



Letter dated 1811 from John Crawford of Crawfordsburn about his family connections

The letter transcribed below (pp.2,3) makes up the first two pages of a four-page letter written between 1849 and 1863 by Duncan Campbell (1792-1874) to his son-in-law Robert Thomson (1807-1863) concerning family genealogy.

In turn, those first two pages, of specific importance to Crawford family research, contain a transcript (presumably by Duncan Campbell) of a letter, dated 9 November 1811, written by John Crawford of Crawfordsburn to Mrs Anne Campbell, née Crooks.

Much to my embarrassment, George T.H. Shaw from Ontario, Canada, had very kindly alerted me to this letter and forwarded a copy to me in June 2014, but due to my absence on holiday, the email was completely overlooked until June 2021 when I rediscovered it while deleting old emails.

So, a mix of thanks and sincere apologies to George.

For clarity, the source of Duncan Campbell's copy letter is from 'BibID: 2878685, MS 8600, *Papers of the Thomson family, 1838-2006, (bulk 1840-1880)*, National Library of Australia, MS 8600'.

And for some background, the National Library of Australia offers this biographical note:

Members of the Thomson Family include Robert and David Thomson. Robert Thomson settled in Gippsland in 1840s. He was elected to the Legislative Council in the first Parliament and appointed Chairman of the Committee in the Legislative Council in 1860. David Thomson's career has included Federal Minister for Science and Environment (1979-1980) and Minister of Science and Technology (1980-1983).

My transcription of John Crawford's letter, complete with square-bracketed editorial comments and additional end-notes, is on the following pages.

David Byers, Belfast, 1 January 2022

Crawfordsburn near Ba[ngor]
November 9th 1811

Dear Madam

I have heard my father say that his Aunt Crooksⁱ had a daughter [Anne Crooks (c.1709-after c.1745)] married to a gentleman of the name of Campbell [Duncan Campbell of Knochamellie (c.1711-bef.1781)], but till I received your letter did not know anything of the family.

I shall now inform you of your relations in this country.

William Johnstonⁱⁱ left both sons and daughters. His eldest son who lives at Ballywillwill near Castlewellan in this country is called George [Henry] McDowell Johnston [c.1775-1864], a clergyman of the established church, a very good man, is married lately [1811] to [his cousin] Lady [Anna] Maria Annesley [c.1778-c.1825], daughter to Earl Annesley. He [George] has one brother in the army, and two sisters unmarried.

Mr [James] Hamilton [of Ballymenoch (d.1789)], son to your Aunt Hamiltonⁱⁱⁱ left two daughters, one of them [Margaret] is alive, a widow of Mr. [Samuel] Hyde^{iv} of Belfast [they'd married on 16 Aug 1764] and lives at Bath with a large fortune, about 69 years of age without children.

My father's sister, [Anne, the eldest daughter of John Crawford, married Henry McCulloch (also McCullagh or McCulloch)^v of Randalstown] Mrs McCulloch, had a daughter [Dorothea], as you know, Mrs [James] MacClintock. She left only one son alive [Henry McClintock, b. 1764] and one daughter [Susanna Maria McClintock, b.1767], the daughter married to Mr. [Samuel] Montgomery, a clergyman; both brother and sister have children.

[Another of Henry and Anne McCulloch's daughters^{vi}] Mrs Alexander [Anne McCulloch, (d.1817) who had married Robert Alexander (d. 1790) of Boom Hall, Co. Londonderry, brother of Lord Caledon – see three paragraphs below] has four [actually five – seemingly missing is the third, Lt-Gen. William, b.1768] sons and two daughters. Her eldest son [Nathaniel, b.1760] is Bishop of Down, with a large fortune. Her second son [Henry, b.1763] is secretary to my nephew Lord Caledon and is now at the Cape, secretary to Government. The third [likely the fourth, James, b.1769] is just returned from India with a large fortune, and the youngest [Josias du Pré, b.1771] is still in India. One of her daughters [Lady Elizabeth] is a widow of Sir Andrew Ferguson of – [*indecipherable, likely L'Derry*] – Bart., and has children, some of them have married. The other sister [another Anne] is married [to Maj-Gen. Alexander Scott].

I have two brothers alive. Arthur lives at [Bloomfield] Belfast. He was many years in India, is married and has a young family.

My other brother William is a merchant in Cork and has the one half of the largest Porter brewery in Ireland, brewing not less than 120,000 thousand casks of Porter in the year, equal to some of the Porter Brewers in London; he has a very large family, one of his daughters grown up and greatly married.

I had a sister [Anne] married to the late Lord Caledon (as I expect you have heard), who left the present Lord Caledon and two sisters, the one [Mabela] married to Lord Blayney and the other [Elizabeth] unmarried.

I have another sister [Mary] married to a gentleman of the name of [David] Gordon in the country who has a very fine fortune.

I have two children, a son who has been at the Temple [^{vii}Arthur Johnston Crawford, 'of Trinity College, Dublin,' was admitted to Lincoln's Inn Inner Temple, London, on 11 November 1806, 'aged about 20'] and a daughter married to a Mr. Sharman, a man of fine fortune and at present Sheriff of this county; she has four children, all young.

The nephews of my grandmother [Jane] Crawford [of Ballysavage] and sons of her brother James who lived at Bally Farase [must surely be a mistranscription of Bally Savage] in the county of Antrim are all dead without issue, and the fortune [?] in Scotland sold to Lord Eglinton^{viii}, and the Irish properties also disposed of.

If there is anything you should wish to know of, I shall be happy to inform you.

Give my compliments to Mr. Campbell.

I am dear Madam

Yours truly

John Crawford

ⁱ Aunt Crooks (presumably née Crawford) was the wife of Rev. Henry Crooks (1665-1740), who became Presbyterian minister of Moneymore. Henry was the son of William Crooks (1625-1699) who was likely born in Scotland, arriving in Ireland after 1650, becoming Presbyterian minister of Ballykelly, Co. Londonderry (1665-1699). Aunt Crooks's daughter Anne married Duncan Campbell of Knochamellie (born in Kames, Ayrshire, Scotland). Anne and Duncan's eldest son was Henry, Fourth Laird of Knochamellie, who in turn was father (by his first wife Alice Campbell) of Duncan Campbell (1792-1874), the original source of this letter.

Source: Witherow, Thomas, *Derry and Enniskillen in the year 1689*, Belfast 1913, fourth edition, page 301; *Find a Grave*, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/162362568/david-crooks> (accessed 25 Jun 2021); *Duncan Campbell of Knochamellie*, <https://www.geni.com/people/Duncan-Campbell-of-Knochamellie/6000000063949400984> (accessed 25 Jun 2021);

Johnson, G. Harvey, *The Heraldry of the Campbells, with notes on all the males of the family*, Edinburgh 1921, page 21.

ⁱⁱ I'm not clear as yet just how William Johnston was related to the Crawford family. I can find no-one of that name immediately connected to Mabel Johnston's family. The Facebook page of *History of Newcastle, Co. Down* states that 'Rev. George Henry McDowell Johnston [1779-1864] was a son of William Johnston of Ballywillwill, County Down, and his wife Rebecca, daughter of Rev. George Vaughan, rector of Dromore, also County Down.' (Accessed 28 June 2021.) Rev. George was a great-grandson of William Johnston, Esq., of Netherlaw Park in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, Scotland.

The National Library of Ireland has manuscript 'deeds relating to lands in Drummiller and Ballywillwill, Co. Down, of the Johnston family, 1684 – 19th c., including marriage settlement of W. Johnston and Rebecca Vaughan of Dromore, Co. Down, 1768.'

For more details of the Johnstons of Netherlaw (Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland) and Co. Down (Gilford and Ballywillwill) see F R Grahame (pseudonym for Catherine Laura Johnstone), *History of the Johnstones, 1191-1909 with descriptions of border life*, Edinburgh and London, 1909, pp. 327-331. Available online at <https://archive.org/details/historyofjohnsto00grah/page/330/mode/2up>

ⁱⁱⁱ James Hamilton was the son of John Hamilton of Ballymenoch (c.1646-1722) and his wife Margaret Crawford of Ballysavage (c.1675-1735). James Hamilton, also of Ballymenoch, died in March 1789. On 26 April 1739 he'd married Mary Traill (d. 30 Nov 1746, daughter of James Traill of Marybrook). James and

Mary's daughter, Margaret Hamilton married Samuel Hyde of Belfast on 16 August 1764. Another daughter, Jane Hamilton (c.1742-1799), married Henry Savage of Rock Savage House, Ballygalget, Co.Down.

Source: Families Database at <http://www.stirnet.co.uk/genie/data/british/hh4aa/hamilton23.php> (accessed 23 June 2021)

^{iv} The will of Samuel Hyde, Gentleman of Belfast, is held in the National Archives, Kew. It is dated 21 August 1799. It's not surprising to read of the 'large fortune', considering that Samuel was an uncle of both Cunningham Greg and of Hugh Lyle (1756-1812) of Knocktarna House, Coleraine, Co. Londonderry. Hugh had married his cousin Sarah Greg (1764-1836) in 1776. She was the daughter of Thomas Greg of Belfast, slave owner on Dominica and merchant in Belfast. Thomas's partner was Waddell Cunningham who was married to Samuel Hyde's sister Margaret. Thomas's son and heir was Cunningham Greg.

In terms of it being 'such a small world', David Gordon (1759-1837) was one of the witnesses to Samuel Hyde's will. Gordon had married one of John Crawford's daughter's, Mary, in 1789. In 1808, David Gordon became one of the four partners in the new Belfast Bank, along with Narcissus Batt (c.1766-1840) whose wife was Hannah Hyde (a sister of Samuel Hyde – their father, was also Samuel (c.1694-c.1742/4) of Belfast).

Source: *Thomas Greg of Belfast*, Legacies of British Slavery database, <http://www.depts-live.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146662339> (accessed 23 June 2021).

Source: National Archives, Kew, PROB 11/1328/221

^v The marriage settlement of 1737 may be read at the Dublin RoD, Vol.87 Page 423 Memorial 62439. Most interesting are the three parties: First part, Henry McCulloch, Randalstown; Second Part, William McCulloch, Paidmont [=Piedmont], and James Craufford [Crawford], BallySavage; Third Part, John Crawford, Crawfordsburn, and his eldest daughter Ann [sic] – another link between the Ballysavage and Crawfordsburn families.

^{vi} Henry and Anne had three daughters: Jane, who died unmarried in 1758, Anne, who married Robert Alexander on 20 Sep 1759., and Dorothea (Dora) Beresford, who married James McClintock (1735-1786), Trintagh, Co. Donegal.

Source: *Account of the Family History of Rev. Robert Alexander (born 1795)*, Instalment II, *Londonderry Sentinel*, Thursday 31 Jan 1946, page 3.

A typed family tree for the McCullagh family from Coleraine Museum's Sam Henry Collection is available at <https://niarchive.org/archiveitems/typed-family-tree-re-mccullagh-family-arms-and-pedigree-supplied-by-mrs-montgomery-benvarden-typed-at-top-of-tree-begins-with-henry-mccullagh-of/>

Turtle Bunbury has written that 'James was an extravagant individual and apparently counted 29 hunters and coach-horses in his stable, and always drove with four horses in his coach. This apparently reduced the family estate so much that Trintaugh had to be sold soon after his death'. Source:

www.turtlebunbury.com/family/bunburyfamily_mcclintocks/bunbury_family_mcclintocks_trintaugh.html

^{vii} Re Trinity College Dublin: Crawford, Arthur Johnston - November 1, 1802, aged 16; son of John, Ingenuus; born Co. Down.

Sources: ed. G.D. Burtchaell and T.U. Sadleir, *Alumni Dublinenses 1593-1860*, Dublin 1935.

Records of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn: Admissions Register, Volume 2, 1800-1893.

<https://archive.org/details/VOL218001893CHAPELREGISTERS/page/n29/mode/2up> (accessed 22 June 2021).

^{viii} This was likely the 11th Earl of Eglinton, Archibald Montgomerie (1726-1796) who succeeded to the title in 1769 on the death of his brother the 10th Earl (1723-1769) who died of a gunshot wound on his Ardrossan estate. The gun had been fired by excise officer Mungo Campbell following a dispute about Campbell's right to bear arms while on the Earl's estate. Campbell denied the hangman his duty by hanging himself with his scarf.

David Byers, Belfast, 1 January 2022