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Coupsteps April 12th 1840

Dear son, daughter and grandchildren I wish you all well. I send this to let you know that we are all well at present, thank God for it. We received a letter from you more than a year ago. I sent one last summer to you with David Tailor who came to see his old country again with a confession of faith which he was to send you when he came to New York. We have had a good winter here this year. We have had very little snow this year, and it is a good spring as far as it is come. There is a great revival of religion in this country at present, great meetings has been held at Dunfermline, Stirling and all the towns around. Prayer meetings has been held in all the places round. Praise reading the scriptures and prayer along with conversation on some religious topic are the ordinary and plainly the most appropriate exercises of a fellowship prayer meeting. Your old minster Mr Harvey is all life about it, he is a very faithful man and is doing a great deal of good in this place and o that we may be all improving under his ministry. O seek the one thing needful while it is called today for the night cometh when no man can work for there is no knowledge in the grave, whither we are all hasting. Write to us as soon as possible and let know how you all getting on. No more at present, but remain your loving father.

John Reid

Dear brother and sister,

I send you a few lines in my fathers letter.

Dear brother we have been wearying very much for a letter from you although we cannot see each other yet, we are all very anxious to hear from you. I would like very well to see you all but that I cannot expect yet. John is still in Dunfermline, I was down about 2 weeks since and they were all well. William Curror is still in Lochead and James Inglis is east from Lochgelly and Helen has 2 sons now.

Father and I are still in Blairhill garden. We had a very wet season last year it began about the first of July and it continued until the month of February, but since that time the weather has been very good, but according to the wetness of the season last year the crops never came to right for perfection and after it was cut down it was never gotten thoroughly dry. They were some of it in some parts of the country that I believe those was never gotten in at all.

The established clergy are getting on first rate here. The presbytery of Auchterarder has had their own ado this, some time back. Their old minister died some years ago and the patron placed in a man against the parishioners' will and they would not adhere to him and they went to law against the patron and it came against them and he has taken possession of the manse and the glebe in spite of them all and they have been a great deal in the newspapers about it and magazines and it has opened the clergy's eyes a bit.

There some persons going from this to Australia, William Brown and his family went last year and I hear they arrived. John McDonald is in your old shop here and he is on one of his high Kees just now.

John Miller how(should be who) was in it before, has went up above the Rumbling Bridge Inn to a smiddie there.

William Lindsay is well and is still a widower yet and Esibael (presumably Isabel) Blyth his sister in law is keeping his house. William Dempster is home here just now. He has been about ? this sometime and things has gone against him and I don't know what he will do now. Dear brother I have not much more to say to you at present hoping this will find you all well.

I add no more at present but remains your affectionate brother.

William Reid.

P.S.

Write us soon
and direct your
letter Powmill
Pool of Muckhart
by Alloa

Letters From Scotland to James Reid, 1833 - 1868

#8 John Reid, father and William Reid brother, April 12, 1840

Transcribed by Glynis Aritake and Lorna Paterson, September 2014