

NOTES ON DAVID HOOEY'S LETTER OF 26-4-1834.

David Hooey's long letter contains most interesting matter. He refers to the success of settlements around Cavan in Ontario. He refers to the greivous rents and tithes in Ireland, from which he escaped. His reference to "Dunb Prelatic Dogs"... "Episcopal brats of the Old Harlot," mark him as a Paisley before his time. As early as the beginning years of this century, Edmund Curtis reported part of the litany he heard on a Northern church: "From the Whore who sits on the Seven Hills, and her bastard daughter the Church of England, Good Lord, deliver us." David Hooey would have said a hearty AMEN to that.

And though he did not love landlords, he seems to have lifted a middle-man's rent himself. As well he made loans of money to at least seven individuals and authorised his agents Ned Mahood and Robert Kelly Jr. to process his debtors immediately for both principal and interest. The £150 he spent on buying land in Canada was evidently acquired in this way.

The new church of the Covenanters which he refers to is now Lisdonnon Orange Hall. The date stone over the entrance bears the following inscription:

CHRIST THE HEAD OVER ALL THINGS TO THE CHURCH.

GOD'S LAW IS PERFECT.

CALL NO MAN FATHER UPON EARTH.

WILLIAM GIBSON . . . . A.D. MDCCCXXXVIII i.e. 1838.

The William Gibson who had the Covenanter Meeting House erected at Lisdonnon was probably William Gibson (b.1797) of Ardmore. His grandfather had been evicted from the Bailieborough Estate c. 1780. William the Covenanter had no less than four of his children settled at Gala Rock, the Arkansaus Riverport. One of their descendants recently told me that there was a tradition in her family that their first Gibson ancestor in Ireland had been persecuted Scottish Covenanters, chased by dogs to the sea, and so escaping to Ireland. Evidently William who erected the Lisdonnon Meeting House, was acting on a two hundred year old family tradition.

William Gibson's eldest son Alexander McFadden (b.1831) emigrated to Gala Rock in 1854. His sister, Mary Jean, went first to Ontario in 1850, but moved with her family to Gala Rock in 1873. Her brother James travelled all the way to Gala Rock by boat, landing in his sister's front yard. He spent six months there, and then returned to Ireland for his family, and his sister Isabella (b.1838) and her husband David Corbitt. This time they went by New York to Gala Rock. Mules pulled the street cars in New York at that time.

Mary Jean used to tell about being advised to bring linen with her to America. She did not do so, because, as she said, "I have worn nothing except linen, and I want no more", but she would always add, "Many is the time I have wished for it".

From Mary Jean's granddaughter, Mrs Thomas A. Watkins of Rome, Georgia.

Marshall Hamer RR # Frazerville  
932-5525

Questions: The attached are copies of letters exchanged between early settlers and their families in Ireland. They were passed to me by Marshall Hamer and I'm not clear as to where he got them. They may not have any use for the book but are interesting in providing a glimpse of the times.  
ARM.

April 26th, 1834.

Cavan Township, April 26th, 1834. A.D.

Dear Robert, this is now the fourth time that I have written and as yet have received no letter from you, or my father. I still consider that your friendship to me and my family, is the same as formerly, although we are separated by the loud sounding billows of the broad Atlantic for my part I can say that my friendship is still the same; although I feel very much grieved that my Father or you did not write to me long before this. I and my family are all in good health, (thanks be to Jehovah for all his mercies) except James who is labouring under a consumption. For 14 or 15 months he had very, <sup>excessive labour</sup> in travelling and preaching; and being heated and speaking in cold open barns and houses; he got a cold on his lungs which threatens his life. He is perfectly resigned to the Divine will; whether the Lord be pleased to restore him to his wonted strength, to preach the gospel of Salvation to perishing sinners; or take him from this vale of tears and conflict to praise him in the courts above. He was ordained on the 9th day of October 1833 over the united congregations of West Gevillimbary, Tecumseth and Essa; which are about 40 miles from Little York to the Westward. I and my family are comfortably situated, (on a farm) of 100 acres; we have about 40 cleared and under fence; this season I have 14 acres of wheat and 4 of rye. I am certain that if I had remained in Ireland, that I could not do so well. This is a fine flourishing country of the most excellent soil; very healthful and supplied with the best of water; and we can have nearly as good potatoes here as in Ireland. Money is not in much circulation, and this retards the progress of the settlement much. There are great difficulties to struggle with here as well as with you, but you may depend upon this, that the careful Industrious Man, has something for his toil and labour here, whereas with you it goes to the <sup>ly</sup> landlord, to the treasury, and the Dumb Prelatic Dogs which do not bark. Indeed I think that your own experience by this time tells you that your situation resembles that of the Hebrews in Egypt, when they had to gather stubble to burn brick for their hard Taskmasters. In this country there are no rents, no Episcopal brats of the Old Harlot

to support, .... the taxes to keep up roads and other things are very trifling.

June 18th 1834. Since the above was written I received your letter dated April 1st 1834, and was very much rejoiced to hear that you were all well; with respect to the letters which you sent last June and July, I did not receive either of them; this is the first letter I received since I left Ireland. You particularly request to know how I am doing. Dear Brother, I tell you the truth. A man who comes here with about 300£ of capital, and who can purchase a farm and sit down upon (it), can do far better than in Ireland. I purchased a farm of 100 acres of land all wood, only (for) 8 acres, which cost 150£, and I am now doing better than I could do in Ireland; since I am informed that the markets are so mighty low, and as I know that the rents, taxes and tithes are so great. You inform me of the trouble that Alex Hoey is giving you and Edward Mahood. I cannot know on what grounds he should act so, unless this, that the time is now expired since the life of the lease was proved, but he must surely pay up to the full time of the improvement. Widow McAdam of Gartnanean and her son William and James Hoey have their farms in the same lease & William McAdam has the papers of the last improvement, and from him you can know whether the time is up, as it at present escapes my memory. Let all those who owe me promisory notes know that it is my positive command to you and Edward Mahood to process them immediately both for principal and interest, and to show that

such is my mind, I mention their names. William Brown of Ardmone Laurence and Nancy Donoho of Tievenass, George Vincent of Dooreagh, James Adams of..... Samuel Corbét of Kill and Hugh Sharp of Galintra who joins Corbett in the note.

I wish to be remembered to Sister Jane Maxwell and family, brother John Brock and family, brother John Steen and family, brother John Hooey and his wife , and let them know that David will either go home for them or allow(?) them to sell(?) their land and come out to hi him where they shall be supported for life . All my children remain with me working upon the farm except Robert, but it is my intention & their desire to put out one or two of them to a trade. We have all enjoyed good health since we came here except James (thanks be to God t the giver of all good) of whose health you will hear in the beginning of the letter. All our friends and country people in this place are well as far as I can learn. Esther and all the rest of the family join me in sending their love to you all, & to all the dear relations and friends. Write as soon as you receive this and let me know how things are with you. Let me also know how my Father and all my brothers, sisters and friends are doing and how they can make out life. Andrew Crosier brought a letter to Robert Maxwell .. *(a line crossed out)* .....? *(R.R. Board)* of Education which excludes partly if not nearly all the Scriptures of Divine truth from the schools. If this be the case I am astonished, I cannot believe it. I hope therefore that when you write you will inform me about that matter. He also says that the Covenanters have got a house built on part of the farm formerly occupied by James Hooey May the Lord Jesus prosper them for they have a good cause & I hope and pray that the Lord will rain down his sovereign Grace on our church. No More, but remain your loving Brother till death.

DAVID HOOEY.

P.S. I wish to be remembered to Edward Mahood and family & I was rejoiced w when I heard that he still retains his old station.

N.B. Let Rev Samuel Crookshanks know that James intends to write to him shortly. P.S. Let John Hooey of Latsey know that his son John

stopped 10 days lately with me and is a very great deal better.

Mr Robert Kelly ,Junr,  
of Drutimon , County Cavan.  
In Care of Mr Joseph Saunderson, Innkeeper,  
Cootehill--

By the way of New York.

Mr David Hooey of Cavan, Port Hope.....

1835

7  
David Hooley to Robert Keller

Cavan,, March 6th 1835.

Dear Brother, I received your 2 letters on the 21st of Feby 1835, the one bearing date Nov. 15th and the other Nov. 25th, from which I was glad to here that you were all well and in good health as we are at present, thanks be to God for his tender mercies. James departed this life on Sunday the first of March 1835 after labouring 16 months in a decline; he was contented during this time, and resigned himself to the will of Almighty God, and at his death he rejoiced that he was going to meet his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He had a steadfast faith during his illness, and at the Hour of his Death he resigned himself to the Divine will, and had his confidants resting alone on the righteousness of the Lord Jesus. He is much lamented for by the people belonging to his congregations and likewise all the country people. We are all resigned to the will of Almighty God, as we must submit to his will. During his illness he often talked of his Grandfather and Mr Crookshanks and thought long to here from them.

I was very sorry to hear what happened Brother John Brock & also Brother William Harison; it may all turn out in the latter end for their spiritual good by the Grace of God. We cannot escape the trials and callamities which are to happen to us in this world; and the Lord has ordered it so for good and wise purposes. You mentioned to me your intentions with respect to proceeding against Alex Hooley. I had the intention of going home myself and selling the bisness but this is impossible for me to go. You mentioned to me to get the letter of Atorney on a 5£ five pound stamp. This cannot be done as there are no stamp offices in this country. All bisness are done on plain paper here. What must be done is to pay the penalty of 15£ Fifteen pounds and then you will have full authority to take the money from him. I am very sorry that A. Hooley has given you and Mr Mahood so much trouble but by the help of God I intend to requite you for all.

With respect to people coming to this country, no one can advise or discourage because some do well and others ill. Dear Brother you might now if I thought that this country would answer you better than where you are I would send you word, but a man with a helpless family would have to hire servants, which would be as bad on him as a rent, for servant wages are very high; here you would have to pay a boy from 20 to 30 pounds a year and a girl from 9 to 12 pounds a year.

You may let your friend Edward Bloomer know of Shercock know that his daughter Jane is well and is living with us this winter. She wishes her father to write to her and post pay the letter to Liverpool. Dear brother the one half of the letters sent from Ireland do not reach this place on account of them not being postpaid to Liverpool, and those that we do receive costs us 5s 7d each letter. All the letters that we send to Ireland are post paid by us to New York Is - 11d each.

By this means none of them are delayed or lost. With respect to Owen

Brady, we heard that not long ago he was in this country but returned to the States. If he be in the State of Ohio it is likely that he might ~~come~~ happen to come where the McFaddins are settled. We received a letter from Alexander McFaddin who settled where the Gillmers are in the State of Ohio, Harrison County, within two miles of the town of Cadiz. He purchased a cleared farm of land. He stated to me that the were all well; that Elizabeth died in Liverpool, and that his Mother and Sister died after his arrival there. He also mentioned that his sister Bess Kelly arrived with all her children. Esther wishes to be remembered to her Dear Father - allows him not to be the least uneasy about her as she was never better in Ireland than here. She wishes likewise to be remembered to her Dear Brother Robert and Sister Jane. She wishes to know does her Brother William's children remain with you or how the are settled. My Family are all living with me as usual. Robert went to the States last Summer but did not remain only a few weeks there. He is now a Clerk in Mr Hartwell's store, Ninherest within 2 miles of Coburg. He is as well as he can wish to be in this world.

I wish to be remembered to all my friends & relations, to Mr Edward Mahood and family, and likewise to Mr James? Hopkins, to Brother John Broch and Family, Brother Wm Harison and Family, Brother John Steen and family, Brother John Hooey and Family, and let him know that his son David wishes him to come to this country and sell the land for whatever he can get for it and pay his debts, and if he has not enough of money to bring him and his Mother to this country, he will pay there way out to this country, and he wishes them to let him know what they intend to do immediately. Remember me to Sister Jane Maxwell and Family and let her know that Robt? and his wife are well. To Maxwell Montgomery and family, let him know that his Sister Nancy Parr and family are well. You may let Mr Reid of Glenturbet that his son Samuel is well and doing well and lives in the same village where my son Robert is. Moses McIndo, William Taylor, James Rusk, William Maglaughlin, James McGill, David McGill and families are all well. George Mcglaughlin and family are well, his wife remains always the same. James Hooey and family are well. David Hooey and family are well. Edward Hooey and family are well and has two children died. Young David Hooey and family are well. John Livingstone is well. Samuel Ferguson and family are well and is a credit to all belonging to him in Ireland or America. You may let his brother Jos. Ferguson know it. John Rusk and family are well. You may let Edward Saunderson of Latchey know that his four sons are well. Let John Hooey of Latchey know that his son Robert and wife are well, but John's health is much impaired. I wish to be remembered to Mr and Mrs Crookshanks, to Mr and Mrs Mahaffy, to Mr. Joseph Saunderson and family, Cootehill, Our friend James Irwin came to see us last summer. I have made all the inquiry I could about Brother Alex Kelly, but could find no account of him, but he died in New Orleans.

This paper does not allow me to say any more to you at present, but I ever remain your well wishing Brother till Death.

David Hooley

John wishes to be remembered to Mr. Edward Mahood and family and let him know that his uncle Joseph Mahood are well and live in Knew York. Also to his cousin William Maxwell and friend James Hopkins and let him know that a baker will get from 12 to 20 Dollars a month. A Dollar is 5 shillings. This is a good country for a young man with a trade of any kind if it (is) only a tinker.

(TO) Mr Robert Kelly , Drutamon,  
in care of

Mr Joseph Saunderson , Innkeeper,  
Cootehill , County Cavan.

Ireland.

POSTMARKS: LIVERPOOL SHIP JENEFER

Port Hope  
19th March 1835.