

Letter from Bridlington

This letter looks like it is from Richard and Mary Rawson. I assume the Richard Rawson concerned was born 2 July 1975 and Mary is Mary Ezard born about 10 July 1803. The letter is addressed "Dear Son & Daughter" As far as I know now they had 6 sons and no daughters. Might they be referring to Mary Hercliff as 'daughter'?

I do not know who transcribed this letter, although it was probably Jessie Valda May Rawson
(see last page)

Richard Peter Rawson (b 1947)
31 March 2008

There is also now a copy of this letter below which has been annotated by Colleen Kennedy, and it may provide some additional assistance with family relationships.

Richard Rawson
January 2017

Bridlington
13th July 1868

Dear Son & Daughter, Grandsons & Granddaughters.
I now sit down with much pleasure to write to you, hoping to find you all in good health as it leaves us all at present thank God for it. We received your letter and was glad to hear from you and that you was all well and doing well in Australia for we thought long of a letter from you and we hope that you have the luck some day to have a good find of gold if it pleases God for you to have one you will, but there is not anything got without trying for your children, that you had to go to count/court when they was asleep, that you blame Mary, for you tried for them and then blamed her, but I should think you are as bad as her. We received the newspaper last October and we thought of a letter ever since. We have got the pictures framed and we have them hung up in the room and they look very well. Father is working on the roads at Sewerby, he has constant work, but he goes to harvest yet, but thank God he is enjoying good health and is looking very fresh at his age which you will see by his likeness if it pleases God for you to be spared to get it and this letter, and for myself, I am enjoying good health thank God. We are living in Apple Gate lane and we are very comfortable and we should like to see you if it was possible that if you stay in australia, I think we shall not meet in this world, but I hope we shall all meet in heaven. At last Charles went to America, 5 years since last October, and he has 2 daughters and son and we had a letter from him last week and they are all doing very well and all of them enjoying good health. He is hired for nine shillings a week and a house to live in rent free and a cow, kept year round and plenty of land to grow potatoes to feed pigs on and their own use. He killed three pigs last winter and he had got another two and was going to get another the week after he wrote to you. So he is doing better in America than he could do in England for you cannot get much for working here. John died 2 years since last October he was at Charles 3 weeks before he died in bowel complaint and sickness. William is living with Mark Sutton, he has not got married yet that I know of, he has 11 shillings a week in winter & 8 months in summer he has fifteen shillings a week and he is doing well and enjoying good health. Francis has got married 5 years last February, he married one of Kirby daughters, Jane Eliza, she is half cousin, he is on a farm for himself, it has two hundred acres and he is doing very well he has one daughter living a he buried one son Francis and the child was enjoying good health, but his wife was not very well the last time Charles saw him, he saw him at Gulph Easter Fair. He had 8 head of cattle there which he sold for 500 dollars that is 100 pounds in English money, and he

has 4 horses and 5 milk cows and about 20 head of young cattle and over 100 sheep all of his own, so you will see that he is getting on very well. Richard is living at Scarborough, he is head boots at the Crown Hotel and he is enjoying good health, he was over a week at Christmas and he is doing very well for he does nearly all the management of the house and the parlor for they have a great many in the season, he has about 100 pounds a year and all he can make and he has 2 or 3 men to hire to help him in the summer season. He can make a very good living. I dont think he would do any better in Australia for he is always like a gentleman. Robert is living with Mr Jordan of Speeton he is the shepherd and he is enjoying good health and he has got a very tall young man he is doing very well, He has 27 pounds wage but he has it to work, for the farmers here will not let you have much without working for it was a very dry time here this summer and work is very bad to get for working men & living is very dear. Flour is 2 shillings & 6 pence a stone, beef & mutton is about 7 & 8 pence a pound and if you want a piece of goat you have to give 9 pence and potatoes is from 14 to 18 pence a stone and so you will see times is very hard for living here now. Cousin Betsy from Ripplingham Grange lives at Bridlington, her husband is a policeman, hear they have been at Hambro? & Bridlington over 4 years, they have 2 children and they are enjoying good health, & they wish to be remembered to you They was at home at Ripplingham Grange when we got your letter, and your Uncle Richard & Auntie Bessey was very well in health, but your Uncle got his thigh broken 4 years since and he did not get set right & he walked lame ever since Your cousin John is living at Bridlington, he has a wife an three daughters and they are all very well Your cousin Jane and Hannah is living at North Dalton and they are enjoying good health. Eliza the youngest daughter has got married & went to America 3 years next November and they have two children & we expect they are all well & doing well. Barry Stephenson and John send their very best respects to you & they often thought they was never going to hear from you again, they was very glad to hear from you & that you was doing well in Australia & they send their very best respects to you. Robert Stephenson has been dead 4 yrs & Eliza has been dead 3 years. Emma has got married and gone to live at Doncaster & they expect she is very well & the rest

of the family is very well. Richard Garman & Tom Grease has both got married and they live at Bridlington. John Dunn and William Dunn are both at Bridlington yet and they will carry on, a few of their old Gunners have a bit of a spree sometimes, they were all glad to hear from you & they are very well & send their greatest respects to you. Mary Garman & Thomas was pleased to hear from you and that you was doing well in Australia and they send their very best respects to you. Jane Grease & her husband is living and wishes to be remembered to you and they will write a letter to you by the next mail & we are very sorry to inform you that Marys father is dead he died 4 years ago. Your Aunt Ann King at Stedmere has been dead 3 years and _____ still keeps the place on & we expect that they are well. Your Uncle Charles & all their family are all very well & they wish to be remembered to you Cousin John Ezard has 2 children & they are all well & wish to be remembered to you - the enclosed likeness is there & mine & Charles wife & family and they will be sure to write back & let us know if you get this mail. We will get some more & send you when we write again. You talked of sending us a piece of stone with gold in it. We shall be very glad to receive it we will send _____ we get it. Elizabeth Hercliff is living at Bridlington & she is very well & wishes to be remembered to you & now I must conclude with our very best respects to you & so no more at present from your ever loving father & mother,

Richard & Mary Rawson
Bridlington, England

[CHARLES RAWSON ADDRESS OVERTON CNANDA]

[COPY OF LETTER (AS FAR AS POSSIBLE) OF LETTER WRITTEN
TO MY GRANDFATHER GEORGE RAWSON BY MY GREATGRANDFATHER
IN 1868 13th JULY]

J GREGORY NEE RAWSON

Bridlington
13th July 1868 Dear Son & Daughter, Grandsons & Granddaughters.

Comments by Colleen Kennedy in brackets and bold.

[By process of elimination of children and by positive evidence that Mary Ezard Rawson's son George and wife were in Australia in 1868, I believe Mary Rawson and her husband Richard were writing to their son George.]

I now sit down with much pleasure to write to you, hoping to find you all in good health as it leaves us all at present thank God for it. We received your letter and was glad to hear from you and that you was all well and doing well in Australia for we thought long of a letter from you and we hope that you have the luck some day to have a good find of gold if it pleases God for you to have one you will, but there is not anything got without trying for your children, that you-had to go to count/court when they was asleep, that you blame Mary, for you tried for them and then blamed her, but I should think you are as bad as her.

[I have no idea what this first paragraph means. Mary was also the name of George's wife. Perhaps the couple originally went to Australia in hopes of finding gold? There is a later reference to "golf flexs" in a stone later in the letter.]

We received the newspaper last October and we thought of a letter ever since. We have got the pictures framed and we have them hung up in the room and they look very well. Father is working on the roads at Sewerby, he has constant work, but he goes to harvest yet, but thank God he is enjoying good health and is looking very fresh at his age which you will see by his likeness if it pleases God for you to be spared to get it and this letter,

[Father refers to Richard Rawson, husband of Mary Ezard Rawson who wrote this letter].

and for myself, I am enjoying good health thank God. We are living in Apple Gate lane and we are very comfortable and we should like to see you if it was possible that if you stay in Australia, I think we shall not meet in this world, but I hope we shall all meet in heaven.

[Mary Ezard Rawson and her husband were actually living on Applegarth lane in Bridlington, Yorkshire according to census data. Perhaps "Apple Gate" was a transcription error by Kathy Thomas?]

At last Charles went to America, 5 years since last October, and he has 2 daughters and son and we had a letter from him last week and they are all doing very well and all of them enjoying good health.

[Charles Rawson b. abt 1832 was a son of Mary Ezard and Richard Rawson. Based on census data he actually went to Ontario and not America; however, perhaps he spent some time in America before going to Canada. Mary seems to use the word "America" for another relative who also went to Canada].

He is hired for nine shillings a week and a house to live in rent free and a cow, kept year round and plenty of land to grow potatoes to feed pigs on and their own use. He killed three pigs last winter and he had got another two and was going to get another the week after he wrote to you. So he is doing **better in America** than he could do in England for you cannot get much for working here.

John died 2 years since last October he was at Charles 3 weeks before he died in bowel complaint and sickness.

[John Rawson b. 1825 is a son of Mary Ezard and Richard Rawson. I found a death register record for him in Ontario in 1865.]

William is living with Mark Sutton, he has not got married yet that I know of, he has 11 shillings a week in winter & 8 months in summer he has fifteen shillings a week and he is doing well and enjoying good health.

[I think this William is William Rawson, b. abt. 1828, son of Mary Ezard and Richard Rawson; however, I can't find him on a census.]

Francis has got married 5 years last February, he married one of Kirby daughters, Jane Eliza, she is half cousin, he is on a farm for himself, it has two hundred acres and he is doing very well he has one daughter living a he buried one son Francis and the child was enjoying good health, but his wife was not very well the last time Charles saw him, he saw him at Gulph Easter Fair.

[Francis b. abt 1838 is a son of Mary Ezard and Richard Rawson. The reference to "Gulph Easter Fair," must really be "Guelph, Ontario." I found both a death register record and census data for Francis in Wellington, Ontario.]

He had 8 head of cattle there which he sold for 500 dollars that is 100 pounds in English money, and he has 4 horses and 5 milk cows and about 20 head of young cattle and over 100 sheep all of his own, so you will see that he is getting on very well.

Richard is living at Scarborough , he is head boots at the Crown Hotel and he is enjoying good health, he was over a week at Christmas and he is doing very well for he does nearly all the management of the house and the parlor for they have a great many in the season, he has about 100 pounds a year and all he can make and he has 2 or 3 men to hire to help him in the summer season. He can make a very good living. I don't think he would do any better in Australia for he is always like a gentleman.

[Richard Rawson is a son of Mary Ezard and Richard Rawson, b. abt 1835. I found him on a census as a servant in Scarborough district. He was a servant just as Mary stated.]

Robert is living with Mr Jordan of Speeton he is the shepherd and he is enjoying good health and he has got a very tall young man he is doing very well, He has 27 pounds wage but he has it to work for, the farmers here will not let you have much without working for. it was a very dry time here this summer and work is very bad to get for working men & living is very dear. Flour is 2 shillings & 6 pence a stone, beef & mutton is about 7 & 8 pence a pound and if you want a piece of goat you have to give 9 pence and potatoes is from 14 to 18 pence a stone and so you will see times is very hard for living here now.

[Robert Rawson is a son of Mary Ezard and Richard Rawson, b. abt. 1844. I found him on several censuses and he was a shepherd just as Mary stated.]

Cousin Betsy from Riplingham Grange lives at Bridlington, her husband is a policeman, hear they have been at Hambro? & Bridlington over 4 years, they have 2 children and they are enjoying good health, & they wish to be remembered to you. They was at home at Riplingham Grange when we got your letter-

[Is Betsy a cousin of Ann Ezard or a cousin to the person she is writing to, which I think is her son, George Rawson b. abt. 1842. If she is referring to George Rawson's cousin, Betsy, that could be Betsy Hotham, b. abt 1841. She lived with her parents at Riplingham Grange in 1851. She did marry a George Sherwood but I saw him as an agricultural labourer on the 1861 census. Perhaps they moved to Bridlington by 1868 and he became a police man?]

and your Uncle Richard & Auntie Bessey was very well in health, but your Uncle got his thigh broken 4 years since and he did not get set right & he walked lame ever since

[Richard is Richard Hotham and Bessy Ezard.]

Your cousin John is living at Bridlington, he has a wife an three daughters and they are all very well

[I am not sure who this John is. It would be a cousin to the George Rawson, who was b. abt 1842]. It would have to be a John born to a sibling of Mary Ezard Rawson or a John born to a sibling of Richard Rawson, Mary Ezard Rawson's husband.]

Your cousin Jane and Hannah is living at North Dalton and they are enjoying good health.

[Jane is Jane Hotham Kitching, my g-g grandmother, and Hannah is Hannah Hotham who married a Paul Rispin, both were living in North Dalton as Mary Ezard Rawson stated].

Eliza the youngest daughter has got married & went to America 3 years next November and they have two children & we expect they are all well & doing well.

[This fits with Eliza Hotham, b. abt. 1847 who married Thomas Mason. They went to Ontario, not America. I think the author of the letter constantly uses "America" to refer to Canada.]

Barry Stephenson and John send their very best respects to you & they often thought they was never going to hear from you again, they was very glad to hear from you & that you was doing well in Australia & they send their very best respects to you.

Robert Stephenson has been dead 4 yrs & Eliza has been dead 3 years. Emma has got married and gone to live at Doncaster & they expect she is very well & the rest of the family is very well. Richard Garman & Tom Grease has both got married and they live at Bridlington. John Dunn and William Dunn are both at Bridlington yet and they will carry on, a few of their old Gunners have a bit of a spree sometimes, they were all glad to hear from you & they are very well & send their greatest respects to you. Mary Garman & Thomas was pleased to hear from you and that you was doing well in Australia and they send their very best respects to you. Jane Grease & her husband is living and wishes to be remembered to you and they will write a letter to you by the next mail & we are very sorry to inform you that Mary's father is dead he died 4 years ago.

Your Aunt Ann King at Sledmere has been dead 3 years and ????? still keeps the place on & we expect that they are well.

[Ann Ezard, sister to Mary Ezard Rawson who is writing the letter, married Robert King from Sledmere.]

Your Uncle Charles & all their family are all very well & they wish to be remembered to you **[Perhaps this reference to Uncle Charles is Charles Blakeney Ezard, or perhaps Richard Rawson had a brother named Charles? I don't have enough information to enter yet.]**

Cousin John Ezard has 2, children & they are all well & wish to be remembered to you - the enclosed likeness is there & mine & Charles wife & family and they will be sure to write back & let us know if you get this mail. We will get some more & send you when we write

again. You talked of sending us a piece of stone with gold in it. We shall be very glad to receive it we will send ????? we get it.

[I'm not sure who cousin John Ezard is, a cousin of the author of the letter, Mary Ezard Rawson or a cousin to her son, George Rawson, whom I believe she is writing to.]

Elizabeth Hercliff is living at Bridlington & she is very well & wishes to be remembered to you & now I must conclude with our very best respects to you & so no more at present from your ever loving father & mother, Richard & Mary Rawson Bridlington, England

[I suspect that Elizabeth Hercliff might be a sister to Mary Hercliff who married George Rawson, the son whom I believe Mary Rawson is writing to in this letter.]