

[Photocopy of transcribed text, done on a typewriter, received from Joan Martin. Joan notes re his son's wife being in poor health: that this is Rachel, who was pregnant at the time.]
[Nathaniel Smith Letter # 1]

Addressed to: Mr. Benjamin Smith att (sic) Appleton by Wisk at departing from Hull.

Hull March 11th 1774

Dear Brother,

This day we imbarck for America. We fear our passage will be attended with difficulties by reason of the great number of passingers which are one hundred and eighty and upwards in number. Son Nathaniels Wife is but poorly all the rest is in tollerable good health. York and Hull hath lightened our purses, with crainidge and portridge - and custom house officers its believed hath greatly imposed upon us - all sorts of people here are taking advantage of us - our bord for eight days hath cost 8 guineas. What reasonable man would not chouse to be freed from such tyranny and impositions. May the Dear Lord Jesus be our support and comfort in our passage, and own us in Life and at the Hour of Death. It is believed, by most, its next to an impossibility for us to be supported under the difficulties that must nessesarily attend our passage and the Capton told us to our comfort, if I may use the expression he shall think himself well off if one third of us survive our journey. But are we not in the hand of providence under whose kind protection we are. May the Lord our God prepare us for every event then comes Life or Death - it is no great matter.

Farewell my native country and farewell my Dear Friends - May you and I so live that we may reasonably expect to meet again to our inspeakable comfort where the wicked cease from troubling and our happy Souls forever be at rest.

Nathaniel Smith

P.S. Let Brother In(o) and Brother Robert know I had not opportunity to wright any more letters now, But shall let you all here from me if please God to send us safe over.

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[Nathaniel Smith Letter # 2]

Addressed to: Mr. Benjamin Smith att Appleton by Wisk nigh No' Allerton, Yorkshire, Old England.

To: N. Smith at Fort Cumberland, Nova Scotia to the care of Messrs Watson & Rashleigh, Merchants, London.

Mount Pleasant May 29th 1774

Dear Brother and

..... through His kind providence I am writing and our passage is safely landed in Nova with many difficulties, which would relate in full but shall acquaint you with shall let you know some afflicted with sea sickness, Secondly the smallpox brought out amongst us, which carried

of Charles Blankley wife and three children belonging to different people, Thirdly we had three weeks of excessive stormes and dreadful horicanes but in no great dainger of suffering, save upon Sable Island which certainly would have been the case if our Capton had not been before the ship in his reckoning two hundred miles, as the Isle is that distance from the Cape called Sable, he begun to sound expecting to see we were nigh the shores and about the Dead of Night could not find not bottom, again about two they sounded on the Starbord Side and found only alevn fathom, All was in an uprore expecting we were just upon the rocks. Instantly they sounded on the Larbord side and found it thirteen fathom by tham meanes they knkow it right to stear to the left, and as the goodness of God would have it we escaped the most daingerous place in all the passage from and Lande end of England to the Continant of America. Two Brigs have lately perished here, and it is more than probable the Addamant is one of their is report the ships and passingers escaped to the Island whether or no that is true God only knows, How great will be the distress of poor In(o) Wholdon's family if he have suffered as I greatly fear he hath.

Some of our people have made purchases and oathers are seeking after lande, Many of the Poorer Sort seems very discontented and not without reason as none is able to imploy them, altho their is such great need. The indulonce of the people is the real cause of great poverty altho the land appears capable of producing every nesessary to suport Human Life. Enough hath been said in favour of the land already theirfore shall make a few words serve, One thing I am eyewitness to, one gallon of Cream will yield as much butter as two in Old England upon the best of lande I was ever concerned with. The cattle is small but their milk is exceding delicious and the butter exceeds in tast and flavour any I ever tasted in England. The Marsh Land is tollerable rich, but I am under a mistake if C. Dixons report doth not exceed the truth, I am sory to tell you the people are all in an uproar about his ears, and some brands him with a lier and worse, saying hes the real cause of their ruin, But he still holds his integrity and says he hath spoak nothing but the truth, I verily believe some will return to Old England, those I dought not will bring a bad report of teh Land and will be found in as great an extream as the oather, Some appears as tho they expected to have found provided for them a fine house and land cultivated to their mind without further trouble and because they are disappointed, murmours greatly, As to my own part I am no ways disappointed in my expectation. The report is, that its the best purchase that hath been made for many years bypast, and so fare as I have as yet seen it agrees with the truth. The land both Marsh and Upland is the best in jenneral I have as yet seen, and by industory in a few years will be a beutiful estate, I am determined neighthor to persuade to, nor dishartain any from coming but let none come, save Man of Resolution and Industory and such need not fear doing well. Mr. Frankland hath been at Cumberland and many are encouraged to settle upon his lands, Especialy the poorer sort as they are jennerally called, are very sivil, and I am gland to tell you Jon. Benj. hath gained a good report among them, All in jennoral seams to have a good will toward him.

We suffered greatly in our goods on Ship Bord by pilaging and so did many oathers, I fear some of our Company will bring a dishonour to Old England, When we came nigh the Shores we thought it prudant to take a pilate up the Bay as our Capton was Altogether a strainger to the place. Consequently we steared for Hallifax and anquored two miles from the town by reason of the smallpox. Here two of the Eldest Daughters of Bryan Kay finished their corse in a most unhappy way. A Scooner belonging the Governour was ordered to lay at long side of us to guard our people from landing for fear of the infection from the smallpox, One of the soldiers I suppose the Capton, frequented our vessel and begun to affect a friendship but I fear for no good and with some of the young girls, Our Capton soon perceived the scean and gave a charge some should go with him, as he pretended to take them to an Island at about a mile distance for their recreation. Our Capton having ocation to go to Halifax. The fellows waited their opportunity and came sliely with a small flatbottomed cobbble, and in a very little time took in 4 of them and the fift was just steping down which was one of our girls, but as providence so ordered it I happened to go upon the deck at that very instant she was going down and cast her by her shoulders and dragged her up, I only turned about to speak a few words to her by way of reproof when instantly the cobbble overset and the fellows and four womin all floating alongside the ship, Such shrikes cries and confusion I never saw before, very few rightly knowing who it was, Rope was thrown but to no purpose, At length they took the Longboat and rowed of to take in their Dead Bodies as they suposed but the men was

saved by jumping upon the bottom of the cobble and two of the Womin came to life again but Bryans two Daughters was quite dead.

I have little more to say at present but to beg you to remember me and mine at the hour of Grace as I hope I shall do you and altho we are in reallaty so far parted in body as never to see each oather again in the flesh, yet we shall be present in spirit with the Lord, for I find my affections more closely united to you than ever before. I am determined by the Grace of God to set apart for that purpose one hour Every Day when possible which shall be Eight at Night which will be answerable to your 40 Minutes past three in the afternoon which I hope you will at opportunities observe.

My Dear Wife and all the family joins in our dear Loves to you all and to all enquiring friends and neighbours.

From your ever loving Brothers and Sister.

N and E smith.

[Nathaniel Smith Letter # 3]

Addressed to: Mr. Benjamin Smith at Appleton by Wisk nigh No' Allerton, Yorkshire, Old England

Cumberland, Nova Scotia
20 June 1774

Dear Brother and Sister,

As I have an opportunity of sending you a few lines by Christopher Flinloft, without putting you to any expense, and as I could not tell how to let you hear from me sooner and safer I therefore let my former letters bide by me until such times as he returned to Old England and as I had an opportunity I thought proper to let you know a few things that accorded since the date of the other letters.

Its amazing to see and hear the various opinions of the people arrived in Nova Scotia. Some hold the land as good, as the account given by Charles Dixon in his letters to England, others think them pretty good but nothing compared to C. Dixon's account - But a great many, especially the poorest sort, for which I'm greatly concerned, for I cannot see how they are to earn their bread or by what means they must be supported. Those are daily branding C. Dixon with being the author of lies and falsities both to his face and behind his back, and the very gentlemen who have land to sell, and have a desire the Country should be populated as soon as possible, blames Mr. Dixon for his large (economics) upon the Country and its amassing produce.

I was desired to be present at a meeting in Cumberland in order to consider (of it) and settle some affairs relative to the Township business. One of the immigrants from England came in amongst us who produced a copy of a letter from C. Dixon, the same that was in some of the advertisements last year in Old England. This was read over and looked upon as to be sufficient to allure and draw away a people from their Native Country (to) places where they might (settle), and get a tolerable livelihood. (This was) a motive sufficient to bring them into a place where they are in danger of suffering extreme want, not because the land is not capable of producing everything for the comfort and support of human life, but because very few can afford to employ them by reason of their poverty, occasioned by their indolence, and the new settlers who can employ a few hands, have provided servants and brought them along with them. Some I believe will return. Those I doubt not will be in as great an extreme as the other.

Others would return but have not therewith to pay their passage, those I greatly pity. But at the same time I believe any well industrious man capable of purchasing 2 cows may do very well as he may keep his cows at next to no expense and have land for cleansing, which may be done, the most of it, at the rate of 6 days work per acre, and sow and reap his grain as mentioned in other letters.

But the worst of all is, according to the old phrase, while the grass grows, the horse starves, but the man of money is the man for Nova Scotia. Those may do extremely well.

Some of those who have (means) have already made purchases of excellent houses and fine lands. Some of them now, and the rest in a little time, will be as compact and elegant as the most gentleman's house in England. For instance, one Mr. Harper, from near New Malton hath purchased since we came for 550 a very pleasantly situated gentleman's manor house with all the household furniture, live stock which is no little, and utensils of husbandry, garden, orchard, etc. In short all things within and without fit to accomodate a gentleman, and 100 acres of very fine marsh and upland lying in one body contiguous to the said house, and to the backwards of it all a fine opening into the common of Fort Cumberland, called the King's Common, where he may, if he chooses keep 50 head of cattle very well. This Common is as good land as any I have seen in the place and upon this Common the poor people have the opportunity of keeping cows. This I think is a very cheap purchase. The house and common have laid in a great deal more than he hath given for the whole. Mr. Foster and Mr. Jolley is just arrived, they are our joining neighbours. Mr. Thomas Watson is likewise just arrived with his family. His wife seems very discontent, and was so all her journey, and I suppose before she came from home, but she will soon be better as they got a very good house and a pretty large tract of land about half a mile from Cumberland.

Mr. Harper is returning to England, in the vessel Mr. Forster came in, for his family, and hopes to return the next Spring. He expects several Capital men will come with him in order to purchase. Cattle of all kinds grows dearer daily. We shall be obliged to seek cattle at least 20 miles from home as all in gathered up that (is) to be sold in the neighbouring places. All our family is very well satisfied, if it were not for the uneasiness occasioned by the Musketoos, and we are the most of us affected by them as much as any, especially my Wife.

Our next house is not likely to be got up this year as we have so much other work to do, the old one is better than I expected. We intend adding to it this summer a pretty good forerom and a lodging room backward. This may do very well for one of our families afterwards as the old house is strong and will make a very good kitchen and milkhouse. The new house will be large enough to contain 2 families and is so contrived as not to interfere with the one in the other. Each will, when properly divided, have a sufficient quantity of very good pasture land for 20 cows each, and plenty of land for all kind of other stock, Winter and Summer, if it please God to spare our life and health till time and circumstances will allow it.

I suppose my friends have heard of the pride and insolence of the Bostonians. How the passages in and out of the Town is blocked up and how they stand in defiance of Old England, and how they are determined to lose their lives with their privilages, as they say, and I doubt not. But if they were as well fortified, as they are filled with pride, there would be no fear but they would prove conqurors.

NATHANIEL SMITH

[Nathaniel Smith Letter # 4]

Fort Lawrence
Nigh Fort Cumberland
NOVEMBER 6th, 1774

TO: MR. ROBERT FLEMING
Gebdykes Near Massam, Yorkshire, England.

These two Forts are situate upon two necks of land which runs close up to the Bay and divided by a creek, or river, called Missiyquash which takes its rise very nigh the Bay of Arts and runs in a serpentine manner along the Marsh down to the Bay of Funday.

Dear Brother and Sister,

Lest my former letters should miscarry, I take this opportunity of writing a second time to you, Tho very much indisposed at this time by reason of a severe cough occasioned by what is called a catching cold and attended by shivering cold fits and followed by burning heats and faint sweats which hath brought me to a low state of body. It hath been a very sickly time in many parts of Nova Scotia lately.

My dear little daughter Nancy now survives a very severe fever, her life was despaired of for three weeks. We were at a loss how or whom to apply of Medicine. Some advised one Patton, an Irish man, others said he would pretend to anything for the sake of the money, but they believed he did George Dobson a great deal of harm. We were likewise told there was a man at Fort Lawrence about half a mile or a little more from us that had some skill. This man was one of the New England people, I found him amongst his potatoes in the field with a very homely appearance and thought him very unlike a man of that faculty. However, willing to do or try any means to relieve my child I told the man my errand. He asked me many rational questions, how she was carried on, which I told him to the best of my judgement. He told me it was a common fever in New England and that very few got the better of it. The man soon made another appearance and, dressed like a Gentleman, mounted and rode a full gallop tho so little distant from us that I thought he might have gone it three times over on foot in the time he was dressing. When he came to see my dear Daughter he could give no encouragement as he found it the fever he supposed. He only applied a blister to each arm and a few days after a small powder. (He) dressed and mounted three or four few times to visit her, for which I payed him fourteen dollars which is equal to three pound tenshillings currency. I have given you a description of this man in order to let you know a little of the Spirit of the New England people, when they are in rags they are as proud as any man, but when dressed exceeds all I ever saw.

But however, by the Mercy and Goodness of God be all the Glory who hath our lives in His own Disposall have not much that's new to acquaint you with. I suppose the affair of Boston is as well known to you in Old England as to us in Nova Scotia, but I fear it will affect us more. All the winter provision, especially for the New Settlers, was expected from New England. Two vessels hath been waited for upwards of a month and all in general hath given up all hopes of their coming at all. Boston is blockaded-and we fear an imbargo upon all other ports lest they should have need of all the provisions they have got. We have plenty of cattle and hogs so that there is not fear of want of beef and pork, but great danger of the want of bread, I mean flour and corn, with us.

War between Old England and the Bostonians is expected according to all reports we can hear. Various reports are circulating, the New England people with us compares Old England with New, as a chip of potage. They say they can rise upon the shortest of warning a body of armed men sufficient to set on fire all the Men of War and leave the troops weltering in their own blood. But we from Old England hopes and prays, that Providence, as it hath hitherto done, may favour our Native Country. So far as is right in His sight, as the battle is not always to the strong nor victory to a multitude of people. But according to human appearance, at least so far as we can learn or judge, those high spirited people will find themselves under a gross mistake if the dispute is carried so far that the English is obliged to present the town of Boston with two or three broadsides while the Fort and troops playing them with greatest fury.

We have had a very fine summer, but dry enough for the upland. The Fall thus far is very pleasant. The Winter is expected to set in the last week of December or the first of January, and I believe I am creditably informed the snows generally break about the first of March and is clean gone by the fifteenth. We have a great store of ducks of different kind, some larger than any tame ones I ever saw in England. A great number of partridge of two kinds, one kind as large as a hen, Its flesh as white as chicken's breast. The Country is as pleasant and promising and I hope through the Blessing of God the present settler in a little time will do very well.

We have got for neighbors several Old England people, we keep 2 weekly Meetings at one Mr. Foresters from Swalwel near Newcastle, his wife is sister to Mr. Colepets, their land joins upon ours to the Southward. He is, I hope, a good Man and I find great consolation in conversation with him.

You have had already a description of our lands, therefore it would be needless to say more about them. We have just got the new house covered in and expect to (be) into it soon. That part of land where the old house stands is appointed for Son Nathaniel who intends to build an addition to it the next Summer. It is very expensive to build in Nova Scotia, a Mason (is) 5 per day, a Joiner the same. We have carried on our work with our own family, the cellar only excepted, which was done last year. I was glad when I came to know the expense of the cellar, that the rest was laying level with the ground. Nails, door hinges, smocks, boards, etc., is the chief expense, as we have plenty of the straightest and finest wood I ever saw. We seemed all tolerably adapted for our own turn and have so far gone forward with some applause. The chimneys which are four in number is looked upon as well constructed (as) firmly built as any in the country. The woodwork is very little inferior to the best I see, their doors and windows are finished in a very genteel way, this we must hire. You may I doubt not set light on a wooden house in England, but I sincerely tell you, if I were again in Old England I would choose a wooden house such a one as some I have been before any other. They are very elegant comfortable, and durable.

Should be exceeding glad to hear from you and of the affairs of England-All my family joins me in our Dear Loves to you, Pray give the same to all our relations and Dear Friends.

NATHANIEL SMITH

P.S. The best and safest way when you write is to direct thus-To Nathaniel Smith at Fort Cumberland, Nova Scotia, to the care of Messrs. Watson and Rashley Merchants in London, their ship comes from London always soon in the Spring for Halifax.

[Nathaniel Smith Letter # 5]

Fort Lawrence Nigh Fort Cumberland
Nova Scotia
JULY 30th, 1775
To: MR. BENJAMIN SMITH
Appleton by Wisk nigh No'Allerton, Yorkshire, England.

Dear Brother and Sister,

I received yours dated February 21th 1775 which is the first and all the letters I have received from Old England as yet, Tho I have wrote a great many times home, to different persons. It did not a little affect me and my family to see so many of my present neighbors favoured with letters etc. by the hands of several from Old England who came in the ship PRINCE GEORGE along with Mr. Harper and Mr. Black, two capital men, who purchased here last (year) and is now safely arrived with their families and settled close by us. One of the passengers came from Barrowby and another from Massam. The woman from Massam told me she had a neither letter nor compliment from brother Robert and sister Ann altho she see'd Robert frequently every week. How nearly is natural affection connected with the love of God (for if we love not our Brother whom we have seen how can we love God whom we have not seen how can we love God whom we have not seen), but I live in hopes and expectation of several upon the road, which may arrive, perhaps sooner than I expect.

Through the mercy of God, I have lived to see Summer and Winter in Nova Scotia and I think I can give a pretty just account of the country so far, as I have had an opportunity to make observations.

But would not one almost suppose it needless seeing there have been so many letters gone and so many persons returned. But I am ready to believe you are still as ignorant of this our Country as ever, if not more so, by reason of various accounts you have heard. I doubt not but those who have returned have invented all manner of evil stories in order to justify their own proceedings, but this you may take for the truth. A great part of those that landed at Cumberland never travelled 2 miles from the place and a great many never left the Forts, and at the Bay of Verte a whole ship load never set foot on land in Nova Scotia. What idea can be formed from the description of these people or what credit can be given to their stories. I leave you to judge.

Our last Summer was much the same as ours in England except a few days which was more hot and sultry than in England to my knowledge. The Autumn was exceeding pleasant which continued till Christmas at which time it begun to be frosty nights and was soon followed with lying snow, but never exceeded eighteen inches deep. On the 14th and 15th of February we had a mild thaw and some rain which took away most of the snow, this was followed with a severe storm of wind, frost and snow which continued two days. We had seven or eight of those stormy days in the Winter, the rest calm and serene. We had two more of those thaws before the general thaw which was the first week in March but not all the snow (was) gone until the last of March by reason of the frosty nights. In Winter we had from our large wood lots rails and firewood which is our common fuel.

We have very strong sledges drawn by four oxen and can carry what you would suppose to be incredible weights, in general 2 ton and when the road is in good order 3 ton upon one sledge. There is much boasting among the young men about their teams as their horse and carts in Cleveland. Most of the Yorkshire men take as much delight in their ox draught as they used to do in their Horse Draught. We have two very good teams, and hope to (progress) we shall have three the next season. We call four oxen a team, that is each family one, they are surprising creatures to their size, and will weigh from 40 to 60 stones per ox. We have now only 20 cows amongst us and must be content until our young breed make us more. Many will be fatted, both Oxen and Cows, for the use of the Army, therefore (are) not to be had at any rate. We have a few 2 year olds now bulled, we have 15 yearlings and are breeding the same number of calves this year. We hope in a few years, please God, we shall have a valuable stock.

I find our upland to be as near what hath already been spoken concerning it as possible. As to the Marsh it is more valuable than I supposed in my last letters. The Hay will keep a fat ox in his flesh all winter if not worked. Young cattle and dry cows thrives well upon it, care must be taken to have English hay as they call it, for cows in the Spring. This kind of hay grows well upon the Marsh, well drained upwards of 2 ton upon an acre, very rich. We have not enough of this as yet by reason of the drains being filled up but they are coming to it very fast. Our Marsh looks just now like large fields of corn, knee deep. Most of the Marsh in the state of English grass, that grows about Cumberland, is and will be sold to the troops at Boston. We have not that privilege, nor few of the English, as we have too little of that kind for our own cows. We have three separate families since last fall. Son Benjamin and son Nathaniel hath been obliged to live in two apartments of the Old House hitherto. We are now building for son Benjamin and hopes it will be fit to go into a little time. 2 good rooms will be added to Son Nathaniel's House as soon as possible.

Fort Lawrence is a very good neighbourhood, two thirds of the township is taken up by the English who is very affectionate one to another. I find the old spirit of enmity still remains between the Whig and Tory, as it did in the times of King Charles. The New England people brag on at a high rate, especially the halfpay Officers. What a pity it is Old England should be oppressed by supporting such a company of halfpay Rebels. If the people in Britain knew the nature and disposition of the New England people as well as we do they would not find so many friends in England as I suppose they do. We have various accounts from New England but I suppose you would hear more of the truth at home as the most we hear is by the New England people who will hear, or at least spread, no report but in favor of their own people.

You desire to know the produce of grain upon our lands. I am not able to give you a satisfactory

account as yet, (and) only shall mention a few particulars. I do not know one single piece of land that hath ever been under summer fallow, except a little by the English last year, which offers for a great crop. There is a little of the Marsh fit for grain except what is in the land of the French, which is fallowed with wheat crops and hath been for many years bypast without ever a summer fallow, which I find produces from 15 to 30 bushels per acre. For want of a fallow it runs to quicks, and where the quicks' get the upper hand the grain is thin and small. The grain is brown and something smaller than ours in England, how should it be otherwise seeing they neither change seed nor winnow to any perfection, in short, I believe the Marsh, if in good order, to be as good (as) wheat and bean land should be. As to the upland, I clearly see it is capable of good crops of any grain, wheat and beans excepted. At t

he end of it all, I believe the country (is) better adapted for breeding, feeding and dairy than for corn country. If any ask my reasons for so thinking I shall make a very short reply, Canada is one of the finest corn countries in the World and can send to market large quantities at a low price. New England and New York have large quantities to spare, those places can furnish the West Indies and more southern parts, and lay betwixt us another market, so that when the French raised enormous quantities in Nova Scotia they mostly sold wheat at 1s.6d per bushel, very seldom exceeded 2s. Can it be expected where labourers are few, and seasons are short, to till our fine Marshes, as that rate will answer any great end. On the other hand, butter and cheese is wanted and may be sent to good markets, beef and pork the same. Horses is a very good sale in the West Indies and wood is sold excessive dear, all which I think runs in favours of my opinion of the Country, and the plan, please God, I intend to follow, (is to) only grow as much wheat in the Marsh as will serve my family and improve field after field in my Upland to raise grain for my stock in the Spring. And so improve our Upland by making a compost of the manure we breed, and marsh mud which I believe will be as rich as manure, as (it) almost can be.

To the best of my knowledge, I do not intend to applaud too much, nor degrade the Country I am in, I believe I speak the simple truth. More came here last year than ever counted the cost - let none come here and expect to sit down at ease, free from troubles, trials and disappointments. This I never expected, all is in the hand of Providence, but according to human reason most of the English (who) settled in Fort Lawrence and Cumberland have a hopeful prospect. John Wheldon is settled upon a large farm up the river called Petticoatjack 40 miles from us. I went along with him to see it settled, and make agreement with Mr. Francklin. It is a hopeful farm and he hath a large stock upon it. The stock is valued to him and at the end of the term he must return the same value with half of the increase, he may purchase all or part of the stock at any time when he is able. The way to buy them is when they are yearlings, which he may do at L 1. 10/- per piece, then the improvements is his own. John hath sown down 20 acres of Marsh this Spring in good order, and half as much Upland. Mr. Francklin finds the seed and is to have half the produce when the family kept. I hope he will do well and in a little time be able to pay your money.

All my family joins in our Dear loves to you and (your) family. I give my dear loves to all enquiring friends and neighbours, especially cousin Thomas Smith and family. We remain, your affectionate Brother and Sister.

NATHANIEL AND ELIZABETH SMITH

[Nathaniel Smith Letter # 6]

Gershom Fields
Fort Lawrence Nigh Fort Cumberland
AUGUST 5, 1775

To: MR. ROBERT FLEMING
Gebdykes, Near Massam, Yorkshire, Old England.

Dear Brother and Sister,

I now sit down to write you a third letter hoping you have received the two former, and in the first place to let you know I see'd Ralph Siddil's wife with whom I expected several letters, but was disappointed, which caused much trouble, especially when she told me she see'd brother Robert every week several times, but she had neither letter nor complements to us nor did she ever hear you say anything about us. How nearly is the love of God whom we have not seen. I would gladly put the best thoughts upon it I can, and am ready to judge she has lost her letters as William Wood hath got none by her no more than we have done. Be it as it will I shall take every opportunity of letting you hear from me, as I cannot doubt your affections being decreased because of our great distance from you, but am ready to judge by experience, oftener in your thoughts.

Through the kind Providence of God, I have lived to see the seasons of the bypast year, and believe I can give a rational account of the country, to an unprejudiced understanding. But (I) would not (be) one (to) judge, needless to say any more about it, as so much hath been said already both by letters and likewise people returned from the Province, but the accounts have (been) so contradictory that I am ready to judge that you are as ignorant of this, our country, as ever, if not more so. The Summer season is much like our moderate Summers in England, neither very dry nor extreme wet, but fine (and) warm following showers. We had 7 or 8 hot sultry days in August, more so than I remember in England. The Fall of the year is very pleasant which continues until nigh Christmas at which time the frost puts in and soon after a laying snow, at the fall of which we had two excessive cold days. We had 7 or 8 of those extreme days in the Winter, the rest (was) mostly calm and serene, in short I look upon the Winter to be as pleasant as in England.

This is the time when we load from our wood lots, firewood, which makes excellent fuel, rails for fencing and timber for building, which we have from 6 inch square to 24, of a surprising length and straightness. We have very strong sledges drawn by four oxen, and can carry 3 ton when the roads are in good order, that is well tracked. The Winter broke up the last week in March at which time we had blustering winds much the same as in England. The frost in Winter penetrates deep but we have time enough to plough in Spring what is not plowed in the fall, as it is soon enough to sow wheat here in the middle of April, and so continue seed time up till the middle of June. Barley will do very well sown at that time as I find the vegetation quick and strong, almost to a miracle. As we find our Marshes rank or salt as yet, we have not sown a grain upon them this year. We have sown upon our upland a kind of wheat called French Wheat which is very thin skinned, fine grain, and answers upon the upland very well. We have likewise sown barley, white pease, oats, and planted a large quantity of potatoes which all looks very well. Garden stuff of all kinds, cabbage, carrots, parsnips, different kinds of beans and peas, cucumbers, squashes, melons, pumpkins to a larger size in garden beds here than in hot beds as in England. I have seen a pumpkin as large as a milking pail sufficient to hold a cows milk.

As to ourlands in general much hath been said about them both in letters and people returned from Nova Scotia, all which make no difference as a matter of fact. The truth is, the lands are capable of producing every thing for the support of mankind. I have given a just description of the lands, and my thoughts on the Country to the best of my judgement in a letter to Brother Benjamin, and other particulars in a letter to Brother John, to which I shall refer you, not thinking it needful to make a repetition of the same things in all your letters.

Two thirds of Fort Lawrence is taken up by the English, who all appear to have a hopeful prospect. We have got amongst us 58 head of cattle of different ages, and hope in a few years, please God, shall have a valuable stock. We have only three horses, or rather mares, to breed upon. Horses is not as yet much used for draught, only to ride upon, and breed foals. We have got a few sheep but they are very scarce and dear in the country. There are many hogs or swine bred here, almost every substantial man keeps 2 or 3 sows and, above of his own, many are killed young for roasting. They are small but when kept to age makes excellent pork and bacon to their size. Their general weight is from 8 to 12 stone per piece. Potatoes are a great produce here and great numbers of hogs are fattened by them in the Fall and barrell'd for Winter provisions, and I think it the best pork I ever eat. I have now a bed of potatoes growing from seed they are a particular kind given me by Thomas Lowdor, before we left England. I preserved a few of their apples amongst sand in the celler all

Winter, when I looked for my apples in the Spring there was no such thing to see, (they were all dissolved). However, I prepared a bed, and sowed the sand and it is now a fine bed of potatoes, I expect of various kinds, and perhaps some of them such as was never before produced. This I hope may be of use in the Country afterwards, as our kinds of potatoes are few and not very good.

Our horses are very useful in winter as we very seldom travel 2 or 3 or miles from home but we ride in sleighs drawn by tow Horses, harnessed almost as for shows in England, and some of the sleighs are very neat. Our horses run a gallop with as much ease as English horses do a trot, they naturally either pace or gallop. We can run over undyked marshes and rivers to any place we want to be at. If we ride to a neighbors house at Fort Lawrence or Cumberland you will meet perhaps 4, 5 or more sleighs driving away with all the fury of jehu. They say the English are feared of horseflesh, however they are a very comfortable carriage in the Winter season when we go to Church, or any other place, especially (for the) women.

There is here, as in all countries, advantages and disadvantages. Shoes is not to be had at any rate almost, we have ten pair of shoes stolen from us in our passage, and son John's new boots which we find a want of. We likewise lost a linen web, four shirts and several other things. Son Natty's wife lost a web of Huggaback which would have been valuable here.

William Chapman from Hawnby, the bearer of this letter, will, I suppose, return from England next Spring. If you, or my other Brothers, all of you, would please to send by him a quantity of shoes and 2 lining webs, one about 17d per yard the other 10d or 11d per yard. Send me a letter and Bill of Parcels, and I will remit your money by draught upon Watson and Rashley Merchants in London, by paying it to their ship the ADAMANT who comes here two times every summer, or sending you West India Rum whether you please. By so doing you will do me more service than ten times the value as home, and greatly oblige your ever loving Brother and Sister.

NATHANIEL AND ELIZABETH SMITH

P.S. John Smith, merchant in Thirsk, will help you to the webs at the cheapest rate, and tell you how to proceed if the coarse web is a higher price, let it be good. Tell my friend John Smith, that I believe I could make him a very good return by trading with him for a few white lints of different sorts, and a few checks and round mens hats.

[Nathaniel Smith Letter # 7]

Gershom Fields
Fort Lawrence near Fort Cumberland
JANUARY 25th, 1777

NOTE-This letter was marked on the outside, "Received This June 12th in the Year of Our Lord 1779."... two years and 6 months after it was sent.

To: MR. BENJAMIN SMITH
Appleton Wisk near No'Allerton, Yorkshire, Old England

Dear Brother and Sister,

I received yours dated May 21st 1776 and was sorry to hear of the death of your dear son William, especially by so unforeseen an accident. But have we not reason to Bless God for his wise dispensations by taking our little ones from the evil to come. I may say the more I see and know of the World the more I see and know its evils and dangers. I suppose long before this comes to your hand you will receive more perfect accounts from America than I am able to give you, especially as I do not know how long a time it may be before this comes to your hand.

Son Benjamin and (wife) Rachael I expect is taking shipping for Old England, or New York, along with Mr. Wm. Robinson, in order to freight a vessel with articles from one of the places to Halifax, and intends to live by trade for the time to come, If please God to give success. He hath cleared in the bypast year by buying up cattle at Cumberland and taking (them) to Halifax together with some other trading, upwards of L400. He bought eight oxen from one James Law, Esq. for L70 and sold them for L195, the expence of driving them through the woods and over the creeks is very high and dangerous. I suppose the eight oxen would drawback L10 of the money by driving. I expected to have sent my letters by him, but was disappointed as I received a letter from him just at the time he expected to set sail, and another opportunity is very uncertain.

We have now experienced a part of the unhappy war - and God only knows what is yet to come. As Brother Robert cannot read by letters, but gives them to some other gentleman, I have given him an account of the Nova Scotia Rebellion, the most unreasonable one ever known before in the World. I bless God I could always, since I know my duty, pray for the success of his Majesty in all his Rightful and Lawful undertaking. But much more now when I am an eyewitness to the villanous practices towards him by those who ought, above all Men, to be his true subjects. People who came into this country not worth one penny in the World, had a free gift of their lands together with two years provision from the Kings Fort at Cumberland, never as yet demanding from them one penny of Quitrent, but contrary wise have used every means to make them comfortable and happy. Many thousands of pounds have been given into the Treasury of Halifax by Government for the use of the Province (Tho perhaps not all put to its intended use) yet, after all, would destroy both his person and interest if in their power (to) do all the despite to his Crown and Dignity that a people of the worst principles possibly can do, and Dear Brother, least you should judge me to have made a forfeiture of that noble principle, Charity.

I advise you to read St. Paul's description of the works of the flesh in Galations, Chapter the 5th, verses 19th 20th and 21st, and you see the men, as to other provinces they have got many things to allege. But for my part I cannot see any shadow of reason in any of their pretensions. I am fully convinced the old Olliverian principals (which) is hereditary in them, together with their Resolutions on an Independent State, is the chief motive of steering them up to this inhuman Rebellion. But I leave it to better judges and refer you to my dear friend the Reverend John Wesley's address to the Americans which is alone sufficient to convince every reasonable man of the necessity the King lays under of bringing the Americans to a cessation of their duty by force of arms, as no other means will do.

I am very well acquainted with the Engineer of the Fort at Cumberland, one Mr. Bailey, who told me, "Sir, when you see the disposition of your rebellious neighbours here, you see a picture of all the Rebels in every Province where I have been an unhappy spectator". I suppose some of my present neighbours from Old England will not write home in the same style I do, the reason is we differ in sentiment, which hath made a great breach in society amongst us, but I hope time and circumstances will bring them a better understanding. We have a pretty hopeful prospect of doing very well if we had peaceable times which, please God, I hope to see in a little time, and that too with honour and some prospect of future advantage to Government.

Dear Brother, it is no wonder you labour under many disadvantages by taxation when you see the insatiate cravings of a luxurious people who would have all your privilages, but bear no part of your burden. I hope all my dear friends at home will keep steadfast to the King's interest, then I am sure you are careful of your own. Our Constitution is not to be equaled by any other power, our laws are grounded upon sound principals, and if perhaps by self interest and design they are ill used, the fault is neither in the Laws, nor the author of them. I am not doubting in the least your obedience to Civil Government, I hope you have not so learned Christ. How nearly is Divine and Human Laws connected, let those who dare oppose Civil Government read the first seven verses of the 13th Chapter (of) St. Mark's Epistle to the Romans, and mark well the close of the second verse. Few will doubt but our Salvation depends upon our obedience to the Laws of Jesus Christ, and his great Apostle declares in positive terms, he that resists the Laws of God's Viceregent shall receive to himself damnation. Pardon my speaking in the singular as the Apostle hath spoke in the plural. I

doubt not but you will expect to hear how it fared with me and the rest of the English in the time of the seige, as the compass of a letter will only contain a small part of what might be said. I refer you to brother Robert's letter which I hope you have had the opportunity of seeing.

Very little improvement hath been made upon our lands this last Summer by reason of a daily expectation of being invaded. Very few raised more grain than just to serve their own family and cattle. Every article we have got to sell bears a good price, butter 1s per pound, barley 5s. per bushel, oats 3s. per bushel, potatoes 3s per bushel, eggs mostly 1s per dozen - sometimes as much more, chickens 2s per couple. Goose is 4s each, wood partridge (are) very numerous (and) the same price as chickens, white hare caught by those who have time are sold at 3s per couple. All these advantages ... unworthy people have got by the Garrison at Cumberland and will go wheedling with their articles to sell, at the same time would be glad to cut their throats. One great trial to the Loyal Officers, for there is some amongst them, as also to the King's faithful subjects in the Country. After all that the Rebels have done, they meet with more encouragement from the Commanding Officer than any other people do, all I can s

ay, He is a New England man.

In the winter of 1776 great numbers of Mouse Deer was hunted and killed, their size and weight is almost incredible. When at their full growth the male is mostly 17 hands high and will weigh 1,000 pound, some of them more, the female not much less. Every Article we want to buy is excessive dear as all trade is stop'd with the West Indies. The Indians will part with anything for Rum, the French and the New England men much the same which they buy at L1 4s per gallon. Molasses is 4s per gallon, sugar at this time rarely to be had at any Rate, tea and coffee double the price it used to be and all farming apparel excessive dear.

And now dear Brother and Sister I must conclude with mine and all the rest of the family (sends) dearest loves to you and yours. Wishing you all happiness that can be expected in this World and the glory that (is) to come, for the sake of Him who gave His Dear Life a ransom for us. Give my dear love to all the preachers of the Blessed Gospel. Tell them I call my place Gershom Field because I am a stranger in a strange land. I should wish to see some of them here if we had once more peaceable times. Give my dear love to Cousin Thomas Smith and family and all my other relations and acquaintances who may enquire after our welfare.

From your Loving Brother.

NATHANIEL SMITH

[Nathaniel Smith Letter # 8]

Gershom Field, Fort Lawrence near Cumberland
MAY 2nd, 1778

To: MR. BENJAMIN SMITH
Appleton Wisk near No'Allerton, Yorkshire, Old England.

Dear Brother & Sister,

This is my seventh letter to you since I arrived in America, but I am sorry to know some of them never came to your hand. The reason how I came to that knowledge may be seen in a letter to brother Robert, but (I) hope through the mercy of God this will come safe to your hand. The intended bearer is son Nathaniel who is returning home with his family,

We have been much cast down on account of son Benjamin & Rachael not returning as was expected, fully concluding they had fallen into the hand of a cruel enemy or met with some other

accident, but now are encouraged to hope better since we see'd Mr. Henry Hammond who lodged two nights with us and who told us he believed Benjamin would be too late in the fall for his passage. From this account we live daily in expectation of his arrival at Halifax.

Son John is married to Mrs. Chapman's daughter from Hawby and has purchased son Nathaniel's estate, and his Father in Law, viz. Chapman, hath bought Henry Hammond's land. Son John appears better reconciled to the Country than any of the rest of the family. All the rest seems to have a longing desire after their native country, intensely occasioned by the present troubles of America, troubles indeed, for every Town is become a bad neighbourhood on account of jarring principles and (every man), in fact now is in danger - but the man attached to his lawful Sovereign's cause.

Some of my former letters gave you an account of the rise, carryings on, and defeat of the Rebels at Cumberland, together with the bad treatment many of the Yorkshire families met with. Whether you received those letters or not is doubtful. Dear Brother, I am now a little acquainted with the spirit and disposition of the Americans, would to God every honest well disposed man in my native Country knew them as well. It would take up but a small time to persuade such men to exert themselves in their Sovereigns cause, especially those interested with the King's business. I doubt not, you, for your parts, as is your duty, are exercising that prevalent weapon, the sword of the spirit, in behalf of your God Vice Regent, that it please him to remove the evil from before him and give wisdom to plan, and courage to put into execution every laudable means most likely to put an end the effusion of blood of those men who act in subordination to their King, and expects one day to give account for the deeds in the body.

When, or how, this war may end God only knows. For my part I hope they will be subdued, but I never expect to hear or see that they will become good subjects. If you ask my reasons, I beg your pardon, as I am nether a Prophet nor the son of a Prophet, neither am I acquainted with Politics in the least degree, only allow me a small acquaintance with the history of my native Country. If I so remember the Presbyterians in England, assisted by the patriots in England, (fought) for the valuable consideration of a pension from the French Court, (to) distract the Government of Charles the Second. And did not the Presbyterians in Scotland raise three rebellions against that easy Monarch. When the Grand Advisary of mankind is going as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, does he not take into his service those most fit for his purpose. If sedition and conspiracy is now, by permission, the business, who more fit for the purpose than those whose hands have been into blood from the time of their Constitution, I mean the predecessors of the present rebellious Americans.

I am persuaded the Americans act from the same motives and upon the same principles their forefathers did upwards of one hundred years ago. Is not the old worm at the bottom, and does not the rebellious blood circulate as freely as at that time. Perhaps, you may reply, (but) was not the good old Puritans (first) immigrants to America, true they were, but was not oposition to the Government the chief inducement to their being first settlers there. However, rebellion appears now to be sown in their Constitution, the vulgar cherish it tenderly and their leaders and priests ripen it to perfection.

If this my scribble should reach your hand I hope my sentiments will correspond with yours. Kind Providence hath appointed for His creatures different employments in the world, all are not required to take up the sword, but is not every well disposed person under an obligation of lifting up his hand in the good cause of his King and Country. While Moses lifted up his hand Israel prevailed. I am persuaded my good friend Wesley will enjoin with your other duties, and as for my own part I hope I go upon a better foundation than human appearances. I am persuaded the love of God is nearly connected with the Honour and Interest of my King and Country. The more I peruse the work of God the more clearly I see they way to my duty. Its true, I am in America, but (I) should be sorry to act upon American principles.

A small sloop (that) sailed from (the) Cumberland flats on Saturday, the 4th Inst., fell in with a

privateer a day after near a place called Apple River, and had an engagement of six hours and ten minutes. Apple River is not more than six leagues from Cumberland (and) the sloop came off victorious to a miracle, she had on board only 18 hands 16 of which were passengers. The privateer (was) a schooner with six swivels and 50 men, exclusive of 15 at 9 oars - For particulars see Brother John's letter.

We have had no public news from Head Quarters this 3 months bypast. Every article we have to dispose of sells very dear, and all we want to buy is much more so. Beef 6d per pound, mutton 8d ditto, veal 6d, butter 1s6d per pound, cheese 6d and that known to be good 8d per pound. Oats 3s6d per bushel, barley 5s per ditto, wheat the cheapest 6s per bushel, potatoes 3s6d per bushel, eggs 2s6d per dozen, upgrown chickens 2s6d per piece, goose 5s per ditto and dry hams 1s per pound. A little of each article undoubtedly raises a good deal of money as cash is taken in payment more frequently than formerly. But the articles we want and cannot live comfortably without almost countervails with our income. All dry goods sell as four times their prime cost, I mean what costs (one) at home sells four here. The difference between Sterling and our currency is 2s per pound. I have lately given 2s per pound for lump sugar and taken fifty pds together with a few pds its more, all kinds of grocery ware is in proportion. I was exceeding glad of a few pounds of currants & raisins lately at 2s6d the former 2s, the latter per pound.

And now dear Brother & Sister, in different Countries we have our own advantages and disadvantages. All I can say in favour of my present situation is I am not in suspence (as) how to raise two annual rents. All taxations I have as yet met with, the pretended fear of which hath cause such a deluge of blood, is only 2s6d per year exclusive of a small quitrent which has never yet been paid, or demanded. Many of the English is dead within this two years bypast, but not any of your acquaintance except R. Dobson and Paul & Phillis Cornforth. Its not more than six months since I was prevailed upon to take the Kings commission as Coroner, and have already sat upon three unnatural deaths, one a New England woman cut her own throat, an Irish man by mischance drowned, the last an English Man, my near neighbor by accident drown'd, his name (was) Thomas Carter from Skelton. All the family joins me in our dearest loves to you and yours.

NATHANIEL SMITH

P.S. Give my respects to every enquiring friend.

[Nathaniel Smith Letter # 9]

Gershom Field
OCTOBER 25th, 1779

To: MR. BENJAMIN SMITH
Appleton by Wisk nigh No'Allerton, Yorkshire, Old England

Dear Brother and Sister,

I take this opportunity of answering brotherly friendship one more, as I had the opportunity of sending my letters to Halifax by a gentleman from London who hath been amongst us most of this Summer in the way of trades with the English goods, and who left England in the Spring with a fleet of upwards of two hundred and fifty sails for New York and other places. The ADAMANT and FORT LAWRENCE, (arriving) belonging (to) Watson & Rawly, in company with whom we expected letters from you, but was disappointed. Doth a little time and distance of places, create in you the spirit of forgetfulness. However, Bless God, this is not the case with me, for I can truly say, my spirit many times flies over the great Atlantic to the native Country, and (the) beloved people with whom I have neglected no opportunity to converse with by letters, as there is no other possible way of renewing brotherly friendship at so great a distance.

The War in America appears more obstinate than ever, we have no late news from the Grand Army. George Dobson, who was pressed into a Man-of-War, on account of bad health is just returned to Cumberland and gives account of some particulars. A small post of the Kings troops, which he said was the 17th Regiment, was attacked and surrounded by a large body of the Rebels. The troops made a brave resistance but was overpowered and taken prisoners, disarmed and all put to the sword. General Clinton with a sufficient number pursued the Rebels (and) came up to 500 of their lighthorse, and by a stratagem surrounded them and retaliated the blood of his brave regiment. Of them only 25 escaped, all the rest (were) put to the sword.

General McLaine has (been spared) by the junction of Sir George Collier who, with only seven sails, defeated the rebels who laid siege to General McLaine with 32 armed vessels (and) 18 transports, the largest carrying 54 great guns, the least 16, all well manned, and (with) 3000 land forces. Only three of Sir George's vessels got to an engagement (with) the largest 40 guns. General McLaine reserved his fire until the Rebels came within musket shot of him, then saluted them with a volley of small arms and grape shot which cut off a great number of them, the rest made away with themselves not choosing to stand a second fire. Their shipping drove up the river so far until their yardarm drove upon the bushes where they miserably burnt their vessels, (. . .) only for Sir George (. . .) brought two. Does not this show what might be done if it were not for party and faction.

There is more news we have just received but as its uncertain I shall not fill up my letter with it, as blessed be God I have something of another kind to say. A Glorious War is begun amongst us in our neighbourhood and altho in this War our enemies are many and great a daily conquest is gained over them, or at least they are forced to retire. Jesus is our Captain and into his service (we) are enlisted every Day. We have two or three Meetings every week and three every Lords Day, and blessed be God we neither run in vain nor labour in vain. The work, especially amongst the English appears almost general. They will come ten, fifteen, or more miles to Meetings where may be seen tears of grief or joy trickling down almost every cheek, and the people who live at a distance up the rivers pleading dear Mr. Suchaone, do you not care for our Souls, pray visit us up our river. Many who at home attended preachings now say tho they had hearts as other men they had no understanding or feeling sense of what they heard. Is not the work of God and his free Grace, and may we not say he hath (had) his way in the Whirlwind. It is hard to account how the work was begun. It may be said to be as a spark of fire cast into the bushes which for a while smudg'd at the bottom, but at last broke out into a flame, and God grant it may continue its fire until all the dross and stubble of our corrupt wills be consum'd and made subservient to the will of God. I hope the account of this glorious work in this part of the Lords Vineyard may incline the heart of my Dear Friend, the Reverend John Wesley, to encourage, not force, some one or more of his Preachers to cross the Atlantic to labour amongst us. Thank God, we are able, and there is no doubt of our willingness to support them in that capacity.

As to the present instruments, they are tolerable clear headed, and I hope honest hearted exortors. Five (are) from Old England and one from New England, formerly one of Mr. Whitfield's men. I never in my time see'd such clear manifestations of free graces as I have done here, except that of my dear daughter Betty. We hear little but the language of Zion, or groanings for redemption. I hope you'll praise God on our account when I tell you we have many Bethel Meetings and some Penticost days, especially one where the power of God was so gloriously displayed that the whole room appeared fill'd therewith, some set at liberty, others crying out, what shall I do to be saved. One or two young men coming in accidentally and beholding so uncommon a sight was much tempted to laugh, But within a few minutes the Power of God took hold of them and their laughter was turned into tears and cries, God be merciful to me a Sinner. We have classes, month and quarter Meetings, and hold to Mr. Wesley's rules as near as may be. This glorious day of visitation hath been as a spur in the side of many, especially those who once ran well but (who) Satan hath hindered, and the backsliding of many are healed. Others, tho but lately Born, appear the foremost of the flock.

I hope this will be the most acceptable letter you ever received from me since I left you. I can truly say, the more I experience of the power and love of God, the more I am engaged in prayer, for the success of my King, and the welfare of my native Country. (I am) hoping the factions at home, the

deception abroad and the man of sin, who have long been combined together for the ruin of so good a King and so happy a Constitution, will in Gods due time meet with proper chastisement. For want of room (I) must conclude with my dear love to you all, my dear Wife and all the family does the same. Give my kind love to all enquiring friends tell them to prize their priveliges and live to God. My Dear Love to all the Preachers.

NATHANIEL AND ELIZABETH SMITH

Mr Robert Fleming
Gebdykes, Massam, Yorkshire, Old England
[note: Robert Fleming was the husband of Nathaniel's sister]

Cornwallis, Nova Scotia
11 May 1782

Dear Brother and Sister:

I take every opportunity of wrighting yo you, the last re'd from you gave me incouragement to expect a letter at least two times a year as you said you were determined to write every quarter.

My letter to Brother John will inform you of the reason why my leters are dated from Cornwallis, our troubles in Nova Scotia are and have been increasing the two last years, I mean respecting the Wares. Brother John's letter will likewise give you some acct. of the success of the gospel amongst us, the most interesting subjects of all others, the second account I refer you to Brother Benj'm letter.

I hope by this the Eyes of every undesigning honest hearted Englishman is opened, but is it not too late, all the lennity used by a gracious Sovereign hath been slighted and the offers of reconciliation shamefully and obstanately rejected, as to my own part, it is a very little I know of Polloticks or State matters, nor is it straing for a man of Common Sense and a little acquainted with History of his own Native country, especially the last two sentoryes to form a rational idea of the present times especially when the Amaricans are condider'd in a just light, the blood Royal of Oliver Cromwell, and the present faction the Old Worm at the Bottom, the case of John the Painter and the rest of the fractious at Home in league with france and America all concur together to convince a rational judgement of the necessity the parent lay under to give the childed a proper chastisement, before he become stubborn and unyielding. But I shall not fill up my letter with a subject more fit for, and in which the most able hands are imploy'd only profess myself a wellwisher to my native country and rightful sovereign and all his justifiable undertakings, hoping the hand of Providence in due time will provide a more effectual scourge than that due to them in the year 75.

Dear Brother, as to matters pertaining to myself and family, there is little alteration as to the things of this life only an addition to the number of Nath'l and Johns families, the former have three Daughters and two Sons, the latter one son and one daughter. John is a very industrious man and in a way of doing well both for his Life and that to come. Nath'l appears not so thoughtful for the better part, but scheming enough for the world, but appears not content with the country. It is jennerrally expected we shall suffer this summer by the plundering partys from Machias and other parts of New England contiguous to the Bay of Fundy, as great numbers of them are imploy'd in that unlawful and shameful practice of piracy and plundering, making the present war a cloak for their viliny and having a confederacy with the ill-disposed amonst us easily accomplish their ends, their cheef objects are with few friends to Government, but when dissapointed stick not to plunder their best friends. Very Lately three of their boats was persued by an armed vessel; two of them drove a shore and one taken in which was found a list of all

intended to be rob'd, I am told that I and son Nathl was in the list, and indeed it is what I verily expect if ever they have the opportunity for it, for I am careful to give wilful offence to a Jew or gentiles, yet at the same time I abhor that artful cloak of desimulation which to many sake of private interest frequently put on.

Perhaps Dear Brother you might be acquainted or know something of one Hutchinson if I mistake not his name, who left England a few years before us, I think he lived not far from Bedale when at home he carried over from Britain one or two stone'd horses to New York he had the luck to make a handsome portion, purchased a pretty settlement, but for conscience sake, could not fall in with the Americans by which means if I had room should give you the tragical account of his and two sons usage by them, but let it suffice to tell you, one of his sons was determined to make his way for New York to the King's forces, which he performed by night marches, but after some time stay there was determined to return on the same way as he came, but a heavy cold rain coming on, he took shelter in an out barn, the unhappy traveller was overseen by his inveterate enemies who soon came up to him, fir'd in upon him but luckally mis'd him, however, they drag him in an inhuman manner to their committy, he was soon comitted to prison and after all argument us'd in his favour and his distressed mother travilling 60 miles to beg his life on her bare knees, he was hung before her eyes as a spy. Mrs. Fielding and family lives neighbour to us in good caracture. Ralph Suddil lives at Cumberland partly by his trade and all the family Dearly love you both and all enquiring friends.

Nathaniel and Elizabeth Smith

[Nathaniel Smith Letter # 11]

Cornwallis

MAY 11th, 1782

To: MR. BENJAMIN SMITH

Appleton Wisk near No'Allerton, Yorkshire, Old England

Dear Brother,

It gave me and all the family great concern when we heard of the death of your dear Wife but much more so when we, by a letter to son Benjamin from Osmotherly, were acquainted with the manner of her death. I cannot help thinking (of) you, regardless of your brother, either in respect of this life or that to come, otherwise you would certainly write oftener. Is not (the) love of a brother whom we have seen a mark of the love of God, whom we have not seen. I can assure you and yours are often on my mind, and altho the great Atlantic rolls between (us) my spirit leaps the vast main to converse with my dear friends both by the ties of nature and Grace, and how glad should I be to converse with you by letter as there is no other possible way, while my short day of probation lasts.

In this my short letter I have got some good news to tell you and methinks you are all attention to hear what good news from a Country where war, bloodshed, and desolation prevale. We have had a famine in the land from the year 1774 to the year 1780, worse than that of bread, but our spiritual Joseph hath opened the treasury and corn and wine abounds. The dear Redeemer is gone forth in the Chariot of his Gospel from conquering to conquerer, subdueing the hearts of the people to himself. Many backsliders (have been) restored, and great numbers have been Born in a week. Perhaps you may be ready to say, how can it be where the instruments are few and weak? I'll tell you dear Brother, the Lord perfects his strength in our weaknesses, and it is just with us, as it was with the Methodists before they became more wise than Holy, and when the weakest instrument in the Hand of God was lov'd, and valued by the most sensible Christian.

Love at present seems to command every heart, and the poor people at a great distance row against both wind and tide in small canoes up and down the rivers, often at the risk of life, rather

than miss a Meeting. At our Love Feasts and Quarter meetings (for all things are carried on as at home) the able people provide for the poor, I mean their doors are open and table free to the poor Zion travellers. The Lord crowns our Meetings with his Divine presence, and it is frequently the case that the eyes of the people are fill'd with tears, either of grief or joy.

We have long petitioned Mr. Wesley for a Preacher but he hath thought proper to withhold from us the request. Many a petition hath been put up by the faithful that the Lord of the harvest would send forth labourers into His vineyard, and how unexpectedly hath He done it. We have now seven or eight able exhorters, and two Preachers, (one) a second son of one Mr. Black from Huddersfield, a sensible young man, behov'd to come in by the right door. He preaches good old Methodist doctrine and the Lord owns his ministry (at a) few Meetings, but some either brought sense of their Sin and Misery or (was) savingly brought home to Christ. And now, dear Brother, I hope this will invigorate your soul when you hear of so many pressing into the Kingdom, and drinking by the brook by the way, even in a place which apparently, not long ago, no water was.

And now dear Brother, I have given you a small account of what the Lord is doing amongst us, and leave you to make the best use of it you can, and may you and I adore and praise Him for his goodness and the wonders He is doing for the children of men. The last letter was from brother John who told me your son John was married and settled on John Liddel's farm, but did not say who he had married, and that his daughter (Ann) was also married but he did not say who to.

P.S. Give my love to cousin Thomas Smith and family, if he is alive. I never expect to see any of you more in the vale of tears, but hope to find you among the sheep who are returned home. Desire you give my love to all inquiring friends.

From you ever loving Brother and Sister, etc., etc.,.

NATHANIEL AND ELIZABETH SMITH

N.B. Let not anything I have said affront you or hinder you from writing, for it is my chief pleasure (to receive) a letter from my friends.

Mr Robert Fleming
Gebdykes, Massam, Yorkshire, Old England
[note: Robert Fleming was the husband of Nathaniel's sister]

Cornwallis, Nova Scotia
13 May 1782

Dear Uncle and Aunt,

Being now come to mature years, and calling to mind my Friends and Relations at Home, I think myself bound in duty to write to you, in order to gain amore famellar Friendship with you, which at so great a distance, cannot posibaly be done any other way, and Dear Uncle and Aunt, I intend to speak my mind without reserve, I cannot say I am reconsild to America, my Native country runs so much in my mind, partly ocationed by the two well known troubles so near us which we have great reason to fear will soon take place amongst us. Indeed, the kind hand of Providence hath hitherto preserved us altho the Plundering parties have been amongst us as you will hear by one of my Fathers letters. I often think of visiting my Native country and Relations, but the many difficulties in the way makes me determind to defer it untill a better oportunity offers and likewise my dear Father and Mother being advanced in years and I am sencible of the obligation I am under to make their life as comfortable as possible, altho I sometomes tell them I am determind to come over and be your Son. You will hear in one of my fathers letters that he hath sold his place at Cumberland and removd to Cornwallis. I think his design in so doing was to live in one Peaceable part of the

Country, but the troubles are now become almost Universal and Cornwallis being the most flourishing place is in most danger. I shall now give you a short account of the situation in Cornawallis as well as my ability will allow. It lyes about seventy miles from Halifax and is bounded on the North and South by two ridges of Mountains on the West by the County of Analpolis Royal and on the East by Menus Bason through the heart of the Country runs three rivers which has their winding courses through large bodies of excellent Marshes and Intervails most of which is well improved and at last fall into Menus Bason. The soil is generally good but the inhabitants are not so, what I mean is that they are too much adicted to Dressing, Drinking, and Frolicking which is a great measure riunous to them, tho some of them is greatly improved since the comeing of the Egnlish among them.

Sister Nancy is now grown to a Womans estate which is much affected when I talk of returning Home. I believe if such as thing should ever happen she would also return with me, these troublesome times I believe is the greatest means of debaring man from returning home who would be glad once more to tread their Native soil. I hope these few lines will find my Dear Uncle and Aunt in good health as they leave one and all the family. I have nothing to desire of you but to give my Dearest Love to all my Friends and to favour me with a letter when the opportunity serve so.

Dear Uncle and Aunt I remain your ever loving and Dutiful Nephew

Robert Smith

P.S. All the family desires their Dearest Loves to you and every enquiring friend.

[Written by Robert Smith, son of Nathaniel Smith]

[Nathaniel Smith Letter # 14]

Cornwallis
24th (MARCH), 1789
To: MR. BENJAMIN SMITH
Appleton Wisk near No.Allerton, Yorkshire, Old England.

Shipping Mark: Halifax, N.S. June 16, 1789
Marked: Mr. Dunn, Throgs Neck, to the care of Mr. Wm. Post Ky Market, New York.

Brother,

It is long since I heard from any of you, in doubts whether I am writing to the living or the dead. The last letter I had from any of my friends was from your son John who told me he was settled upon John Liddel's farm, and his brother Benjamin at Sawcock which I was glad to hear. After I received his (letter) I wrote immediately and sent (it) by the first opportunity to him, which I feared miscarried, and I urg'd very much for a more frequent correspondence, but have not heard one word from you since.

John desir'd I should give you account of my present circumstances without reserve, but to give you a real idea of my troubles, dangers, and losses would fill up (all) my letter, therefore shall but a few hints suffice.

The second year after we came to the Country I had no fear of doing well. From 16 cows we sold new milk cheese to the Isle of St Johns to the amount of L 60, but after the wars broke out the confusion became so general and parties ran so high that all real attention to business ceased. My former letters have informed you our dangers, etc. that (were) the chief cause of my selling out of Cumberland. I think I also informed you of the consequences that accompanied me to Cornwallis

which I now reflect upon with pleasure and can say it is the Lord, let Him do what seemeth His good. I do not mean to justify my proceedings in leaving Cumberland for I now know it was wrong, but I have learned a lesson by cross providences which I hope will turn to my advantage in the end. I informed you of a farm we purchased for ten years, and one Mill and ten or twelve acres of land for ever. Five years is expir'd upon the farm this Spring. Myself, my wife, and son Robert now live upon it and the world, or rather the kind Providence of God, reasons to turn in favour of us little.

Dear Brother, I have known both the smiles and frowns of this world, and think (of) that a great prayer of ages; Give (. . .) neither poverty nor riches (but) feed me with food. There is nothing but the Grace and Holy Spirit of God, together with watchfulness on our parts (as living fellow workers together with God), can ever ballast our leaky boats so as to weather out the storms and tempests of this vain life, and land us safe at last.

I thank you dear Brother for the offer you made me of making a trial of John Wheldon for the money he owed you. He lives about 100 miles from me and I had no opportunity to see him. I wrote a few lines to son John at Cumberland and desir'd him to acquaint him with what you said, his answer to John was, no man had a right to pay a any debt that had not been lawfully demanded for seven years past, not had you any note for your money. Last summer twelvemonth I was over at Cumberland to see son John and we agreed to go together to see John Wheldon. He lives at a place called Memramcook, upon an Old French settlement, the river is now laid all out in grants and all those settled upon it before they kept their own places, which was as good to him as the gift of L 300. As they are mostly poor people that is settling there he hath got a commission as a Magistrate amongst them, and seems to set highly by the title Esq. When I was in Cumberland I had the same offer and was much urg'd to take it but refused for two reasons, first, my small degree of knowledge of the Law and as little desire to study it. Secondly, no advantage but an empty title and an expectation of keeping company with the people called gentlemen who live in houses like themselves, painted on the outside but walk in and you find little but emptyness. When we came at (John's) house we found a large family, six of second wife's children and as many of his own. John's eldest two, Andrew and Betty, is married since and settled upon grounds close by him. Before we parted I spoke of your money and told him It was sensible he ought to pay it as he was now able to do it. He hesitated pretty much but agreed to let me have some butter in the Fall and some money if he could. In the fall I heard nothing from him. Son Robert went to see his brother John at Cumberland and from there to John Wheldons and took home with him 3 firkins of butter and L 6. in cash. The firkins contained 6lb. 6 each and I sold them for 1s per pound, Nova Scotia currency, which is the same as L 14 - 6s sterling. John Wheldon thought I might thank him for it but I thought to the contrary. It answered a very good end for me at the time, with gratitude (I) return you my sincere thanks. No more will be got from him as he would agree to nothing without a general receipt, so the L 14-6s pays pretty well near L 36 with interest added.

Thomas Scurr hath sold out at Cumberland and remov'd with all his family into the Province of Virginia. When he returned from there to see his farm at Cumberland 2 English families went with him to Virginia but are both entirely ruined by it. One of them is returned but the expense of freight, etc. hath taken all he had, the other would gladly have returned but had not to pay freight. Mr. Black, and English man's youngest son, was encouraged to go but is returned and gives a very poor account of the place. He left all Scurr's family sick, his second daughter was dead and his oldest son Thomas dangerously sick, the rest (is) recovering. The Province joins on North Carolina, a very hot climate.

By this time I suppose George Swinburn hath got home, who I suppose you have heard, hath purchased George Dobsons farm. He and Henry Scott are the only two I know that hath done much good in Nova Scotia. Swinburn hath left no great character behind him, he is a Methodist but I fear he hath little more than the name, his wife is better thought of. Nova Scotia is become a poor country and I see no prospect of it being otherwise, great numbers are come to it since the war ceased but since the Kings provisions was taken off they, many of them, live very poor. The reason for their staying in the Country is to receive the Kings bounty, I believe one of the greatest impositions ever known. Many of them will receive hundreds and some thousands more than ever

they were worth in the world. I have a very sensible neighbor who says he knows it to be the case with many of them. Indeed some few very worthy men are come in the Country.

The best news I have got to tell you is the Gospel begins to spread in the Country. We have four regular travelling preachers, 2 along (the) shore from Halifax to Liverpool and 2 from Halifax to Windsor, Cornwallis and Horton, etc., and what is the best of all they neither run, nor labour in vain. Mr. Wray, the English preacher, is now at Cumberland and we hear his labor is greatly blest there. They have got a large Meeting House at Halifax, another at Cumberland and a large one will be built at Horton this Summer. I can give you but a very faint idea of the Glorious Gospel in comparison in the Southern parts of North America and the West India Islands. It is running like a rapid tide into almost evry corner, and the general cry is send us some help, send us some Preachers.

I hope my dear Brother (is) earnestly contending for the best of gifts. My dear wife joins me in sincere love to you and yours.

NATHANIEL SMITH

Mr Robert Fleming
Gebdykes, Massam, Yorkshire, Old England
[note: Robert Fleming was the husband of Nathaniel's sister]

Cornwallis, Nova Scotia
6 June 1785

Dear Uncle and Aunt,

I hope these few lines will find you in a perfect state of health as they leave me, for which I desire to return thanks to the supreem Author. My father enjoys tolerable state of health and vigour, more so than my Dear Mother, she is very weak and infirm, her old complaint is now very powerful and confines her entirely to her room. Nancy is married to a son of Mr. Armistead Fieldon from Massam and has had a daughter. Benjm. is living in Halifax in the publick way. Nathl. lives in Cornwallis he has now a family of seven children. John is still living at Cumberland he hast lost two Children and has three alive. My parents now look upon themselves unfitt for business and is resolved, I think, to give up house keeping and going to live with another son if I so shall entirely give up farming, not being able to carry it on efectually alone and I have no mind to Marry in this coutry, neither have any thought of staying at all in it long. I have not yet found a Person with whom I can have any degree of intimacy, nay, no one can call his neighbour his friend. nor is it safe for him to rely too much on his greatest confidant, if he do, he will certainly deceive him, he will surely betray him if he can thereby gain a Shilling everyone is upon the watch to catch what he can and if he cannot get it honestly he will contrive some specious pretence to gain his purpass - it is remarkable to see how carefull the Parent is to instruct their children in the law. He will teach them wheir they may have an action and where a remady where they can have a Plea of trepass and where they may recover damages if he has attained to the knowledge of the law, and finds he hath the advantage over his neighbour, he will not fail to exert the utmost of his skill and if he fails into his hand he will surely ruin him. Many have been entangled by them and felt the efects of their Policy, Justice and Equity is perhaps a greater strainger amongst this People than it is in the savage and uncultivated tribes where everyone is subject to the laws imposed by there respective Leaders and Priests, But I must not condemn the whole because of the greatest part, some of their are are (but the number few that is governed by the principal of hounour and piaty and would willingly do as they would be done.

Dear Uncle and Aunt I leave you to judge of the trouble and anxiety we must labour under amongst such a People but for my part I do not intend to labour under it long. I

intend if possible to return home to Old England next fall altho my sircumstances wail be but small yet I hope to enjoy next fall contet mind which will be sufficient recompoense, My father and mother will willingly concent if I had likelihood of a settlement, if my dear Uncle can give me any encouragement and thinks it likely I can have a prospect. I should certainly put my intentions in Practice. I come now to conclude with desiring my kind love and dutiful respects to all my kindred and relations.

I am dear Uncle and Aunt Your most dutifull Nephew.

Robert Smith

NB Be pleased to favour me with a letter the first oppertunity which add no little to all our mutual satisfactoin.

Mr Robert Fleming
Gebdykes, Massam, Yorkshire, Old England
[note: Robert Fleming was the husband of Nathaniel's sister]

Cornwallis, Nova Scotia
April 1789

Dear Brother and Sister,

I have long expected a letter from you but hitherto am disappointed, tis a pity relations so near in blood should break off all correspondence upon so trifling an excuse as being no great scribe, as I Doubt not there is many who would think it no hardship to do my Dr. Brother such as favour. Is your affections quite gone, or is their some other reason why you think me not worthy of notis. Your Dear wife is my only sister, and you as her Husband is very near to me, however your affections to me may seem I can truely say mine to you is not in the least dispropated, Dear Sister my Day is far spent. I am now entered into the 69th of my age and you into your 67th. We shall never more see each other in this World, we shall very soon meet with Our Changer, O that we may have reasonable scriptural hope and expectation of meeting at Gods Right Hand when that day cometh. I hear be tho by, the World is smiling upon you and I doubt not you have heard I have got under its frowns. Can this be the reason why my friends forget me. I hope not. I bless God, altho a great part of my world by substance is gone I have somethik that bears me up above all, many in Nova Scotia hath suffered great hardships, but blessed be God we never yet wanted bodily substance, not do I fear we Ever Shall. The troubles in America have been the cheefe cause amongst us their. When I sold out their I took away in stock and cash L 500 , but I fell into the hands of worse plunderers than those that brea(k) Houses and Rob Shops.

Myself, my Dr. Wife and Son Robt. lives together upon a farm purchased for ten years, five of which is expird. This Spring Robt was much inclined to return to England but when it came to a trial he could not leave his Father and Mother for many reasons, likewise he thought if their was little prospect for him when he came their expense and passage both ways would take all he had. Robt. says he will never marry in America but will sartainly return home one time or oather, if he lives, I tell him how bad farms are to light of in England, he says perhaps his uncle Robt. will bring him into his, when he has tyred of farming and hopes he will have anough of his own to stock it. Robt is informed by oather people that you expected him home, but as he heard nothing from you to encourage him consequently he thought it not right to take such a journey upon absolute unsartainties if my Dr. Brother think good to write any more letters to me I desire you will speak your mind freely without reserve on that subject. I am not craving anything you have or your farm for my son Robt, but I leave the whole matteer to your own choice and conduct, as perhaps some more near in affection, and abundantly nearer in person may

be object you have fixed upon. Be that as it will I hope you will not neglect to write to me.

Nova Scotia is now pretty thick settel'd, in many places (Viz) where there is Rivers, Marshes and intervals and in many places along shores by Minas Basin and the Bay of Fundy it, the Province is now divided into two, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, the line runs from S.W. to N.E., crosses the Country on St. John Side of the Bay taking in all that side and crossing the Bay directly to the mouth of the Musquash River mouth which divides Ft. Cumberland and Ft. Lawrence and runs close alongside Son Inos farm and my old one and along to the Bay of Varts. The new settlers, at least a great many of them, neither gain nor desire good character. Some of them have been plunderers, Robbers, and I fear Murderers too. Some have been executed for these crimes, some they come here, the King is bestowing great Bounties on a very undisciplined people, Except a few, who appear very worthy Men. some who have got all they can have left the country, others are Waiting for the last groat they can make and then will do the same. Money in Nova Scotia is thin sown, the most trade we have is Barter, one thing for another, we have only one Market in the Province (Viz:), Halifax. and its distance from many places makes it of little use, all the Money that comes into the Country is to the Garrison Partisans and places Men at Halifax who have nothing in view but private interest. they have got one of the Best of Governors over the Province of New Brunswick, Sir Guy Carlton by which means it bids fair for a flourishing place. But our Lieutenant Governor is a poor tool and cares little for anything except receiving 50 to 60 L for signing Grants, etc., or writing three letters, (Viz) Parr. - Thomas Scurr with all his family hath sold out at Cumberland and gone to Virginia, a young man of an English family went along with him who is returned and gives a poor acct. of the country. He left them all sick, the second Daughter was Dead and his Eldest Son Thos. was dangerously ill, the rest was getting better. I believe if he have got into a better country on some acct. he hath got into a worse one others - John Wheldon lives upon a River called Memramcook 25 miles from Cumberland. I was at his home last summer twelvemonth and found a large family six of his own children and as many of his Second Wives. They live pretty well. The River is laid out in grants about ten miles above him and two below, he and (some) others lived there before it was granted upon Old French Settlements who keep their own lands. I look upon John's place as good as the (cost) of L 300. As he was an old settler and the people poor he hath got a commission as a Magistrate amongst them. The eldest is married and settled upon grants close by him. My son John hath bought a farm adjoining to his own which now makes the completest farm of his in Cumberland he is a very industrious and lives well, he hath 3 children living and 3 dead. Benjn. lives in Halifax and keeps the 2nd Tavern in the town. Its reported he is very able but that is a secret to me, Son Nathaniel lives upon the Mill and Land belonging to it he hath 8 children all living, he is pretty hard put to it in the World. Nancy lives in Horton about 1 1/2 mile from cross a River, John hath bought a new farm, hath build a House upon it and lives very well partly by farming and partly by his weaving trade he is very industrious, makes a good husband and often say if his Grandfather know how he is put to it to pay for his Land he thinks he would help him a little. They have 3 children, Betty, Lidia and Joseph. Before I close this letter, Son Robt was at Mr. Fieldens and a letter was just arriv'd from William Fielden to his Father and Mother, amongst the rest Wm. says he made mention to you of Robt. returning home, but he found you did not want to enter into any conversation on that subject, I would not have my Dear Brother and sister fear that if my Son Robt. should ever return he would want you any harm. All the family joins me in sincere Love and Brotherly affection to you both.

Nathaniel and Elizabeth Smith

N.B. Let not anything I have said affront you or hinder you from writing. for it is my Chefe pleasure a letter from my friends.

[Nathaniel Smith Letter # 17]

John Smith (nephew of Nathaniel)
West Harsley, Yorkshire
1 May 1791

To: Nathaniel Smith
Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, America

Dear Aunt and Uncle,

Surely indolence hath taken such place in our family that I shall attribute the general silence to you from all your friends on this side the Atlantic to no other cause. The last letter that I know of coming from you are dated April or May 1787, and the only one that I know of that was returned in answer was from uncle John sometime in the (same) year following the receipt of yours. I find by Father's letter that you had received one of my letters (but as I remember I wrote two) and that you wrote one to me in answer which I never received. So that as yet I have not the pleasure of having a single line wrote from you to me. Believe me Dear Uncle that if ever I shall have the happiness to receive a few lines from you I shall preserve them as a token of your love for me as long as I live, if not prevented by some unforeseen accidents.

As to the worldly prosperity of your friends in Old England in general the world may (be) said to smile upon them. Sister Sarah married a Thomas Newby about 4 years since and are settled on a farm about Brompton which was old John Newsoms who died about 5 years and left his estate (near 120 pounds per annum) to his nephew Robert Newsam, son of Cecily Newsam of Appleton. This Robert Newsam, about a year and a half since, married Elizabeth my second sister so that Sister Sarah and her husband are tenants under Elizabeth and her husband. I have 5 children all living, Benjamin hath 4 living and one dead, Sarah hath three all living and Elizabeth hath one. Brother Benjamin's wife and sister Elizabeth's husband are brother and sister. Sisters Mary and Hannah with Brother Nathaniel are still with my father. Sister Elizabeth's husband is a local Preacher and generally preaches every Wednesday and Sunday at Appleton. He is a man of good understanding and has an uncommon apprehension of most things, considering that he has been near blind ever since he was 7 years of age.

About two years since last Christmas I, being at Thirsk, accidentally let on a sea faring man, who pretended to be the Captain of a ship lying at Hull. (He) fabricated a great many untruths saying that your son Robert (had) married his sister and that you were interred on September the 21st 1788. And what gave him the more colour of the truth with me (was) he pretended to have orders from your son Benjamin to settle something about a draft (either lost or unreturned) with John Tyerman at Clack and desires me to call to let John Tyerman know that he wanted to see him that night or next morning about that affair, all which we believed to be true until we received your last letter the Summer following.

The Nation is so burdened with taxes that it is generally thought that it cannot or will not bear much additional burdens. Indeed there is hardly anything that we eat or drink or wear but what is charged (tax that) pays a considerable to the Revenue. Nay even household necessities are not free and our employments are most of them charged with a licence. Yet still it is a flourishing country, both Trade and Husbandry flourishes and England may be said to be still in Prosperity and, I believe, is both willing and about to bear much more if it be employed against its real enemies. Several people of late emigrated from England to Virginia, among which are some cousins and an uncle of my wife.

With regard to the sailing of some of those, I shall give you the following extract of a letter from Whitehaven which appeared in the Public Newspapers a few weeks since.

"... The delightful fine weathers of Sunday, the 3rd (of April, 1791), and the sailing of several

ships drew great crowds of people to the harbour, covering all the tongues and quays of part of the forenoon. Amongst the vessels (that) took (out) the finest opportunity that presented itself for many months past was the Mary Isabella, (with) Captain Grayson, for Alexandria in Virginia, onboard of which went several passengers, people of property and reputable farmers from the neighbourhood of Richmond in Yorkshire who have emigrated in hopes of reaping the fruits of their industry beyond the Atlantic, unburthened by the enormous imposts which have forced them from their Native Country. Of this little colony (were) two young men who possessed uncommonly fine voices (they had afforded much entertainment to a party of gentlemen two evenings before). (They) stood upon the quarter deck whilst the vessel was loosing from the end of the Old Quay and sang the Fourth Psalm. The unexpected novelty of the circumstance, the excellency of their voices and the taste and judgement with which this duet was performed astonished the attending multitude (instantly hushed until the most awful silence) and produced a scene, the most solemn and effecting we have witnessed, which made impressions not unsuitable to the day and such as might plead a little excuse for the general non-attendance in another place."

The two young men went from Barton. One of them was Ralph Dunn, a Cousin of my wife, and who was much respected by all his acquaintances, several of which made him presents, some of guineas and some of more (substance). Amongst the above was a Mr Anthony Lax who married a sister of my Father. Dunn, who is well settled upon a farm near Gilling and (who), according to our opinions, (has made) a very imprudent step.

Nathaniel Smith Letter # 19]

John Smith
Low Manse near Harsley
N. Allerton, Yorkshire
2 July 1807

To: Benjamin Smith
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Cousin:

My Sister Mary, about a year and a half after my Father died, married a Mr James Weighill, my present neighbour whose first wife was my uncle (..... s) eldest daughter. My sister (only) lived about a year and a half and has left one daughter, named Mary, at present a fine girl turned of 3 years old. Mr James Weighill, about 2 years since, married a 3rd wife, a Miss Bows from Brompton.

My Aunt (Ann) Fleming died at Appleton about 8 years since. My Uncle Robert died at Grenelthorp near Masham in the year 1802. My Uncle John, my nearest neighbour, died about a month since on November 18th and has left 1st Benjamin, his eldest son who resides upon an estate that my uncle purchased at Haggit Hill near Rounton. He had 4 children. 2nd Ann married Henry Foggy, the live near (Soncotton) but have no children. 3rd Jane married to Michael Atkinson, they live near Borroby and have 3 or 4 children. 4th Sarah married Nathaniel, son of William and Mary Smith of Harlsey Castle, she has one son named Nathaniel, she is a widow; her Husband died very suddenly last February after they had been married little more than a year. 5th Nathaniel unmarried and who at present resides with his Sister at Castle House. 6th William my Uncle's youngest Son who is still along with my Aunt.

My Uncle's eldest Daughter, Mary Weighill, died in the year 1801 and his 4th Daughter Elizabeth, who married Mr John Jutin, died about a year since and has left a son named John, still living. She had a child buried about a month before she died and another son in less than a month after her death. The loss of a loving Wife and 2 beloved children in less than 2 months was a very sever affliction to her worthy husband. The grief that was the consequence of this severe trial brought on a

Nervous Fever so that his life was for some time dispaired of.

What an attrition in our neighbourhood death has made in a few years. It's only (8) years since that 3 mistresses of houses died in less than ... months, and all joining neighbours (including) my sister, (wife of) Mr James Weighill.

We are indifferent to most of the sciences, Mathematical and Philosophical and Muse. After our pursuits of the Science began to subside, have not the honours and pleasures of life with the gratification of our sensual appetites succeeded the former pursuits without ever coming at the end we ought to have in view, (Happiness). In either case, what are we in pursuit of at (the) present, true wisdom or folly, "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of the end, there of is everlasting Happiness". It is this only my Dear Cousin that will bring us what we have been in pursuit of all our lives, True Happiness.

Cousin Nathaniel [sic], you also Dear Cousin are drawing along with me towards the end of your journey through this life. You are, I suppose, nearly 2 years older than I am. You and I used to be very intimate in the former part of our lives. I can remember and recollect with pleasure of you and I passing several days together at Gebdykes at different times in a very agreeable manner. I understand you have a large family which I suppose will, by this time, be mostly grown up and settled. May the Lord of all Power and Might incline our hearts and of all our families to seek and get an interest in the Blood of Christ. Nothing short of this (I am fully convinced) can give us the least Happiness either in this world or in that which is to come. Pray Dear Cousin remember me with a line, I long to hear from some of you. Cousin Jno [sic], tho' you be some years younger than me yet times runs on with us all. Oh may we all improve it as we ought to do, I cannot (even) boast of any great intimacy (opening) between you and me before you left England. You were only just grown up at that tie to man's estate, but there is some hints in your father's letters that draws my love to you in a peculiar manner. I find that you have been seeking that which will give us solid and substantial happiness and I hope you have not (sought) in vain, if so continue to hold fast your confidence in the "Rock of Ages". Continue to fight with all your Might again (both) the World, the flesh and the Devil; the spiritual life is a continual Warfare. I have (little) knowledge of these things but must (confess) I do not know them by experience. Religion is at a low (ebb) among all our friends here Dear Cousin, give us a few lines in this way it may, thro God, stimulate us to seek with more (devotion) what will make for our (eternal) Welfare.

John Smith

[Nathaniel Smith Letter # 20]

Maccan River, NS
24 June 1810

To: Mr John Harrison
Rillington, Near Malton

Dear Cousin,

Long ago I have had it in agitation of writing to you and now an opportunity is just at hand, which I gladly now embrace, hoping these few lines will find you and your family are all the same, thanks to Him, who ruleth over all. I am going to give you a sketch of our Country, Bonny Nova Scotia, and the advantages and disadvantages.

I settled here on this river about 23 years ago (1787) upon lands that had never been cultivated, all a wilderness. We cut down the wood of the land and burned it off and sowed it with wheat and rye, so that we have made out a good living. Here we make our own sugar, our own soap and candles, and likewise our own clothing. We spin and weave our own linen and wool, and make the biggest

part of it into garments within our own family. This, I suppose, you will find strange, but it is merely from want of settlers and more mechanics of different branches.

There were twenty-five petitioned to the Government for the new lands when I settled here, and we all drew 50 acres of land each. I bought 500 acres adjoining mine, which cost me about eighteen pounds, and my part of the grant cost eight pounds. I have lived on it ever since and have made out a good living. We milk ten cows, keep one yoke of oxen, three horses and betwixt twenty and thirty sheep. I do not doubt but that in a run of ten years more I shall be able to milk twenty cows. We generally kill every fall six or eight hogs. We use betwixt four hundred and five hundred pounds of sugar every year for tea and other necessities.

The disadvantages we have is in the Winters being so long. There is six months to fodder our cattle, and what is worse than all the rest, the snow falling so deep, sometimes four feet. The past three or four Winters have been very moderated, we think owing to the country and woods being cleared away. We have very much trouble with bears, as they destroy our sheep and cattle so much.

John Harrison

NB I have two sons, grown up young men. Pray send out a ship load of young women, for there is a great call for them that can card and spin. The wages are from five to six shillings a week.

[Nathaniel Smith Letter # 21]

Malton, Yorkshire
14 March 1817

To: Mr Luke Harrison
Nova Scotia

Dear Sir,

A nephew of mine, having formed the intention of visiting your part of the World, finding the opportunity it offers of writing to you. [sic] He purposes visting among you if the prospect of doing what is fair, [sic] and providing his report is favourable I should not wonder if many of our family comes over possibly I might be tempted to quit my stronghold at Malton and visit you again. One inducement to do this would be that perhaps I might be able to tender to those who can.

You will perhaps have heard what an extraordinary wet Summer the last was, more so than the oldest person can ever remember. The whole of the wheat crop sprouted and parts so bad that it was not fit for anything but giving to the hogs.

We have not been able to make good bread of the new wheat, but our females, by a little experiment, are enabled to make tolerable good cakes. The corn is now getting dryer and better, but about Michaelmas, it was almost past eating. The present price of new wheat from 6/- to 12/- per bushel, old as high as 15/-, oats 3/6d to 5/6d, butter 12d to 14d lb., beef and mutton 5d to 6d and pork about 5d. I can opine you things have altered for the worse since you was with us, especially for the farmers they are emigrating by thousands to all parts of America. A good many are coming to Nova Scotia so you will have plenty of neighbours.

Pray what has become of your borther, James Brown. Did he go to Upper Canada? I should be glad to know whether he did or no. I know of an estate or two that's for sale not far above Montreal at a place called the Grand or Attlawia River, it belongs to a friend of mine who is now settled here and who is not likely to return to Canada. It might be bought cheap. I have now to inform you that your Uncle Luke Lovell died about 6 months ago. I have not been at Thropcastle farm but shall go shortly to demand the rents. I fully expected to have heard from you before since so to have received your Power of Attorney. I am afraid the land would not fetch much money now however I should do my best for you. Please make my kind respects to Brother William and all

enquiring friends.

I remain Dear Sir,
Your very obdient Servant,

David Smith

received the 2nd of June 1817

In March 1774, the good ship Albion sailed forth from the port of Hull, Yorkshire, England, bound for North America. Among those listed were Nathaniel Smith, age 52, farmer from Yorkshire, his wife Elizabeth, age 52, and their children: Nathaniel, 22; Rachel, 22 (twins it doesn't say), John, 18; Robert 9; Elizabeth, 7. Destination Cumberland North America. Reason for making the voyage: Their rents being raised by their landlord, a Mr. Chapman, they had purchased some land in North America. (Take special note of John).

On the same passenger list we find William Chapman, age 44, farmer from Yorkshire; his wife Mary; their children William, 19, Thomas 17, Jane 15; John 13; Mary, 9; Henry, 7; Jonathan, 5; Sarah, 3; and Ann 2. Destination Fort Cumberland North America. Reason for making the voyage: Their rents being raised by their landlord, Lord Cavendish, and all necessities of life being so dear. Take note of Jane.

John (Roundhead - a nickname, I presume) Smith married Jane Chapman in May 1779. (At least that is the date given by one source, but it, or the next date, is wrong - presumably). Their children were: Mary 1778; Elizabeth 1780; William 1782; John 1784; Thomas 1789; Nathaniel 1791; Benjamin 1793; Robert 1796; Joseph 1797; Henry 1799; James 1802. Thomas, Benjamin, and Henry left the original homestead in the Fort Lawrence - Pointe de Bute area, and in search of new land, travelled on horseback to the fertile valleys around the Shinimicas River and took up land.

Let us now take special note of Benjamin, son of John (Roundhead).

Benjamin settled in S. Branch Shinimicas, now known as Lake Killarney, in the place now owned by Lloyd Wood. He married Hannah Merral, a United Empire Loyalist, and had a family of 8 boys and 4 girls: William, Benjamin, Joseph, James, John, Thomas B., Nathaniel, Henry, Rebecca, Elizabeth, Mary and Jane. Benjamin is reported to have been one of the largest of the Smith family, weighing about 380 pounds. He is buried in the Shinimicas burying ground.

Now Benjamins children, one by one:

William, the oldest son, married Sara Thompson, daughter of Richard Thompson of Oxford, Nova Scotia. They first settled in Shinimicas, on the place now owned by William Renaldo Smith. They later moved to Amherst, where they kept a hotel. In the later years of his life, he moved to River Philip where he farmed. His first wife being dead, he chose a second mate, Eliza Smith, daughter of Joseph Smith, Fort Lawrence. He had 8 children: Elizabeth, Priscilla, Jane, Rufus, Thompson, Hibbert, Benjamin, and Rose. He is buried at River Philip.

Benjamin married Becky Mills, daughter of Peter Mills of Goose River, now known as Linden. He died a young man, after being married for about one year. They had one daughter, Amy Jame. They lived on a farm now owned by William Fraser. He is buried in the Shinimicas cemetery.

Joseph married Lida (Lydia) Jane Smith, his cousin, daughter of Henry of Shinimicas, and lived on his brother's property now owned by William Renaldo Smith. They had four sons and one daughter: Wesley, John Joseph, Benjamin H. (great-grandfather of Don Smith's family) and Annamelia. He is buried at Shinimicas.

James died when a very young man and was buried at Shinimicas.

John 1824-1903 married Ann Lowther, daughter of Joseph Lowther of Amherst Point. They lived at the farm of Bliss Smith of Shinimicas. They had 12 children -- 7 girls and 5 boys: James, Mathias, Benjamin, Clifford (died as a baby), Lawrence, Amy Jane (great-grandmother of Don Smith's family), Elizabeth, Celia, Charlotte, Abby, Rebecca, Florence. John died at the age of 79 (1824 - 1903). He was always termed delicate and was classed (Bennie's Goslin).

Thomas B. (1832 - 1898) married Emily Ann Smith, daughter of Henry Smith and Mary Ann Brannon. They lived at Lake Killarney on the farm now owned by John Wood. They had two sons and six daughters: James (died in infancy), Thomas A., Mary Ann, Cynthia, Evelyn, Elizabeth (died in girlhood), Udivilla, and Hannah. Thomas was a great joker and any subject suggested to him turned into verse or wit. He worked at farming and lumbering. He died at age 76 and was buried at Shinimicas.

Nathaniel (1829 - 1892) married Margaret Jane Wood, daughter of Samuel Wood and his wife Marier Seaman (of interest - Marier was the daughter of Robert Seaman, the great codfish man, whose picture is well known to druggists appearing on every Scots Emulsion bottle. He is said to have caught the biggest codfish on the Atlantic coast and had the honour of having his picture taken.) He had 8 boys and 2 girls, Franklin, Alfred, William, Reuban, Ernest, Burton, Ross, Arthur, Alma, and Pearle. He lived and died at Lake Killarney, on the place now owned by his grandson, Lloyd Wood. He died at the age of 63, and was buried at Shinimicas.

Henry was the bachelor boy of the family, lived with Nathaniel Smith for years. Later he lived with Thomas B. Smith. He died at the age of 69 and was buried at Shinimicas. One fact to note is that he had a full beard at 16 and never shaved in his life. He had a great memory.

Rebecca married John Beharrel of Amherst Head on the place now occupied by Charles Chapman. They had 4 boys and 6 girls, Francis, Benjamin, John J., (and another son who died in infancy), Elizabeth, Alma, Jane, Julia, Bertha, Minnie. She was buried at Amherst Head.

Elizabeth, twin of Mary. Elizabeth married Hugh McLennan of River Philip and had 2 boys and 4 girls, Benjamin, Thomas, Jane, Ada, Lida, and Hannah. She lived all her life in River Philip and is buried there - 1906.

Mary, twin of Elizabeth. married Robert Angus of Lower Shinimicas, a pioneer settler. They both lived and died there and are buried at Northport. They had 4 boys and 5 girls, Benjamin, Allan, Nathaniel, John, Rebecca, Maggie, Jane, Julia, Allie, and Elizabeth.

Jane married John Bigelow of Beckwith. She died a young woman. She had two boys who died in infancy.

A memo to all persons interested in the family of Nathaniel Smith who immigrated to Nova Scotia in 1774, from North Yorkshire.

On March 25 and 27, 1990, I visited Mrs Celia Clabbey, 41 St Peters Place, Moulton, Newmarket, England, and while there with the help of my grandson, Guy Henderson, made a copy of a family chart, owned by Mrs Clabbey. This chart is in the form of a number of concentric circles as shown on the diagram attached. There are no dates on it nor do we know who made it. Although it is now in a frame, at one time it has been folded, and in many places it is impossible to read. I have added some personal notes in brackets and where we were unsure of the spelling have put a question mark.

The dates I have included are those for Nathaniel's brothers. These were found on grave stones in the cemetery at Appleton Wiske, about five years ago. I was not sure that I had found the right Smiths until I saw this chart.

The family homestead was obviously High House but I am not sure if this was in Harsely or near by. Others may know. It is interesting to note how often a marriage first produced a group of boys followed by a number of girls.

The question has often been asked why Nathaniel called his home in Nova Scotia "Gersham Fields". Nathaniel was a devoted bible student and if we turn to Exodus chapter two, verse 22, we read: "And she bare him a son and he (Moses) called his name Gersh(o)m for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land." This is repeated again in Chapter 18, verse 3.

There follows what was written inside each circle as best we could determine it.

Don Bird

1 & 2. Christopher son of Christopher Smith married daughter of Nathaniel man of Harsley, steward to Earl of Carlisle. He lived at High House where Christopher ... now was this family brought up from 1200. (?)

3. Christopher Smith married daughter of Sam Trewett (?) to the Earl of Carlisle, resided at High Hall and after went to London and died there. Wife given to liquor.

4. Thomas Smith married Mary daughter of Sherwood (?) farmer of Winton. This family was brought up at the High House. Other Sherwoods (?) about Winton came into the Smiths.

5. Nathaniel Smith married Elizabeth daughter of house.

6. Daniel Smith who died when he was young by the bite of a mad dog.

7. Benjamin Smith married Ann daughter of Bartholomew Bellwood of Osmotherley and became cousins of the Smiths ?? Margaret daughter of Christopher Wilkinson of Silton ????

8. Elizabeth Smith married Jacob Rupile (? Ripley?) farmer of Ingelby Arncliffe, the family brought up at Ingelby.

9. Ann Smith married George Trewitt (?) of Haggitt Hill (?) farmer so all the Trewitts became cousins - sprung from this root and became cousins of all the Smiths (?)

10. Mary Smith married Metcalf carpenter at Osmotherley.

5-1. Christopher Smith traded to America, married in America and died there.

5-2. A daughter went to London.

4-1. Thomas Smith married Ann Tweedy of Deighton, they settled there.

4-2. Daniel Smith married Rachael widow of ... Hall Appleton Wiske. He was a very active man but being a great drunkard and in that stage was losing the fight in man (?)

4-3. William Smith married Rebecca Hunter (?) of Hurworth (?) daughter of a bricklayer. He settled at Plantation (?) and kept a wagon, he carried goods to Stockton.

4-4. John Smith married a widow publican and afterwards married by whom he

4-5. Mary Smith married George Lawson of Brompton a weaver.

4-6. Rebecca Smith married Richard Carling, carpenter of Wellbury.

4-7. Hanna Smith married Christopher Long, weaver of Brompton.

5-1. Nathaniel Smith married Hannah daughter of

5-2. William Smith married Mary daughter of Robert Myles farmer at East Harsley Castle House died in 2 years of his age a tomb stone to memory in Osmotherley Church yard.

7-1. Nathaniel Smith married Elizabeth the daughter of Thomas Duck of who resided first at Bottles (?) then at Claque and after went to Nova Scotia in N. America

7-2. Ann Smith married Robert Fleming farmer of Gebdykes near Nashua.

7-3. Benjamin Smith (- 1801) married Ann (1731-1778) daughter of William Brown of East Harsley 2,000.00 pounds (?)

7-4. John Smith (1747-1818) married Mary (1747 - 1829) daughter of William Brocking (?) farmer of Appleton Wiske.

8-1. Jacob Ripley (?) married Christine daughter of farmer of Harsley.

8-2. William Ripley (?) married unknown to Duke of Kingston.

8-3. Nathaniel Ripley (?) married unknown also to Duke of Kingston and settled at farm in Wolverhampton.

9-1. Simeon Trewitt (?) married Bridget daughter of William Risdale farmer near

9-2. George Trewitt (?) married Margaret daughter of farmer at Rich..... rear of East Harsley settled as a butcher at Appleton Wiske.

9-3. Thomas Trewitt (?) married Emily Gowland (?) resided at Haggett Hill.

9-4. Christopher Trewitt (?) married his housekeeper had a farm at Crawthorne (?) near Bedale.

9-5. Elizabeth Trewitt (?) married John Green of Rand House and so did Hannah Metcalf (second wife?)

10-1. Hannah Metcalf (second wife of John Green)

10-2. Child died of bite of mad dog.

10-3. Thomas Metcalf was a stone maker lived at Harsley.

10-4. James C. Metcalf married lived up on a farm near Wathafets (?)

The chart showed another ring of circles but no entries found in them.