

Hall Family Papers and Sugar Plantation Records

1709 - 1892

MSS.220

**1778: Mr. Brown's answer to Mr.
Hall's Letter in 1778 to Mr. K[eer]..**



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and for the new Estate works they did more work
by three times than the same number of any Cattle in
the Island as to what Capt. of Desjardis may have
told him there will always such success follow, when they
meet with people that will listen to them.

Mr. Brown's Answer to Mr. Hall's Letter ^{in 1778} to Mr
Hall concerning his Management. Very

I shew what Mr. Hall writes you in respect to my conduct
in his affairs by his letter dated the 17th March 1778 and will now give
you what account I can call to my memory of these matters I call on
Mr. Hall to refer to my acc^t down to the first of Oct 1776 to consider
that the settlement of a New Estate is included therein, the first pay-
ment for Indentured Land much approved of by him, the pur-
chase of New Negroes made by his direction, and declare whether or
not his affairs were not conducted with economy and to his satisfac-
tion for this period I took upon myself an answerable and no
longer the crop might not be large owing to bad seasons, but the con-
tingencies were situated there to, about this time Mr. Hall thought proper
to make a new arrangement of his affairs by the appointment of
Mr. Hennion, who was by his direction to take upon him the manage-
ment of the Planting I was only retained as Clerk to make up his
accounts annually which he wrote me had hitherto given him much
satisfaction the mills were put about at the usual time but the stock
of Mules both ^{Fryal} and Breven were found very insufficiently interly
owing to old age and not giving to their being in bad order as seems
to have been represented to Mr. Hall; the end of the preceding crop
was obliged borrow Mules to get off the crop at Fryall so that there
was an absolute necessity for a supply, accordingly bought a couple
of spelt for a Fryall which was the only heavy charge in that Estate
acc^t. for 1777, likewise bought 10 Mules for Breven and 10 New
Negroes one half to be paid for crop 1777 the other half crop 1778
Mr. Hennion on leaving the plantation having the Island bought
9 Negroes from him all of which I paid except £280. for which Mr.
Hennion gave a Bond payable crop 1778 there were the charges on
Breven Estate acc^t. for 1777. The charges in Patrick Co. acc^t.
where the Tobacco acc^t. for 30 acres of plantain well put in
by my direction & 40 acres of lanes and some other hard
labour by direction of Mr. Hennion; 21 Mares purchased and
12 Mules which were absolutely wanted to put a tolerable
strength of stock on that Estate any thing equal to the
work

1770
from Mr Brown
depending on
and a D in
affinity or
same in

back thereof the other heavy articles were the annual pay-
ment to Lindlar £796-10 and the first payment of Mr
Lawrence's Negroes £510-3 The purchase of Negroes I a-
vow was by his direction for he wrote me he wanted his
number of Negroes on his property made up to 1000 and
to purchase them accordingly may at one time directed me
to take 200 out of Mr. Carle's of Liverpool's ship, I thought the
purchase of Mr. Lawrence's Negroes more ~~profit~~ for his inter-
est than any other Negroes whatever as Mr. Lawrence let
them go on so easy terms as to take the payment in thirds
and therefore agreed to it. the other expences that I have enumera-
ated & submit to yourself whether they were not necessary it
is true they fall heavy in one year but they could not be
avoided and whatever Mr. Dennison may have wrote Mr
Hall in regard to the purchase of Stock by me he found more
were wanted and bought 40 Head of Cattle & Mules ^{in con-} afterwards,
he came to the Estate about February stop'd them from go-
ing on with the Crop and went to work about putting in a
spring plant kept about 80 acres of the best Rattoon Land on
the Estate till the month of June in order to get the tops to
plant and then did not put in 20 acres altogether by this
means the Estate was neglected to be cleared till very late and
the ~~best~~ yielding Cane was thrown back and out of season & not
a Rattcatcher kept out, in short it is evident to every person
who knew any thing of the Estate that more effectual steps
could not have been taken to prevent the Est. making any
Crop. I am perfectly at a loss how they employed the Negroes
in the fall of 1777 they prepared but little land and plants
but one piece this last year he did not put about till the
month of Feb'y was almost gone when the dry weather had
almost ruined one side of the Estate the bottom from
being so late out the year before and the dry weather had
no length of Cane and made little, his spring plant
was not fit to cut at all, so that it was impossible he
could make any Crop this year he has got all the
Pine side of the Estate in a spring plant the other side
cleared

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cleared and supply'd very late & most of the bottom he ~~planted~~
so that you see the whole scheme was to damn every thing
in 1777 & 1778 in order to effect a great Crop in 1779 which I am
much mistaken if he succeeds in & the Estate must fall the
year after - and this ^{after} running Mr. Hall in debt £10,000, he
has not kept one of the white people on the Estate but Mr. Hall
who he cannot do without, or he would be gone long ago
for he says that no man that is not employ'd by the im-
mediate manager will ever do business & allows that
Mr. Cien was there long enough and that he relaxed
considerably in his attention but the Crop, falling short
was not so much owing to that as any dry seasons there, ^{was}
better Sugar made on Drwin Estate before ever his boiler
put his foot on it than ever was made since, his having
improved the quality of the Sugars is a mere farce for
he to this day knows nothing of boiling Sugar nor does
any one of them I ever saw yet know any thing of the
boiling of Muscovado till they learn it here Irish Patrick made
more and better Sugar in Crop 1774 than last Crop notwith-
standing the addition of Negroes and 40 acres of Cane,
for this simple reason they neglected to keep them in order,
I say have done tolerable well because they had an addition
of 20 Negroes and the Estate has been under the same
steady management, that the works or buildings of any
of the Estates were suffered to go decay is utterly false
for to this day they have had no repairs on any white
Washed to set them off a little if they had wanted little
repairs it would not been surprising when he recollects
that his Treasurers had been employ'd at the new Estate
since the year 1774 and had nearly built a set of works
~~works~~ near as much money as the Expence of
Irish Patrick Hall Settlement cost him the first three years
when the works were building - His very certain Income
Castle were rather low but what was the occasion of
it carrying materials for his new Store at Montego Bay
and