

Gatehouse Postal History



1806 – 15th May



Sir Donald Maxwell, Cardoness to
Alexander Blair of Auchenroch at Edinburgh

Postal charge was 8d.

Letter also contains a reply dated 21st May 1806
which was probably delivered by hand.

front



back



13th rec'd 17th May 1806
Sir D^d Maxwelll
as to manner of procuring his Baronetage
by L^t Gallaway
Will serve me if he can
To pay Miss Grace £2_2s
21st (August ?) pr Copy answered

Dear Sir,

I read your letter of 7th May the Earl of Galloway's letter which I sent you, he should have stopt short when he mentioned how the present Administration had served his son Lord Garlies by which it appears he has no more interest with the present than the Late Administration his saying that he would serve you was a mere compliment and what he says about procuring from the King any Baronetage is a mistake for he well knew he had no interest with the former administration therefore he applied to Lord Pelham then Secretary of State who promised him indeed he would have made no such application had I not had four votes in my family after the Election was over he never troubled his head further about the (Orator ?) but his son Coll. William Stewart thought his father was in honour bound and went to Administration they said the application should have been made to them and not to Lord Pelham and Dundass gave his veto against it which would have held the Earls interest in Cardoness and my attempt in (ridicule / Radical ?) in the country but afterwards when Montgomerie Stewart carried his election & Coll. Stewart for the Barrows, Mr Addingtoun wished for more friends to support him and so my (Barrier ?) was accomplished at last in Dependence for years Lord Galloway seems to think much of what he has done for me and my family tho I formerly could not get anything for my family I was constantly disappointed in my several applications tho his Lordship begun with me and wished to be reconciled after the affair of the settlement of Anwoth but I look upon any preferment Merely as a Baronet in the Army no pay and it has cost me upwards of £369 and his Lordship ought to know if he does not that my grandfather Coll. Maxwell was Member of Parliament for the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright 1707. Voted against the Union had his Commissions taken from him tho he was offered a Baronetage as Coll. Gordon of (Aften ?) limited to his Brother of Earlstown and several others were created baronets at the same time and all this to please my grandmother as her Near Relations the Galloway (Earls / Lords ?). This letter is intended for your private information and I have been long enough in the world to know it is best to be quiete with politicians and not to move untill an opportunity apers you may depend I will serve you if I can tho you must be sensible my influence is small I am yours & You will please pay my daughter D Maxwell Grace 2 guineas upon receipt and you need not keep this letter for a voucher

Edinburgh 21st May 1806

D Sir

I was ---- with yours of the 13th with observations as to find a servant of Anwoth tho to which until yesterday brought me a letter from Sir James Hall of (Dunglass ?), the Earl of Selkirk's brother in law dated London 16th May current saying that encouraged by a respectable lady of the (Freeholders ?) he offers himself a candidate for the Stewartry at next election and requesting my support. I have no doubt you have got a similar letter But as it may be a year or two before a General Election I am determined to be in no hurry in declaring myself, but to take full time for deliberation in so very important a matter. People make themselves of no consequence by a premature declaration. And I am no ways so interested either for the present member or Sir James as to feel myself called upon to take a decided part. One thing however I am pleased at that this affords the (Freeholders ?) an opportunity of making a choice whereas if one (Int- ?) only stood forth the County would be trampled on ----- at the correspondence which lately passed . It was well timed, but we must be cautious now as to the writing or speak--