

# **Belleport, Rosskeen Ross and Cromarty**

**The original letters will be deposited at the Highland Archives in Inverness**



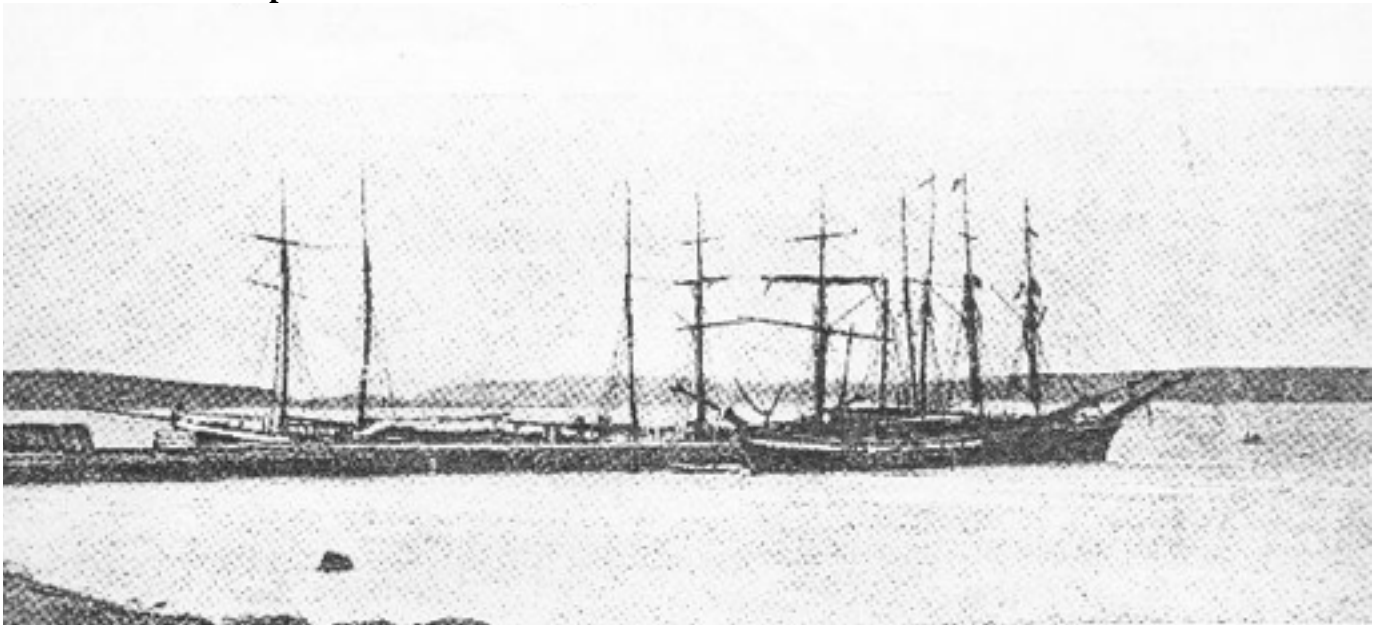
**credit: Linda Duncan**

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## **The Letters Recovered by Sheila Hoseason from the Attic at Belleport**

**The family of James Hall, his wife Isabella Laurence, and their nine children, all born in Limekilns, Fife, arrived at Rosskeen in Ross and Cromarty sometime between 1836, when William was born, and the 1841 census. The last child, George Ross Hall, was christened in Rosskeen 10 Dec 1841. James established a business centered on shipowning, which was also a tradition in Limekilns. He imported timber, lime and coal and exported the produce of the local farms and estates. He built near the head of the Cromarty Firth the house known as Belleport and the pier immediately opposite the house. James Hall died in 1864 at Belleport. George Ross Hall continued the business until his death in 1888. The house was not occupied at the time of the 1891 census and the business seems to have ceased by that time. The coming of the railway and steam instead of sail must have produced drastic changes in local transportation. The house passed into the ownership of the Dalmoe Distillery nearby and was bought by Mrs. Hoseason's parents in the 1950's. At various times it was unoccupied.**



**In September 2001 Alan Cairnie, whose 2xgt-grandfather was James Hall of Belleport, visited Belleport and, through the good offices of Donald MacLennan of Dingwall, met for the first time Mrs. Sheila Hoseason, the owner at that time. She provided copies of invoices, cheques, and sundry references to the Hall family and Belleport in local publications. She later provided copies of twenty-two letters which she had found in the attic of the house. They were a remarkable find considering that the house had been through various owners and had been unoccupied for a number of years. I presumed those were all the letters and transcribed them for the interest of myself and others.**

**In December 2012 Sheila forwarded all the original letters and many other documents which had been in storage for about six years since they sold Belleport in about 2006. Needless to say I am excited to have this material, and grateful to her for her generosity. There are now sixty-eight letters in my hands and they are now transcribed in this document.**

**She has told me the following about the history of the house. "As regards Belleport, the earliest date on the title deeds was 1843, but whether this was for the earlier part of the house or the front part, we were never able to establish. I am unable to help with dates when it was unoccupied but I am almost sure it was vacant when my parents bought it in the early fifties. They purchased it from Dalmore Distillery who owned it at the time, and my parents installed the electricity." Later she wrote, "I have done a bit more "digging" and find that James Hall did not own the ground at Belleport initially. It seems that from Whitsunday 1836, he set up an agreement with Catherine Munro of Cromarty to rent (with a 999 year lease!) two pieces of ground, on which he had already built houses, for the sum of £1 sterling for each lot, payable at Whitsunday and Martinmas each year. I see the agreement was actually signed on 20th December, 1843. It would appear that Belleport went out of Hall ownership when the trustees of the late John Hall, tackman, Tomich (sometimes spelled Tomaich), sold the property to Wm. F. MaKenzie, owner of Dalmore Distillery, in December 1900. It was in the ownership of the MacKenzie family and the distillery until 27th April, 1956, when it was purchased by my parents."**

**Although I have the letters I am greatly indebted to my friend John Leadbeater who is also descended from Halls of Limekilns and Charlestown in Fife. Because of that shared interest we are both collecting information and discussing it together. We have lively exchanges.**



**These photographs are of Belleport House and the pier opposite.**

## ***The Family History of James Hall (1795-1864)***

*James Hall was born in Limekilns, Fife the sole child of James Hall, born 1769, with Ann McDonald. They were not married, as was made very clear in the baptismal record in Dunfermline (see below), where 'in fornication' has been added between the lines. The register of baptisms for the Original Seceders Burgh Church in Limekilns reads as follows with no entries between them on the 1795 page:*

*' James Hall mariner in Limekilns and Agnes McDonald had a son born the 12<sup>th</sup> of Januy and baptized Decr. 1<sup>st</sup>. named James witnesses Jas. Hutton and Jas. Craig. '*

*' James Hall mariner in Limekilns and his wife Betty Anderson had a daughter born Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>. & baptized Decr 1<sup>st</sup> named Marrion Jas Hutton and John Wilson witnesses'*

*Possibly the church authorities delayed James's baptism until the birth of his legitimate half-sister. At least that is the only way I can read it. James was baptised a second time, in the parish church in nearby Dunfermline, in February 1796 when his mother was described as the daughter of John McDonald, and John was one of the witnesses. Possibly he was not satisfied with the Limekilns ceremony though I notice it was a common habit to have children baptised in both places.*

*James Hall, born 1769, and his wife Elizabeth (or Betty) Anderson went on to have five more children in Limekilns, ending up with another James! These were half-siblings of James of Belleport and some of them figure in these letters.*

*It is an interesting question who knew of James's illegitimacy. His wife Isabella Laurence was brought up in the same village and it must have been fairly common knowledge there. When his death was registered by his youngest son his parents were given as James and Ann Hall (m.s. McDonald). Either George did not know or this was the conventional way to handle such situations.*

*Who brought up James? All I know of James Hall's life before he arrived at Belleport is that he married Isabella Laurence and they had a series of nine children baptised in Limekilns starting with Margaret in January 1821 and ending with William in December 1835. Date of marriage is unknown. In those baptism records he is described as a mariner and later as a shipowner. I am curious how he was able to set himself up at Belleport by 1839-41 as owner of a large house, a pier and a business as a timber merchant and shipowner. There is no indication that he came from a well-to-do family...rather the opposite.*

*Two of his children, Isabella and James, each had a child before they were married and in each case the child took the father's family name just as in the case of James of Belleport himself. I was struck by the attention paid to Isabella's daughter who was essentially brought up at Belleport by her grandparents and sent off to school in Inverness; she died aged 13 at Belleport and is commemorated by a large stone in the graveyard. I have only just learned of James(1826)'s illegitimate son from Linda Duncan who thinks he was brought up by his unmarried mother in poor circumstances; a strange contrast. This child is not mentioned in any of the letters, and we have to be open to the possibility that the child was not known of or not acknowledged by James(1826) or his father. But this James and his wife had a daughter Jane who had learning difficulties, as we see in the letters, and also was brought up at Belleport, was sent away to school, and remained at the house until she married.*

*The three sons of James Hall of Belleport, after the requisite James, got the same names in the same order as their father's half-brothers, which caused some confusion in sorting out who was who. (There are nine James Halls in this family tree!) None of the boys went to sea but instead they turned to the land and two of them became farmers. Robert was a shipbuilder at the 1861 census. George Ross Hall, the last son, was educated in Aberdeen and sent to work in a bank before returning to help his father with the business. After his father's death he took over the business. Two of the boys and two of the girls did not marry.*

*The following is from "This Noble Harbour, a history of the Cromarty Firth". James Hall of Belleport(Dalmore) was born about 1795 at Limekilns, Fife, and had first visited the Cromarty Firth on an apprentice voyage. He must have been attracted by the growing prosperity of the Firth and after he gained his first command he began to establish trading links with the region before coming to live there in the 1830s. Based at Belleport, Captain Hall, 'Wood and Coal Merchant', built up a thriving business as a shipowner, merchant and local agent. He exported grain, livestock and timber and imported coal, lime, guano, and other fertilisers as well as . He must have been attracted by the growing prosperity of the Firth and after he gained his first command he began to establish trading links with the region before coming to live there in the 1830s. Based at Belleport, Captain Hall, 'Wood and Coal Merchant', built up a thriving business as a shipowner, merchant and local agent. He exported grain, livestock and timber and imported coal, lime, guano, and other fertilisers as well as manufactured goods. Hall regularly carried cargoes for farmers such as Teaninich and Andrew Baxter at Rosskeen Farm, and also exported wood from the Ardross, Balnagowna and Novar estates. One of the mainstays of Hall's business was the export of locally cut pitprops to the mines of County Durham in return for coal and lime.*

*Like the agricultural improvers before him Captain Hall names his fleet of ships after his family; William, Jane, The Sisters, and the Hall. The last names was built at Sunderland but some of the smaller ships in Hall's fleet were built locally. In 1841, for example, the Anne of 120 tons and built of Novar timber was launched at Belleport.*

*James Hall died in 1864, a year after the railroad arrived at Invergordon. In a way his death was symbolic of a changing order. Captain Hall was the last in a line of the old merchant captains of the Cromarty Firth that stretched back to Alex Urquhart. Hall's house, with its large glass windows looking out to Belleport Pier and the Firth beyond, survives today as a witness to a vanished way of life.*

*I have to say that I have a great liking for James Hall of Belleport, my gt-gt-grandfather. He strikes me as the archetype of the patriarch. I note how respectfully his sons addressed him, even in the most casual correspondence. And he was the financial bulwark of the family; even my gt-grandfather, John Wilson, sailing the seven seas in his brig, relied on him in this regard.*

*The following account is from his obituary in the Invergordon Times:*

*The death of this gentleman has been heard of with sincere regret throughout all the districts surrounding this, and, we doubt not, by many acquaintances and friends in distant parts of the country. His funeral on Monday was the largest attended seen in Easter Ross for many years back. The pedestrians numbered many hundreds, gathered from all quarters, from Tain to Inverness; and among the numerous vehicles in the procession, we noticed the carriages of Ardross, Cadbol, Kindeace, etc. Mr Hall had been in weak health for nearly four years back, having never well recovered from a paralytic attack with which he was seized early in 1861. Previous to that, he was the most actively moving and best known business man in our midst. He was a native of Limekilns in Fifeshire, and in early life took to the seafaring occupation, with which most of his relatives and friends were connected. His visits to the Cromarty Frith began with his apprentice voyages, and when he came to command a vessel of his own, he directed himself especially to establish a business connection with the districts around this. In this he was successful, his straightforward and unaffectedly manner securing him many friends. It is upward of thirty years ago that he settled ashore with his family in the neighbourhood, and prosecuted the business of a shipowner, coal, timber, lime, and manure, merchant extensively. His business brought him in contact with all classes of the community, and by all he was thoroughly liked and esteemed. While he proved himself an active and shrewd businessman, his services of friendship were numerous; and many a small crofter and farmer, struggling to get through " liming " and other departments of land improvement, has been indebted to the kind indulgence and support of Mr Hall. A stranger would not have thought from his quick-outspokenness, that he was in reality a shy man; nor that under his stern seaman bluffness of voice and look, there was as soft and feeling a heart as man or woman possessed. No acquaintance or friend ever met him, or encountered his oddly-expressed banter, but in good humour; and no one ever parted with him in anger. To his work-people, and the poor around him, he always showed feeling and kindness; and of the latter class, many in Alness and Invergordon will now miss a good friend. To refuse a load of coals to a poor defaulting payer in need, or visit with dismissal or other punishment an unsatisfactory servant, he hardly ever had the heart for. He always gave a spirited and open-handed support to public objects around him; and altogether, the death of Mr Hall may well be considered a blank in our community. He was in the 70th year of his age, and has left a widow and large family - the latter all grown up, and in respectable positions in life.*

*There is still more work to do. I have a bulky sheaf of cheques, thanks to Sheila Hoseason, which also came from the attic, from which I hope to learn more about the business. And then there are the family wills to be found. Shall I live long enough.....?*

**The original letters will be deposited at the Highland Archives in Inverness**

**The Letters Follow in Chronological Order**

**I have tried to preserve the spelling and spacing of the original letters but some of them were written on small sheets of paper and so they look quite different when transcribed. Also, the letters were mainly family letters and were written to people who knew their writing and use of words. A few of the letters have deteriorated badly.**

**This letter is to Hugh Ross who was the owner of the land (feu) on which Belleport was built.**

Belle Port 30 Sepr  
1843

Hugh Rofs Esqr Of Cromarty  
Sir.

I hereby make offer to you the sum of twenty five shillings per ? of Barley weighing 54 lbs per bushell one shilling per lb ?? or ?? and 6d per half lb from 200 to 300 ?? cash on delivery – 100 ?? to be delivered first of November.

I am

Sir

your a???

Jas Hall

There follows an acknowledgment in different handwriting, almost impossible to read, signed H W Rofs.

**These two letters to James Hall of Belleport are from Thomas Hall, who we believe is his half-brother. Thomas and his family were in the Rosskeen area about the same time as James came. Thomas got a Master's certificate from the Board of Trade for coastal and foreign trade with twelve years experience as apprentice, mate, and master in 1851.**

Newcastle 13th October 1850

Dear Brother we Got All Loaded on on Saturday with Cabethwort? Coals And all ready for Sea but the wind is Still from the North Ocean? and A heavey Sea on the Bar Deas is Still laing At Shields and the George At Sunderland there is A Grat Manney Ships Laing here windbound I have never got no Accounts of our topsail from Leith As yet we had A very undiferint Pafsage South but we got hear All well on the tusday follwing after we left only lofsing our Jib which we had Another one onboard we have been A Long time detaind hear with our Cargo I remain your Brother Thomas Hall

**From an invoice from Sheila Hoseason I know that J Deas was the master of the schooner 'William and Jane' in May, 1852 when she loaded with lime at Sunderland.**



Newcastle 7 Novr 1851

Dear Brother we have got loaded last knight with heatn Main Coals we have kept her in a good trim. She has only in 52 Chaldrs they Are A very fin Coall And round the wind is Still from the North hear And A very heavy Sea on the Bar there is A great Manney vefsels Laing windbound for the North Somm of them Since we Arived here the Rosach is Still here yett And A Great manney Mor

I remain your brother  
Thomas Hall

**A letter from Thomas Hall to his father. This came only with the second batch in 2012 and helped me realise that the letters above were not from James Hall's son Thomas, but this one was. I take the date to be March or May since in early 1852 Thomas was writing from Pitmaduthy**

Dear Father,

The Balmacore people are to take no more lime out of the Lovat, so that I have ordered her now to the Sounds of Nigg & to come to Belleport with the Balance, I will let the carts that are to drive from the Wm & Jane drive from her too should she be up (the Lovat) before the Wm & Jane is out, unless I hear to the contrary.

I am

Dear Father  
Your affectionate Son  
Thomas Hall  
Dalmore, 28 M.....1851

Page partly missing

**The writer was John Hay Hall, and he is an ancestor of John Leadbeater ([commercialpropertyolutions@btinternet.com](mailto:commercialpropertyolutions@btinternet.com)) This letter is important to John because it provides the proof he needed that his ancestors were descended from the Limekilns Halls. The address matches the census address he had already.**

Sunderland Apr 2nd 1851

Dear uncel

I take the oportunity of writing to you hoping It will find you all well As it Leavs us but midling at Prefsent. Dear uncel I have got a Small vefsel to go master of and I have to take heir by the third and If you would Do me the favour of Employing me for a voige or too I would fell gratley oblige to you for ther is nothing to Doo her At prefsent and She is About 5 1/2 keels and If you would onley fright me dear uncel It would be a grat favour and as It is my first Set out I hope Dear uncel you will do what you can for me to help me I will give you Every satisfaction that Lays in my powr and I hop Dear uncel that you will writ by Return of Post and Let me know If you can doo Anything for me If you Please for I have been on Shore under the Doctors hands Ever Since the george was Sold and I hope Dear uncel you will try what you can do fore me

I Remain your  
obedent Servent  
John Fay? Hall

the address fore your letter East Street no 21

**This letter is heavily damaged by water or rodents and it is not possible to tell who wrote it. I think it is better written than any of the letters of the half-brother Thomas and therefore I incline toward another half-brother, John.**

Sunderland July 25 1851

Dear Brother

We arrived hear all well on the 17 Inst I have been Obliged to give up the Scooner(?) Defiance as I found She would Do(?) nothing for me the Schooner William that Mr Stewart wrote you about a few weeks ago and I was speaking to you about Is here now for sail I was on board of him yesterday I .....(page damaged)

Gib and Stay Sail her ground takle Seames to be vry good In fact I cannot See Muytch wannting in the vefsel Excepting Running gear which would be Soon replaced and She has not even done with the paint If you could offer a freight for him I should like you to see her your self for I feel Sure She would pleas you I will See the ? tomorrow and if I hear any thing further I will let you know.

Dear brother (or brethren?) I hope youwill think on my .....  
.....me in mind

(rest of the page damaged)

**This letter is from Thomas Hall, to his half-brother James Hall of Belleport,**

Newcastle 30 October 1851

Dear Brother we Arived hear on tusday All well I have Seen Mr. Lawrance but he Dos not know what till do with the Props And he is going Away with the Bathiana?up the Strats but he is to try And Sell them this day it is no yufs to Send anney mor here

I Remain your  
Brother Thomas Hall

**Presumably a copy of a letter sent, though not so marked. The request must have been successful as his son wrote from Pitmaduthy the following year. Note how much better James writes than his half-brothers.**

Belleport 9<sup>th</sup> Decbr 1851

Donald Williamson Esq

Dear Sir,

As I am very anxious to get the farm of Pitmaduthy – I will give as much as any other practical farmer – and will feel oblidge to Sir Charles Rofs if he will give me a preference on Equal tenency? – and will try to give the farm another appearance – as you are aware it is in a wretched state at present.

I am

Sir

Your ???

Jas Hall

**Another letter from Thomas Hall to his father. This also came only with the second batch in 2012.**

Pitmaduthy 7 June 1852

My Dear Father,

I will require some of the turnip seeds on Wednesday for the piece behind the Square, it will be all cleaned, & the drill all open tomorrow, & lime also. I have also got the weeds all gathered on the break at the front of Shownous(?) but I am bad off for a beast to cart of the weeds. The gray horse is almost done, he has a bad cold & is losing his heart. I intend to have him bled tomorrow or Wednesday, so that John cannot get the mare on Wednesday to go the Muir of Ord. My oats are intirely done now they got the last today about half a feed each so that there is none for them tomorrow.

I am

My Dear Father

Your affect. Son

Thomas

**This undated letter, possibly a draft, would seem to have been written very close to the time of the next letter, from James the son to his father.**

Belleport. Feby?

Sir James Matheson, Bart., MP

Dear Sir,

I take the liberty of addresssing you regarding my eldest son James, who by your kind interest got into the Excise. He has now been a good many years in that Service, and only very lately attained to a ride. The promotion being so slow in that department, may I ask the favour of your influence to procure his transfer into the customs, say the situation of Land writer, or some office in that Service suitable for him

Sir James Matheson Bt.,MP ,  
12 Cleveland Row,  
London

**And the reply.**

13 Cleveland Row  
London 15<sup>th</sup> Feby 1853

Dear Sir,

I am favoured with your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> and will have much pleasure in doing all I can, to better your son's ??????. I much fear, however, that it will not be pofsible to obtain for him a landing waiter's place owing to the great number of candidates for that post; and indeed I have more than one earlier candidate on my own list, without much hope of succesfs for some time to come. I know moreover that Landing waiters are far from well off in the earlier years of their appointment, so that the transferring from ??? to the Customs if it were possible would be forfeiting the benefits of all the time he has already served in the Excise, without being attended with any immediate advantage – I therefore hope we may able to get him promoted in his own line – the Excise. Will you be good enough to let me know, with this view, what is his present situation & where? His Christian name, the date of his appointment, whether 1846 or 47, and wher. Fletcher at Edin.or Mr..Wood the Chairman of the ????? in London. I remain with best wishes

Dear Sir

Ys very truly

James Matheson

**A letter from James Hall, eldest son of James Hall of Belleport, to his father. James was a Customs and Revenue officer.**

Mill of Calfort?  
3<sup>rd</sup> March 1855

My Dear Father,

I duly received yours of the 21<sup>st</sup> ult. I am afraid that Sir James Matheson cannot at present do anything in the way of promotion as I have not been my time in a Ride yet. Nor can I petition until I am twelve months in a Ride. I cannot petition until July promotion is very slow just now there are three officers in this Collection who are expecting expecting promotion every week there interest has been applying for them for the last two years. There were 19 Division officers call up to London to be examined and only two pafsed seventeen were rejected and returned back to there Divisions so there is no rise in promotions just now. After I am twelve months in a Ride I may then petition. There is no history? of any officer here being promoted until they are four or five years in a Ride unlesfs they make som heavy detections and a stron recommendation from their Collector.

I will write you again when I petition for promotion until then Sir James need not do anything in the matter. My present Situation is Ride officer Ballater 2 Ride Aberdeen Collection then my own name my appointment is date 29 April 1847 It was throu Mr Wood that Sir James got me on: but either of them would do Mr Fletcher or Mr Wood.

I have got a smithy? Here with little businefs & it is not easy done in the winter time I have not had 2 shoe one ? feet for last eight days with frosted heels. The storm is very heavy here the snow is three and four feet deep and in some parts twelve. We are all well and hope this will find you all well. Isabella joins me in love to you all

I remain  
Your son, James Hall

**The following letter makes reference to a son of James Hall of Belleport who had run up some debts with his business. Perhaps the smithy shop that James the Excise man referred to?**

Aberdeen 3<sup>rd</sup> Jany 1856

Mr Jas Hall

I had your Letter and feel very sorry that you & his mother should have had so much trouble and vexation with your Son, but you are not alone in this. I lost some Thousands with my son paying all his debts and closing his business.

After reflecting on all the circumstances connected with you and your Son, my decided opinion is that as his debts are not very large you should take the whole upon yourself. All the creditors of your Son would I have no doubt make deduction on their accounts & this step would be much better than to allow the matters to go into Lawyers hands which would both injure you and the Estate. Then the whole would be your own & you might get some one to take the Shop & the good in it. We shall under the circumstances make a deduction in our claim. If you send us just now the amount of the cheque your Son gave us for £19 our Traveller can settle the balance with you when he comes round in 6 or 8 Weeks after this and you & he I have no doubt will arrange satisfactorily.

Yours respectfy  
David Dunn

**A series of letters from George Ross Hall, born 10 Dec 1841, to his father. George seems to have received more education than most of his brothers. Included in the attic contents were essays he had written at school and reports written by the headmaster to James Hall. George was the last Hall to occupy Belleport, until his death in 1888.**

Aberdeen

December 26, 1856

My Dear Father,

I received your very welcome letter and was glad to see from it that you were all well. I expect James in either the day or tomorrow. The last letter that I had from him, he said that he would be in about Christmas. Tell Catherine that I am expecting a letter from her every day.

We have got the Christmas play just now for a fortnight. William Paterson went away to Glasgow, and all the Peterhead boys went home. Christmas was held here yesterday and we enjoyed ourselves pretty well.

William McKenzie has not been well for some time back. His eye is very sore and his ear the Doctor has been attending him.

The competition as I told you, in my last letter came off on Friday last. In our class Andrew Munro got the first prize, and one of the boys from Peterhead got the second. Andrew McKenzie and I were the third best, and if we had one question more right we would be equal to the boy that got the second .

The weather is very cold here. We have got no snow or rain but plenty of frost.

I must conclude now as I have no more to say at present. Give my kind love to all. We are all well.

I am

Dear Father

Yours affectionately

George R Hall

**A letter from George at school.**

Aberdeen,

December 31, 1856

My Dear Father,

I received yours very welcome yesterday, and was glad to see from it that you were all well. I am very much surprised, that I am not getting a letter from Inverkindie, There is more than three weeks since I sent one When I was out at Inverkindie James told me that he would be in at Christmas; but he has not come yet.

There are some people in Invergordon , that should come to Aberdeen, and learn the way to spell. In the last "Invergordon Times", I observed that the people are very fond in putting a scew steamer instead of a screw steamer. There are several other mistakes which I don't think it worthy to mention but all I have to say is that they should learn to spell better.

I am glad to say that William McKenzie's eye is much better. The Doctor says that he will be quite well in a day or two.

We are to have a party here on Thursday night. I am sure that we will enjoy ourselves very well.

This is the last day of the year and we have got no snow. We have got very fine weather.

We were at the Panorama yesterday, it was very nice, the only fault that it had, was the man spoke to fast, that gave the description about it but upon the whole it gave a very entertaining account of that part of Canada.

I suppose that you will be holding the new year instead of the old one; for I noticed in the Invergordon Times that they wanted it changed.

You never told me.....

*[letter is incomplete?]*

**I discovered from reading these letters that one of George's older brothers, James, and his wife Isobella and their children lived at a small hamlet called Inverkindie, near Strathdon. Probably it would be reached by train from Aberdeen. In the 1861 census for Strathdon his occupation was given as Customs and Revenue Officer.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**This is the only letter we have written by Robert to his father. It is interesting that this might be the only letter not written to Belleport found in the attic.**

Belleport 23 March  
1857

Dear Father

Enclosed is my uncle's letter to you which we reseaved this morning. Mr Simpson has just got in and the carts are coming to Store the coals. I was told yesterday that Thomas has lost 3 of his cattle with the quarter ill.

The box and bags of Potatoes in Ships with the John and Thomas. She is still in the Cromarty roads.

I sent you a letter from Mr William about some Soil(?) which he wants. We are all well hoping you arrive safe.

Your affectionate  
Son  
Robert Hall

**I particularly enjoy the two letters from Andrew Sharp who addressed James Hall as “Admiral”. I would like to have shared some of their evenings together at The Club.**

Alnefs 26<sup>th</sup> March 57

My Worthy Admiral,

I was duly favoured by yours yesterday & went down to tell Mrs Hall, but she had got a bit note nerself. You had bee n unfortunate in your Pafsage South, but you Should come to the Club as I told you & all would have been well,we really did not forget you but gave you three times three & Soon back to us again. I wrote to Rofs & have got a very kind answer from him but he can say little untill Cadbolls return or hear from him, I am very glad of it for it will allow John to enter the Same as other Tenants in the usual way at Whitsunday.

John will be here some of these nights when I will give him a Copy of my letter as also C. Rofses answer when he can send you Copies if you are to remain very long.I wish that yu may be kept right.

That ha been a woeful Disaster in Shipping which you mention, but there will be many more no doubt on all the East coast Southward.

I called in on the Banker Mr Paterson & Mr Scott & told them all that I had heard from you, & with kindest regards I am

My worthy Admiral  
Yours Truly, Andw. Sharp

**Another letter from George R. to his father.**

Aberdeen,  
April 7, 1857

My Dear Father,

I received your very welcome letter five days ago, and was glad to see from it, that you were all well. You asked me what name would give to the vessel. I think that the “Sister’s” would be the best. She will take a long time yet before she is ready. I suppose that you will not be home very long before us.

Mr. Paterson from Invergordon will be here at the end of this month or the beginning of next.

I got the “Invergordon Times” today and I observed in it that H? Matheson of Adrofs has got to be the Member of Parliament for the County of Inverness and the adjoining Counties. There was also a dinner given by Sir Jame’s lady on the account of his success.

We have got the play just now on account of the Sacraments. A good many of the boy’s went home, so the house is pretty thin.

The weather is very bad here. I am sure that it will keep the farmer’s back with their crops a great deal. I must conclude now. We are all well.

I am  
Dear Father, Your affectionate son, George R Hall



Alnefs, 18<sup>th</sup>. April 1857

My Dear Admiral,

How are you coming on in your Building concerns, we are all wearying to see you.

All round is like a Standing Mill for want of you, are you not needing a clean sark so as to come get it washed.

About a week ago I was eased with a Deafnefs in my left Ear So that I cannot hear a word with, Can you tell me how you got clear of your deafnefs, If you can I will be very much obliged by it as I am as dull as a Peat & cannot hear either Preaching or profligacy both are alike to me which goes very ill down with a rattle Scull like myself.

We have had a great deal of backward weather here since you left neverthelefs the seed has gone on beyond expectation and the Grafs & Wheat briard are doing well & growing very fast.

Our worthy neighbour Mr. Scott has twelve Ewes lambed & he has 24 lambs, ten had two each one had one & one had three which squared up the accounts rather a rare thing of so many.

When you come for your clean shirt bring a cartload of Coals for me as I am fairly run to the dunage & it is also far through.

All is well hereabouts & Mr Shaw has lost the northern Burghs Sir James just walked the course without opposition.

Please try & put me upon the method of getting the use of my lugs again as it is but a dull job not to hear a word from any body.

With best regards to you & every good wish I am

My Dear Admiral  
Yours most Truly

Andw. Sharp

Aberdeen  
April 21, 1857

My Dear Father,

I am sure that you will be surprised at me for not writing you sooner, but I have been so busy that I had not time before tonight. I had a letter from Stonyfield the other day, and they are all quite well. I have not had a letter from home since more than a week. Do you think that you will be in Sunderland more than six weeks. I am sure that you are tired of it long ago

I suppose that you have heard before this that the Queen Steamer ran ashore, and is very much damaged. She is quite full of water, and they are not sure if she will be got off again. The Duke of Richmond is going in her place.

I have begun Book Keeping and I like it very well. I am sure that it will be very useful in after times.

I must conclude now as I have no more time. We are all well. Remember and show this to no person, as I had no time to write it well.

I am, Dear Father  
Yours affectionately, George R Hall

**James Hall built some of his smaller ships at Belleport but others were built for him at Sunderland. "The Halls" arrived at Invergordon from Sunderland for the first time on 26th Sept 1860, so George must have been writing of an earlier visit. Many of the ships were named after the family, for example 'William and Jane', 'The Sisters', 'George', and 'Anne'.**

**The next two letters deal with an attempt to get a better tenancy for John Hall (1828-1895) who was farming at Stoneyfield. I don't know the outcome of this but he later farmed at Tomich, and I have a very beautiful silver claret decanter with the following engraving "Andrew and Munro Ross Kincaig to their kind friend Mr Hall Tomich 1875".**

Stoneyfield 27 April 1857

Dear Father

I send you on the other leaf Mr Sharp's letter to Mr Ross Cadbole and his answer, I have not seen Mr McKenzie for the last week to know if there has been any word from Mr McLeod. I do not think that they are willing to part with Mr McKenzie by what Murdo the Guardner told me the other day. Mr Young and he was talking about it when he mentioned that he thought Cadbole would expect to get fifty pounds stg. more rent which was Cruickshank's offer which I think is too much considering the prices we have now and are likely to have for some time. Mr Young said to Murdo that Mr Mckenzie was a man of money so that there was no fear of the Rent. I am know way bothered about it we have very little incouragement for taking farms here I have not sold any thing since you left me nor since February before nor any person offering to by. I have got through sowing and Potatoes planting here and at Belleport we finished here Saturday last. The wheat is far back heie and for grass the Fields have hardly taken a green tinge yet, we have had a cold east wind for the past six weeks which is keepng every thing back. I do not know what is to be done with cattle if we do not g et warm weather to bring in the grass. Christian and Catherine was here Saturday last when I was sorry to here from them that Mr Sharp was not well he is confined to the house but I believe not to bed. I intend going along to se him tonight I must soon finish as it is about yoking time hoping this will find you well as it leaves us, and I trust you will be soon home .I hope you are more(?) finished with the vessel and that hse is more to your mind and that your contractor wont be like the Rosshire ones who take a month more than their agreement. I will now finish hoping you will give my compliments to Mr Hossack.

I remain  
Dear Father  
Your affectionate  
John Hall

Copy to Mr C Rofs 20 March 1857

My Dear Sir From what your Tenant of wester and tells me, he is disappointed in so far as none of his Sons are at all inclined o Farming Occupations,& he has himself become very unhappy in the profefsion.

I understand that you have much in your power in giving Cadbole your friendly advice & may relieve Mr McKenzie by advising Cadbole to allow him to transfer the concern to another eligible tenant Discription I beg leave to Suggest in Mr John Hall a quiet, sober, & very industrious young man who has very much improved these two Small Farms on Kincairge Estate, I am So Satisfied in my own mind of his abillities as a good Tenant that were he at any time a Candidate where I had any charge that I would give him a considerable preference.

As I have been applied to by both parties I respectfully by your will pardon the liberty I have taken in addressing you in this matter which is so far out of my way, but from the small acquaintance we have had I have presumed to take this liberty with you, I will take it kind if you will be so good as give me your ideas on the matter.

I am  
My Dear Sir  
Yours most sincerely,  
Andw.Sharp

Mr C Rofs answer 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1857

My Dear Sir, In reply to your esteemed favour of the 20<sup>th</sup>. I beg to assure you most Sincerely that few things could afford me greater Satisfaction than to have it in my power to comply with any request or Suggestion from you & indeed I should feel equal pleasure in doing anything to meet the views of my kind friend Capt. Hall. but to say the truth I do not interfere in the Smallest matter connected with the estate businefs unlesfs my advice is asked & if that happens in the matter you refer to, I shall most certainly keep in view your recommendations of the young man alluded to but until Mr Mcleod returns to the Country I do not thin that anything can be decisively done in the matter, it maay however be proper to negotiate with Mr Young on the Subject through whom all communications must be made to Mr Mcleod as I have already said. Should I have any word to say in the matter rest assured that it will not be in opposition to the object you wish to promote & believe me to remain most My Dear Sir most truly and sincerely yours

Signed C.Rofs

**This letter is from John Wilson, son-in-law of James Hall. He was my gt-grandfather.**

Liverpool 23<sup>rd</sup> September  
1857

My Dear Sir,

I arrived on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst in Liverpl already after a fine passage of nineteen days. I wrote you passing the Pentland Firth but Isabella tells me she did not get her letter.

I am all out and chartered again for Buenos Ayres a ready turn and a good freight I think about £1000 outwards. The Petersburg voyage is not so bad after all I had £282 out and £495 home for this hump(?) the vessel keeps very tight all parties are satisfied dry cargo. I am thinking about a cabin on deck then we can fill all below with light goods I estimate the cabin would hold twenty tons measurement and as our Freight now is £3 ton it would pay for it the first passage. The custom of this Trade is Freights are paid in Liverpool six week after the vefsel sails from here you might think this strange.

Where is George is he coming to see me in Limekilns I think if all goes right I will go to Scotland in ten days. Adam is there now & I reckon your harvest is all in it has been splendid weather this autumn. I heard from Limekilns to day They are well.

My kind love to Mrs Hall and all the Family Hoping to here from you Adress Campbell & Scott Ship Agents 2 King Street

Your affectionate  
Son in Law  
John Wilson

Pitmaduthie 27 Novr? 1857

My Dear Father

I took a dose of medicine last night & feel myself a good deal better today.

Your affte Son  
Thomas Hall

Aberdeen,  
December 14,1857

My Dear Father,

I received your welcome letter this morning and Christian's in the middle of the day. I would not have answered you so soon, if was not to tell you, that you would require to send the box this week, for I leave here for Inverkindie either Wednesday or Thursday next week, and the goods are not delivered here until Saturday morning, so you cannot send it next week because I would be away before it would come. I would like you to send me a little money, for I want to take out some toys to the bairns. There is a boy here from Inverkindie who will be going out along with me, and I will get with him from the station until within half a mile of Jame's house. There is a small parcel coming to William Paterson ,and it was to be sent along with my box .Some of them will speak to you about it. What wa the matter with Nero Christian told me that he was dead. Where will you get another dog? Send some postage stamps for the last one that I have is going on this letter. I have been very busy tonight with my French, and I think that I am getting very well on with it.

I must stop now. We are all well. With kind love  
I remain  
Yours affectionately  
George R Hall

**This letter must be part of the negotiations to rent a farm for either John or Thomas. Thomas ended up in Pitmaduthie.**

Coopy

Belleport 15<sup>th</sup> Decr 1857

A Williamson Esq

Dear Sir,

I have Seen Mr Goodbroad(?) since he returned from Edinburgh – he tells me he hs not gate(?) the farm of Pitmaduthy(?) – but has gate(?) a farm in Strath Spey – I wish to make you an offer if not too late - I will give £225 rent for the farm as posed by Mr John Ross including the acite(?) run of linster(?) park – or I will give as much rent as any Practical farmer and will feel oblige to Sir Charles Rofs if he will give me a preference on this tenency – it being understood the square will be ??? in a different sate of repairs to accommodate the farm stock.

Thers a good many things mentioned in the Conditions of Let - that ???? you and me will Setttle better on the Ground – than I can Explain to you in writing – please let me hear from you at your Earliest Convenance.

I am  
Sir  
Your ????  
Jas Hall

Inverkindie  
December 25th 1857

My Dear Father,

I arrived here last night all safe about 5 o'clock James could not get to meet me, as the Supervisor was with him, but one of the men was waiting me at the station. Both them and my tea were anxiously waiting me when I reached ....? I got the piece of the cake out all safe and they are very well pleased with it. Isabella received Christian's letter today and we were all glad to see from it that Jennie was better. There is a good deal of difference on the whole of the children since I saw them at Belleport.

I must stop now as I have no news.

I remain  
Yours affectionately  
George Hall

**This letter was written by George from his elder brother James' house. Christian was a sister from home between their ages. Jennie was James' eldest daughter who lived with her grandparents at Belleport. George and Christian remained single and lived together at Belleport through the 1881 census. Jane (Jennie) married late.**

Aberdeen,  
Februrary10, 1858

My Dear Father,

I received your very welcome letter a few days ago, and was glad to see from it that you were all well. I spoke to Mr. Alexander, the dancing master tonight, and he told me that he was not sure if he was to form a private class or not. I told Mr. Paterson that, and he told me to ask Mr. Alexander again, and that if he was not to form a class to ask him if there was any other dancing school I could go to. I was glad to see that you got the icehouse filled. I don't think that you would have another chance of getting ice this year. When do they begin to fish with you? The fishing in the Dee has begun. I took a walk up its banks upon Saturday and saw them taking in two nets, but they did not get any fish. Will you use any nets upon the Alnefs River? or will it just be fished with the rod. I had a letter from Andrew Munro today, and he was telling me that he did not try the fishing this year yet. Have you got the fishing of the whole river, or only a part of it?

I suppose that both the ships will be going South this week. The wind has been very high here for the last week but I do not know if it would be against them or not.

I must conclude now. With kind love to all. We are all well. Hoping that you will excuse this scroll.

I am  
Dear Father  
Yours affectionately  
George R. Hall

**This letter is a great help in dating this series of letters between Isabella Wilson and her mother because it states the date and refers to her grandmother who would be Isabella Laurence who died 20 Jan 1860. It also helps tie down John Wilson's voyage which took him to Buenos Ayres and up the river to Rosario. An earlier letter from him to James Hall dated September 1857 is earlier in this series. Kate would be Catherine Hall married 24 Nov 1857.**

Limekilns

20<sup>th</sup> March 1858

Dear Mother,

I received a letter from John on Wednesday and always just of writing respecting a letter from you. They arrived all well on the 14<sup>th</sup> January and expect to proceed up to Rosarie about the middle of February He says there is nothing doing at the Ayres owing to the many failures. They had a fine voyage 60 days.

My Gmother is still in her pale way. She is often troubled with sicknefs and inward pain. I know a difference on my Gmother every day. I never thought she would have seen her 89 year but .....(page torn) has cheated me . we are .....(page torn) well hoping to find you all .....(page torn). I Hope James is better you never write to say write soon.

Your affect daughter

Isabella Wilson

P.S. John sends his kind love to you all and Kate and her husband

I.W.

Aberdeen

April 15, 1858

*[part of the page is torn away]*

My Dear Father,

As I have nothing to do just now I have just sitting down to write a few lines. It is about 12 o'clock....have just come out of sch.....joined upon Monday last an .....that is formed by the young men....the church that I attend. It mee.....once a fortnight, and upon that night an Essay is read by one of the members and then the rest criticise it. This is the only way that we would learn to be a good speaker in after life. Andrew McKenzie is learning to play the Concertina. I would like to play it too, but I think that it would be too dear. The Concertina itself costs about 20/- and then I would require to pay other 15/- to learn it; but if you ....not think that too dear I ....learn it. When you write .....an tell me? I have ple.....just now as my hours at school are changed. It would not interfere at all with my other work.

We have got very wet weather here just now. It has been raining today and yesterday very heavy. We were to play a cricket match yesterday, but the rain came on and so we were obliged to put it off for another week.

I must stop now as I have nothing more to say. With kind love to all. We are all well. Write soon.

I am

Dear Father

Yours affectionately

George R. Hall

Aberdeen  
December 20/58

My Dearest Father,

I received your letter just now and much surprised that you are speaking again about me not going home. You promised to allow me home and why don't you keep to your promise. All the boys are going home, except the Munros, and I do not see any reason why I should not go also. Mr. Rofs Milcraig's son is going, for Mr. Paterson had a letter from his Father telling him, for to allow him home. Mr. McKenzie Ardros's sons are going, Mr. McKenzie Invergordon's, Mr. Ross Milcraig's, and Mr. Ross Dingwall's, and one of his boys is bigger than I am. I am going home also, for I require several things. You spoke about me going out to Inverkindie I am not going there, I am going home. I wrote to Inverkindie and told them that I was not going out this year, that I was going home. Mr. Paterson is quite willing to allow me home, and he says it will do much good to me. If N. Paterson had time to go home they would not have any objections, but they would be very glad to see him. I wonder then why you would not be glad to see me. I am coming home Friday first along with the other boys. I have told you before that I am to get from Kessock to Alness in Mr. McKenzie's dogcart. You say that 30/- would not take me back and fore. About a £1 would do it easily. I have as much money as will take me home. I have the £1 yet that you sent me. I kept in purposely to take me home at Christmas. So hoping to see you all well upon Friday.

I am  
Dearest Father  
G. Hall

I will write again before leaving.  
Write when you receive this.

**This is the only letter in this collection which was not written by a family member.**

My Dear Mrs Hall,

Many kind thanks for the beautiful Vinegarette which I received last night – I have got it filled to-day, and will, I have no doubt, find it very refreshing ,when on my trip South. If you were nearer,I would be very happy to show you, some of the presents I have got. You may be sure we are in a great confusion, putting things in order – Dr. Paterson did not come last night, but will be to-night.

With ??? kind regards to you all. Believe me

My dear Mrs. Hall  
Very Sincerely Yours  
Kate Paterson

Invergordon  
6<sup>th</sup> July /59



**This is a letter which came with the final batch from Sheila Hoseason. It is from Isabella Wilson but it is not clear when it was written. My best guess is 1858 or 1859. I am placing it this early because it makes mention of Isabella, presumably her daughter, who was living at Belleport until her death in 1860. She refers to a grandmother who could have been her mother's mother, Margaret Anderson. According to my information she died in 1860 but I am not sure where that information comes from.**

Limekilns 27<sup>th</sup>. Nov

My dear Mother,

I received your letter on Friday. I went to Edinburgh on Saturday and got 3 Sable Muffs 1 pair Sable Cuffs. Margts drefs yu did not say whether it was for the street or for the Christmas parties. I have bought a drefs of 18 yards at 2/1 1-17-6 if she is not pleased with it you can keep it for a summer drefs for Isabell. The heavy Mohairs are all out of fashion your bonnet and muffs are to be sent to Mifs White so I will not get Robert's tobacco sent the boats done .....anser going to granton ...now if I had gone down to day with the boat I not have up again so Mifs White said she would send them by the steamer Tuesday. I went by the 10 o'clock train Saturday from Dunfermline and it was 9 o'clock before I was in Dunfermline Next time you want anything through the winter give me more time as I must study the boats. If your not pleased with the furs you can return them by the next steamer. James Anderson was not a t home he sailed the day before the word broke out from Leith for Marseilles they are expected home next month. We are all well. I do not know what we are to do with Grandma(?) I never know what it is to get a night rest with her Lasr night neither the girl nor I ever closed an eye she will not lay in her bed she rises as soon as she lays down and she is not able to stand on her own feet the first thing we hear is her either amongst the chairs or down on the floor. I cannot rest in my bed for fear she falls and ? her self. I was thinking to get the bed put in the kitchen where we keep the milk(?). If you think we should do it tell me when you write which I hope you will do when you receive the things and let me know how your pleased with things. They come to about 14 pounds you will see by the accounts. I have not had a letter from Isa this fortnight. I do not understand it.. I received Georges letter safe today and one form Isa.

Your loving dau  
I Wilson

**The next letter would be Isabella Wilson's reply to her mother after a reply to the letter above.**

Limekilns, Tuesday

My dear Mother,

I received Robert's letter yesterday and was glad to hear that you were pleased with the things. I think myself that it will be damp but we have no place in the kitchen for a bed to stand. I thought she would be nearer the girl if she was in the kitchen it would not hold me coming ben so often I thought I was going to be layed up last week with a pain in my breast and in my back. I think it was just the cold. I cannot find the account of the muffs but I know the pric....them all.(*piece torn out*) I have the account of the .....I will send it. The account of the Muffs, cuffs & drefs came to 11-2-6. Your muff was 3-15 and the one with the piece of paper in the inside was 2-8-6 & the cuffs was 14/6 There is 18 yards of the dress at 2/1 is 1-17-6. If Margt is not pleased with the drefs she must not take it. Your muffs are cheaper than mine. I payed 2-10 and it is not as good as any of yours. It was Aunt Maggie that told me to go to a furriers and I would get it cheaper than out of Burton but his are cheaper and better muffs This is a piece of saved trimming(?) I got from Mrs Spence. It will require a good bleach it will answer some purpose. Aunt Jane.....got a son on Friday. I had.....(*piece torn out*) from Isabella and

*There seems to have been a second sheet which is missing.*

**It sounds as if Isabella Wilson was sent by her mother to register her illegitimate child's birth in Dunfermline, and she wasn't sure of the date Perhaps a birth certificate was needed for school. She is obviously expecting again and this might be Christian born 2 April 1859 and the one with new eyeteeth would be Margaret Miller, my grandmother.**

Limekilns Saturday

My dear Mother

You will be surprised at me not answering your letter sooner but it was Saturday when I received your letter and I went to Dunfermline on Monday but the office was shut at 2 o'clock and I did not know so Jean called the next day and he told her to come on the following day and he would see so when Jean called it was not in the books so I registered her birth to your date and got it out then last night which cost me 4/6. I hope it will be in time as for what you asked me. I think it was the month of January but I never paid any attention as I sure(?) thought it could be I spoke of it to Mrs Spence she said it might be but she did not think it for I was looking so well but I was ill all the time I was in London and it is 9 months come the 5<sup>th</sup> of May since I came home and it is 9 months the 8<sup>th</sup> of May since John come home. I would like you here the first of June. I may be better before then but I hope not if Mrs Spence and husband had not been at home. I would not been at a lofs but if any thing should occur before the month of June she will come headlong before you come. When you write tell me if you think I should bring down the bed that is in the closet to stand where the sofa is. It will not hold it unlesfs the closet door is kept open . We are all well. Baby is very crofs she is getting her eye teeth. Write soon.

Your affect Daughter  
Isa Wilson

Hillburn 28<sup>th</sup> May 1860

My Dear Father,.

I received your very welcome letter some time ago, and was glad to see from it that you were all well. We have been very busy for the last week owing to it being the term time. My hours are still very long, but as I am to get away for a few weeks in a month or two, I do not grudge working after hours. We had a holiday last Thursday, and I enjoyed it very much. I was out in the country, about 8 miles, spending the day with a farmer. I was out at his house about 8 o'clock in the morning and left again about 19 o'clock at night. He wished me to stay all night, but I thought that I would be better at home as the next day was the term day. I should have stayed all night if the next day had not been the term.

I received mother's letter today and will answer it shortly. With kind love

I am  
Yours affectionately,  
Geo. R. Hall.

Polnicol 16<sup>th</sup> June  
1860

Mr Hall  
My Dear Sir

We were at Culrain to-day, Saturday, and talked of Tom's matter, Tom says he will be west upon Monday afternoon. We are all well hoping, self Christian and the rest are quite well.

I am, My Dear Sir  
Yours sincerely,  
John Henderson

{name very hard to make out} 25 June  
must be Polnicol 1860

Dear Christina,

I am glad to inform you that Kate was safely delivered of a daughter at a quarter to 4 p.m.

Yours truly,  
John Henderson

Please send east some marmalade by the Bearer J.H.

\*\*\*\*\*

**This letter was written by Isabella Wilson to her grandmother Hall from "The Pavilion". Her mother was Isabella Hall and Isabella (the writer) was born in 1847, about eight years before her parents married at Belleport in 1855. In the 1851 census she was aged 4 living with her mother and her great-grandmother Margaret Laurence, a publican, in Limekilns. When she wrote this letter she was presumably away at school. Maggie was probably my grandmother Margaret Miller Wilson, who was born in 1857. So this letter would be written between 1857 and 1860, when Isabella Wilson died at Belleport aged 13. Belleport was home to two of the grand-daughters of James and Isabella Hall.**

The Pavilion

My dear Grandmama,

I received your letter last week and was happy to hear that you were all well as this leaves us all the same here at present. The last letter I had from Mama she said that Maggie was ill, but I hope she is better now. There was a fall of snow here Sunday, it took us up to the knees when we were going to the church. This is the week of the sacraments. So we will be at school till Tuesday, so we have no lesson to learn to.....so I must conclude now as we are going down to the parlour. I am dear

Grandmama  
Your Loving Grand Daughter  
Isabella Wilson

**Another letter from Isabella Wilson to an unnamed aunt**

The Pavilion July 9?

My dear Aunt,

I received uncle's letter about an hour after the box and was happy to see that you were all well. The dressmaker that Mifs Maclean gave my dresses to has 9 to make among all the boarders before the examination. The weather is very cold here at present in the mornings. The Doctor was here seeing me to day and he is to send me something to take, and I am taking cod liver oil already. The petticoat Mama send me is far to long I will require to put a tuck on it to night Mifs Maclean has to let me see the way to do it. It is four weeks yesterday to the examination. I must conclude now as I have my lessons to learn. Hoping this will find you all well as this leaves the same at present. I am dear Aunt

your affectionate Neice  
Isabella L Wilson

**Isabella Lawrence Wilson died at Belleport 9 September, 1860 of 'chronic pleurisy, several weeks'**

London October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1860

Mr. Hall

My Dear Sir

I received your letter. I was sorrow to hear of Dear Isabell Death. And how she suffered without a murmur. I was not prepared to hear it. She would been the last to think off for She had always been so healthy. Isa has hurt herself very much by the way she writes but that will do no good. We will be sorrow but must submit to the ways of God. She is gone to a better place I trust.

On arrival I wrote to Limekilns to Isa. I am at a loss to know if she got it as I have no answer yet. I wrote that same night to the North to say we are all well, I do not know what I shall do yet. Trade is rather Brisk out wards and even on round to some places. She would not fetch over one half what she cost us now if I thought of sale and to move down to Limekilns to lay up. It's a long sail at this season. Adam went away to Edinburgh by the train to night to pass the Board as Mate

I will be all out soon, say Friday, we are ?????? in St. K.????? I will be happy to hear from you soon again, my compliments to Mrs. Hall and Family.

I am

My Dear Sir  
Your affate Son in Law  
John Wilson

Since writing the above I have got Isa letter. I enclose a note for her, be so kind as give her a note to me what I owe you including all expenses.

J. Wilson

**This is an undated letter from the second batch. The writer is Mary Hall, who might be a sister-in-law of James, married to his half-brother Thomas, or, less likely, the wife of his half-brother John, also called Mary. If she is who I think she is it could be dated as early as the 1840's. I am amazed that the assortment of letters we have is so varied, and it is impossible to tell why some letters have been saved. What have this letter and the next one got in common?**

My Dear Brother and sister if it is in my power to Reward you for anything that you've done for me in this Life I shall with the greatest of pleasure if not God will abundently blefs you ??? for my sake for he is the Great Rewarder for soul and body and he will give all a blefsing for time and Eternety My Dear sister Isabella I write this with a trimbling hand and a sorrowfull heart it makes me peil? to ask from from any person I am afraid that we lose our goods and I do not know what to doe Dear Brother and sister pray Consider My Case and forgive me for this Liberty my Greif is Great My Dear Brother I know that it is in your powr to give my husband a situation that we may be delivered out of this present affliction My Dear young family pray think of me your very afflicte Aunt for she forgets not you at a throne of grace daly from your loving sister and Aunt

Mary Hall

Pitmaduthie Saturday

My Dear Father

Shannon has to mark off some wood for sale, & cannot take upon himself to cut props without an order, especially when he is ordered to get the wood marked. Write an note to the Factor for two cargoes or three & send it to me by the bearer & I will go to him with today.

Your affte Son  
Thos. Hall

**This is the first letter from George after he went to work in the bank at Ayton in Berwickshire.**

Coml Bank

Ayton 1 Nov 1860

My dear Sister,

I received the box all safe tonight and many thanks for it I would have got it sooner but I could not get for it. It was two oclock yesterday morning before I left the Bank and 5 o'clock this morning.. I am that tired that I cannot write. Father need not mention it to Mr Munro.

Geo R Hall

2 Nov

I forgot to post this note on the morning so it will be a post be hind. I will write more again.

I am  
Yours affectionately  
Geo R Hall

**Paper seems to have a narrow black edge.**

Pitmaduthie,  
7 Novr 1860

Dear Father,

I recd. Your note yesterday. We have looked at all our Stacks & can find nothing wrong yet with the exception of 2 Oat stacks & we took the heads out of them, there was nothing wrong but a little heat in the heads, we are busy preparing for wheat.

I am  
Your affte Son  
Thos Hall

**A letter from George Ross Hall to his father after he started in the bank at Ayton. Some of the Halls from Limekilns had settled in Eyemouth, Berwickshire and I wonder if that is just a coincidence.**

Commercial Bank of S

Ayton 9 Novr 1860

My dear Father,

No doubt you will be surprised at me for not not writing sooner; but we have been so busy since the Balance that I could not get time. The Bank is only to allow me £10 a year. I got £8 odds a day or two before the Balance for the time that I have been here. I do not think that they will allow me more than £10 for some years. Mr Geo. McGregor was here yesterday & stayed all night. He was mentioning that John was to be in Edinburgh on Monday but I suppose that he will not come out this length. G.M. was wanting me to come into Edin. But I do not think that I will go.

I must be done now as it is about bed time.

I am  
Yours affectionately  
Geo R Hall

P.S. When you write would you let me know Mr Wilson's addrefs as I would like to write to them.

G.R.H.

**This letter was from John Wilson, my great-grandfather, to his father-in-law, James Hall. The baby would be Christian Hall Wilson, born 2 Apr, 1859. Isabella, his wife, was not sailing on this trip but Joanna was born 10 Sep 1861 which suggests they had an amorous encounter, though evidently not in Limekilns.**

London Decr 9th 1860

Mr Hall

My Dear Sir

It is such a busy place this, and we are continually on the run loading in the Berth hunting up all the first 800 el[goods?] with the assistance of the Broker that I neglect my writing at times. You would here we did not go down to Limekilns I cannot leave my my Business without some one I could depend on. and I was vexed? too as friends generally put great stress on these things but Andrew Wilson acted for me We are loaded tomorrow in fair trim, carrying two passengers and ten sheep on deck I think I will gross about £900 out , all paid in London but off this I will pay the copper, new sails, and patent topsails &c Indeed I will lay it all out for my expenses here. When I settle my inward freight due on the 20th Decr I intend remitting you the sum I owe you. also the other expenses. Let Isa. know the amount if I sail before it is due. This winter sailing is become quite fashionable .....? but I can tell you it is not very comfortable However we shall soon get a fine climate only lets have an East wind for fourteen days to Madeira.

I must try to give it up soon - This Also a Bay is a horrid Place to lay at your anchor I have taken two grass rope springs, open Bay and a heavy sea setting in, we are all pretty well now. Baby has been unwell but Better now My kind love to Mrs. Hall Christian and all Friends about Belleport.

I am your  
affectionate son-in-law  
John Wilson

**A letter from George to his brother Robert.**

Commercial Bank  
Ayton 3 May 1861

My dear Brother,

I received your very welcome letter the other day and was glad to see from it that father was getting on so well. I hope the rush you mentioned in your letter is not troubling him much. Perhaps it may be in his favour like the first one that came out . How is Deas getting on? Is he still allowed to sail the vessel by the Invernefs Club? He will likely be at Sunderland now after being at Portmahomack.

You must excuse me for being so short as I am in a hurry. Hoping that you are all keeping well and that you will excuse this

I am  
Yours affectly.

Geo R Hall

I will send you a paper tomorrow if all is well

GRH

Mr R Hall  
Belleport

Commercial Bank  
Ayton, 13 May 1861

My dear Brother,

I have been looking for a letter from you for the last day or two: but there is no appearance of one as yet. I suppose that you will be busy with the fishing just now and cannot find time, but when you do write I hope that you will give me a long letter.

How is father keeping.? I am sure the weather will be much against him just now, for it is very cold. But it is to be hoped that we will have warm weather soon which I am sure will be great in his favour.

I wish that you would try to send me a paper. There is more than a month now since you sent me one.

I send you the "Illustrated London News" along with this which I hope you will receive.  
I must be done now. Hoping you are all well and that you will write soon.

I am  
Yours affectly  
Geo R Hall

Mr R Hall  
Belleport

P.S. My money is about done again so I will require to get some more sent to me.

GRH

Tulloch, Strathdon  
15<sup>th</sup>.July 1861

Dear Mother,

I am happy to inform you that Isabella was safely Delivered of a son on Thursday and that both are doing as well as could be expected.

I hope that Father is now quite recovered and that he will keep strong. If Isabella keeps strong I will take a run over this summer to see you all..

I must be done as I must be of to the country.

I remain  
Your affectionate  
Son  
James Hall



**(Printed letterhead)**

19 St Helen's Place,  
London EC 13<sup>th</sup>. Jun 1862

Mrs. J. Wilson,

Dr. Madam –

In reply to your favour of 11<sup>th</sup> inst. We beg to say that Captn Wilson consignees at Penang are ??? Brown & Co and any letters addressed to their care will be enough.

The “Juventa” ought to be a good way on her passage & we hope she may make a quick run out & fall in with good employment.

Hoping yourself and family are well

We are

Yours truly  
N Wright & Co??

Belleport, Alness  
Ross-shire  
NB

**(printed letter-head)**

Ardross by Alness  
18<sup>th</sup> April 1864

Dear Sir,

I have your note regarding William I feel very much for him but I am quite at a loss to think in what way I could assist him. Directly about ourselves I have no work light enough fo him. I would not like the poor fellow on his own and his father's account working with the labourers. If there was a possibility of getting him in as a gate keeper it would suit him. I have spoken so often to Mr McDougal who has to do with these appointments and been unsuccessful that I have given over trying him. If you can succeed yourself in making application I will back you.

The post runner to Ardross is looking out for a better appointment, and if he would leave it would suit William, and the place should be watched.

I am yours truly  
William McKenzie

**William died at Rosskeen 21October 1864**

**This letter must have been written before the death of her father James Hall in Nov 1864**

Lime.....[corner torn off]

My dear Mother,

I received your? letter last week so I intend? to go to Dunfermline to day to see the prices of the carpet I am very happy to hear that father is still keeping better we are all well hoping to find you all in good health Mrs Spence is expecting her husband into London every ....is going.....when he .....will put.....in the letter .....Dunfermline it will take? a post hoping to hear from you soon

Your loving daughter  
I Wilson

P.S. I was too late for the Post after I came from Dunfermline this is the list of carpets 2ply.They will send for 8 ply if you want one . They are very pretty. The 2 ply ones both with white in them and dark very pretty rugs at 8/6 to 16/6 what ever you want write and I will get for you you will be thinking I am not going to write

IW

**This is most likely a letter from Isabella Hall, wife of Thomas Hall of Pitmaduthie, to her brother-in-law, possibly George Ross Hall, probably dated before James Hall's death in 1864. He had a stroke about 1861 and maybe George looked after business for him. It seems a bit formal but there is a later one in a less formal tone.**

Pitmaduthie  
Friday night

My dear Mr Hall,

I received your letter to day in regard to Thomas not writing you but I made him write you on Tuesday night to let you know that himself & my Brother was going west on Saturday tomorrow to Culcain? so I am writing you myself as Thomas went to the Moss before your letter came and has no word of coming home altho I know it is a quarter to nine o clock I am sure my Father is as interested as any other person in our welfare and I am sure my Brother and him will do any thing that lies in their power to do this my Father mentioned to my Brother John but I trust there is no risk? in the Farm? as we both w wish to pay honestly every Farthing as far as lies in our power and I hope you will have credit by us in a short time that is my earnest wish never to displease any person concerned in the matter & with kind regards to all.

Believe me  
very sincerely yours  
Isabella Hall

P.S. I will write you tomorrow night if Thomas does not go to Belleport tomorrow after coming from Culcain.

**In an e-mail Sheila Hoseason told me that Thomas and his wife farmed at Culcain in Evanton, which is just west of Alness.**

**William Hall died 21 Oct 1864 and his father, James Hall, died Tuesday 15 Nov 1864 at Belleport, Rosskeen. In his obituary in the Invergordon Times it is stated "Mr. Hall had been in weak health for nearly four years back, having never well recovered from a paralytic attack with which he was seized early in 1861."**

**The first page is torn so the start of the letter is missing. There are also some other small holes. It is from Isabella Wilson and can be dated based on the birth of Adam, her son, as about October 1864. Her father died 15 Nov 1864. I am not sure why the paper was black-edged since her father was still alive.**

### **Black-edged paper**

.....what to do.....last night to leave this morning and Aunt Jenny come up and Mrs Nisbet came and they said that the y thought I should not take Adam him being so ill with the cold and he has been our this month so I went down to the Doctor but he was not at home.....the warm month to travel in for said she knows that I would be anxious to see father and she said she would be afraid of baby taken croup at ?? and he is amongst his teeth he had got six and been very ill with them I do not know what to do my mind is quite ?? I know it is my duty to come but I am afraid for baby he is avery strong child I thought last night we come and bring them all and leave them with the servant .....Wm wife in the village but the doctor is to be home today and I will see what he says and if he says I can take him I will leave at once if he had been weaned it would have been nothing he is only months old what can I do and I am getting very wearied for a letter from John it is 35 days since he sailed and heexpected to go in 25 and it only takes a letter 4 days to come .....is that way troubled I cannot rest from Father I wish I could come but where there is hope there is hope. I hope he may be spared a while yet I got a telegram yesterday at 3 o'clock but I hope he has wrote beside I have received both of Thomas letter just now and I hope father will get round no letters from John yet I wish I had a letter there is 4 ships taken fire?? which sailed from Leith ??with coal

**This letter from Isabella Laurence to her aunt Isabella Hall on hearing of the death of James Hall. There were two females Isabella Laurence born to John Laurence and Isabella Aitken, one on 22/11/1830 (but who must have died) and one on 16/06/1835. I don't know who this John Laurence was but most likely a brother of Isabella, James Hall's wife. There is a Pine House now in Inverness, and it looks a substantial property.**

### **Black-edged paper**

Pine House

17 November 1864

My dear Aunt,

I little thought when I wrote you at poor Willie's death that we shd be so soon called on to mourn for Uncle.

I feel more than I can express for you all in this second stroke Often when wave after wave came on us did I wonder that among the many of yrs. there was no break while with us there was but time to rally when another fresh blow fell. But God does as it pleases him and now He has seen meet to try you very heavily. May He impart strength and grace to you all in this yr time of need and scantify to each of us this renewed

dispensation I trust that it may be enabled you to submit to the hand that striketh and that the precious promises of his word may be yr. strength. He has promised to be the husband of the widow and the father of the fatherless. May you and yrs. ever realize this.

If Saturday is anything favourable and nothing comes in the way to prevent me I think of coming down by the nine train and returning by the next when I hope to find you well and under the support of him who is always able to strengthen and comfort you.

Mr. Morrison and Robert join in warmest sympathy with all and always believe I'm always? dear Aunt.

yr. very affect niece  
Isabella Laurenc  
Limekilns Thursday [18 Nov 1864]

**Black-edged paper**

My dear Mother,

I am very sorrow when I received y letter to day to hear Dear father was gone it is a sore stroke to you and all of us it is an awful stroke to me thinking all was there but me I should come of at once what could I do I had no person to council with The doctor called last night and he said on no account was I to travel with the child even had he had no cold if it had been south I might have gone but not north

I hope the Lord will suport and comforts is our trils? but it is a heavy stroke so soon after William's death I must conclude My head akes I cannot write I wish I had been beside you to day Aunt Janny? has been very kind coming up and Betty to beside me this some time Tell G to write me by return.

your ever loving .....

I Wils

I forgot to say that I had a letter from John to day he arrived all well on Sabbath last

**The child would be Adam Donaldson Wilson, born 23 Jan 1864**

**Black-edged paper**

Limekilns  
Sunday [21 Nov 1864]  
evening

My dear brother,

I received your letter to day and one from from John They have had coarse weather he will be sorrow to hear of Father's death he will get my letter tomorrow he had a great regard for father The first letter I had he said he thought he would sell the ship when he came into England for William and Adam want her sold he is tired of the sea. I wish he could get some thing to do on shore anything than go to the sea it is a miserable life both for them that are at the sea and them that are at home.

I hope mother will bear up under her bereavements for it is her will feel the greatest lofs but I hope our loss will be their gain when we think that they are only away a short time before us we know we must all follow sooner or later since the year /60 I have had a great many trials and this is the heaviest Father

was so kind when I think how fond he was of little Christy and her of him but what can we say the will of the Lord must be done he knows best what is good for? us he dose not afflict .....nothing it is.....his own ways that we .....so sore afflicted we are all well.....still sore back? .....with .....I got a bottle from the Dr to give him hoping you will write soon and let me know how you all are  
your affect sister

Isabella Wilson

**Christy would be Christian Hall Wilson, born 1859, died 1866, daughter of John and Isabella Wilson.**

**Most likely to Christina Hall, who stayed at home and did not marry. Kate would be Catherine, who married in 1857.**

**Black-edged paper**  
Wednesday

Limekilns.

My dear sister,

I received a note from Kate about Mother's bonnet. I went to Edinburgh this morning .I asked Madame if she would take back the bonnet and she said certainly so you must send it off whenever you receive this and the boxes(?)

I went to Mr Burtons about a cloak.I asked Madame first before I went and she said Mother would require silk cloake insert with crepe so that was just what they let me see in Burton's. Mother's C must be a chine silk. Kate wanted to know how the crepe was put on my drefs. I have 4 Inches. They are put on the long way of the crepe and the crepes folded in 4 but I will give you the deepness of mine.

Mother and yourself will feel the lofs of father most but I hope you will bear up but it is not easy I can feel for you for I know what it is to mourn for the loss of one that is dear to us. The lofs of Father is a great lofs to us all and it will be a lonely winter for you and Mother for none can feel like them that was always beside him and attending to all his wants but I hope the Lord will suport us under our bereavements for they are heavy. I will go t o Dunfermline tomorrow if it is a good day and send of your Victorean. We are all well.Adam was very bad with his cough last night . I hope you you are all well. Write soon. Mother will likely get her cloake the end of the week but I forgot to tell them to send it to Alnefs it will likely go to Invergordon.

Your everloving sister

Isabella Wilson

PS I would be most glad if any of you thought of coming south for a while a chance would do you good if you could leave Mother and if we are all spared we will come in Spring and see you all.

I. Wilson

**This letter must be to the same sister, Christiina, and probably written two days later.**

**Black-edged paper**

Limekilns Friday

*{can't date this letter, but it is on black-edged paper}*

My dear Sister,

I have sent off your Victorease? to day I could not get one in Mr. Taylors so I got one in a Mr Barnys? a very good one and as near my muff as I could but is very expensive it was £4-10 but I said I would not give more than three pounds for it he let down to four but I said it was to much so I got it for the £3-15 - so if you are not pleased with it send it back it is a very fine fur Tell Robert he must send of my butter next week for the Stirling? boat is not to run after next week I hope you and mother and the rest are all I had a call from Mr and Mrs Birch on Tirsday? and they send their kind?.compliments and Dr Johnston call and sent his compliments? we are all well write soon

your ....? sister  
I Wilson?

**This letter is from Jane Hall who appears in the census at Belleport from age 9 (1861) to 29 (1881). Her parents were James and Isabella Hall and she is a granddaughter of the other James and Isabella Hall of Belleport . The uncle may be Robert, referred to in the letter above.**

**Black-edged paper**

Inverness Feby 11th 1865

My dear Uncle

I should have written before now but ma wrote and I wanted to be at school. I went on Monday last I think I will like it, but I don't know it is a change to me from Belleport I hope Granma is better and that aunty is keeping well we are all well I will write aunty soon as this is my first letter I will try and do better the next time they all send there kind love to you all

ever think of me  
as your loving neice  
Jane Hall

**From Isabella, the wife of James Hall, eldest son of James Hall of Belleort, who had been with the Excise at Inverkindie but seems now to be at a new address. Palmerston Place is presumably the one in Inverness. Jane, or Jannie, was their eldest daughter.**

**Black-edged paper**

Palmerston Place  
March 1st 1865

My dear Sister,

Jannie? was to write to you or to her Uncle Robert but realy she has so much to do with her reading lessing that she has little time. We were so glad to see from Robert's letter that mother was somewhat better I trust she is still continuing to keep well and all they rest but himself he does not seem to be improving for (he Robert) said he had been ill again. I'm glad to say that we are all well Baby has got a sore head he fell against the ribs of the grate and got his head burned a little it then festered and spread I have a great deal of trouble with him indeed I'm sometimes nearly off my feet for I've had a very bad cold for more than a month James left on Monday and is not yet home I would take it very kind if some of you would write and just tell Jane that she could not get back at any rate till She had got on with her

educating? for we don't know what to do with her She seems to have no heart for any thing and crying night and morning and complaining to the servant and determined to run off did she complain of pains in her breast when at Belleport for it is a dark cry that to be sure I don't know what to do with her she thinks she has nothing to do but just go back and live in idleness She can't read nearly as well as Mary we think of getting a young man for two hours twice a week or even might to try and draw her but if some of you would write and tell her that she can not get back it might make her more reconciled for as long as she thinks that she can get away from it she'll do no good No doubt it is a chancy(?) to her for Belleport and her Papa is very cross with her some time for let her read her lesson over & over she had just to be told the same thing every time I'm sorry to trouble you with this but you have been her head and a advise from you might do good and if the weather was a little better to come and see her and us Her love is so strong to you and G'ma(?) that it seems to drive every other thing out of her head but she must learn. I will now be done.

I ever am yours  
Sincerely attached sister  
Isabella Hall

**I think this letter was again from Isabella the wife of James Hall, born 11 Oct 1826, who had been at Inverkindie and are now at a new address?. They were the parents of Jane.**

**Black-edged paper**

Inverness  
11 Kessock St  
16? Aug 1865

My dear Georeg

James had to go from home for this two or three day or he'de have wrote him Self but he had me write and say he would see you on Saturday first and to have Jannie ready as the School is taking up to day and they rest all go on Monday I would have been over my self to have seen you but realy I've been so ill with my head and teeth that I'm not able to go anywhere I got no rest since two this morning I hope dear Christina is keeping pretty well I hope she will soon be able to come over this length and see me she has need of change give her my warmest love accept the same you and Jannie  
And believe me ever your attached sister

Isabella Hall

**This is the wife of Thomas Hall, Isabella writing to George (Ross) Hall. The letter is written on paper with a black edge so it must have been after a death. The people to whom she sent greetings mean the letter must be after James Hall's death in 1864 and before his wife's death in 1865.**

**Black-edged paper**

Pitmaduthie,  
Friday

Dear George,

As my sister from Viewfield? Was calling upon us Saturday Evening she was wanting a good general servant & I've recommended Maggie to her. Wd you let me know by return of post if she wd go & stating the wages for her work. I know she will suit they are three Cows to milk & themselves both & a boy is all they have in the House.

I hope you Mother Christina self are all well & with kind regards to all Believe me

Your affectionate sister,  
Isabella Hall

**This must have been written in the autumn of 1865, soon after her mother's death. Little Christian died 25<sup>th</sup> April 1866.**

Limekilns, Friday afternoon

**Black-edged paper**

My dear Brother and Sisters

I received your note yesterday and happy to hear that you are all in your ordinary health. I am sorrow for Christian that I cannot get north The Dr. says Christy fevered with a disordered stomach & bowels you would not know that she is in a fever if it was not the heat of her skin some times you would think there was nothing the matter and when she is in a strong fever it is a fortnight yesterday since she turned ill but I just thought it was her stomach till Sabbath she was laid up we have a little iron bed in the Parlour she lays in she is sitting up just now in bed drefsing her doll she is nothing but skin and bones her leg is not the size of your two fingers she is very much troubled with her cough and the Dr. says helps to keep up the fever.

I think Christian should just come away south beside me for a while I am sure she has much need of a change she has seen so much within this short time.

John said in his last letter if spared to arrive in Greenock that him and I would come north to see mother but little did he think he would never see her in this world again. Our strokes have heavy and not long between them. I think C should take a change as long as the weather is good This letter must do for you all as I have not much time to write for Adam is worse when C or I may say more trouble he is ill natured with his mouth write soon again

Your affect Sister  
Isabella Wilson



**This letter was found in its envelope and the date stamp is “Inverness, December 17 1870”. It is also stamped on the back at Invergordon, same date. It is addressed to Mifs C. Hall, Belleport, nr. Invergordon. Robert Hall, son of James Hall of Belleport, died in 1870.**

**Black-edged paper**

Pine House,  
Friday Evening

My dear Christina,

I was very much shocked and grieved on opening George’s letter to Robert this morning. I did not know that handwriting and thought it was some acquaintance, little dreaming it was anyone related to me.

I feel more than I can express for you all especially for you. As a family you were long exempt from sad strokes of this kind, but they have come heavily and frequently of late. You have scarce recovered from one blow e’en another has fallen. It is not easy bearing up under such oft repeated trials; as I know too well & I can enter into yr. Feelings having suffered so fully myself. I can only pray that He who has seen ?? so often to cause you blows in this way, may sustain you under this trial and in His time given you submission to His will. Poor Robert I must always remember his kindness to ??very early days. The last time I saw him was in this house and then he was as I always found him kind in deed as well as in word. What changes both in yrs. & our family since then.

The ?? not many relations on our side of the house but certainly things are getting rapidly fewer. Robert is south just now. I do not know if he will return before Tuesday or not. If so and spared & well you may be sure we will be at Belleport that day.

He will be greatly surprised when he hears of the change for George .....this day last week. Sympathising with you all & trusting you will get strength according to yr. Need.

I am dear Christiana

Yr. Affectionate cousin?  
Isa? Lawrence

**Headed notepaper**

Queen’s Hotel  
Bridge of Allan 16 Feby 1871

My dear Sister

I expected to have heard from some of you tonight. We have much better weather now The snow is all away and quite warm. It is like the month of May. I would like to stay another week but the Banker says that he must be home on Saturday So we will will be home by the last train on that night. Jamie can be at Alness with the mare at the last train, see that he is up in time.

We have been no place since we came here except at the Halbeath? Colliery. I think that we will go to Alloa tomorrow.

Jannie need not write after tonight for I will get no more letters here.

yours affecty  
Geo R Hall

**In the 1871 census he had a coachman called James McLennan.**

**Headed notepaper**

Queen's Hotel,  
Bridge of Allan 26 July 1871

My dear Sister

I could not get a bed in Perth, so James Rofs Post Office and Jennie in here. It rained torrents until we got this length. It is now fair and a nice evening.

I am not sure if I will be home on Friday or Saturday perhaps not until Monday according to what word I will have from McBeans.

Should I not be home until Monday I will spend Sunday here . James Rofs wants to go to Edinburgh and Glasgow

Should I not be home until Monday I will write again.

Yours affectly  
Geo R Hall

**Headed notepaper**

Queen's Hotel  
Bridge of Allan 28 July 1871

Dear Sister

I should be home tomorrow but Mr. Rofs wants to wait until Monday so I do not care to leave him I will be home by the last train

We were at the Shaw? Yesterday then went to Glasgow in ...evening staid there all night, went to Edinburgh this forenoon and then back here. I feel very tired, but if it was not nor Mr Rofs I would leave for home tonight. Yesterday was a very fine day but today I may say that it rained nearly all day and we had to stay in a great part of the time

Yours affectly  
Geo R Hall

**THE END**