

Hall Family Papers and Sugar Plantation Records

1709 - 1892

MSS.220

1776, June 1: William Brown to Hugh Kirkpatrick Hall



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of the Dues I have sent directed to you to the care
of Mess^{rs} Brocolds & Jackson of London an Ormabrig
parcel which contains your Book of Accounts
with all your Estates and Penn made up to the
1st October as usual and the different balances are
all carried into your account current with me
on which there appears a balance of £665.7.6³/₄

I am: Carry in your favour carried to your credit
in a New Account, which I hope on examination
you will find to be right; should there be any errors
or any part of those accounts that may want ex-
planation, I beg you'll be so kind as point them
out and they shall be immediately corrected or
Conform'd to as I would not wish any thing shou^d
pass unnoticed that did not give you entire
satisfaction, I find I have rather over drawn
last year which shall be particularly attended to
this year, by a remittance for the above mentioned
balance - I believe on a retrospect of Irwin and
Fryall Estates accounts you will find the Contingencies
pretty moderate, I believe more so than some of our
Neighbours that you may perhaps have an opportunity
of seeing, the taxes has been very high these two
years past and is not less'd as yet the publick
exigencies being still the same - In regard to
Kirkpatrick the charges that are most striking
in that account are Gentles acco: for the hire of
lawyer Negroes which were absolutely necessary

Dear Sir

Point-Lam: 1 June 1770 -

Here with you will receive copy of my
last which I now confirm, since then I have recd
your much Esteem'd Favours down to that of the
20th Feby last and have paid all due attention
to their Contents - I have now the pleasure to advise
you that the Mill was put about a Week past at
Hall Estate two days ago and that the Cane has
exceedingly lodged and new Land produced a
strong free grain'd Sugar, fairer than could well
be expected - It is hardly to be conceived but from
experience the delays and disappointments that
interfere in getting the works of a New Estate put
about the first time, when I wrote you last I really
expected the Crop would have been finished, in
place of beginning at this time and yet the trades
men has been very active and assiduous and
I can with safety assure you that they are the
most compact and commodious sets of works for
taking off 200 Wks of Sugar in the County and
what is more I'll venture to say the cheapest -

I am glad that your expectations from this crop
are not sanguine, more than mine, we have instances
daily of the first cuts of Cane from New Land in that
parish doing but little or nothing tho at same
time I think until the cane were lodged on Kirk-
patrick they bore as good an appearance as any I
ever saw - There were about 50 Acres out of the 90
that were planted that would have come in to be

cutt for sugar this year had the Works been ready before the season was so far advanced, but we could not think of losing the season of planting 50 acres more Canes in proper time to come in next year to save the whole 50 acres for sugar; I therefore paid a proper respect to next Crop and had about 30 acres of them cut down for plants, in order to bring them in early, so that we have only about 30 acres in all to cut for sugar this Crop. I have put the Penn Negroes to assist in cutting down the Canes and got assistance of Hocks from our neighbours, so that the Crop will soon be finished and I hope will turn out from 15 to 20 Hids which will just serve for a sample of the sugars for your satisfaction. As soon as the Canes are all cut down our whole strength shall be apply'd in keeping them in great order and putting in more in proper season, there will be to cut for Crop 1777 - 60 acres of 1st Ratoon 10 acres of 2^d Ratoon and about 90 acres of Plant Canes, in all 160 acres which will be quite sufficient for the second Crop. I sincerely wish we may have favourable seasons in which case there is no kind of doubt of their making a proper return - I am happy to inform you that this Estate now bears a very prosperous appearance the Land turns up beyond our expectations and nothing can look better than the young Canes the Negroes has an abundance of provisions of

their own planting, are entirely independent of assistance from the Overseer in point of provisions, are extremely well off in respect to houses and I think for their number equal to any Gang in the parish, if not the best for the number, so that now the works are nearly finished and they are all settled to their satisfaction, I think the battle is now over and my future plan will be if it meets with your approbation, not to hurry in Canes too fast but to pay great attention to what ever we plant by keeping them perfectly clean and in the greatest order, which is found to be most essential in improving the quality of sugar, now become so necessary; a few years ago it was very uncommon to hear of planters hiring Negroes to clean Canes but all to plant more canes, now nothing is so common as hiring Negroes to clean Canes in place of planting more - about 40 acres planted at Kirkpatrick yearly till there is about 250 acres in Canes will be as much as your present strength can take proper care off and I doubt not by that time you will find it your advantage to push it to the greatest extent it is capable of; I go up there to make some stay as soon as my Brother (by whom you'll receive this) is said, when I will get the Land divided properly and write you again on the subject of this matter, which is really a great acquisition and happy am I that the purchase meets with your approbation. - By this opportunity.

purpose that can be expected from it, but it is so deep that it takes two of the strongest Negroe Men on the Est^e to draw up a Pail full of Water which is attended with great inconvenience, and when they come to want it for the Still house it will be still more so I have therefore agreed with a Copper Smith here to put down a proper Pump with pipes &c^e Compleat for £140 - Curr^y and keep it in repair for 10 years to come, and Considering the Well is 192 feet deep I think it is done very reasonable I am sure as cheap as if the materials had been got from home and put up by a person employ'd here - I shall do every thing in my power to get in all your outstanding debts this year and what are not paid by the 25 July. I'll endeavour to pay them for Negroes for Irwin - Your demand ag^t Samuel Cleland is very secure, being next in point of priority to Mr. Gordons Mortgage, but when it will be paid without the Estate is bro^t to a sale I cannot pretend to say - Inclosed is Copy of our agreement for the Rent of Lillyotts Land by which you will see it is fix'd at £800 p^aann which is no bad Rent and will assist materially in paying for Findlatters Land. I do not find Mr. Hamiltons Attorneys has yet received any instruction to purchase, I shall know their determination when I settle with them for this years Rent which will be the 1 July next and inform you

accordingly - This Land is of much greater value to Mr. Hamiltons property than it possibly can, to any indifferent person and the value to them can never be less, in my opinion no other person will ever give such a sum for it as they have agreed to give - £8000 - Curr^y - I have had the Kirkpatrick Negroes on Williamsfield Est^e valued and find they amount to £830 - Curr^y which will be a Rent of £83 p^aann to be charged to that Estate and credited Kirkpatrick those on Worcester I am to get put on some footing with Doct^r Boswells the next time I go up he is expected there in a few days - The price of Negroes is fallen considerably in Kingston and the last ship that was sold at Mon-egs Bay was sold to £60 and Duty the first choice, I am hopeful they will still be lower and as we have not a superfluity of provisions (tho' abundance for the Estate Negroes) on Irwin I have deferr'd purchasing any more for you till the provisions that is plant'd comes round which will be after the 25 July when the Factors will not look for payment till July 1777 - I have received your agreement with Mess^{rs} Mure &c^e for what part of your Burns may happen to be unengaged which shall be attended to, I much fear the bills will not pass without a discount at so long a date as 180 days right however I shall be carefull of your interest in every respect - I cannot at present say what

quantity of yours there will be but shall advise
you soon - This supply for the Troops in America
with the late accounts of the high price this article
bears in England, has made the market here
very brisk all this Crop - Found you did not
send out Mr. Dr. Lewis's other bond by Mr. Murray
as you proposed. I suspect it will come in time
by next shipping for the payment of it -

I have seen your letters to the Overseers at
Irwin and Inyall which are extremely proper
and I have desired them to be very punctual
and explicit in answering them - You shall
always have a regular advice of the shipment
of your Sugars from time to time which will
answer every purpose of sending you a bill of
loading, but if you think otherwise I shall in
future take four bills of loading and send you
one of them - There was last week about 150
shipping hds made at Irwin of better sugar
than last year and they expected to make about
30 hds more, so that your Crop from that Estate
will be about 180 hds and 110 or 115 Puncheons
of Rum, the fall plant cutt this Crop was not
so large as usual occasion'd by their having
a plantain walk to put in the fall before last
for the use of the house, the one they occupied before
being taken away from them for Kirkpatrick
there is a very good plant to cutt for next Crop

There being only one pair of Lawyers on the Estate
which would do nothing in forwarding such
buildings - Mr. Graham's acco: of disbursements to
the Negroes which was absolutely necessary until
they had provisions of their own, this charge was ac-
counted for the 19 Sept last, his account for the hire of
his Negroes which we employ'd in attending the
Masons, making mortar and quarrying stones,
this could not be done by the plantation Negroes
and the necessary work otherwise carried on
with any kind of advantage and merely for
the Convenience of the work, they are hired for 1/3
of a day and an acco: kept and sworn to by the
Book keeper, when no other Negroes could be got
under 1/10 of a day - Mr. Hoyston's account of
Carpenters work done by his own Negroes, this
assistance appears to have been absolutely
wanted, from the time it has taken your own
people to get the works so forward as not the Mill
about this year, it is my real belief if they had
not had this assistance it would have been the
1 January next before they would have finished
and the getting the Mill about early in Crop
1777 - is of the greatest importance to the property.
I apprehend there is no other charge in the
account but what is common and necessary.
We are at a constant expence for ropes &c. for
the Mill which will continue to answer every
purpose

following sugars on your account viz
10 kds on the Mary, Capt Washinshaw - Consig^d to Mess^{rs}
Somerville Gordon & Co in Glasgow -

10 kds on the Friendship Capt Miller - to Mess^{rs}
Berocold & Jackson of London and instructed them
to consult you in regard to insurance -

There will be 15 kds of Williamsfield sugars on
board the Leghorn Gally Consign'd to Mess^{rs} Holmes & Co
which is what Mr Kerr has instructed me to ship
to them - his own Crop will be rather short - which
will put it I fear out of his power to send any of
his own that way this year - I am extremely sorry
it was not in my power to send you your annual
accounts sooner, but you may depend on hav-
ing them earlier in future - I am very glad
you have engaged a sugar boiler I hope he'll
turn out to be sober and master of his business -
and you may be assur'd he shall be well
supported in the character he is in and have
every assistance and attention paid to him
I have seen few of them that made any figure
on their first coming here in boiling of Musco-
vado, as that process is entirely different from
that of refining - Mr Mures boiler has been here
3 Crops and untill this last Crop he really made
but very little improvement on their sugar, it
would not be amiss to have him under indentures
as

which I am hopeful will bring it up and the
Crop will be finished earlier this year than usual
which will enable them to get their Canes all clean'd
and supplied in good time and be able to give
attention to a good fall plant this year - The
present buildings on Irwin are capable of Clayning
a large quantity of sugar and they shall be put
in order by next Crop for that purpose, we have not
been able to make hardly any trial this year
for want of Potts and drips as all that came out
has been made use of at Tryall. Mr Holmes writes
me he intends to send more by the Betsey Capt
Douglas, part of which shall be sent to Irwin
and we will want about 500 more as soon
as you can get them sent out for Irwin as they
have now got a good stock at Tryall - We have
often great difficulty in getting proper Clay for
this operation, I wish you could send out a
triple of hogheads meat shipping by way of trial
I imagine the freight will be the heaviest charge,
but I apprehend that any of the Captains that
are to have sugars from the Estates would not think
much of bringing it out freight free - Mr Dapall
used to have it very good from North America, but
there is no chance of it now from that quarter -
Inclosed you have the Memorandum of supplies
for this Estate for Crops 1777 - in which there is
nothing put down but what will absolutely be
wanted, I have put down no Carriehou Packs as

I have got White oak Staves sufficient for next Crop
and expect they'll find what few Red Oak or
hoghead Staves may be wanting of themselves -
How soon the Carpenters can be spared from Kirkpatrick
they shall set about making what alteration can
be made on the present house on Irwin for your
accomodation in case you should come out next
year - I have put up along with your accounts
a plan of the present house as it now stands and
the alteration we propose to make is to raise the Roof
in the manner you will see the dotted lines, if
you approve of it - which will give you a fine
large airy upstairs which might be divided
into what Rooms you think proper and be
extremely cool - the Rooms below are too small -
the stair case should be removed into the back
hall which would make 4 bed rooms below -
The Hall should be either done with a light ground
paper or painted some light colour, otherwise the
finishing with Mahogany and Mahogany floor
will make it very dark - the Rooms may be
either paper'd or painted as you think proper -
The thingling of the present house is in bad order
and must be new done this year at any rate -
As regards to Furniture there is hardly any in the
house fitt for your use, bedsteads may be got here
to answer the purpose but - every thing else such as
Tables, sheeting, Table Linen, plate of every kind
such as spoons knives and forks & Glass ware and

Crockery ware all at a rate of 30 shillings &c. - Washkitte, Nettis
for what little Furniture is there now will be wanted
for the Overseer and white people, if you make
but a small stay what valuable furniture you
bring out might be carried home again or sold -
Mr Kerr can inform you I apprehend as well
as any person in respect to what will be necessary
for you to bring out - As to horses and Carriages
that must be with yourself - I should imagine
a pair of light horses would be proper and as
Corn (from the want of a supply from North America)
is often not to be had a few tons of Oats would be
proper - I shall write you more on this subject
soon from St. James - I had wrote Messrs Holmes
& Co for Insurance on the Britannia Capt. Biggs for
40 hhd's Muscovado and 10 tierces Clay'd Sugar
but since then their Attorneys has changed their
mind and are determin'd to load that Ship
entirely at Martha Brea and have sent down
the Lighorn Gally Capt. M^r Daniel to Montego
Bay to load there so that I have instructed them
to transfer the Policy from the one ship to the
other, this ship is loading fast - The Betsey
Capt. Douglas is arriv'd but brought out no
more Pots and drifs, we shall be able to do with
what we have got for this Crop, but if more had
come you would have had more Clay'd Sugar
since my last advice (exclusive of the above on the
Lighorn Gally) I have engaged to ship the

4th) as Mr. Mures boiler was for these years his time
is but just-out now - The greatest improvement
that Mr. Mure has yet made of sugar has been
by boiling Muscovado in the Cans he were sent-
out-for refining with from the same liquor
boild in the pans and in the Coppers at the same
time the Cans produced a sugar to appearance
10% better - I am to be at Lacham soon and
will endeavour to get every information I can about
this matter and write you on the subject -

You have also inclosed the Memorandum for
supplies for Kirkpatrick and Tryall Estates for
1777 which are both made out with frugality
The Cases and Judgments in Tryall Memorandum
are intended for a New Cattle Mill there near
Crop which Mr. Kerr can inform you has been in
want many years - I have not been there very
lately so that I cannot with certainty say how
many kilns they have made but they are forward
with their Crop and every piece they have cut has
made more sugar than last year so that I expect
a larger Crop - Inclosed you'll receive George
Scott and William Mures first bill of Exch: on
Mure, for £6: in my favour for £300^l - which
is charged to you in account - I never have
heard of Doct. Fowles intention of quitting his
practise nor do I imagine that he has any such
intention, I shall deliver your message to him

1690
1800

The first time I see him and in case of any
thing of the kind happenin^g you shall have
timely notice - I am very sorry I have not been
able to procure you a good Green Turtle here to
send by my Brother but he has promis'd me
to get you one at the Commanders of the Cape
I sent you a parcell of Pickles by the Liverpool
Capt Baird and you'll receive three Larrs of
sweetmeats by the Dawes which I beg your
acceptance of - your Clay'd Sugar &c^s shall
be sent by the Friendship Capt Millar -
I am with great respect -

Dear Sir

Your most obed^t servant

Wm Brown

Wm Brown
June 1 1796

Hugh Kirkpatrick Hall Esq^r