

John A. Gemmill Correspondence

1. James Gemmill, Irvine, Scotland to John Gemmill, Merchant, Ramsay Township, Inver
Canada.

Dear Brother,

I received your letter of 29th Sept 1826 and I feel the sorrow of the loss of your wife. I was very sorry to hear of the loss you have met with in the death of your wife it is no doubt a heavy trial but the will of the Lord must be done. - You mention altho with reluctance you must have another Daughter is just fitting out to go to Jamaica to get married to an old sweetheart[sic], and there is another from this place going to Montreal to get a husband, by this you see the ladies on this side are none afraid to venture over the water where a sweetheart comes in the way. - So if you still be in want of a wife if you recollect any of your old friends you have no more to do but commission me and I will do all in my power to forward the business in this country.

The marriages in this part of the country are going on slowly[.] Mr. James Steven[,] Port Glasgow is a very rich man and his eldest daughter Miss Jean Nisbet is married to Mr. Henderson a Grocer and Spirit shop in Paisley[.] So much for marriages of our friends[.] I will next mention the death of some of our friends[.] Mrs. John Dunlop died on 4th Decr 1827[.] Mrs. Duncan and Mrs. Wylie are both dead. Mrs. Wylie's funeral was on 2nd Sept 1828[.] Mrs. Ferguson[,] Irvine 10th May 1829 and Uncle James Dunlop late of Leith died on 20th May 1829 these are all that are related to

Netherhill In 21 who wishes to be remembered to you and to let you know he had no fewer than Eleven children all alive[.] Sons and Daughters. - This country is in a very poor state[.] the manufacturing[sic] trade is at present very low, every village[sic] town and manufactory[sic] are all shut up and even those that have work on reasonably[sic] and for if American are chosen but they have not the money to pay for them - I am glad to here your son John is well let me know if Mr. James McFarlane has ever settled with you about the five pounds I sent with him to John as I think it is full time long ago he was going to purchase stockings and pay it to you as soon as he went over. - I am now perfectly sure that your mother got the £30 John Smith speaks of to you but these things are best known to himself and you if he is at present gone to London on a pleasure jaunt and I believe is to be away about a month[.] last time I saw his mother I think she looks about as old like our mother did Mary Annis in Dumfries[.] wish her Father she was lately here, but only made a short stay[.] her money is lent on security on a house in Dundonald where it is safe - You have another friend in America, young Mr Gemmill of Templehouse, he is gone to South America and I believe is a clerk of the Gold mines in that Cuntry[sic]. My wife has been in a very poor state

in the end[.]

[p.3] Our friend Wm Nisbet took badly last winter with a remactic[rheumatic] fever and was

confined nearly three months the consequence is he never will be able for his work as a saw[y]er altho he is pretty well recovered. Mrs Nisbet has been in a lingering state for five or six weeks past but I believe is getting better. James Caldwell is here at present who joins me in best respects to you and family. I write soon letting me know how the looking with you this season and how you are getting on with respect to business in the ordinary appearance of an acre or two of all sort Barley Oats & Potatoes. I write first opportunity m[ay] family? and friends join me in Compt to you & John.

I am your Dear Brother Yours Sincerely

James Gemmill

Irvine 31 July
1829

2. Alexander Adam, Saltcoats, Scotland to John Gemmill "Damsay by Death."

April 9, 1827

Dear Uncle + Aunt

We received yours in due time and was banny to hear you were all well + coming on so well. you will no doubt be thinking by this time that we have been very forgetful of you, we intended to have wrote last summer but we put it off too long for the vessels was all sailed before we knew of it. I think you was very fortunate of leaving Scotland so soon for all the trade appears to be leaving us, as for the weaving it is worse of any, for last summer their was scarcely a web to be got. [.] [T]he weavers was mostly employed in making and mending the roads and almost barefoot for want of shoes, altho webs be plentier it would be a hard weeks work of winning six shillings. I served an apprenticeship of 4 1/2 years with my cousin Wm Erskine and since I was free it has been very dull. I was idle most of the time but I never went to the mending of roads for it was not as Charity to them. I was married by my own consent to a young man called that if you Aunt I was once married to send her out to America that she would soon get a husband but we will not need to send her out for she was married two years ago to a Widower schoolmaster in Camalaghie? the name of John Kingan who had only eight children and she has got a son which make nine. You will not doubt be thinking she was fooled of a husband but she appears to be very comfortable and happy but they removed to Shet[t]leston [Glasgow] where he has a good school. I was there last summer and was in Ayr and saw my Aunt's Catherine + Eliza they were all well and coming on well. Eliza is living in a small house beside them. I suppose you would hear that my grandmother and Robert Ross died about two years ago. Eliza was seeing my Aunt Janet she is living in a little village near Edinburgh and working at the needle and doing very well. We are living in my Aunt Jean's end of

the house now we get a small shop made off the kitchen which makes it convenient. My mother is working every day, she has a little doing as manager in a soap factory. Janet and Mervin is working at the needle and there is no of them married yet. I suppose we will have to send them out to you to look for husbands for them. There is no good chance here and I think I will have to come out likewise for there is nothing doing here. Alexander Eschine was married about two years ago and died that same year also his wife died about seven months after both of Consumption. We are very sorry to hear that little John has a cough and his mother says she will bring that when I come out I will bring some fine books to him. We are very sorry to hear by John Smith's letter that your potash house burned which no doubt would be a great loss to you but I hope you would sooner make it up than you would do in Scotland...