

# Hall Family Papers and Sugar Plantation Records

1709 - 1892

MSS.220

1777, February 5, March 15, March 31:  
William Brown to Hugh Kirkpatrick Hall



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of your accounts to which I beg leave to refer you.  
Mr. Richard Laurence soon after his arrival  
here apply'd for Mr. Laurence's Negroes from Irwin  
which you have neglected to give any instructions  
about this year; Mr. Laurence intimated to me  
that he was still inclined to dispose of those Negroes  
upon which I requested the Favour of his  
allowing them to stay for a week longer till  
Mr. Hennion who I then expected daily should  
come down thinking that perhaps you might  
have sent some instructions by him, upon his  
coming to Irwin I enquired and found he had  
none, I then recommended to Mr. Hennion to  
purchase those negroes in preference to the  
new Negroes you had desired me to buy for  
you and upon enquiring into their connections  
he readily join'd me in opinion that it would  
be much more for your Interest; we accordingly  
agreed to take them from Mr. Laurence at  
a valuation by two Indifferent persons and  
accordingly had them valued last Friday  
forthnight; the number I think was 41 which  
amounted to Seventeen hundred and Ten  
Pounds carry which I think is what they are  
well worth and you may think you have  
got an acquisition by getting them - I agreed  
to pay Mr. Laurence one third this year and  
the other two thirds next year and the year

Hugh W. Stale, Esq.

and Estate for J. S. Selby  
1744

Dear Sir

The preceding is copy of my last, which I hope  
you have rec'd safe and am now to acknowledge the receipt of  
yours of the 30<sup>th</sup> July and 28<sup>th</sup> August to the contents of which I  
have given due attention but how to apply to your Merchants  
Complaints I am really at a loss, some are without reason and others  
without foundation and hold misrepresentations of Mr. Holmes  
Captains - I think the 50 bbls by Capt. Baine not being sent  
is a sufficient apology for their not being 100 bbls by that ship  
and as to the vessels being detain'd it is a false representation it is  
true I insist on the sugars being taken in at Mont Bay, I state  
my reason for so doing they had not nor even mention'd to me a  
sloop's boat to carry the sugars, however as you desire it they  
shall have them this year, were they my property I would not resign  
them nor would I enure them for a good premium, your sugars being  
in the Sighorn galley and not in the Britania was entirely  
owing to Mr. Holmes's friends directing the ships in that order  
and I think they are to blame for the disappointment I hope  
your Annual Account will get home in good time this year &  
meet with your approbation and that the proceeds of your Estate  
will turn out to more advantage than what you mention the  
year before I wish much that that the Fleet with Hennion, who  
I shall be glad to see, and spare no pains in giving him every  
information in my Power in regard to your Affairs, I am happy  
to inform you that all your Estates are in a thriving way at  
present the Weather rather too dry the Mills will be put about  
soon when I will write you again particularly, the prospect of  
crops at present is very pleasing the Estates this way are all  
about and making very good sugar the first fleet from hence  
I apprehend about the 15<sup>th</sup> March I fear there will be none of yours  
to go by that opportunity I am at a loss how to ship them till  
I hear from you, none of Mr. Holmes's ships yet arriv'd - From  
a short remittance to Mr. Gordon I was reduc'd to the necessity  
of sending Mr. Horn a Bill on you for the balance of your last  
Court with me, which I hope will be attended with no inconvenience

as I fear Mr Gordon & Mr Kerr will be much distressed on that  
Account nothing else would have made me draw for such a Sum  
without your instructions and should it prove inconvenient Mr  
Kerr may cancel or return the Bill without any Charge —

Yours  
Sam. Ser

(Copy)

St. Hugh St. Hall Green

Point 15. March 1777

Sir

The sailing of the Fleet being postponed  
to the 31<sup>st</sup> Inst. gives me an opportunity of writing you a few lines  
to inform you that we are resolved to push the Dawes away as soon as  
as we possibly can and are in expectation of getting her ready to go  
by the first fleet I propose shipping 20 hhd. of the first of your Crop  
by her to the Address of William Bond Esquire of London so that  
you may give directions in regard to insurance accordingly.

I am sorry to inform you of the Misfortune that has happened to  
Capt. Bruce of the Ship Cornwall of Bristol by whom I had sent your  
annual Accounts. soon after they got thro' the Gulf in a Gale of Wind  
they lost all their masts which oblig'd them to bear away for some of  
the Windward Islands, to the Northward of Antigua they fell in with  
a North American Privateer of 28 Guns and 200 Men who boarded them  
and plunder'd the Ship of every thing they thought proper, took away  
all his letters and Ship's Papers even ripped open the Ceiling of the Cabin  
and then put Capt. Bruce onboard again. He got to Antigua where  
He sold the ship and came down Passenger to Mont. Gay. I am getting  
the Accounts copied over again and shall forward them by the  
Dawes or some other ship sailing the first fleet. Mr. Hennion  
came to Green about 10 Days ago I have been round the Estate  
with him you may expect to hear from us very particularly  
by the Fleet in regard to all your affairs. The Mills at all  
your Estates are about and doing very well. I am fearful the  
old Estates Crops will be short owing to the Dry Weather —

The Arrangement of the Liverpool Ships is prepared as follows

Went 110 hhd. & 1/2 on the Liverpool 110 hhd. on the Britannia  
60 hhd. on the St. Peter 80 hhd. on the St. Hall  
20 hhd. on the Gregson 20 d. on the Ellis

Dear Sir

Point 15. 31 March 1777

Since my last of which the foregoing is a  
Copy I have been kept constantly in this Parish  
in endeavouring to get the Dawes sent away, but  
I am sorry to inform you that our plan will be  
frustrated, owing to some very breezy weather which  
prevented the boats going out of the Harbour  
to collect the Sugar together, so that we must be  
satisfied to get her away with next Fleet as  
that is the case and her lying at such a distance  
as Green Island I have alter'd the shipment of  
your 20 hhd. of Sugar I formerly wrote you to move  
from the Dawes to the St. James's Planter Capt  
Hewart who will also be ready to go with next  
Fleet — I shall also ship on the Mars Capt Crawford  
20 hhd. and on the Northampton Capt Moy 20  
hhd. Sugar Consign'd to William Bond Esq. you  
may therefore insure accordingly — By this Copy  
of the Ship Sally Capt Anderson I send you a  
rather Copy of your last years accounts, which  
I hope you'll receive safe, on examination  
prove free of Errors and meet with your  
approbation, I have also forwarded a Copy of  
my letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. last on the subject

after, he goes home again in this Fleet but has  
not yet call'd on me to settle matters, he is to  
grant a bond with a security for Mrs Laurences  
executing the Title - I hope Mr. Hennion  
has wrote you by this Fleet - how the Crop goes  
on I have been confined to the Counting house here  
in getting all my accounts copied out again  
which has put it out of my power to make any  
enquiry about matters, they made a very good  
beginning at Kirkpatrick the first piece they cut  
of 12 or 13 acre almost fill'd 10 kils of strong  
Sugar tho' rather dark -

I am with respect

Dear Sir

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>  
Wm Brown

Wm. B. Brown

July 5, 1777

*[Faint, illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

