about 1 p.m. Hearing that one of the settlers had a lot of 200 acres, 10 of which was cleared and a log house upon it to sell, Mr. W. wished to see it and ask his price. We accordingly called and found the log house yet unfinished, covered with a carpet and hung with carpeting by way of partitions, a fine 8 day clock stood in one corner and on the opposite side a few shelves were fixed on which was

an excellent library consisting of the last ed. W. Novels, history, poetry and some good volumes of periodicals. The proprietor was a citizen of Auld , a printer by trade and wished to dispose of his lot because he had purchased from the Indians a lot on the river side. I asked him how he liked 'Very Well'. Wre you dissapointed in your expectations. 'Yes, agreeably so, I found it better than I expected.' He asked £300 for the whole. It cost him £1.00 acre wild. Watt then offered him £250 but he refused. We then proceeded on our way to Indiana and found the country to improve as we went on. We reached Indiana in the twilight sufficiently fatigued. It consists of a few houses with two or perhaps three storeys, all raised within three or four months. We had met with another Edinburghian in a warehouse now keeping a store in Indianna. He was rather dissatisfied with the exchange he had made and seemed to sigh for the proper pleasures of a town life.

Saturday the 13th rose at 5 a.m.. We endeavoured to get a wagon or conveyance to Brantford, but could find none and nothing remained for us but to walk it. This day I enjoyed more than any since I came to America. The day was remarkably fine, a bright unclouded sun during the whole of it, tempered by cooling breezes. The road follows the river bank up to Brantford. The scenery was delightful. The banks presented a series of most charming slopes some of which were the sights of elegant frame houses. The trees were mostly oak and the soil was of the same kind of stiff hard clay we saw at Cayuga. The workmen were busy in several places damming up the river and cutting canals to make it navigable. The whole tract from Indianna upwards to Brantford belongs to the Indians. We passed several villages, Tuscarora was one of them. Their sites are geneally chosen with great taste, most frequently on the top of a high eminence (?) overlooking a bend of the river covered with a fine clover of green turf and beatifully

besprinkled with shrubs. The houses in general look rather wretched though there are exceptions among them as among their owners. Their clearing seldom exceed more than a few patches of Indian corn, a few cow pastures on the common and swarms of pigs. One or two of them have cleared to the extent of 50 to 100 acres and finished their erratic habits but almost all have a great fondness for spirits. We saw a number of charming slopes and fine open glades where to have cut down a little brushwood and put in the plough would have been sufficient to turn the forest into a fruitful field and we expressed our regret that this fine tract was not for sale - although could not help observing the great want of water and the hardship and stiffing of the soil. The day being fine and warm and coming upon a suitable place I bathed and was greatly refreshed. About 3 p.m. an Irishman thoroughly Yankeyfied overtook and as he was going to Brantford, we agreed to keep company by the way. He had been about three years in the country and liked it well. He was continually guessing, calculating and expecting. This last word is the Yankee for think, believe, suppose, etc. I was amused by one expression he used in speaking of a house in Br. - a mighty big clever house. There being no Inn the whole way. We got very hungry about 4 and went to the schoolmaster of the morning house to buy milk and bread but got nothing. We reached Brantford at 7 and put up at the house of a Yankee, Robinson by name. His accomodation was but indifferent. After 10 I called upon Mr. Burwell who informed me that the best part of Cayuga was already sold and that there was not a block of sufficient size for us, but recommended I look at the part of Torra for sale on the 26th and refferred us to Captain Drew for information. We therefore resolved to take the stage for Oxford on Monday morning.

Sabbath the 14th Rose about 7 and walked about the village till breakfast should be ready. I was surprised at the great

number of stores, not less I suppose than 24 or 30 in a village of 500 or 750 inhabitants, certainly not above 1000. There are a number of neat and elegant frame houses in it. Three new Inns were in the course of building and two churches. As we stood before the door of the Inn a stout little fellow accosted us in the genuine Aberdonian accent. Here from Scotland I guess. Yes and so are you we replied. When came you here. I left Aberdeen in the end of April. So you have learned to guess already. Another most delightful day. As we were misinformed as to the hours of worship, being told there was no service in the forenoon, we went up the river side with our New Testament where beneath a spreading we lay and read several chapters, psalms and hymns. We then bathed and returned to the Inn. In the afternoon we heard the Rev. Mr. Lilly's catechism a small class of 3 or 4 on the chapter of _____ which contained an account of the flood and in the evening an excellent discourse on the possibility or probability of a Revelation from God. There seemed to be but few churchgoers in Brantford but I have not observed there or elsewhere upon _____ save when the Rupus (?) lived in them. Watt's Psalms and Hymns are generally used in divine worship here. The singing was new to me but simple. _____

Monday morning. We were aroused at four by our Aberdeenshire acquaintance who was in Robinson's service, to be in readiness for the stage which called for us _____ we were well drist [sic] A thick mist covered the town and surrounding country which cleared off after sunrise and we had another lovely day. The distance to Oxford is 60 miles which cost us 7/6 each currency. We had a rare specimen of Yankeeism with us in the coach. He wore a stout hat of rather an antique fashion, a long hood, a grey great coat with snap buttons and a flute stuck out of his breast. I was partly amused and fairly annoyed by him at breakfast. The bread, potatoes, steaks etc. were passing side of the table and although I handed them to him as well as to the rest every noe and then he ordered me to pass the bread, pass the potatoes, hand me some

steak, give me the tea pot for which he never to give the usual thanks. At length after passing him something for the 6th or 7th time I said that I see that you are from the U.S. Whether he understodd the hint I cannot tell but he plagued me no more but helped himself. After breakfast a Canadian lady cute and with a place of honour of somewhat ample dimensions came in and insisted on having half of the backmost seat to herself but caoches would not allow it. All 3 were squeezed into it, one of which was was a middle aged gentleman from the neighørhood of Glasgow, a humorist in his own way. He sailed from Liverpool to N.Y. and had been 3 months on the voyage. We now got a sample of Canadian stage driving on Canadian roads. There is none of the British promptitudes [sic] in changing horses and watering them. At every stop the driver popped his head in at the window and said do you wish to step out gentlemem and the length of the stop was generally from 15 - 20 minutes. They will drive anywhere either to take up or set down passengers and should any passenger have a call to make by the way they make no difficulty about waiting him a quarter of an hour. This is sometimes annoying but as I had once or twice been accommodated by the custom I could not say much against it. If can sit with his back to the horses it is by far the cosiest seat. We had some tremendous rocking and but still not quite so bad as described by Fergusson when the driver had to call out occasionally Gents, a 'little to the right' a 'little to the left' to prevent the coach being upset. Those on the hind seat some very rude knocks and shakes which greatly unnerved those who sat opposite to them but discomposed the Can. lady a little. Not so our Edinb. friend, he enjoyed the sport as much as any of us. There were a great many clearings along the 'Great London Road' with almost all covered with stumps. Within three miles of Oxford we met with a young man, a friend of Mr. W. whom I had seen in Toronto who conducted us to Beechville where he had got a situation in a store. We then got information where Malcolm and Mr. Wilson

should by the shopkeepers account it was not above 6 miles off but I turned out to be 14. We went along a rocky steep up and down hill rock, and then turned off by a track through the woods-We reached Malcolm ? about 7 pm. and stayed there all night. We got an excellent supper the of which I may note to show what comforts and luxuries may be here had by the poorest after a short while labour. to go with milk, loaf, flour, cookies, butter, maple sugar, raspberry and plum jam gathered from the woods beside the usual Tuesday the 16. rose a six, bade our host shortest goodby and went to Wilsons. Part of is to . M. lost his whole crop if what by it. He is a most industrious man. There he labours in the midst of thw wood without a human being to help him save Mrs. M. yet he likes it well--We were very kindly received by the W. although we never saw their faces before. We got an excellent breakfast of tea, eggs and deer venison and copious draughts of milk after. They are very industrious to manage their farm well, so well indeed as to excite the surprise of the other settlers. Their difficulties are now over and they are in prosperous circumstances. They are raising some excellent stock and have one of the best pairs of oxen in the township. Understanding that we were in search of a large block of land, they recommended to us to one of the name of Randall as one who had a better than any otherr with and the neighbouring townships, perfectly trustworthy and after some consultation, two of them agree to accompany us and introduced us to him. After some hesitation, son the youngest agreeing to take his work for the day he consented to go along with us. and show us a block belonging to Mr. C. Cox which he described as being the finest land and watched as was acquainted with. He saddled his mare which he had bought two days before and we rode alternately. We were to leave the mare at Cooks who kept a sort of Inn within 3 or 4 miles of the block, get some refreshments and then examine the land. At arriving at Cooks we found the stable to put the mare in. He had neither bread nor flesh, even a glass of whiskey

was not to be got. He had some remnants of dinner only consisting of potatoes, soup which being hungry and nothing else to be got we ate up. He was a complete example of the original busy Canadian settler, he possessed his farm for a dozen years and there were scarcely as many acres cleared, on the clearance we saw nothing but weeds. His chief employment was hunting or any other little nicknack job which would cost no exertion. When we called he was busy making a belt to put a small bell round the neck of a young time doe which he had found in the woods and brought home and which was playfully running about with his children-a stock in which he was anything but deficient. Having finished our scanty meal we walked off into the woods. We were highly pleased with the first sights of the land. the trees were large and straight, the surface beautifully undulating, the soil a black loam in a subsoil of clay. The was abundant and the branch of the Thames ran through the block affording several beautiful sites for houses. We returned to Cooks. The evening was fine and we reached rt. before 7 and 8. His wife had returned and some provisions had been procured, still we drank our tea without sugar. Next morning we rose between 5 and 6 with the intention of calling upon the Co. agent at Stratford. We again passed through the block of land we had partially examined the previous afternoon. On reaching the great Huron Road we learned that Daly and the commissioner had gone downward, but were expected to return the same day. We therefore proceeded to Fryfogel some 4 miles below there to await them. After breakfast understanding that it might be afternoon or evening before they returned, we resolved to employ the eternal in a further inspection of the block beginning at the westmost corner and running up the concession lines westward. We went by a river footpath through the bush and had reached a Dutchman who had purchased a mill site on the same block where a went for a stop to our further progress that day. On arriving at the stream R. mounted and threw his bridle on his mares neck with the intention of going

to the Dutchman to get some information respecting some of the lots, while I sat on a log in the middle of the stream and W. on the farther bank. Believing him to be well acquainted with his mare and to have the fullest confidence in her quick step and docility and knowing that he was to return immediately neither he nor I thought it all necessary to hold by the mare. In the meantime an evil spirit I suppose in the shape of a porcupine strolled quite across R. way and at once forgetful of his errand and his mare he at once commenced a hunt and hollered on us to come to his assistance. We immediately ran up and with the help of a stick and umbrella soon killed it, not however till the end of my umbrella was struck full of its quills--after gazing on it for a few moments R. desired to go and look after the mare which immediately did and got to the place we left her just in time to see her passing at a quick waslking pace the untended mule and making direct for the woods thinking myself the only one to overtake her and afraid to holler after R. lest she should gallop off I ran to the woods as quickly as I could in an oblique direction to the left, that I might get before her and drive her back. But on falling into the wood she evidently quickened her pace and although I her once or twice she seemed aware of my purpose, and although she quite disappeared and I saw her no more. In a few moments I heard Randall following and he came up within 2 or 3 min. after I lost sight of him, but he was not found. After some conversation we resolved to return to Fryfogels while R. and the Dutchman walked in search of the mare. On going down we were supprised at meeting with so many genteel people. some driving oxen, some carrying axes, about five R. arrived without his mare. He had repeatedly come upon her tracks but lost it among the cattle tracks. Daly and Jones not having come up we now determined to go to Stratford, a distance of 10 miles and wait them there. We got there between 8 and 9pm. and soon after Daly and Jones came in. Jones effected a good deal of

) hunting but gradually relaxed in it and became a little more civil and polite. We arranged a meet with Daly and 6 next morning to see the plans. We then retired for the night.

P.S. When we returned to Fryfogel we found an Indian skinning 2 deer he had shot which he showing great dexterity having skinned one of them in about 2 minutes. Fryfogel bought the hinder and quarters of both at 6 shillings York 3/9c.

The Indian having tied up the remaining halves in the skins came to the bar drank tumbler after tumbler of C. whiskey. He then got very merry and became the cause of mirth to us, also observing his pleasure, good humour and looks and odd gestures. Although he called for a whiddle which for awhile nonplussed all of us. We understood by his signs that he meant a fiddle. A fiddle could not be got but we prevailed on himself to sing and then to dance both which he did pretty, and the music very secular and Scotch. I was anxious to see the war dance, but this we could not prevail on to exhibit. The whiskey with the singing and dancing began to work too powerfully and Fryfogel, afraid of him becoming troublesome, with some difficulty got rid of him. At tea we had excellent deer steak but a little overdone.

P.S. Monday the 16. After leaving Breckville? we came up with a two horsed waggon at the owner of which we inquired our road how far we had to go, and whether we went the same way, after answering our queries he politely asked whether we would take a drive. We thanked him and willingly enuf got onto the waggon. He drove us down in fine style for about 3-4 miles to the road by which we had to go to Malcolms. Perceived his respectable appearance I thought it would affront him to offer him any money especially as he volunteered the drive, and we all thanked him very cordially. The reply was '2 shillings gentlemen if you please'.

) Wed. the 17. We rose at six and found Daly visiting us. We then looked at the plans, took the numbers off the conc. and lots and D. gave us a rough draft of the plan. Before leaving

Jones ran in and was exceedingly polite. He allowed us 10 days for examination and consideration and as in advance of 2/6 per acre was talked of, he promised that although the advance should take place before the expiration of these 10 days, we should not be charged it. After breakfast we went down the Huron Road and then plunged at once in the middle of it. As quickly as thick underwood and fuller trees would permit us. We found it most fatiguing work. A heavy rain had fallen in the morning, trees, shrubs and weeds were dripping and in an hours space our feet, legs and thighs were soaking. Our progress was but slow. We got over the breadth of a concession, is the length of lot = 5/8 of a mile in half an hour we had no swamp to go through, or go round, (as it was sometimes impossible to go thru). Soon we encountered a cedar swamp of which there were several. It generally cost us an hour and a half, and over 2 hours to find the "Blazes" again. The compass was essential service. The day was heavy and dark and without we should certainly have lost our way. On coming to the end of a lot the sun does not shine and you have no compass and if you look round to examine the trees and the soil as you ought to, you are very apt to take the wrong blaze and go to the right about direct the way you came, supposing all the while you are steering manfully onward, or you may wheel to the right or left which is quite as bad, besides old blazes are not infrequently to be met with, and if they do not mislead you they are sure to perplex you exceedingly. It is not the brushwood alone which make the work so toilsome and the progress so slow. You go on. You look about you and catches your feet and if it does not bring you right on your knees or your nose, as often, it gives you a most confounding shake. You step upon a slippery root and in the twinkling of an eye find yourself flat on your back. Springing from one fallen trunk to another to serve for an ascent and descent you land upon a rotten one and sink up to your knee. Sometimes you must climb over, sometimes creep over huge trunks of which in every wood there is a great number. You have to go alone one of these. You are tired, the trunk is

slippery. You hold by the twigs of the adjoining trees. Some of them are rotten and down you tumble, much to your own annoyance and greatly to the amusement of your unsympathizing companions. We were highly pleased with the appearance of the land. The trees were elm, beech, maple, , hickory and cherry. They were large, straight, tall and clear in the bark. The nettle was . The soil was most black loam or a substance of clay. There were some fine open grove-like patches and beautiful slopes but we could not avoid observing the deficiency of water. We found several little channels, quite dry, but when we came upon the branch of the Thames we were greatly disappointed. It was nearly dry- a few pools here and there were to be seen but not running water. Till we approached the Torra line the , fth block where there was a small running stream. At the place which I reached the previous as a beautiful site for a house there was no stream and only a shallow pool. When it two lots on which the first installment had been paid by Cook and his brother. It was increased by 2 living creeks one of which rose within their lots and the other but a little way beyond. We now reached the path leading unto the great Huron Road from which we were distant no long miles. It was between 5 and 6pm.. We made the outskirts of the wood as it became quite dark, fatigued, hungry and faint, having to show nothing save a draught of cold water since seven in the morning. We were still 4 miles distant from Fryfogels, and felt it would be almost impossible to get there without some refreshments, we therefore called at the hut of a Perthshire Highlander where we got some peameal, bannocks, and buttermilk and as the fare way. We were glad to get it--the buttermilk delisciously but hungry as I was I found it difficult to stomach the bannocks. We reached Fryfogels at 8 got an excellent supply of eggs, , and tea and went to bed.

Thursday the 18th. When I awoke this morning I found myself in consequence of the over exertion of the 2 previous days exceedingly feeble and my stomach and bowels a little deranged.

After consultation we resolved there as piece of land was very desirable we should carefully examine the lots we had not seen to ascertain whether there were any springs or streamlets upon them. Feeling myself so much out of order I divided this task upon Gibbon and Watt and Fryfogel might be disposed to part with his lots which were excellently watered for consideration. He and I in the meantime called upon him to learn his mind. As we went along we ascertained that the 20 lots of the 1 & 2 & 3 concessions might be got on pretty reasonable terms thus affording the block a front to the Road. These lots too were pretty well watered. On our way we passed one or two beautiful streamlets as clear as crystal and deliciously cool. Hearing a little distance to the left we turned to the quarter when the Sound proceeded and arrived in time to see a fine maple fall. The first fall I had seen. A loud report was heard and the tree slowly and majestically fell swishing the branches of the adjoining trees crashing before it. It was the Dutchman and two neighbours chopping for the intended mill. After some chat which I came on by means of my interpreter Fryfogel for none of the other three could speak a word of English beyond yea or nay. Fryfogel told them my purpose in calling and asked where they were disposed to part with their lots for a fair , which they seemed not unwilling to do. We then went to look at the mill site both beside it. On one of the 200 acres lots we came to a fine open space where there was a gentle eminence and surrounded with most noble cedars and thick underwood. In the centre of which there was a verdant and grassy knoll whence there gushed forth the purest crystalline water in a jet as thick as one's fist. We instantly quenched ourselves and I took out a cup and drank first of the pure liquid. I then pulled out the brandy bottle and pouring in a quite stiff drink to the Dutchman "Hail and to which they cordially responded in like libation. The other 250 acres had also a streamlet proceeding from another stream and entered the Barn which was intended to drive the mill. The mill stream

passed through the other 200 acres.²

Oct. 31 rec'd from Gilkison

7	12 feet lumber	5/	/w	100 ft
3	26 feet do	6/	fur	do

plus pick axes and rope and spools and cutting rood

Nov. 1 Wanted

12 fathom rope about 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick
shingles-pick ax-masons trowel

2 large saw files-lilly bind f _____

with mortar--McKae A _____

Lewis Craig stuck do

Wanted

4 in long by 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ broad of stout buff leather
common sole and upper leather

Sold

horn combs and b _____

white washing brush

trowels

order for Mrs. Lilly

$\frac{1}{2}$ curtain stripe as much as necessary to mount a four post
bed with binding and fringe

hay knife Turner etc. Wilson

check _____

shirting sacking

bodkins black _____

NB

write D. Wight

Mr. W. added

Mr. A. Duff

Mr. R _____

my father and my sister

Mr. T. Primrose

Owen Tonnet--care
 Thos. Cummins-McRae shingle maker

Need to Buy
 cross cut saw and pick axe
 bell book
 can Bill and Belt
 Trowel shingle nails
 Block and tackle

The balance you will be so kind as desposit on my account in
 the Bank of UC--to be transferred to the Branch at Hamilton
 which greatly oblige.

page torn out

Unattached sheet:

Nottawasaga

1. Healthy
 2. Fertile
 3. 50 miles by land and 60 by water
 110 miles to To
 4. well watered abounding in springs and streams
 5. Undulating and gradually rising from the lake
 6. Flour and saw mills are at Penetanquishine and a capital
 mill _____ or the N. River within 8 or 10 miles
 7. 5\$ per acres
 8. complete bush but a few respectable settlers with capital
 have gone there
- ... divide into two branches and forms fork-It continued dull
 all day-Sabbath the 2 NOV. ...as usual- but in the .! . but
 his complements
 cheque regarding St. Vincent

Collingwood 7.1 to 9

Nottawasaga

IX 35 34 33 32 31 30
 VIII 3-5 34 clergy
 X 30 31 32clergy 33 34clergy
 XI 33 32 31 30
 XII 33 32clergy 31 30 34
 VII 35

_____own house at which we found a few of the inhabitants and
 visited those present. W. and I prayed and Mr. G. read a sermon
 of Adams on the necessity of public worship-a fair day

Monday the ___noon. Watt down to Guelph.

2.

27th August, 1981

Mrs Elsie M. Harrison

George Elmslie's wife was Agnes Gibbon born 29th March 1807 at Mill of Colairly (now Cullerlie) in the Parish of Echt, daughter of William Gibbon and Mary Carnie who married on 23rd August 1794.

George does not appear to have attended university in Aberdeen but may have been a pupil at Aberdeen Grammar School. In its 'Roll of Pupils' is listed:

Elmslie, George entered Class 1 1810 left 1814.

William was not an advocate since he does not appear in the Society of Advocates' list of members.

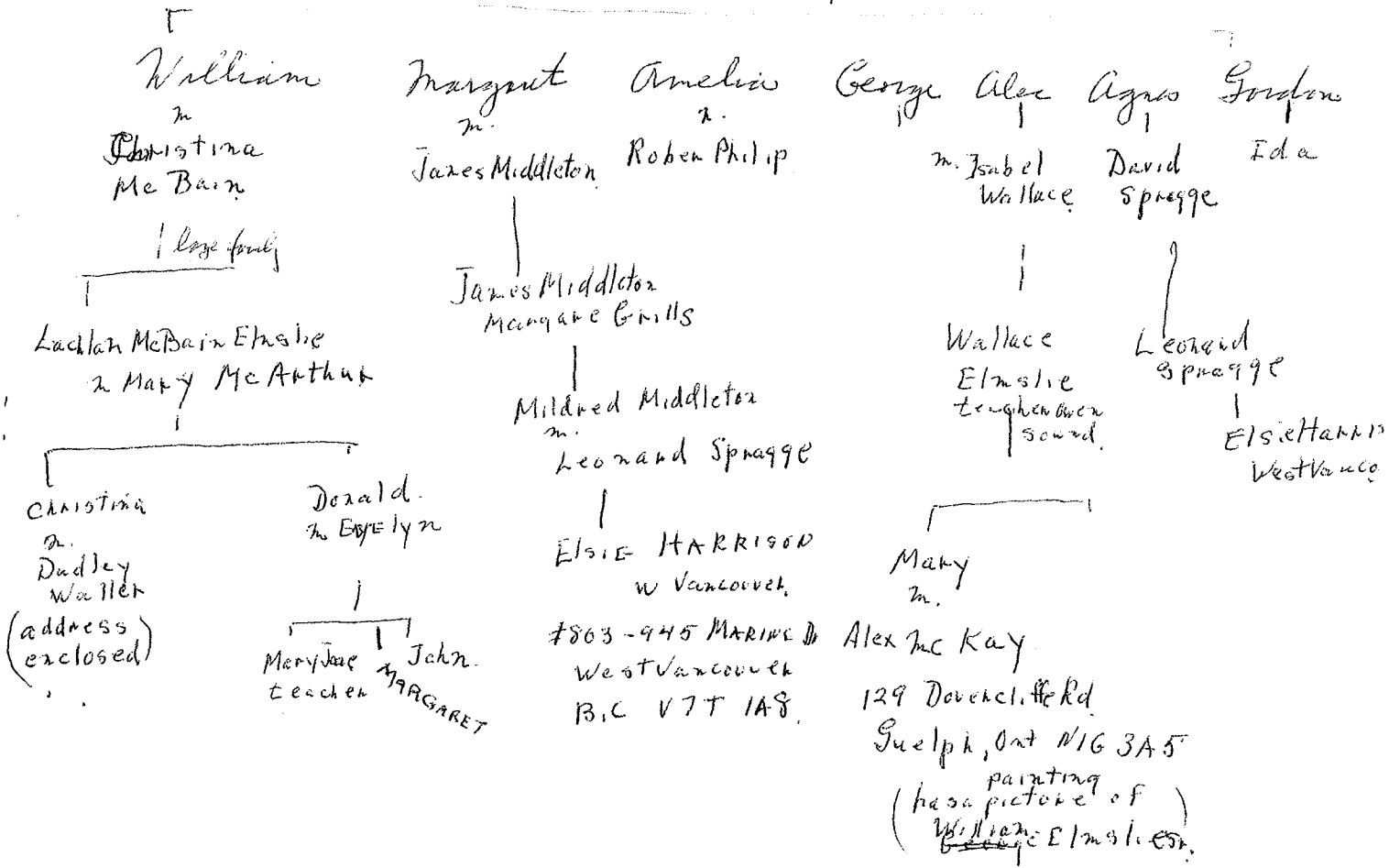
I hope this information will be of some assistance in your genealogical research.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter Grant".

City Librarian

George Elmslie + Agnes Gibbons



Entries for William Elmslie from 'Aberdeen Directory'

- 1824-25 Emslie, William merchant Home: Kidd Lane
- 1825-26 Emslie, William merchant (G. Symmers & Co.) Home: Kidd Lane
Symmers, George & Co. merchants 25 Union Street
Symmers, George merchant Home: Crown Court, Union Street
- 1828-29 Emslie, William & Son drapers 15 Shiprow Home: Kidd Lane
- 1831-32 Emslie, William & Son drapers 15 Shiprow Home: 3 Kidd Lane
- 1835-36 Elmslie, William Sen. (of Wm. Elmslie & Son) Home: 3 Kidd Lane
- Elmslie, William & Son drapers 15 Shiprow
- 1836-37 Elmslie, William & Son
Elmslie, William Sen. Treasurer and Collector of Police Office:
1 Ragg's Lane Home: 3 Kidd Lane
- 1837-38 No entry for Elmslie & Son
- 1838-39 Elmslie, William Sen. Office: 30 St Nicholas Street
- 1841-42 Elmslie, William Sen. treasurer and collector of Police Assessments
- 1843-44 Elmslie, William late merchant 3 Kidd Lane
- 1849-50 Elmslie, Mrs William 3 Kidd Lane - last entry
No entry for William

Census return 1841 for Kidd Lane

William Elmslie age 55 Treasurer of Police
Margaret Elmslie age 55
Helen Elmslie age 13

Upper
Waters

ELMSLIE FAMILY HISTORY

*--From the 1906 Atlas of Wellington County, page 6, column 3, under "Nichol Township", quote :

"From a Scrap book kindly loaned by Mr. W.W.Wright, we find that in 1834, Mr. George Elmslie was sent out by some of his friends from Aberdeen, Scotland, to purchase land. After his arrival in Canada, he met another Scotchman, Mr. Alexander Watt, on a similar quest, and they travelled in company. After visiting a number of localities they decided upon a part of the Township of Nichol, lying on the banks of the Irvine River. Mr. Elmslie and Mr. Watt bought their land from Mr. Gilkinson (of Elora), Mr. Elmslie buying 1200 acres, Mr. Watt buying 800. Another 1000 acres were bought by other Scotchmen who came in shortly after.

"Among others who came out in the first party were Mr. James Meir and family, Mr. Peter Brown and family, and Mr. Robert Melvine and family. In the Melvine family were Mr. & Mrs. George Robert Melvine, George Cromar, Mrs. Elmslie's son by her first husband, and James Melvine.

"About the same time, or shortly after, were William and John Gibbon, brothers of Mrs. Elmslie, the Mairs and the Mackies. Mr. John A. Davidson also came about that time. The name "Bon Accord" was given the settlement by the pioneers, because that is the motto of Aberdeen.

"It was not long before a log school was built on Mr. Elmslie's land, and he was installed as teacher. It is said that while teaching in Bon Accord School, it was not unusual for him to fall asleep, and to slumber on until some of the scholars would rouse him with the request that he would hear their lessons and let them go home."

666= Bon Accord Settlement was located along the Irvine River, upstream from Salem, and extending eastward a couple of miles toward the northern limits of Fergus. The Elmslie farm may have been the one Lorne Rae sold to the "Addiction Research Foundation, R.R. 1, Elora". One of the Watt farms, Alex Watt's, was across the road. At least one rural school at Bon Accord replaced the original log school, and the area is still known by that name, at the Research Centre, and by a Literary^(?) Society.

In a letter dated Jan. 3, 1973, from Mrs. Wallace Parker Elmslie, 30 West Lincoln Hill, Quincy, Illinois, 62301, in search of Elmslie family history, she states : that George Elmslie and his sister, Margaret, came to Canada in 1831, settling along the Irvine River, near Elora or Fergus.

There were a number of letters written to them by their father, William Elmslie, a merchant in Aberdeen.

Some of these letters were copied by Miss Margaret Hiltz about 1940, (Possibly a High School Teacher in Fergus, ^o) but just how she came to be interested in copying them, or how she had access to them, we have not learned. Mrs. Barrie McFadzean of Fergus, who attended H.S. while Miss Hiltz was there, said she ^{Miss Hiltz} was related to Mrs. (Dorothy) Abraham Groves, whose maiden name was Hiltz, and that Arthur Nesbitt's daughter Jean and Ruth, called Miss Hiltz, "Aunt Margaret". *(Cousins Mr. Nesbitt & she visits with them yet - & will ask about this)*

Mrs. W.P. Elmslie said in part: "We understand there were quite a few of these letters, and we would like to get zerox copies of all of them. I understand there is a Diary of George Elmslie in Wellington County Museum. If it is possible to copy this diary, we would like to receive a copy. We would also like to receive a copy of the Obituary of George Elmslie, the pioneer, and any newspaper articles about him."

We would like an estimate of the cost of this search and copies, etc.

She mentions that George Elmslie had a large family, but ~~we~~ only know of Alexander, Gordon, George and William; and that her husband, Dr. Wallace P. Elmslie is a grandson of Alexander.

----- At the present time, January 1973, we know of no letters and no Diary. They are not catalogued at the Museum. In the Museum catalogue there is a ^{very} Old Scrap Book, donated by Dr. Byerly, Guelph, No. 1 in his donations. I wonder if this could be the one borrowed from Mr. A.W. Wright in 1906, / and could it have been a scrap book assembled by a member of the Elmslie family. At the present time the Museum is closed for the winter, but there are drawers behind the counter as you enter, in which there are sheaves of papers, or books in too poor condition for display purposes. These could be investigated.

----- Other books catalogued that would throw light on Elmslie family "Elora", by John Cannon, was written about the Elora settlement, He married to the oldest daughter of John Keith and Christina Watt, who were married shortly before they left Aberdeen for Canada in 1834. He settled in Bon Accord (See Cataloguing-John Keith-Grandfather's Clerk "Pioneer Days in Nichol", by A.W. Wright, a native of Elora area, school teacher, and later Editor of Mount Forest Confederate Weekly. Likely he was he who loaned the old Scrap book in 1906.

"Leaves of a Lifetime", by Margaret Wade, and donated by Margaret Leatherbarrow, may be a book or booklet, but gives the family history of the Gartshore family in Fergus, and the Moir Family of Bon Accord.

"Day Dreams of a Pioneer", donated by E.M. Davidson, written by John Mortimer in 1911, could be about the Elora area.

Mr. Fred E. Elmslie, 174 Union Blvd, Kitchiner, Ont, was a relative, and much interested in the book, "Elora", wanted to buy our extra book. But it was placed in the Safe at Elora Library by Mrs. Charles Allan.

And is not for sale.

Possibly another branch of the family back in Scotland, was the James Elmslie family ~~at~~ who settled at Ennotville, and is also mentioned in 1906 Atlas : "The first town meeting (of Nichol Township), was held in January 1832 at the house of Abraham Flewelling, lot 9, con.8, and James Elmslie was elected Clerk, which office he held until 1837, when James McQueen (of Fergus) was elected."

This James Elmslie taught School for ^{Mr. Tasse} Mr. Tasse in Galt ~~before~~ before coming to Nichol Township, where he settled on the farm now owned by Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Wright, beside the Ennotville Library. He was the first teacher in the Ennotville area, possibly the first Librarian, was instrumental in the erection of the Library, organized the "Templars", etc. Isobel Cunningham is presently Curator of Ennotville Tweedsmuir History Book, and has a write-up there, (1973). Dave Beattie does not think this family was related to the Bon Accord settler, at least not closely. James Elmslie became quite a drunkard, and his wife and large family had a very hard time. (This James had only one son, James, and two daughters, from Scrap Book, and obituary.) See bottom of page-

Rev. W.D. Elmslie, B.A., minister ^{at St. Paul's United Church,} at St. Paul's United Church, Petrolia, was a ^{great-} great-grandson of this ^{George} James, and was interested in his family background, something he mentioned as guest speaker at Belwood United Church Anniversary ^{garg} in 1971. Between Isobel Cunningham and me, we were able to supply quite a start on his family in Nichol. His grandfather had moved to # 9 Highway north of Harriston, His Aunt Ida? was compiling the history, but he sent copies to his sister in Washington, D.C.; and to a cousin, Mary, daughter of Wallace, who was Principal of Owen Sound Collegiate during the 1930's.

*D. 1979 Small
St. Mark's*

---Assembled from letters, etc, Jan. 1973, by

Mrs. Thos. J. Hutchinson, R.R. 5, Belwood, Ontario,

Apr. 5, 1973 --- Dave Beattie brought Mrs. Mary Broadfoot's Scrap Book, and from an obituary there are only one son, James, and 2 daughters mentioned. But in the James Jr.'s obituary, there is a large family, and possibly it was his son, William, who went to Minto and settled on what is now # 9 Highway, north of Harriston, about lot 68. He had a son who was teaching in Owen Sound in the 1930's, and was the grand grandfather of Rev. Don Elmslie of Petrolia.

Muriel Palframan phoned to say there was a lady in Guelph, Mrs. Matheson, 102 Arthur St. who was related to the Elmslie family, but at Ennotville. At that time she was visiting a son in California, so I phoned Mrs. Norman Stafford, her twin sister. I believe Mrs. Stafford said that Mrs. Jones in Elora, was also her sister.

Mrs. Stafford said her maiden name was Scott, and there had been a good deal of research done on the Scott Family, but not much on her grandparents' family, the Elmslies. They were the Ennotville family, and she says "not related in any way to the Bon Accord family that she knows of". However, as Dave Beattie pointed out, they all came from Aberdeen, Scotland, so could have been cousins, or distant cousins.

Actually it is the Canadian Branch of the Bon Accord family the Elmslie family in Illinois, is interested. And Miss Margaret Hiltz of Toronto may have some answers.