

1.

Wafer seal. Stamps: red circle No 3

Addressee: James Robertson of Kindrochit, Strathtumble, Athole, by Dunkeld

Edin Nov 2nd 1802, My dear father, I now sit down to give you an account of my journey to Edinburgh and my proceedings since my arrival here. On Friday after we parted I went on to Dowally and had the good fortune to get a horse there belonging to Mr Izett of Kinnaird which they were to send off to Edinburgh that night or next morning but as I was on my way here they give me the horse to bring over. It was pretty late before I left Dowally but I made out Perth that night and delivered your letter to Dr Stewart next morning who asked me first to breakfast. He afterwards asked me to dinner if I was not to leave town before 4 o'clock in the afternoon but I intended to leave Perth about 2 o'clock that day he desired me to write to him when settled in Edin and to let him know where I live and he advised me to stay there next summer but I need not say anything on that head at present for he is to write you himself. I got for Mr Stewart everything that I stood in need of which amounted in all to about £7 - I did not leave Perth till Sunday morning, Saturday afternoon being so wet that I could not go away. I left Perth at 7 o'clock in the morning and arrived in Edinr about 5 in the evening, W de Maria and I are to live together and we got lodgings last night, they are not very far from the college but they are very high owing to my not coming sooner and we had the greatest difficulty before we could get any that would answer at all we pay 5/6d a week for the room and 1/- a week for coals.

I attended four or five classes yesterday and today, the class which I intend to attend this session are Monro's Anatomy, Hope's Chemistry and the Infirmary which I think sufficient this winter. When we went in to Dr Monro's today he had a subject before him with the intrails of it all spread and put in order and different parts of other subjects cut out in order, they had a smell that would serve to suffocate bees, there has been no great operation in the Infirmary this some days past but there are some sores there that would make your flesh creep to look at. My cousin is not come to town as yet but I expect him very soon and if you would write to him desiring him to give me so much a month it would be more convenient for us both. I should fain hope that about 10/6 a week will do to live upon and I can assure you it will be very scrimp and save and if you will write him concerning that and any other little things that I will need such as books paper and washing etc. If it will be convenient for you to send me over a little butter and some small things of that kind they will be acceptable and send the whiskey that I mentioned by the first opportunity. Our lodging is in a very healthy part of the town we have a very good room with a concealed bed and a small closet for hanging up clothes in. I have not got any of my trunks but I expect to get some of them on Thursday first. Near filled my paper now and am turning very sleepy. It is about eleven oclock and I have walked a great deal through the town this day when I was not at the college. I believe I have said enough and therefore I end with my best compts to my mother and all the rest of the family. I ever remain my dear Father your ever dutifull Son, W ROBERTSON.  
Direct to me at Mrs Criers, Richmond Court, Edinburgh

2

Wafer seal. Stamps: red circle No 25

Addressee: James Robertson of Kindrochit, Strathumble, Athole, by Dunkeld  
Edin Nov 25th 1802

My Dearest Father,

When I wrote you last I mentioned that what money you gave me when in the country was near done as you would see by the acct which I give you of it, I thought to have heard from you before this time or that you would write my Cousin desiring him to give me some money, I would not write you by the post but would have waited until the carrier would come over but I need not tell you that I am not here as in Perth for there I never minded my board but here I cannot be one day without being put in mind of it. The Books which I mentioned to you I would need to get immediately as all the professors are entered on their different courses some time ago, the books which I stand in need of are Bell's Surgery £3-3 Chemistry which will be about £1 1 or one pound ten and the Dispensatory 9/-, on receipt of this I hope that you will write me or my Cousin if you wish him to give me the money you will better write to himself, I supped with him two nights ago and he wishes to get a little of your hair as he has lost what you give him when in the country, I called on Mr Robertson Black Bull who was very kind to me and I am to call on him this night or tomorrow

I spoke to the editor of the weekly Journal who is to you the paper tomorrow which you will receive about the same time with this, Mr Cargill Dunkeld is the agent in that part of the country for the weekly Journal, my companion is come with me last week if we can live on 10/6 a week we will have no wine after dinner but good water when you send me the things you promised I hope you will send a little cheese

I told you in my last letter which classes I attend Chemistry is by far the most pleasant study of any in the medical line and Anatomy the unpleasantest but as I know that Anatomy is the foundation of Surgery it makes me study it as much as Chemistry Monro is on osteology at present and Hope is on Caloric or heat he tells things (and not only tells but proves them) that I never heard anything about and if he would not prove by experiment what he says I would not believe him more than what I would do Mclean telling about the Ship, the infirmary is very full just now and some operations performing [tear] I wrote to my cousin Donald Robertson where [tear] here but have not received an answer to my letter yet, let me know in your next letter if Stobby has been at Strathtumble yet and who Dr R Auchleeks and the young wife are coming on etc

I can think of nothing else at present but my best comps to my Mother and all the rest of the family, I remain my dear Father your ever Dutiful son W  
ROBERTSON

2a Stamp: Brixham. Hand written: On Service

Addressee Duncan Robertson, Ensign & Adjut, 1st B 88th regt of Foot, at Eastbourne, Sussex.

On Board HM Ship Windsor castle, at Torbay, 13 Nov 1804.

My dear Duncan

With infinite pleasure I received yours from Eastbourne, I assure you it gives me a great deal of pleasure to hear of your being so comfortably provided for at last; this world teaches us to have patience and perseverance. I have been embarked on board this Ship upwards of eighteen months, for the first eight months after I embarked the old barky was kicking about Portsmouth & from thence

joined this fleet in Feby last & continued with them ever since excepting when in port to refit, here we are now for some little time till the wind comes from eastward & then we shall go off Ushant & cruise there till the wind comes from the westward, very likely that bragging fellow on the other side of the water will keep us going out & in for some time to come. My patience is nearly exhausted for this is neither one thing nor the other, when at Plymouth last (about five weeks ago) I saw Lowdon, surgeon of the late PHF now surgeon of the 2nd B 81st Regt, he married about twelve months past at Guernsey a Miss Gunn (connections but no gear). She is a very pleasant little woman, I used to dine and spend the evening at his House very often, they were several times on board this ship at dances, he inquired after you and the rest of the officers from our part of the country, the regt has gone to Ireland lately. I saw at Plymouth an officer who was in the 41st Regt who told me that Major Campbell formerly the 41st Paymaster has got into a hobbel by striking a man that was at work at the Hospital Plymouth, the man prosecuted him & it is supposed that £500 will not clear Major Campbell, he was to have dined aboard this ship but when he heard that a Robertson was on board he made an excuse, the gentleman who asked him what was the reason, which Lowdon knew, he is a major in the Reserve & I saw afterwards his nephew who has got a Company in the 9th regt, he saw you at Cork & blamed somebody else about your business. I had some time ago a letter from Mr J MacDiarmid who you saw at Mr Lothian's in London he is got into the 85th Regt or Rifle Corps, he was then at Shoreness Barracks where he said he was very comfortably lodged in a Barrack room if he went into the Army sooner it would be for him. there is been great promotion in the Marines lately

3

Stamps: red circle ST MAWS, half red stamp SEPT 5 1805

Addressee: Lieut & Adj D Robertson, 88th Regt, Camp, near Hastings

My Dear Brother,

I am determined to keep my word to lose no opportunity of writing you I hope that you have received the letter that I wrote you when getting under way from Spithead. We sailed with a fair wind which however did not continue more than 9 hours after we passed St Helens. It has ever since been westerly and we took 8 days to beat to Falmouth & were obliged to put in there the day before yesterday. The Mediterranean and West Indian fleets part with us immediately that we were off none of them put into the Port but pushed on the best way they could. When we were passing Weymouth the King passed through the Fleet in the Royal Yacht at that time when three fleets were in sight of each other, the sight must have been very gratifying to his Majesty. There were certainly upwards of 200 sail close to each other our convoy is stronger than was first intended, they consist of the Nemesis & Mercury Frigates, the Avenger and another sloop of war all for Newfoundland and North America. We have sailed about an hour ago for Falmouth the Pilot promises to carry this letter ashore the wind is still against us but it is fine weather if any opportunity occurs after this I shall not miss writing you. I forgot to mention in my last that I did not see Major Robertson at Portsmouth being always on shore when I called. Mrs R was enquiring about the Capt's marriage she did not seem to relish it much, the Pilot is going off Adieu your loving brother W ROBERTSON.

Red seal of Lord's Prayer. Stamps: 2 blurred red, Shipped GREENOCK, date stamp  
 Addressee: James Robertson of Kindrochit, Athole, by Dunkeld, N Britain

Quebec July 26th 1807.

My dear Father,

When I wrote to you last I was in hopes of hearing from you long before this time, but i have not received but one letter from you since I left London 2 years ago, what may be the cause of my not hearing from you I cannot comprehend surely if you wrote all the letters could not be lost. During the spring and summer you can write by Greenock & in winter by the English Packet, i send this by one of our officers who goes to Greenock, he has got promotion and left us I have not heard from Duncan since my last letter to you.

We are almost certain that we'll be another winter in Canada the 10th Veteran Batln are expected daily and if anything of consequence will take place between us & the Americans we shall have enough to do, this is the only post in the Canadas that can hold out against the Americans, there are at present only between 1,000 & 1,300 Regulars here besides the militia, however in case of war 4,000 at least will be requisite and 10,000 could be quartered here easily. Mrs Campbell and her daughter came from Cape Breton a few weeks ago to see us, Mrs C has gone home again but Miss C will remain here all winter if the ?49th dont move, if we remain here next summer I intend to ask leave to go to Cape Breton for a month or 2, it is 600 miles from Quebec, the passage in general is about a fortnight, there is a New Governor come out for the Island which will make some changes in affairs and I believe to the Attorney General's advantage, but how far is at yet uncertain, our new surgeon arrived from Halifax a few days ago it is great relief to me I assure you, who had the whole duty of the regt to do myself for 5 months, he appears to be a very pleasant man he is married and had 3 children, the Summer hitherto has been very fine in this Country, the crops of every description looks exceedingly well, If D Ritchie intends coming to America the Spring is his best time or indeed for any person who comes to settle, I saw in a Scottish paper the death of Innerhadden, let me know if Mr Allan succeeds & how he comes on also all our Rannoch friends if I knew here John Stewart was I would visit him & young Crossmount, pray where is Mrs Maclagan & family, I understand that you have got a new parson of the name of Stewart but who his is I dont know, I hope if any alterations will take place wit regard to the Churches that you will preserve your right to the 2 seats, no privilege however trifling should be neglected. write me particularly about Aldvullin & crops etc, It gave me great pleasure to hear of the reconciliation of our friends in Glenarachty, remember me to them all when you see them, ? Miss Stewart ? at the ? in Perth. Tell Margaret that I shall never write her again for her negligence in not answering my last letter, it would almost seem as if I was not considered as one of the family but I can with confidence assert that I have never done any thing to make any person blush to call me Brother, this letter is more filled with questions than news but as I wrote so lately & intend writing soon again you will not have much to complain of. Eliza & the Child are well the younger is very Strong and Healthy. She has been inoculated with the Cow pox but has got no teeth

yet. ?Hensing agrees very well with Eliza who desires her love to you all. My love to my Mother & all her family & believe me I remain your affectionate son W  
ROBERTSON

PS Let me know in your next if James or any of the family have been in Perth since I left home & how Mr D Stewart is doing at Edinburgh

5

Red Clan Donnachaidh seal. Stamps: black oval SHIPS LETTER DEAL, ADD 1/2  
black oval Ship Letter QUEBEC red stamp ? 1813, Red oval inc 1813  
addressee: James Robertson of Kindrochit, Athole by Dunkeld, Scotland, per post  
mail from Quebec

Isle aux Noix, 5th June 1813.

My Dear Father, The direct communication with Europe being now open I hope we will hear from each other more frequent than for the last six months the first mail from Quebec closes on the 10th instant this will just be in time for it I intended writing two days ago but that very morning Two of the Enemy's vessels from Lake Champlain appeared in Sight of this Garrison. There were but Three Boats each carrying one Gun these were immediately after them. The Commanding officer and I went in a Row Boat with Two flat Bottomed Boats full of men to act according to circumstances the firing commenced Two miles from the Island parties were directly landed on each side of the River to fire with Small arms at the vessels and shelter themselves behind trees, the wind was down the River, the Yankees beating against it & the Tide trying to get away. but after Three hours and a half hard fighting they were both obliged to strike They carried Eleven Guns each & 50 men one of them was obliged to run aground to prevent her sinking but has since been got off they are both now at anchor before our little Garrison. There were ten wounded & one killed of the Americans only two of our own men wounded being the only medical officer on the Island I had my hands full for half an hour on their arrival this is the first affair ever the 100th were engaged in and a braver set of men never pulled triggers it is to me unaccountable how we escaped so well for Round, Grape & Canister were falling like hail all around it is one of the most gallant little affairs that has taken place this war Twenty Two Guns to be Captured by Three & these in Boats exposed to every annoyance. I have got one of their flags. The bloody work going on in the upper Province the public papers will inform you of & we heard from Judge Campbell since York was taken he lost but little, our Government are very Culpable for their remissiveness in sending reinforcements to the Canadas had a strong fleet been sent to the American coast & Ten or Twelve Thousand men to this country last summer under able commanders the States would give up every point in dispute for a peace they are now better prepared, hopes are still entertained that our fleet in the upper Lakes will get the Superiority which on Lake Ontario was completely lost. all winter I had charge of a General Hospital at St Johns and for the last two months have been the only medical man at this post where there ought to be three. however we have hard duty lately for the scarcity of Army Surgeons in this country, more are daily expected from England. Eliza and the Children are here they were afraid of the winter in Montreal with Mrs & Miss Campbell who came down from York expecting an attack. Jane A has the hooping cough for the last month or six weeks however she is in no danger from it. Eliza

& James are as rosy & healthy as ever, their mother is a good deal hurt at the neglect shown her by my friends to whom she has wrote but never heard from, for my own part I have given over ? you for not writing it is now four years since I had a letter from you, Duncan writes once every three of four months instead of monthly as he used to do, perhaps I may see you before the Summer is over and settle all differences on this subject, I am anxious to hear what James is about it is now time he should be at something, have you any idea of giving up Grenich, Duncan said something about it in his last letter, Everything is as high here as at home since the war commenced, provisions will be required from home shortly unless we get ? flour from Halifax where there is plenty of it, Eliza joins in kindest love to you my mother & sisters I remain your affectionate Son W  
ROBERTSON

6  
No marks.  
To Capt Robertson, 88th Regt, St Johns, Lower Canada

Fort Wellington April 24th 1815

My dear Brother

Yesterday Doctor Robertson received your letter of 17th inst and as he has not time today to acknowledge the receipt of it I have taken it upon myself to do so, and at the same time to thank you for the trouble you have had in our affairs, the day previous to the arrival of your letter I wrote Mrs Robertson begging her to secure the house you mention and hope my letter will arrive in time, the situation in which it is in I like much indeed better than any other except in the town, the house is also a respectable looking one, by next spring we can accommodate ourselves entirely to our wishes.

Sir Gordon Drummond has granted Robertson leave to remain in this country. Doctor Wright has also given orders for him to be released from duty at this place as speedily as possible, therefore we may expect to leave this about the first of May. Mary Ann accompanies us down, her little girl grows astonishingly but is not so good natured as your god daughter is, my father with the rest of the family feel very grateful my dear sir for your kind attention in calling on my unfortunate Brother, I hope your advice to him will have the desired effect though I much fear otherwise, his stay in Montreal has been protracted to a longer period than there was the least necessity for, consequently his expenses must be great, when he intends making his appearance here we are at a loss to know - I hope you will not be disappointed with respect to getting letters by the December mail, we have met with many disappointments in that way that we have almost given up the hope of hearing from Scotland again - few changes at Fort Wellington since you left it except the death of poor Doctor Morrice the half dollar at last proved fatal to him, he was seiz'd with a vomiting of blood on the evening of the 18th and in straining violently the half crown was thrown up, he had repeat'd attacks of the bleeding until eleven o clock next forenoon when he vomited about 2 quarts of thin blood and expir'd at once. R was sent for but was to ill to go having had another attack of his old complaint the ague, I am happy to say he is much better and this day is able to ride down to Prescott - The last of the 16th leave this tomorrow for the Lower Province and are returned by two companies of the 5th. The Hussars are going to England I had a report from them

all yesterday Colonel Talby/Talling gone to see the Falls of Niagara, Colonel Cookhourn who belongs to the Quarter Master General's Staff is at present here he has promised to do everything in his power to have us comfortably accommodated going down, Capt Westthrop is stationed at Cornwall - I must conclude this scrawl and take Miss Caroline who is making great noise. My father has just called and begs to be most particularly be remembered to you - believe me my dear Brother, your affectionate sister El ROBERTSON

7

Red wafer. Stamps: MONTREAL 23MARCH15. Graffiti: 4 1/2

Addressee: Capt Robertson, 88th Regt, William Henry

Fort Wellington, March 1815

My Dear Brother,

After waiting for several days rather anxiously expecting to hear from you, I at last received yours of the 6th two days ago, the roads being broke up the express does not go so regular as usual indeed we are sometimes five or six days without any American carriers the bag never / back. Eliza wrote to you some time ago which you must long have received, I think it was subsequent to her writing that the Judge took Mr James house where we called to see McDonald three miles above this, they moved into it last week and are very comfortable, they will likely remain there until the middle of summer, Mrs L is of course with them, her Lord who I last heard from was on the way from York, he has taken a house or part of one at Kingston, how soon his wife will move up I do not know, shortly after you leaving us I wrote to young McCran & Eliza to Mrs Wicks at Montreal to take a house there for us, we are anxious of course to hear from them as also from Dr Wright to whom I wrote intimating my intention of remaining in this country & putting him in mind of an old promise he made me that if I wished to settle in Canada at the end of the war he would arrange it for me without going home with the Regt, as this is a domestic epistle I may tell you that young Amhill is expected up any day the business being settled before for him the substitute being procured, My own old Compatible was in Capt Broomfields I got it before for you. The 89th passed through here this week for the provinces & the 1st Division of the Nova Scotia Fencibles marched through today. The 10th & Canadian Fencibles are to follow & the / Three Divisions will be down very soon???? [obscure military dispositions] W ROBERTSON

8

Plain wafer. Stamps: Red in circle AUG B21M 1815. Add 1/2. Illegible circle.

Graffiti: N2 and scrawl.

To: James Robertson Esqr of Kindrochet, by Dunkeld, Scotland

Montreal 20th July 1815

My Dear Father

It was my intention to have wrote to you immediately after Duncan's departure from this country but as there were no reports going directly to Scotland at that time I delayed it till now when there are opportunities frequently from Quebec to

which place this letter will be sent by post as you will no doubt be anxious to know how I come on in Private practice. I am happy to inform you that so far things have a favourable appearance, it will take sometime however before I can expect to get into an extensive practice, this summer the ague has troubled me much, for the last six weeks my health has been very good. Judge Campbell has likewise been ill with the same complaint for eight or nine weeks. he talks of going for some weeks to the sea side for the benefit of his health. Elizth is very well, she was uncommonly low spirited for several weeks after Duncan left us, he is really so good and warm hearted that every body must like him. I trust in God that he will soon be able to get home & leave the Army to render my mother's and your latter days cheerful & happy, no one is better calculated to do so, try to prevail upon him to marry some of the Athole young Ladies it will be the surest way to get him to settle at home because it is now really time for him to think seriously about it, let him get a woman equally good as himself & they must be happy. when the peace was concluded I was in hope that such a reduction in the army would take place as would provide husbands for a number of Atholes bonny lasses, I cannot tell you how much it distresses me never receiving any letters from home, it is now several years since I have had one, Alex Stewart the Factor son to whom I sent a Power of Attorney as half pay agent will forward any letters you may inclose him for me, with the army all my Scottish friends went from Canada and indeed most of my military friends, if my health continues good then things will get on well, It will probably be some years before we can think of leaving this part of the world. I hope however some day to present you my wife & Children, the two eldest Elizabeth and James are constantly at ?Eliz & came on well last winter, they of course made no progress being all the season in the Country, the youngest Caroline is an uncommon good child & promises to be pretty. I shall say no more about my family as I hope that my Brother be with you nearly as soon as this - James Stewart Crossmount was here a fortnight ago he has sailed from Quebec with the Second Division of the army, The war has left so much money in these Provinces that they will flourish amazingly for some years except the places that were actually the seat of hostilities, they will of course take some time to recover depredations committed.

When you write be particular in letting me know how your own & my mother's health is, what my Sisters are about etc they might certainly write frequently if so inclined Eliz joins in sending love to you all, ever your Affectionate Son W ROBERTSON

9

No stamps, wafer seal. Receipt graffiti. Addressee: Captn Robertson 88th Regt, care of A Macdonald, Army Agent, Pall Mall, London.

Montreal Feby 4th 1816

My dear Brother,

We waited with much anxiety in the hope of hearing from you by the Sept Mail but was disappointed, however the October mail, brought Dr Robertson a long letter which he intends answering this week - your full & entertaining account of Paris was truly gratifying and as there was no family secrets in your letter, I took the liberty of enclosing it to Mrs Laing for her perusal, as she like ourselves are always delighted with your epistles, and hope to be favoured with one every



month - How often do we speak of you and wish you once more with us - this time twelve months you were on your journey up to Fort Wellington when we all spent a happy month together, we are now separated but I look forward to the pleasure of meeting again. I am convinced my esteemed Brother it will afford you much satisfaction to learn that Doctor Robertson is succeeding remarkably well in practice indeed much beyond his expectations for the first twelve months, and we are not without hopes of being enabled in a few years to return to old Scotland and settle near you and the rest of our valued relatives in that Country, as I must now tell you some of the Montreal news in the first place the North Westers or fashionable part of the Society here were surprised in the autumn by a visit (quite an unexpected one from the Earl and Countess of Selkirk who have taken Sir Jhon Jhonston's house and intend remaining in Canada for a year or two, on the first of next month the important Law Suit takes place between the North Western and the Hudsons Bay Company, Lord Selkirk living on the spot will operate much in his favor he is already very popular and much liked, the Countess also is a most amiable well informed woman and does great credit to your country, she has given one rout which we had the honor of being invited to - of course none of the opposite party called upon the Earl neither did Judge Bird or Ogden which is rather a strange thing that judges who ought to be so impartial should enter into party work, it is quite laughable to see them in the Assembly Room the Countess and her party drawn up on one side and the North Westers with Mrs Richardson at their head on the other - Robertson is attending the Earls family which circumstance causes a little envy among the other medical gentlemen who have paid great court for the purpose of being called upon but are now disappointed in their expectations. as for the last two months this place has been remarkably gay nothing but a continuation of Parties Ball Plays etc we have also had our share of waking so much so that Doctor Robertson with many other Gentlemen were completely knocked up, how the ladies stand it so well I know not. We sport about my Dear Brother in the [carriage] you were so kind as to give me it is thought by many to be the handsomest in Town, it has brought Miss Robertson myself and Robertson from many balls this winter Yesterday I heard from my friends above they were quite well and always beg to be most kindly remembered to your Mrs & Miss Robertson beg their kind regards also does Major & Mrs Laing. we also had the pleasure of receiving letters from Mrs Zuchlkin dated in Sept, Colonel Z has has been made one of the Companions of the most Honourable order of the Bth - your god daughter [trails about the house famously] she with the other two are quite well Eliza and James are always inquiring [closing trivialities beneath seal mark] ER

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Red plain seal. Stamps: MONTREAL 10FEB16. in circle E 18AP18 1816. PAID  
Handwrit: US postage pd 60 cents ? J.W. Moore esq New York. IN6 4/-Addressee:  
Captn Robertson, 88th Regt. Care of A McDonald Esq, Army Agent, Pall Mall,  
London. In hand of addressee: Brother - 9th July 816

Montreal 9th Feb 1816  
My Dear Brother

The Octr mail brought your letter of the 5th Sept from Paris, it released me from the dread which I felt least your letters now might miscarry as they have so often done before & as my fathers still continues to do for I cannot believe but that he write occasionally altho perhaps not so often as could be wished, as Eliza insisted on writing by this post she no doubt has given you most of our domestic news & occurrences, however a few particulars I must relate and first as to my prospects of success here, They are as good indeed better than I expected, for the first year I am doing remarkably well, my practice must amount to at least five hundred pounds, that with half pay will do pretty well, it is true the whole nor even the half does not come in this year but that could not be looked for as once a year is all that most people's accounts can be sent in, for the month of January at rough calculation about seventy pounds is on the books, may things continue as favourable as they have hitherto gone on, Judge Campbell has purchased a house in Brockville, the Seat of Govt is to be moved in the spring from York to Kingston so that he considers that place near enough to head quarters. he always enquires kindly after you & desires to be remembered in our letters as do the Laings, Mary Ann is in fair way of having an addition to her family. Laing is still private secretary aid de camp to Sir Gordon & will continue so as long as the latter is in the country. none of the family take any notion of the unfortunate son nor do they know what he is about. D McDonald is in the same situation at Wm Henry. I wrote to Laing about him & he has spoke to the Commissary General in favour, he has got married to a Scottish farmer in the neighbourhood's daughter a decent country girl tho no beauty

Alex Stewart has never wrote much about the half pay. I have applied to get it in this Country which will be much the better way. The Earl of Selkirk & his family are here at present, he is come out to prosecute the Hudsons Hay Company's trade more through this channel & of course in opposition to the North West Company, they are at dagger's drawn, his lordship has gone to York with his medical attendant & I attend the Countess & Children in their absence. There is such a scarcity of houses in Montreal this year that we shall be obliged to keep our present Cas[te] we got the whole except one small room & pay eighty pounds, the rents in Town are not at all moderate, some houses are let for four hundred & fifty pounds a year, an immense number are to be built next summer, upwards of sixty large stone houses, the market for provisions still keep high as but few American have come in with produce to what was expected & the Country is a good deal exhausted after the war, the Troops remaining occupy much the quarter they did when you went away I hope I need not beg of you to continue enjoyable correspondence with your affectionate brother W ROBERTSON

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Wafer seal. Stamps: LIVERPOOL SHIP LETTER. 2 illegible ovals Red double circle A 10AU10 1816

Addressee Captn Robertson, 88th Regt, Care of A Macdonald, Army Agent, Pall Mall, London

Montreal June 24th 1816

My dearest Brother

We should be in a state of utmost anxiety about you, was it not for the mention made of you by some friends belonging to the Regt, to their correspondence in

this country. Not a line have we received since last Sept, that you have not written I cannot believe, you who are so good and kind a brother would never allow so many months to elapse without giving us the pleasure of once hearing, on the other hand why should not your letter arrive safe, Mrs Jhonston and Miss Hay hear regularly from their respective friends - Doctor Robertson has not received a letter from home since you left us but he now despairs of ever hearing from that quarter again. In the way of news there is little worth communicating, few troops and the greater part of those few are to be disbanded shortly, business in the mercantile way exceedingly dull the merchants all complaining their time was during the war which opportunity they did not neglect, We are now living in the centre of town directly opposite the new English Church in my little niece Elizabeth's house. The situation answers Doctor Robertson extremely well it is also convenient for the children going to school. I hope when next you see them they will afford you not a little pleasure. Their improvements at school are as rapid as we possibly could wish, they frequently speak of uncle and are still sensible of the many kindnesses bestowed upon them by this said uncle, they as well as myself remember with gratitude the many instances of tender attention.

You will be happy to hear that Robertson has as much practice as he properly can attend to and has many very respectable families in town - the Countess of Selkirk for instance he has the honor of attending, he is a wonderful favourite of her Ladyship. She is a most sensible woman and remarkably well informed, the Earl has commenced his journey to the Red River, rather a serious undertaking for a man of his age and delicate state of health, there has been a complete division in the Society during the last winter, the North West have one party and Lord Selkirk the other, the latter live very retired, economy seems much studied in all their proceedings - two days since we heard from our friends in the Upper Province I am happy to say they are all well. Major & Mrs Laing have been rather distressed for some time past owing to their little girl having the hooping cough severely she is now much better, and they expect daily another heir. General Drummond wished much Laing should accompany him home and he would most certainly have done so had it not been for the severe indisposition of his Child - previous to Sir Gordon leaving Quebec Laing received a letter from Sir Jhon Sherbrook offering him a situation on his staff if he would consent to remain in the country. I am happy he has done so. I must not omit telling you that R's application with respect to drawing his half pay in this country has been granted. Pray remember us most kindly to all the officers in your Regt who we have the pleasure of knowing. The 99th formally the sixth Regt garrison Montreal at present. Dr and De Walmills go home shortly for the purpose of being disband'd, the Glengarrys are ordered this day at Kingston. Adieu my dear Brother believe me to remain your most affectionately E ROBERTSON

12

Red clan seal. Stamps: UNPAID(illegible). Red oval 4oCLOCK AP.11 1817 EV:  
Addressee: Captn Robertson 88 Regt, Care of Messrs Campbell & Stewart, Suffolk Street, Charing Cross, London

Montreal January 12th 1817

My Dear Brother,

By the November mail which arrived yesterday we were made happy at the receipt of a letter from you, but our pleasure was a little damp't on finding that it had been written thirteen months ago. The latest communication from you was the letter by Capt Grant, since which time we have looked most anxiously for one by every mail but in vain, how to account for the numerous letters that must miscarry we cannot, that you have frequently written is beyond a doubt. Doctor Robertson has at last heard from the Highlands his father's letter was of a later date and gave extreme pleasure as you can well imagine not having heard for three years - it came by a Mr Robertson from that country to Halifax from thence it was forwarded by Post his father mentioned having heard from you and Mrs Robertson a short time previous to his writing and was happy to add you were both well. Few changes have taken place in Canada since you left it. Things are completely on the peace establishment great reductions in the Commissariat and medical Departments and more shortly to take place your acquaintance Mr Merredith has been deficient many hundred pounds and is consequently removed from William Henry. the people in general wish for another war at least those who only experienced the pleasant part of it the money making folks. Montreal is not that dissipated place it has been for a few winters past, the North Westers who were our greatest dashers have more serious affairs to attend to, their purses also must have suffered not a little, this unpleasant business between them and Lord Selkirk has been a most expensive one for both parties, his Lordship is at present in quiet possession of Fort William the principal Fort of the opposite party but will proceed early in the spring to Hudson's Bay there to try and re-establish his colony, for a man that has many things to make life and home desirable to torment himself with mild speculations not only himself but distress an amiable wife and many friends seems strange and inconsistent, though most people think he has justice on his side he is a good man and I sincerely hope will get safe down from that savage country, the Countess had a young daughter eight days since, Doctor Robertson has continued, the family since their arrival and has become a wonderful favourite with her Ladyship in fact he is the only one to whom she communicates her thoughts and sentiments freely to. in a former letter I mentioned that we procured a good house in the centre of the town and am happy to say Doctor Robertson's practice is increasing fast both in respect to numbers and respectability, he has now some of the first families in town. Major & Mrs Laing have been living at Kingston since last Sept the former being appointed Brigade major to the forces in the Upper Province. It is a permanent situation and more pleasant for a married man than aid de camp, My sister has been in a delicate state of health for sometime past but thank good has been gaining strength for the last month she is always inquiring when we heard from you and begs many kind remembrances we expect my father and mother down in a few days they are bringing the ? down to school. Your goddaughter Caroline is a most interesting little [miss] and chats at a famous rate, Eliza and James grow very tall, the former begins to play famously on the Pianno and we frequently wish you could hear her indeed how often do we wish you near us. Say everything that is kind and appropriate to Mrs R for us. Is she much pleased with France? Miss Robertson our later neighbour is shortly to be married to Mr ?Stevens the lawyer a very good match R wrote to you a short time since believe me your affect EL ROBERTSON

13

Red clan seal. Stamps: 2. TWO PY(+ indecipherable). Oval 4 o'Clock AP 11 1817 EV.  
Graffiti: Recd from Derculich 10th June 1817

Addressee: Capt Robertson, 88th Regt, Care of Messrs Campbell & Stewart, No 10  
Suffolk Street, Charing Cross, London

Montreal 12th Feby 1817

My Dear Brother,

Last mail I was delighted to get a letter from you date Decr but judge of my surprise and mortification on looking at the date & finding it to be 1815, it was marked ?N2 from Paris. how it was so long on the way is to me inexplicable, about the same time a letter came from my Father wrote last summer, from the post mark it was put into the office at Halifax, Donald Robertson from Invervack was the bearer that far, he most probably has settled in Nova Scotia. I am happy to find that a new house was to be built at Croftdan & hope you have planned it & will see to its building for my Father will perhaps from economy spoil it, as you will yourself enjoy it much longer than in the course of nature can be expected he will do it is natural to think you will be fully as much interested, of Canadian news an article that appeared in the last Montreal Herald under the head of Births in the following words, On the 3rd inst Mrs Dr Robertson a daughter will probably interest you as much as any ? ?. Both Mother and Daughter are remarkably well, Judge & Mrs Campbell arrived here two days ago, they came down with the little grand daughter (Coteare) to have her placed at school near us. she is ? ? girl, the old couple & the Laings are always anxiously enq & beg my time in write to offer their kind remembrances, the Judge moves to York early in the Spring, Laing continues as brigade major at Kingston, our little ones Eliz & James go to school regularly & come very well in their education. Caroline runs about & chatters like a magpie, she is the best looking of the whole, we continue for another year from that of next May in the house we at present occupy, it is comfortable & the situation is one of the best in town. Montreal is not near so gay this winter as the last. The Merchants complain sadly that nothing is doing, a number of them will be ruined if trade does not very soon take a change for the better & I must confess from present appearances there is but little prospect of it for a year or two, the Crops failed in a great part of the Province the last season which has left the poor in distressed situation, Wages & provisions have kept very high, the former is coming down fast for the want of employment altho not so badly as the people at home, the Canadians begin to feel the effects of the peace. however this will be but a temporary evil, a number of emigrants from Scotland came out last summer, the greater part of the farmers go to the upper Province, the mechanics remain here, The military force in the country at present is but small, at Isle aux noix there are no more than 20 or 30 soldiers & a few sailors, not so many at St Johns of the 19 Dragoons who besides that post occupy.  
[See Jpeg for remainder concerning military dispositions]

14

Large red clan seal. Stamps: Red octagon JUL W27M 1817. Add 1/2. Red crown GR.  
GLASGOW. Illeg date stamp. Black circle FPO JY 4 1817. Graffiti: Mrs R Montreal

28 April 1817. Addressee Capt Robertson, 88th Regt, Glasgow, N Britain. Various postal graffiti

Montreal April 28th 1817

My dear Brother

Your very appropriate and welcome letter dated in November was received late in March, so few letters of yours come safe to hand that it is not only a matter of joy but also a mother of wonder when one arrives. We more happy to see your last dated from home, though at the same time regret the cause of your so soon being obliged to visit that part of the country we sincerely hope that the business now before Council will be settled according to your wishes, How pleasing must it be to our valuable and respected friends to have you for so long a time with them, It would be a pleasing prospect for us to look forward to were there a chance of our seeing you even at a distant period, as you have done a wise thing in becoming a married man there is little probability of your again crossing the Atlantic. Doctor Robertson has been rather unwell for eight days past, his old Companion the fever & ague still troubles him in the spring and autumn, he has had this time a very slight attack, but a fever and headache annoys him without being seriously ill. It was his intention to have written you by Capt Grant but finds himself unable though sensible that my letter will be but a poor apology for his yet I could not think of allowing so good an opportunity pass without having the pleasure of saying that myself and the little ones are in perfect health as I perfectly well know that our health and welfare is not altogether indifferent to you. the youngest being another girl is called Mary Ann after your favourite Mrs Laing and I think resembles her about the eyes and forehead. Caroline continues the beauty of the family but I must not own on that account she is spoilt by her Papa and me, she speaks quite plain and to us is very interesting. James is still anxious to go to Scotland and often inquires at what age we intend sending him, he is making great progress at school, particularly in arithmetic. Eliza in addition to her other studies is learning dancing, drawing & music, in all which she comes on remarkably well

As this country is now perfectly peaceable my father is furnishing a comfortable house at York for the reception of my Mother who returns there next month, they paid us a visit during the winter and am happy to say both look as well as ever. Major & Mrs Laing still reside at Kingston, the former is building a fine house, as Lodging are so scarce and extravagantly high in that place, I wrote my sister your kind mention of her, she begs when I write you to say everything that is kind and appropriate for her. the 104th Regt to which the major belongs is to be reduced on the 24th of May, it was rather an unexpected piece of news for many of them, They are to be replaced by the 99th from Niagara we shall consequently see our old friend Mrs Davies. the 70th have left Kingston to relieve the 99th.

Few deaths or marriages among your acquaintances this year in Montreal. Miss Macrae was at last married to Mr Moffat in the autumn and is most comfortably settled and shortly expects a son and heir - our divine poor Doctor Mountain died suddenly three months since, your St Jhon's acquaintance Mr Lindsay is very ill he will be a serious loss to his family who are young and unprovided for - our winter has been a severe one and the ice and snow has just disappeared, at Quebec the Connials are still running and the ice as firm as the middle of January enviable climate, The Jany Mail has arrived but brought us no letters. I have

only heard once from my sister Mrs ?Zuchlkin since you left us. it is unaccountable the number of letters that miscarry.

Dr Robertson joins me in affectionate regards to Mrs Robertson, he will write you by Capt Grant should he find himself better. Adieu my Dear Brother believe me to remain your very affectionate Sister E ROBERTSON

PS Mrs Davies begged me when I wrote you to ask if ever the young gentleman belonging to your Regt mentions Miss Hay or does he intend deserting her, the Lady in question and Mrs Davies were and still continue extremely intimate, the latter says Miss H is very amiable and unhappy in the extreme at apparent neglect she has met with. I know you gentlemen sometimes take the liberty of changing your minds but I hope it is not the case in this instance as I understand Miss H is increasingly attached to him

15

Stamps: FORT GEORGE[illegible 2nd line]. AddL 1/2. Red octagon N? W 8(in centre circle) a 1817. Graffiti: Aberdeen. Mr Stephenson. 2/4d. Received at Aberdeen 14thNov 1817. In hand of addressee: Brother William 15th July 1817 by Mr Stephenson.

To: Captn Robertson 88th Regt, Fort George, ~~Aberdeen~~, Scotland, ~~Edinburgh~~

Montreal 15th July 1817

My Dear brother

In some Scottish newspapers which I got lately I observe that the 88th are quartered in Edinburgh, one of my apprentices leaves this tomorrow for the university by whom this goes, if in old Reekie till Sept he will deliver you the letter himself, his name is Stephenson a very good young man the son of a Rich Citizen of Montreal, since my last I have no domestic news of consequence to give you, we are all well and jogging on in the same old path, we are anxious to hear how your affairs are settled since Shierglas' Death, do not neglect to tell us particularly how Mrs R comes off in the legal contest which I am afraid must have taken place with Captain Stewart Benchil, Judge & Mrs Campbell are at York, the Laings were there on a visit ten days ago they are to come down here shortly, he is as was expected & has been put on half pay but has not as yet settled what to do in future, perhaps he may go to England & for some months, he is just finishing at my house in Kingston which will now most likely be rented for it is not at all a place for half pay officers to live in. The Navy on the Lakes are discharged except an officer or two & a very few men, reductions are taking place in the Canadas within the last four months to the same extent as in every other quarter, the 99th Regt even their headquarters have but garrison Wm Henry, Chambly, Blairfindy, St Johns, Isle aux noix, ?Lashavil & the Cascades, the 37th are at Kingston York ? & the 70 occupy all the upper Part of the Province, 76 & 103 are at Quebec the latter going home to be disbanded the above with some companies of artillery & two companies of the Staff Corps employed in repairing the Canals compose the military force in the Two provinces, Squads of the long feathered Tribe (Commissaries) have been reduced altho too many of them are still retained, Donald McDonald retains his situation at Wm Henry where the Governor

Sir J C Sherbrook has taken up his quarters in a retired manner for the Summer months, he is very popular with both the Civilians & Military, being perfectly indifferent about retaining his situation he acts according to his own judgement & cares not whether ministers call him home or not

In the Commercial world there is but little doing, the Crops having partly failed last season the country is distressed altho not to the same extent as at home. Shoals of Emigrants arrive daily from the old Country & hundreds I may say thousands of those who went to the States last year are come to these provinces this Summer, the unfortunate wretches have been sadly imposed on when induced to go to that country, here they all get good lands near & even in the middle of settlements Gratis from the Government; they however must work the land for some years before their farms are cleared, then they will be perfectly independent. I have seen none from Athole come to these parts several from Breadalbane & the north, also Lowlanders, English, Irish, Eight medical men have settled in Montreal since I did, some of them do well & others must in time go to Country places for living is so expensive here that without a good deal of Practice they cannot support themselves, I am considered as very fortunate & secure, it was certainly my wisest plan to settle here at once & before the great crash in the army & navy inundated the world with oscalapians. Does my uncle or whoever go to Grenich when my father leaves it? Eliza joins in kindnesses to Mrs R, your affectionate Brother W ROBERTSON

16

Letter in poor condition. Red clan seal. 7 stamps: 2 rectangles, 1 red octagon, 1/2, 1 red circle, 2 black circles 1818 legible on the latter.

Addressee: Capt D Robertson, Blair Athole, Care of A Macdonald, Army Agent, ~~Edinburgh, London Aberdeen.~~

Montreal 24th Novr 1817

My Dearest Brother,

Some of our Montreal merchants going home for the winter affords a favourable opportunity of sending home letters of which I avail myself, the frosts and snow commenced with us & are likely to continue till the middle of April, a dreary prospect, for all our gaieties during the winter the smiling green fair of nature is much more cheerful to me than the Balls dinners etc of the Gay & dissipated, my last was dated sometime Septr since which time nothing material has occurred in my family, Eliza & the children are quite well as also Judge & Mrs C when we heard last from York about ten days ago, the Laings are going to pass the winter there, Mrs L had another daughter on the 9th inst on the 10th she was doing well, Col & Mrs Zuhliki were in England in August, he intended to return to Portugal for a short time but with a determination of leaving that Service as soon as he conveniently could, Mrs Z intended remaining near London with their boy, should any harm or accident take you to London Greenwood's box will give her address, Mercantile business has been dull here for the last two seasons notwithstanding which the place has wonderfully increased and improved in buildings public institutions etc, since you left this not less than three hundred houses of one description or other have been built within the Liberties of Montreal, Government has purchased Grants Island opposite the Town for fifteen thousand pounds it is to be fortified & all the Stores kept there, which will



render them much more safe in case of any sudden irruption of our Enemy into the Country, the Citadel Hill & Recollet Barracks are to be disposed of, this will be another great improvement to the Town, Between five and six thousand emigrants have arrived at Quebec this season, the bulk of them went to the upper Province, artificers & a few farmers with money are the people who remain below, a number of the Settlers had not a crown upon landing so you may judge of the hardship, they have to endure during a long and severe winter, those who apply get land from Govt gratis but no rations as was the case two years ago, I have seen hundreds from Perthshire principally Rannoch, Glenlyon, Appin & Breadalbane but none that I recollect seeing at home, after the first year they will do remarkably well, A young man by name of McGregor from Kinloch told me that he was at my father's in June & gave me a great many particulars about my Athole friends, one thing grieved me much is Genl Robertson, Lick, being so terribly insolvent, let me know in your next how his affairs stand, I have not heard how you cam off in the Will business further than that the furniture is safe, Eliza joins in kindness to Mrs R & yourself, Your affectionate Brother W ROBERTSON

17

No marks. Arithmetical graffiti.

Addressee: Captn Robertson, 88th Regt St Johns

Montreal 25 May 1818

My Dear brother

yesterday's post has it appears brought up orders for the marking downwards of the different Regt going to Europe yours will of course be among the number, Whatever time you march I trust you will be able to come over for a day or two, god knows when we shall see one another again, as the Regt will likely go by ?Sanel you can meet them there & I have a little time to spare here, indeed we are not without hope of seeing you today or tomorrow. The ague has left me altho very weak. for the last two days I have been walking about, how I shall succeed here is of course unknown & will be for some time yet. everybody seem glad at my settling here. these are however merely words of course. by this time next year I shall know whether or not they are sincere - most of the respectable people have already called on us so that at all events our ? will be the best in the place whether my practice will be the most lucrative is not.

We have not heard from Mr Campbell since leaving Prescott, Laing got into his own house a day or two ago, they ?[were here] a few days ago. I called at Gillies yesterday on Capt McGregor & Major Oates who unfortunately were both out but hope to see them today of young Robertson is coming to town. We shall be happy to see him ? ? will be at his service. as I expect to see you so soon I'll say no more ? Eliz join in love

Your affectionate Brother W ROBERTSON

18

Black clan seal. Stamps: red octagon SHIP W 18 A 1818. Add 1 1/2

Graffiti: Recd 18th Sept 1818 and the do by Mr McLeod Montreal 21st July 1818

Addressee: Captn Robertson, 88th Regt, Aberdeen, Scotland, by Mr Handyside

My Dearest Brother,

Your favour of the 27th April came by the May mail which reached here last week, altho my poor Mother's state of health for a long time past I was apprehensive that she would not live many years, the news was a severe unexpected blow, however great our affliction it is our poor Father is most to be pitied, the acuteness of the feelings is blunted by age, but such an event as this will I fear shatter him sadly, I have wrote him today and will continue to do so frequently, all the tender anxious cares & attention of my mother rushes in my mind with greater force than ever also the many deprivations my Father and her underwent on our account, no parents ever did more for their children according to their means ?[than they did].It is a satisfaction altho a melancholy one that you was able to alleviate in some degree the distress of our poor father & sister as well as pay the last ? to the remains of your mother.

In a former letter I mentioned to you that our little daughter Elizabeth sprained her ankle last Summer since which time it never got well, a collection of matter formed on the heel & back of the leg which ? ? & examining with the probe the heel bone was discovered to be affected, a small piece of it has since come away, from the long continuance of the irritation her constitution began to suffer, so much so indeed that it was thought absolutely necessary to send her to the Coast for the benefit of sea air & bathing, her mother would not allow her to go under any person's care but her own, they left this on the 25th June for ?K/Thamanaken 90 miles below Quebec, it is a great undertaking for Eliza as she has taken Caroline and Mary Ann with her, a very steady servant woman went with her & a Miss Parnet from this place who is an invalid also. I had a letter yesterday from Eliza she has got comfortably settled in a Canadian house on the shore or rather bank of the St Lawrence, her own health which was far from being good at her time of leaving this is perfectly restored. Elizabeth's appetite & general health are better, the leg has not had time enough to change much, the joint is perfectly clear so far & if she recovers no permanent injury will remain, they will stay below until the beginning of Sept altho they are all very home sick already. They were all well at York about ten days ago, Mrs Laing is there during her husband's absence, he expects to be out in August, untill his return it is impossible to say what his ultimate plan of living will be. I am kept fully busy, a return of the ague every three or four months & the headache at least once a month are drawbacks, still I'll be able to [go] through the world & bring up my family, offer my best regards to Major & Mrs Clerk, they were particular favourites and friends of mine, Mrs Moffat her sister is gone to the States for the benefit of her health, I had a letter from Mr Moffat a few days ago who says that Mrs M is getting quite well, There is a Mrs garden here who knew you when in the Perthshire Militia at Aberdeen, the 37th regt are quartered here at present, the 99th (formerly 100th) are disbanding at Quebec, most of the men and several officers remain in this Country, several failures took place here last winter among the rest a Mr Armour who you saw at Perth & Edinbr, with love to Mrs R I remain your affectionate Brother W ROBERTSON

19

Black seal stamped with clan crest & motto. Stamps: Red circle NOV B20E 1818. Addt 1/2. Addressee's hand: Recd 23 Nov 1818

Addressee: Captn Robertson, 88th Regt, Aberdeen, Scotland

Montreal 22nd Sept 1818

My Dear Brother,

An apprentice of mine going to Edin affords an opportunity of writing that may be depended on, The last letter I had from you was that giving an account of our Mother's death, at the time I answered it all my family was at Kamaracken, they returned all very much improved in health the 25th Aug, Little Eliza's leg is getting better & her general health is perfectly reestablish, so much so that she goes to school every day, or rather is carried there, her mother has never looked better and all the little folks are running about wild in health & Spirits. Major Laing returned from England about a fortnight since, he succeeded in getting all his land business settled to his satisfaction, Judge Campbell came on the Eastern Circuit as far as Cornwall this month but could not spare time to come to Montreal, Sir Peregrine Maitland, the new Governor of Upper Canada had just passed on to York & the Judge did not like to be long absent after his first arrival, Mrs Campbell & Mrs Laing who has been with them for the last 12 months are very well, they have got seasoned to the agreeable climate of York, I am anxious to hear how my father is after his irreparable loss. I shall write to him today or tomorrow, some of the emigrants who arrived lately saw him some weeks after my mother's death, they say he looked very poorly among those who I saw is a daughter of Niel Lamont (Don) Balnald, married to one of the Stewarts of Bellecastle (Borenich) and a son of the Gresich Ban, who I believed moved to Kilmavonaig before his death, from seven to eight thousand Emigrants have arrived at Quebec this Summer, a number of the mechanics remain in and about Montreal the labourers and farmers go generally to Upper Canada or the United States, the Irish emigrants are miserably poor wretched to a degree, I cannot comprehend how they all will pass the winter, This has been an uncommon fine season, all kinds of crops are good, The wheat is rather light but the quality excellent, Among the deaths at Montreal this summer is Mungo Kay the editor of the Montreal Herald, a person whom you must recollect with his long nose, I intend to place James this fall at the French Seminary here (what they generally call the College) in order to learn the language grammatically & to speak it fluently while young, Eliza joins me in kindnesses to Mrs R from whom she expects to hear by the next mail, I remain your affectionate Brother W ROBERTSON

20

Red seal clan crest + motto. Stamps: Red POSTAGE TO EDINBURGH NOT PAID. Red circle MAY ? 1819. Faint half mark LIVERPOOL Graffiti: Fort George and some scrawls. In addressee's hand: Recd 7th may 1819 and 16th July.

Addressee: Captn D Robertson, 88th Regt ~~Edinburgh~~

Montreal, 3rd April 1819

Dearest Brother

This moment a gentleman has called in who sets off for England in about an hour by the way of New York, having missed one or two opportunities lately of writing I am determined to avail myself of the present one let the letter be ever so short, on the 6th of July we had an addition of another girl to our flock, this you would have known before now only the want of conveyance to Europe at

this time of the year is greater than at any other season, Eliza has a good recovery & the young one altho small is very healthy and not ?cross which is a great comfort, we have called her Sophia Helen after your better half & my sister Helen, the rest of our children are well Caroline & Mary Anne have had the measles since the birth of the little one, they got over it perfectly well, Sophia being a few weeks old only escaped it, poor little Eliza's foot is far from well, the heel bone is considerably affected several pieces of it came out, still the ankle joint keeps free from inflammation or swelling and her general health is tolerably good, she goes to school or rather is taken there every day, James attends a French school this winter where he studies Latin & French at the same time, We are anxiously expecting to hear some family news from you as long before this I hope you have been made happy & Mrs R safely over her troubles, the Jany mail has not arrived yet altho we have English date to the 1st July. I had a letter the other day from Duncan Robertson, Auchleeks, he does not say what he is doing or whether on full or half pay, Judge & Mrs Campbell are at York as also the Laings, all perfectly well and frequently enquiring after you, Laing is not decided as to what his future occupation will be, he has got some valuable tracts of land in the Upper Province which he is this winter looking after & getting proper title deeds, I have one of my severe headaches today which every now and then troubles me as formerly & occasionally a slight attack of the ague, Eliza joins in Love to Mrs R, Your affectionate Brother W ROBERTSON

PS This winter has been remarkably mild until the beginning of March when the weather became stormy & cold it continued severe during the whole month, it is only within the last three days that we have anything like temperate or spring weather, the 37th Regt is quartered here mostly the half pay officer remained or came back to Canada are turning farmers a few of them keep shops & some are clerks & bookkeepers to merchants WR

21

Black wax clan seal. Stamps: SHIP LETTER (crown). MONTREAL. STOCKPORT. SHIP LETTER PLYMOUTH. Red circle Manchester 12NOV 1819. Various graffiti inc Recd 15th Nov 1819. Stockport. Hull.

Addressee: Captn Robertson, 88th Regt, Manchester, England

Montreal 27th Sept 1819

My Dear Brother

Your favour of the 16th July I received a few days ago being the first letter from you since June 1818 from Manchester, you can write by Liverpool easily as a packet sails for New York every month winter & summer, John Stewart Findynate wrote me last winter he gave the latest accounts from Athole previous to your letter, what you mention respecting my Father's affairs grieves me much, our uncle John & family have been a burden to him since he was married in one way or another, it is too bad now when his own children are in a way to assist him, it strikes me that it would be as well for you to take the difference & retire on half pay, the interest of what you would receive together with the half pay would certainly be better at home than full pay & allowances following a regiment & now particularly when your presence is so requisite at home, do think of it seriously, I think Mrs R will be of my opinion, my Father would surely be

delighted to give the whole management into your hands, Of family news I have but little to give, Eliza's foot continues to improve tho very slowly, she goes to school every day as does James, the three youngsters are stout and hearty ?crying at home, my own health is far from good, every three or four months slight attacks of ague reduce me, headaches are often troublesome, however I manage to keep going about almost all the time, practice I have my full share old & new, I throw off a number of the unprofitable patients which any beginner in Town is sure to have a number of, I bought a lot of ground & have begun this summer to build a house to be divided into two dwellings, when it will be finished is more than I can exactly say for altho I have extensive practice it is amusingly difficult to get in money particularly this year, within the last year I lost upwards of £300 by bad debts, failures are numerous in Montreal, depending so much on trade, above 12,000 emigrants have arrived at Quebec this season already, most of them proceed to upper Canada & numbers to the States from which country they, or these who arrive there from Europe nearly as many come to Canada as leave it, 9 or 10,000 of these arrived are Irish a great many of them in a miserable condition, the Lord only knows how they will get through the long cold winter. some of them are employed on the Canal cutting up the Otoway & some in levelling the Citadel hill here which Government are to lay out in Building lots & sell, the Upper Street will continue straight to the Quebec suburbs the Recollet Barracks & Ground in the other end of the Town are sold & several houses already built there & streets open though it, Judge & Mrs Campbell are pretty well, the Laings live near York, he is on half pay & had about £500 in ?Gilpins lands when he failed, they have three children & Mrs L in a fair way of having another, Mrs ?Timberlake died suddenly in London on 10th May last, her son is at high ?wei?co?[could be High Wycombe UK], that unfortunate young Campbell is said to have been drowned in Lake Erie last year, he is well out of the world, Mr Mclaid [McLeod] is just returned from the N. West where he was most of the summer, they are well & often speak of you, I heard today of a vessel almost sailing from Quebec to Liverpool by which I intend to send this, Tomorrow's post ? ? ? so I am determined to write ? ? rather than lose the opportunity, Eliza sends love to Mrs R. Your affectionate brother. W ROBERTSON

22

Red clan seal. Stamps: SOUTHAMPTON SHIP LETTER

Red date oval.

Addressee: Captn Robertson, 88th Regt, Hull, England

Montreal 19 ?Dec 1819

My Dearest Brother,

Tomorrow morning Mr McCutcheon a merch of this place & a particular friend of mine leaves this for Europe by the way of New York. as it is likely to be one of the last opportunities that will offer for some months I avail myself of it altho I have little or nothing to say since my last, indeed in times of peace & people living as we do in a quiet regular routine of everyday occasions the less we have to say the better; Eliza's heel is still in a very bad state, we had totally to lay the bone bare & remove a large portion of it that was found to be ?caries. this is ?left part of it looking not well & that will have to be taken away, the poor child has suffered excruciating torture with it, but she bares it remarkably

well, as you may easily suppose her situation effects us much there is no knowing what the result may be, hitherto the point has kept free from disease & there is no injury should it not increase that will cause a permanent lameness, all the other youngsters are running about quite lively & well, James is a pretty good French scholar now, we hear from York once or twice a week, where our friends are well. Laing has taken a house in the Town & is building one for himself to live in by next year, Mrs L expects an addition to her family in a few weeks.

There is no public news that is worth relating the merchants complain sadly as do all other people who have money to collect; if the; in the dullness of the times trade has not been so low (considering the extent to which it is transacted) for at present all kinds of produce have been shipped to a loss last season and the prospects of return for what was sent home this is not much better, things are coming the peace prices by degrees. Labour has kept up longer than anything else, altho upwards of fourteen thousand Emigrants crossed this season at Quebec, two thirds of them are Irish & miserably poor, we have got soup houses established to relieve the most pressing wants of the poor Emigrants.

There is a great deal said in this country of the disturbances at home. I hope more than they deserve, as you are living in the most disturbed district I hope to hear the real state of public opinion there, not that of the military & government people only with whom your intercourse must chiefly exist, but of the public at large. The Earl of Dalhousie has lately been appointed Governor of their provinces & is expected from Halifax in the course of the winter, the chief Justice of this District is at present administering the Civil Govt as senior Counsellor upon the Death of the Duke of Richmond he was sworn in as President of the Provinces, Sir Peregrine Maitland commands the forces which by the bye are not very numerous, the 37th have their headquarters here & occupy every post from above Quebec to the province line. things are much altered since you left this country, at least military affairs & I may say the whole establishment of the province, internal improvements progress rapidly & would do so with greater vigour were it not for the low price of Country produce. I write my Father by this opportunity so I must say nothing about him only that I had no letter from Athole since you wrote last. Eliza joins me in kindest regards to Mrs R who she supposes is with you in Hull, Your affectionate Brother W ROBERTSON.

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Red clan seal. Stamps: in black circle LIVERPOOL JAN 30 1821 206. In red octagon FEB M 1(in centre circle) W 1821. Faint black double circle in same style as octagon. Graffiti: various concerning date received & postal scrawls.  
Addressee: Captn Robertson, 88th Regt, No 2 Hope Street, Edinburgh

Montreal 15th Nov 1820

Dearest Brother,

Your long & unaccountable silence surprised and vexed me often, but the moment I heard from you all was forgot again & I hope you will in future be more regular in writing, as with me no circumstance will satisfactorily account for a two year neglect in letting your nearest relations how of where you are - your letter of the 25th Aug by Capt Lewis came to hand in six weeks from the time it was written, Since my last no change worth relating has taken place in our family, poor Eliza continues better, the heel bone is still a good deal affected & will

in all likelihood take months if not years before it is well. She is able to attend school daily indeed walks there & home again when the weather is good, James goes to the French Seminary this season again. he translates Latin into French & vice versa, I am perfectly satisfied with the progress he makes in every thing but writing & that they pay no attention to, so that I must get a writing master to attend him at home his [?close hours]. Caroline is just recovering from the Hooping Cough an attack of fever during that disease had nearly carried her off Mary Ann & Sophia are likewise getting over the Hooping cough, the little thing is as broad as she is long, Eliza enjoys tolerable health altho not so good as usual, the situation her little namesake has been in for the last two years preys heavily upon her spirits, The Governor was at Wm Henry this Summer & Laing, who is his Military Secretary was in attendance with his family, so we took advantage of it & Eliza with the children went there for a month for a change of air to the little invalids, who benefited much by it.

The Judge & Mrs Campbell are very well, he is building an excellent brick house at York, they as well as the Laings desire to be kindly remembered to you of whom they always speak in the most affectionate manner, your friend Capt Lewis must have been mad when he thought of coming to settle near his father in Law, the connection is so degrading a one for a man of nice feelings to live with, I hear that he is miserably dull & low spirited already & if he does not take care Jones will fleece him of his ready cash for perhaps some units of land which he might buy from strangers for a quarter of the price his father will make him pay, should he ever come to Montreal I shall pay him every attention in my power.

Money is as scarce in Canada at present as it was flush during and immediately after the war, the price of everything is fallen wonderfully, the four pound loaf of white bread has been only 5 1/2 [half] & 6d all summer, meat from 3 to 5d per lb, butter about 1/-, house rent & fuel are coming down, I pay £100 for ? tolerable house & not in the busiest streets. Servant men get from 30/- to 60/- & women from 20/- to 50/- per month wages, we are overrun with poor Irish Emigrants, hundreds of them arrive in the country without a farthing in their pockets. they are at present a very heavy tax upon the inhabitants of Montreal, the English and Scottish are much more industrious and pushing, if they are poor at present in after years they will be independent, but the Irish hang about the towns as long as they can get a morsel to eat or a gulp of rum to drink in rags and wretchedness -

I must not forget to thank you for the books which arrived safe, the edition of Quincey's Lexicon is later than one I had by several years & consequently much enlarged and improved, the Medico Chirurgical Society Transactions I have got are complete indeed ever since 1815 I send here annually for from £20 to £30's worth of the latest and best publications, the periodicals ones out of London, Edin & Dublin are among these I get regularly ?[every spring]. I wrote my Father about three weeks ago & hope you was at home when the letter reached there & ? that you will when you receive this: getting home so frequently is the only thing I envy you. I see no prospect of my ever or at all events for a great many years seeing Scotland. I sincerely sympathise with Mrs R for the death of her Brother, he was at home in 1801 or 2 when I was at Dr Stewarts & use to come into the shop to tell the tricks he played while an apprentice & ask if we ever stole our neighbour's fowls, a favourite trick with the Perth medical students. This will be taken to Liverpool by Mr McCutcheon a particular friend of ours you may recollect seeing him during the war, he promises to see you in that part of the

country Mr & Mrs McLeod are always anxiously asking when I heard ? ?. Eliza gives her kind regards to Mrs R your affectionate Brother W ROBERTSON

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Red clan seal. Stamps: LIVERPOOL SHIP LETTER. Circle LIVERPOOL 4 JU 4 ? 206. Indecipherable double circle. Various receipt graffiti.

Addressee Captn Robertson 88th Regt, to the care of Macdonald & Campbell, Regent Street, St James', London

Montreal 11th March 1821

My dear Brother

Of one of the few opportunities that offer here so late in the season as this is, for Europe, I take advantage to write to you who used to be so punctual a correspondent, but, of late am sorry to say is quite the reverse. your last letter was dated in August since the receipt of which this is the third time of my writing, our domestic circle remains the same as when I wrote last, little Eliza's heel was much better during the months of Decr, Jany & Feby, of late it begins to give her much uneasiness, I can feel another large piece of bone loosening untill that comes away she will have no comfort, Eliza and the rest of the children are in perfect health, before the end of this month an addition to the number is expected, Mrs Laing had a son about a fortnight ago, it was six weeks or two months sooner than looked for and lived only a week, she is but poorly herself. Laing is still ? Military Secretary at Quebec, the Judge & Mrs Campbell are well, Mrs Stuart, formerly Miss Robertson, had another son this spring but it died in two or three days, they have none living. Stuart hardly ever leaves the house & has given over his practice at the bar altogether, your old friend Mrs DeLothbiniere often enquires about you, her eldest daughter is brought out this season, she is a fine girl, the second one also goes out frequently, the old gentleman is alive & as polite as ever

Commerce continues at a low ebb & Country produce is cheaper than I ever remember it. even before the late American war, I bought beef this winter by the quarters for 1 1/2d & 2d altho it is now getting up to 3d & 4d & prime pieces even 6d, wheat sells from 4/2 to 4/9 per bushel, the merchants here seem to look more to the west India trade than formerly, a number of vessels sailed from Montreal & Quebec last season for the different Islands, Capt ?Lewes late of the 88th continues also at Wm Henry, I heard lately that he intends going up in the Spring to the ?Richd?? or Richmond Settlements, that will be a fine country in a few years, already they have opened roads in all directions & ?rain enough to fend themselves, the produce will increase every year, what was a perfect wilderness five years ago will in ten or twenty years be the finest part of Canada,

It has often occurred to me that a short history of the Robertsons might be prepared and published at this time when so many people of education and talent are idle, that would be satisfactory to people of the name & their friends & at the same time remunerate the person who undertook it for his trouble, the one formerly published by the footman or valet of the late Strowan so miserable & incorrect that it is a disgrace to have such an account of the clan in circulation, the poems of Strowan as far as I recollect contain some excellent pieces if little ? & prepared for the press, they might be added to the other



work, do think of this, should it be likely to be put into execution I should take a dozen or twenty copies as this number or more would be readily taken up here, the old genealogists are dying off every day & they would be of great service besides the information collected from different records, I shall probably write my father this afternoon should nothing interfere to prevent me. Eliza gives kindest regards to Mrs R & yourself your affectionate Brother W ROBERTSON

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Black clan seal. Stamps: Red AMERICA MA 1822. Red circle G 6MR6 1822. Black triple circle CMR 1822 11(in centre). Red square 1822. Various receipt and postal graffiti

Addressee: Captn Robertson, 88th Regt, Omagh  
Montreal 30th Jany 1822

My Dear Brother

This moment I have seen an officer who is on his way to New York with Govt dispatches & determined not to lose the opportunity I write [through] him to communicate not ??pleasant ? which indeed unfortunately I have seldom been able to do for some time past, poor Mrs Laing who has been in a decline for since last Febry died on the 16th Inst, Laing is major of Brigade here since last summer he often speaks of you in the most affectionate manner, even within a few days of her death. the Judge & Mrs Campbell came down from York the latter is still here but returns home in a few days, she begs me to mention her in the kindest manner to you, indeed you are a great favourite with the hole of them, Laing's eldest child is very ill with an affection of the liver & dropsy, it is very doubtful if he will survive his mother many months.

Our family are all well except Eliza who is much in the same state the heel bone almost totally removed, in a ? still she is as helpless as an infant, not having heard from home for several months I begin to feel anxious to hear from some of you, where is Mrs R & the little girl? & how are they, our little William is one month younger so that we will know nearly her progress in growth, talking, walking etc,

We are living in our new house some weeks & find it remarkably comfortable the second one I rent from the 1st of may next for £120 a year, when I clear off all building debt the rent will help to keep the pot boiling but times are so bad here that it will take some years I am paid before all is smooth on this head. Our legislature is now sitting and as usual squabbling & doing no good, this of upper Canada has sent home an agent to represent His Majesty's Govt the state of the province,. we are all in hopes that ?acquisition of the two Provinces will take place. if so the French party will be in the minority & the measures necessary for the improvement of the Country will be adopted in spite of them. This has been a very severe winter the Thermometer several times has been at 25 & 30 1/2 below zero today at 5'. Yours very sincerely W ROBERTSON

