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p/184

Donegal County Council Archives



Rockhill, Nov 29<sup>th</sup> 193.

Dear Sir,

I write to say I am well acquainted with the men, Carroll, McKinney, Sweeney, & Corry, J. C. & will use my influence on your behalf. Michael Doherty's sister is married to baker Mc Garvey in yr own town, him you can approach through that channel yourself, I will have a talk with Canon Baillie about you, but be very sure and bring all the influence you can to bear on W. K. Boyd, as he is the principal man.

I think you stand a very fair chance, if you apply in time, that is, if no local candidate props up. I do not know what the remuneration will be, but Letterkenny is a rising town and likely something else may follow suit to assist you to make a fair wage for your work. The only chance you can have is to canvass early.

We are sorry to hear about Mrs Williamson. There is a man that lives at Pluck Rly Station, three miles from Letterkenny, who has cured hundreds of evil cases, of all creeds, but the



patient must be at his house 3 successive Monday mornings before the sun rises.

Kind regards to Mrs Batten and the old woman. Wishing you success in your application.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

To  
Mr W<sup>m</sup> Batten, Rathmullan.

Rockhill, Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 1893.

Sir,

We offer you £4 for a month for training two young horses properly, you finding yourself board & lodging. Letterkenny is only one mile & three quarters from here, which you can easily walk in every evg & out each morning. If the training turns out satisfactory I shall allow you another half sovereign on leaving as a present.

If you accept these terms, please sign this and return same to me on or before Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec next as two applicants are in for same from Strabane.

Yours truly,

Robert R. Robinson.

To  
Mr R. James, Letterilly, Glenties.

Rockhill Letterkenny Dec 6 1894

General Stewart

I write and beg to say there are about 45 or so trees blowing down in all home of any special note except an oak and silver opposite the Wick Gate at the head of the new Chestnut walk.

Two in the danger seem to have suffered most as they are broken and splintered.

It was a succession of gales from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, the wind blew direct north and therefore comparatively speaking did little damage. I never remember the wind blowing so strong from the same point before.

There are a great many branches ratched off about the Lawn & Pleasure Ground, on the whole very little harm done.

The amount of one week's wages to each labouring man & boy amounts to £6-11-6.

I remain your

Obedient servant.

Robert R. Robinson.



Rockhill, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 1894.

For Sale.

50 Black faced three year old wethers,  
fat, can be taken in fives or tens at  
the purchasers convenience

Apply to the Landsteward, Rockhill.

Mr Editor,

Kindly let me have two insertions  
in your paper of above. I enclose you 18  
stamps as payment.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson, Landsteward.

Rockhill, Dec 19<sup>th</sup> /93.

General Stewart.

I write and beg to say I send you  
two chickens by this post.

I have been laid up with influenza for the  
last eight days, had Dr Carre here three times.  
I am some better, I have been out today. The  
wife & daughter were also laid up for a week  
but both are better.

The weather has been very wicked & cold  
lately & I have so much walking to do that my feet

are still damp. There were about 8 trees  
broken on the 7<sup>th</sup>. One at the lodge gate & fell  
up against it but did no harm. The other  
leaning beech at the dam of the turbin house  
did no harm either, the other six are of no  
importance.

I am

Your obedient Servant.

Robert R. Robinson.

Rockhill Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> /93.

Dear Sir,

I write & beg to say in reply to yr letter of yesterday  
received this morning. The sheep are fat & quite ready  
for table use. I could not estimate their weight when  
dressed. I will not divide them. One person must  
buy the whole and can draw them in any given  
number up to the 20<sup>th</sup> January next 1894, when the  
last must be taken away.

The price for the whole is 25/- each.

I remain sir,

Your obed servant.

Robert R. Robinson.

To

James M<sup>r</sup> Farlane Esq J.P., Baronscourt.



Rockhill Dec 27<sup>th</sup> /93.

General Stewart.

I write & beg to say I am a good deal better thank God, but not yet fully over it.

The wife & daughter are all right again. I have to thank you very much indeed for your kind liberality in paying the Dr's bill.

Influenza is very prevalent in the neighbourhood. I hear Mr Boyd and ten others of his household are ailing with it at present.

I see by the Farming World the new Disc churn was well recommended at Chester. but I am afraid it and the "end over end" are not long enough in use to discover their faults.

The holding capacity of a churn, say 20 qts will not churn properly more than 14 quarts. I think that the churn should not churn less than from 12 to 14 qts. It will require four pans for cooling which should be delf I think and not earthen-ware. It will also require a deep delf vessel that will hold 14 qts of skimmed cream to mature for churning.

All timber marked in the Danger, the

sycamore marked at the stackyard and any other blown down or broken timber I would sell if it were mine, no matter how little the price may be, as I see it is estimated, it will take five years to take the timber glut out of market and by that time this timber will be uncalable and in fact rotten. This Mr Murphy or you need not act upon as it is only my own suggestion.

Harron receipted his bill after I signed it to save writing. The work is well done. You had better send him your cheque.

The weather has calmed down lately and is milder than has been.

Wishing you Mrs Stewart and Miss Kathleen many happy New Years.

Believe me,

I remain

Your obed servant.

Robert R. Robinson



Rockhill Jan 4<sup>th</sup> /94.

Dear Mrs Mc Kenna.

I write & beg to thank you very much for your nice present. It was very kind of you indeed and entirely unexpected by me.

I have been laid up with influenza for some time past, but am now thank God much better.

Wishing you and your family every prosperity and many happy New Years.

Believe me,

I remain Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

Rockhill, Jan 7<sup>th</sup> /94.

Dear Sir,

I know nothing about the lodgment of £47-19-10 whatever. The transaction was not done by me.

Yours very truly,

R. R. Robinson.

John R. Baillie Esq.  
Dunfanaghy.

Rockhill, Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 1894.

Dear Sir,

I write & beg to say the Letterkenny Coursing Club got possession of a portion of land early in 1890, & the second part in 1891.

1<sup>st</sup> I believe possession was given by a letter from General Stewart.

2<sup>nd</sup> Major Murphy was to put the rent on.

3<sup>rd</sup> Edward Mc Fadden, Letterkenny, solicitor responsible. he is sec & treasurer.

4<sup>th</sup> Major Murphy knows if any rent was paid.

5<sup>th</sup> The hares are doing no harm that I know of.

The Stock are all doing very well. I have sold only six yet, & that a few days ago to Bernard Langan for £99. He is not to pay me the cash till back end of next week.

I intend sending six to Glasgow for a trial on Monday night's boat.

Any transaction I had with Allen the timber buyer in Letterkenny, he paid me honourably, but your sure plan would be to have a deposit from him in advance.

I have seen a very good recommendation



Mr Boyd gave him. The only fault I found with him was, occasionally he would let his men fell a good tree instead of a bad one. Should he make an estimate and you accept it, be very sure and bind him with a double penalty should any tree be found in his possession wanting the Stewart initials.

Wishing you and your family many happy and prosperous New Year's.

Believe me, I remain Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Robert R. Robinson.

Edmund Murphy Esq. J. P.

Rockhill 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 1894.

Dear Sir,

I write to say it would be very satisfactory to me you would kindly send down yr house & cart & take a load of turnips from me for yr kindness last year in bestowing eggs. Wishing you Mrs Robinson & family many happy New Years.

Believe me, Yours truly,  
Mr Arch<sup>d</sup> Robinson. R. R. Robinson.

Rockhill Jan 17<sup>th</sup> 1894.

Dear Sir

I write and beg to say I had a letter from Mr Murphy and he asked me to say that he would be glad to have an estimate from you for all the marked timber at Rockhill. Hoping you & Mrs Allen are quite well.

Believe me,

Yrs most sincerely,

R. R. Robinson.

Mr G. Allen, Letterkenny.

Rockhill,

Letterkenny.

January 19<sup>th</sup> /94.

Dear Sir,

Kindly let me have your cheque for price of Cattle and Sheep as I must make a lodgment to Mr Murphy on Wednesday.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

To

Mr B. Langan, Letterkenny.



Rockhill, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> /94.

General Stewart.

I write and beg to say the training of the horses will cost £8-10 for eight weeks. I think it would not be right to put them into farm work this year as they have been trained to saddle and double harness, (which you see is quite different from farm work). They have turned out a nice pair, better let them stand under the Coachman's care. I would suggest them getting 5 lbs Oats, each per day, with an allowance of hay. Daily light exercise, and not that galloping or racing which often makes a sound horse turn out unsound.

We are just now breaking in the other two young three year old horses and that is occupying all the available horsemen that we can spare for the present. I therefore do not like to have four light-headed horses on my hands at once lest an accident should occur to some of them by not being properly manned. Later on, in April or May your horses might do some

light work under the direct care of the Coachman, such as rolling harrowing &c. For the past month it has been a daily continuance of sleet, hail & occasional heavy falls of snow.

This day we have got a gap in the side-bank in Creeve Meadow. I see Mr Boyd has also got one, and probably when the flood meets the tide other gaps may follow. It looks like a lough of water from the Oldtown bridge to New Mills on both sides.

I could get no offer for the blown down trees but I had a letter from Mr Murphy who said he had an offer for all timber marked and probably he would do well to accept it.

Today two large spruce and one sycamore have been blown down at the Dark walk adjacent to the over-hanging portico laurel, also seven of the young larch where you thinned in the Danger. Altogether January has been a very stormy month.



I am well recovered from the effects of influenza thank God, but not as strong as usual yet, but out every day.

I am,

Your obed servant,

Robert R. Robinson,

Rockhill Feb 8<sup>th</sup> /94

Sub Order for 1894 from James Dickson & Sons, Edinburgh. Mixed grasses & clovers for 9 acres. One year hay and four years pasture.

6 bushels perennial Rye grass,

3 " Italian " " "

24 lbs Timothy " " "

20 " Swede turnips,

10 " Green top Aberdeen,

16 " Long red Mangel,

40 stone Sanday Oats,

40 " Potatoes,

4 " Best Bluster Potatoes.

Corn sacks to be numbered 10 and so on in consecutive order and lettered

General Stewart,

Rockhill, Letterkenny.

Sacks to be a little wider than those sent last year. All seeds to be separately marked named in bill.

R. R. Robinson, Rockhill.

Rockhill March 23<sup>rd</sup> /94.

Dear Mr Stewart

I write and beg to thank you very much indeed for your very kind present of a pocket-book, and indeed it is such a nice one. It was so very kind of you.

I am very sorry to hear about Mr Robert's illness. I hope and trust that it is only temporary and that he will soon come allright again. It is a nasty disease to get rid of. I have had a return of it for four months, the past winter, and have never got thoroughly clear of it yet, although better I was thank God.

The wife & daughter had it but only lay a few days. There were scarcely a house in the district missed it, but it seemed of a milder type than it was two years ago.

The weather from Oct to 15<sup>th</sup> March has



been something terrific in the memory of the oldest man living, so many storms never occurred. Nothing daily but sleet, snow, hail, and wind. The rainfall for January, February, and up to March 15<sup>th</sup> registered 18.80 inches, since the 15<sup>th</sup> to present date I never remember such mild weather as we have just now.

There has been a good deal of harm done here and there to the standing trees, and especially the Beech Hill but none in the Lawn. D's are all well.

Wishing you, Lady Mary and the children many happy days.

Yours sincerely,

Robert R. Robinson.

Chas. J. Stewart Esq  
10 Eaton Terrace  
London.

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Rockhill, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 194.

General Stewart:

I write and beg to say the young horse you speak about in his present condition would not sell for £15. He is tusked up in the belly, and in bad health, in fact, I believe would not be bought at a public sale. His eyes seem to be good enough. I believe the cause to be ill fed and over worked. He is not able to work on the farm at the present time. I had to lose him out of the harrow & send him to the stable. If he is not hurt, rest, and feeding may bring him round.

Mild weather set in here on 15<sup>th</sup> March, & not a drop of rain since, everything seems to be getting into vitality again. Should the weather remain fine the spring will not be so late as anticipated.

The weather from Oct to 15<sup>th</sup> March has been something terrific in the memory of the oldest man living so many storms never occurred.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> February seven large beech trees were blown down, one lying on the top of the other, adjacent to the junction of the Dark



Walk leading to the Pleasure ground.

Rainfall for January, February, up to  
15<sup>th</sup> March registered 18.80 inches.

I remain Sir,

Your obed servant,

Robert R. Robinson.

Rockhill Apr 16<sup>th</sup> /94

Rev<sup>d</sup> Dear Sir,

I write and beg to say I enclose you  
eight postage stamps which you will kindly  
utilize in sending the Magazine to Mrs  
Robinson for 1894.

Believe me,

I remain Yrs truly,

R. R. Robinson.

The Rev A. Roblett, Letterkenny.

I called twice on Dr Carre who never  
had time to make up my bill.

I remain

Your obed servant,

Robert R. Robinson

Rockhill April 16<sup>th</sup> /94

General Stewart.

I write & beg to say I consider a churn  
that would churn from 10 to 12 quarts would be  
the best. Of course it should be capable of churn-  
ing less if required, as I have no experience and  
never saw any of them working. I cannot  
recommend which is better.

You should have information from some one  
you could rely on, and who has been using one  
for over six months.

White stone china vessels are best and easiest  
kept clean, they are not for sale in Letterkenny.  
You will require four pans for cooling. It will  
also require a deep pan that will hold 12 qts of  
skimmed cream to mature for churning.

I will go down some evening to see Mrs Mansfield's  
and let you know what she thinks about it.

The weather has changed from mild to cold  
with sleet, but on the whole a good spring  
for so far.

I believe the young horse with good care  
may come round; he is now working daily



Rockhill April 19<sup>th</sup> /94.

General Stewart.

I write and beg to say Mr Chambers  
Manager of the Ulster Bank, Dr Carre, and a  
few others have been playing golf in the Lawr.  
starting at Mc Daid's Old Lodge and going  
across into the Fort Field.

They say it is splendid golfing ground, and  
are anxious to get what they call six pots  
made in it. This I refused letting them do  
until I hear from you. They promise in no  
case that the number shall exceed ten, and  
as far as I can learn there seems to be no  
harm that they can commit.

You will kindly please say what you  
think.

I remain,

Your obed Servant,  
Robert R. Robinson.

Rockhill April 24<sup>th</sup> /94

Dear Sir,

Let me know what day you can come  
to castrate a colt.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

John Howatt Esq. V. S. Derry.

Rockhill April 24<sup>th</sup> 1894.

Dear Sir

I have written to Howatt the Vet to come to  
castrate a foal I have. He will be here some day  
next week. I shall again let you know the day.

Yours Truly,

R. R. Robinson.

Mr James Torrens, Rahm.

Rockhill 25-4-94.

Dear Sir

Please keep Watch & note how she keeps  
time as I shall be in Derry some day  
soon & call on you for her.

Yours Truly

R. R. Robinson.

Messrs Boyle & Co. Derry.



Rockhill April 28<sup>th</sup> /94

Dear Sir,

Please send One cwt Red, One cwt Brown, and two stone Blue Paint,

Also six paint-brushes, different sizes. Charge to General Stewart.

Yours Truly,

R. R. Robinson.

Walter Carson & Sons,  
Dublin.

Rockhill June 10<sup>th</sup> 1894

Dear Miss Baillie.

I write and beg to say I have been sewing at Miss Ramsey's for the past fortnight & intend doing so for the present, with God's help. When I come home on Saturday night of course I feel tired & the distance is so very far to walk on Sunday that you may naturally expect that I am therefore unable to attend the Sunday School, regularly, but I hope and trust that I may attend occasionally when I feel strong enough to do so. My Father and Mother are

both well thank you.

Believe me, Dear Miss Baillie,  
I remain Yrs very truly.

Sarah Jane Robinson.

Rockhill June 10<sup>th</sup> /94

General Stewart.

I write and beg to say your Churn has arrived here safely, with four cooling pans, but no butter-worker nor anything else that I see.

I enclose you Railway Bill which I paid on freightage of same.

The weather during all May and for so far in June, is like March, and not summer weather. A continued breeze of wind blowing N. by N. E. prevents vegetation and in fact everything is a fortnight or three weeks later than usual. The grass in particular is very bad and the oat crop in wet land is completely perished.

Everything in the district is keeping quiet, and no disturbance whatever.



What is to be done about Coal. This is  
the month I should like to cart it

I remain

Your obed Servant.

Robert Robinson  
Rockhill June 16/94

General Stewart

I write and beg to say I enclose you  
Rly Bills; Station Master refuses to put the  
two in one, being contrary to his instructions.

The Churn and all the apparatus you ordered  
arrived safely.

There are about 20 Tons Coal in Coal House  
& I think you should order 30 tons more.

I find from Deery the consumption has been  
very large in the house, namely, about 6 cwt  
weekly, since you left.

If the weather dont soon change from cold  
to sunshine hay, and other crops will not be  
so good.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

Robert R. Robinson

Victoria Churn.

Directions For Use.

1. See that the Churn stands level and  
firm, so that the bearings move freely.
2. See that the bearings are kept clean  
and oiled.
3. Make the Churn fast by the hook  
fixed to the frame.
4. Pour in two, four, six, or eight gallons  
of warm water, according to the size,  
let it stop in half an hour, occasionally  
wash the water round in every part  
inside, take the water out, then scald  
it out, let it cool, and it is fit for use.  
Be careful to let out the steam by  
pressing down the valve.
5. The quantity of milk or cream to churn  
is a little less than half-full, but a  
smaller amount can be churned.
6. The proper temperature is  $58^{\circ}$  in summer,  
and  $64^{\circ}$  in winter. 56 revolutions to  
60 per minute. Let the air out  
occasionally by pressing the valve



down. Keep your eyes upon the glass in the Lid, and as soon as it is clear, give over churning. Sometimes the butter will form in lumps, and at other times in small globules, in either case when you give up churning, let it stand still for two minutes, then take off the lid, and let out the Butter-milk by the Plug, run it through a sieve, to catch what butter might run out. When the butter-milk has run out, put in the Plug, and pour a quantity of cold water into the Churn, put on the Lid, and turn the Churn round slowly two or three times, and the Butter will be gathered into one lump. It is always recommended to have one of Waide's Thermometers, to test the temperature of the Cream before churning.

7. Clean the Churn immediately after churning, with warm water, wash it well, and scrub with a brush, empty

the water out, and let it <sup>be</sup> well scalded out and put away to dry. Always keep the Churn and Lid in a cool place. Before you begin to Churn, wash the Churn out, in summer with cold water, and in winter with warm; this will facilitate the churning.

8. After the Churn has been cleaned, take the Lid off and turn Churn mouth downwards, and make fast by the Hook put for that purpose, then put the Lid on bottom end till next churning day. You thus keep out all dust, & the Churn will be kept clean and dry.

9. When seasoning a new Churn at first, always put a little washing soda in with the hot water it will then bring the colour out of the wood.

Arrived here June 2<sup>nd</sup>  
1894.



Rockhill July 4<sup>th</sup> 1894.

General Stewart.

I write and beg to say I had the bay Mare in Raphoe fair on 22<sup>nd</sup> inst. and could only make £25 for her.

This I considered too little for an animal of her class. She is now out on grass, and must remain there till back end of year (when the new oats will not be so strong and the weather colder). Probably with a fortnight's training she may be brought round to sell as a working animal.

I could not think of putting a horse on her, as that caused her to be idle for two summers, which is not a paying game, at the price horses are selling at.

The weather beautiful & warm for past ten days, good weather for saving hay but it is a light crop.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,  
R. R. Robinson

Rock Hill, July 13<sup>th</sup>

Dear Mr Weir.

I write and beg to say, would you kindly let me know when I may bring away the Black Cow and her calf, and if your bull is pure bred, so that I might keep the progeny, and if she has been served to your satisfaction.

I hope to meet you in Derry on the 18<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, and pay you for any expenses you may have incurred.

Yours Truly,

R. R. Robinson

Rock Hill, Dec 29<sup>th</sup> 1894

Dear Sir,

Your letter duly received this morning and enclosed cheque. Owing to Marriages, births, deaths, stormy weather & Amas probably your men may not have pleased me. All timber cut, Carted that I can see. 74 per hour is very high wage for labouring men.

Wm Clark Esq

Yours Truly

R. R. Robinson



Rockhill Oct 1894.

The Editor Farmers Gazette, Dublin,  
Sir.

We have a very pretty fern-leaved  
Beech, about 30 feet high, with four stems  
branched out, about two feet from ground,  
with a hollow or cup in centre which holds  
about two quarts water.

Fearing this might injure the tree hereafter,  
would it do it any harm to bore an auger hole  
in a slanting position, to take the water  
from the cup.

Yours truly,

R. P. Robinson.

Name to be published in next Gazette.

R. P. Robinson.  
Donegal.

10  
10-2 4

Rockhill, Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 1894.

The Editor Derry Sentinel, Londonderry,  
Dear Sir.

You will kindly insert (enclosed)  
four times in ~~your~~ every alternative paper  
Send bill for payment and oblige.

To Builders and Contractors.

To Build two Labourers Cottages in one block  
at Rockhill, according to plans & Specifications  
to be seen at the Landsteward's office, up to  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 1894.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily  
accepted.

Yours truly,

R. P. Robinson.

Edmund Murphy Esq

Architect, November 12<sup>th</sup> 1894

Rockhill, Letterkenny.



Rockhill, Dec<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> /94.

General Stewart.

I write to say I send you the different tenders which I received. There is a long margin in their estimates.

You will see my plan has only three chimneys although Mr Cocker shows four.

The Letterkenny estimators are men of straw. The Lifford man I know nothing about.

Should you close with any of them, be sure and have good security, for the fulfilment of the work to be executed. The House in the yard is equally essential as the Labourer's Cottages.

I presume you would advance £50 or £70 sterling, when work is better than half through, so that it might give the poor contractor the means of finishing the work.

Weather has been mild but today is blowing with heavy rain.

Dunphy is not much improved in felling trees.

Your obedient Servant,  
Robert B. Robinson.

Rockhill, Dec<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> /94.

General

I beg to say the drain at back of Barn is finished all but cart-way between Stable door and Barn gable. That cannot be done for the present, owing to the carting of timber.

The side wall of the Potatoe house has become completely dry, but the end where you saw the flags lifted has not. I conclude this will become so, when we lift the cartway named above.

It was one of the worst constructed drains I ever re-opened. About the centre of the Barn side-wall there is no drain at all, it has a drop down a perpendicular rock of over 4 feet. It there falls into a hole where stones were quarried from. The weight of the side-wall of the Barn caused these stones to sink which is the main cause of the cracks in the Barn wall. The part of the Barn standing on the rock it stands good, but where soft foundation sinks, I can now understand the whole mystery of the Barn. We cemented side and bottom of drain where necessary. I conclude



it will stand for 30 or 40 year when repaired about the stable window in East shed, with no soap suds or offal entered in the grate in inside yard.

There are 17 hands employed, highest wages 11/- per week, lowest 3/- Total amount of one weeks wages £6-10-0.

I am

Your obedient servant.

Robert R. Robinson

Rockhill, Dec<sup>r</sup>. 22<sup>nd</sup>

General Stewart.

I write to say we had a ten hours gale in succession, over half the trees in plantation blown down. Not a single young Larch tree in the Fir plantation standing. Beech Hill a total wreck.

Two Auracaria's blown down in Pleasure Ground. All large Silver opposite Library window, and towards the garden upset. Large silver fir in Lawn, and a number of Oak and Beech blown down.

Wire and gates broken, Slates blown

off part Barn, End Stable and Cow house. Corn and Hay stacks upset. Some damage done to Roof of House. In fact you would not know Rockhill.

Oh! General if you could only see the place, most miserable looking.

Write you full particulars tomorrow.

Your obedient servant.

Robert R. Robinson.

Rockhill, Dec<sup>r</sup>. 23<sup>rd</sup>

General

On looking over some parts of the place today I find my letter of yesterday scarcely conveyed the truth about the damage done.

The Fir Hill is flattened like a field of Oats. The Beech Hill twisted and broken. Half of the Fern leaved Beech cut away. All them old and tall Silver by the Dark Walk, and up to the Green Oaks including them are all gone. Large Silver on Avenue at Well, the same on the side of Avenue going up to garden both half down.

Cedar at gate half broken. Copper beech below it in Lawn half carried away.



Copper Beech you pruned not touched.  
Large Silver in clump in Lawn, and all  
them Oaks by the Chestnut Walk, down.

At Wicket Gate, were smashed into bits, top  
ranched off the Chestnuts on down that  
walk. Four beeches on that walk lying  
across avenue. One large Silver at bottom  
of Lawn. Three beeches over on hill at the  
drinking boiler. All completely tumbled,  
at the turbin House. Both sides at entrance  
half rooted. Half the good trees down in  
Sycamore plantation.

The Bell Hill, including the Bell itself  
partly all blown down. That heavy beech &  
Ash about the Pigstie and Cart-Shed a total  
wreck. The Lawn came off the most  
favourable of any on the whole demesne.

All evergreen trees in the young  
plantations from the Glen up, are blown over.  
But beyond that they do not seem to have  
suffered so much.

I do not know what we are to do. I  
have ordered Crossfield's men to clear the

timber off back and front Avenue, and  
take it away. Was this right. What are  
we to do. It will now take wise judgment.

The Poachman has written to you  
concerning the damage done to the House. I  
think it is not much.

I cannot get the scattered Hay or Corn in till  
Roads are cleared. The damage done to Oats is not  
much, but the hay has suffered considerably. Not so  
much harm done to farm buildings. The Iron  
cover of the sheep troughs in Lawn were ranched  
off & carried away forty yards.

The wind began about ten at night & continued  
till ten next morning. It was a perfect hurricane  
from twelve till two. I thought the Lodge would  
have been blown away, as I find many  
Rhododendrons are blown out of root. There  
has not been such a disastrous gale in my  
remembrance for over forty years.

The Butter boxes you talk about should be  
made to hold exactly 3 lbs.

The Gates have arrived here from Kennan  
with  $3/7$  Railway Charge paid by me.



I should like very much that you would come over and see for yourself.

I think it would be well that Crossfield would not get all the trees you marked now since others are blown down that has not been marked. What think ye of this.

Your obedient servant

Robert R. Robinson

Rockhill Dec<sup>r</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> /94.

Edmund Murphy Esq J. P.

Sir,

I beg to say the gale of Friday night has devastated Rockhill completely.

Over one third of all the trees in the plantation are blown down. The young Larch plantation completely levelled to the ground, not a single tree standing

Roads blocked. Gates & wire broken. Hay peaks and corn stacks upset.

Some damage done to Barn, and Stable by losing a few slates. A few from the House. In the whole not much harm

done to buildings. It is most lamentable to see the place. What is to be done.

I have written General Stewart, to this effect.

Yours truly,

Robert R. Robinson

Rockhill, Dec<sup>r</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> /94.

Dear General Stewart,

I am very sorry to hear of Mr Charles' illness. I trust in God by this time he is better. I see there is no getting rid of Influenza for years when it is not watched at first.

I think no wonder your Christmas was miserable, as had you been here and saw the destruction of trees it would have been worse. It is enough to unking a man's mind.

I might say for the past week I scarcely know what I am doing, but one thing you have to thank God for that is a £5 note will repair all the damages done to House and Farm Buildings. There is no use in sending you an alarm, when in reality



there is no great damage done till House property.

It is impossible to get a Slater. I offered a man yesterday 10/- for a day's work in Letterkenny. He said he would not take a £1 and come. Owing to the continuation of the gale, men are afraid to go on houses.

The wind blew from the N. W. yesterday, I am sure at 50 miles per hour, and tumbled a few young trees on Crookanaar.

Mr Boyd tells me he has only about 40 trees down and they chiefly about the garden. His garden suffered but not the House.

Canon Baillie got a bad wrecking; so did Major Patterson.

It seems as if it wrecked its whole fury on old large trees. Your Lawn is perfectly safe and in a few years probably you would never know that a tree was blown down. What I consider worst is the Fir Hill; it is not convertible into money at the present time.

It must remain for this year in the leaning

posture. When the gales go over we will try to put up one of the Auracaria's, but I see it would be useless in attempting the other as it is actually snapped off a foot below the ground.

Owing to it happening about the Xmas holidays the Derry papers give very little news about the gale. The report that Col Montgomery, Capt Stoney, & Mr Fenwick their plantations partly blown away. There were no mention of Bockhill, Ballymacool, or any of the local gentry.

By the upsetting of a boat at Castluray, three men were drowned, who were bringing sand to the Port. A man and his servant boy were killed dead near Stranorlar by a tree falling on the house.

From the Glen up to the Lodge except the evergreen trees the damage is not so great. It will be unnoticeable in a few years, but undoubtedly the Beech Hill, Fir Hill, Wash-lines, Pig-sty, Bell hill, and especially about the Turbin the destruction



is incalculable. Not could I make an estimate of the wire fencing. It has come in for breakages in more than a hundred places.

There fell about six inches of snow last night and the present moment is snowing heavily with a biting north wind.

I shall send you the number of fowls killed and unkilld in a day or two when I trust in God my head will clear a little.

Wishing you a Happy New Year.

Believe me,

I remain Sir,

Your obedt servant

Robert R. Robinson

Rockhill, Jan: 2<sup>nd</sup> /95.

Dear Sir,

I write to say I am sorry to hear you are laid up with the cold, I hope and trust it is not influenza.

Mr Crossfield's men are working at the fallen timber & has partly got the Roads cleared. They had all the marked timber cut & carried away about the House unfortunately at the time, and to this cause I attribute nine-tenths of the disaster owing to the wind getting in among the newly-thinned trees.

The plantations they had not thinned did not suffer near so much damage as those they had. The trees in the Lawn are nothing the worse, In a few years they will never be missed but the ornamental trees in the Pleasure Ground have completely suffered. It is certainly a great pity to see so many fine trees blown down of which the General was so proud. House and Farm buildings suffered very little, they are almost put right again. We suffered in Hay considerably



We will be much pleased to see you here,  
as really it has upset my head.

It only reminds us that we still should be  
on the watch for we know not the day,  
nor the hour.

Wishing you many happy New Years.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

Robert R. Robinson.

Edmund Murphy Esq. J. P.

Rockhill, Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> /95.

Wanted a First-class Ploughman who  
can stack. To a thoroughly good Man  
constant employment and good wages  
will be given

Apply Robert R. Robinson, Rockhill  
Litterkenney.

Editor Sentinel, Londonderry.

Sir

Kindly insert the above advertisement  
three times in your paper, that is every  
other publication. You need not send me  
a voucher as I get your paper by the year

from Maddock. I also send you the  
Rainfall at Rockhill for year ending 1894

You will please have it published in  
your paper, and make it readable to suit  
yourself. You need not enter account as  
I shall call at your Office for book, and pay  
you on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> inst.

Yours very truly,

R. R. Robinson.

Rockhill, Jan 4<sup>th</sup> /95.

My dear Mr Stewart

I received from you this mornig  
a Book, for which kindly accept of my  
sincere thanks.

It seems an excellent work and one had  
I read some years ago, would have been most  
delightful and instructive, especially as it  
treats on those scientific subjects, of where  
you and I and every good Christian must  
spend endless years, but unfortunately since I  
had the influenza when I read any length  
of time, my head goes astray & all gets into a  
chaotic mass. I hope and praise God



that you are better of the influenza, as the General wrote me to say your temperature was 105. My son died at 103, so that you must have been very weak.

I would ask it as a favour of you, not to sit in draughts, nor be much out in stormy weather, as I know from experience what I have suffered from the effects of influenza.

You would be sorry to see Rockhill, the damage done to the trees but nothing of any consequence done to House or farm buildings.

Nevertheless a sufficient number of trees are left in Lawn & elsewhere to keep up the outline, & in three or four ~~or~~ years I flatter myself to say they will scarcely be missed. The young Larch plantation on the Danger I consider the worst of all. It is one mass levelled flat.

Weather very cold here just now. Sleet & hail falling daily. I send you a pair of small chickens to boil for soup, & I trust God may restore you to your usual health. Wishing you Lady Mary & the family many Happy New Years  
Believe me, I remain Yrs truly R. R. Robinson  
C. J. Stewart Esq. London

Rockhill, Jan 4<sup>th</sup> /95.

Sir.

I write to say enclosed you will find the address of the Firm who bought General Stewart's timber.

Their payments are punctual, and I believe a very strong firm. Regarding their prices I am not at liberty to express an opinion one way or the other.

Mr Murphy & the General sold the timber, therefore you can see it did not come under my notice.

Yours truly  
Robert R. Robinson.

W. H. Boyd Esq.



Rockhill Jan 7<sup>th</sup> /95.

Sir,

I write to say Thompson the man you speak about would have been likely to suit, but at the present time we have no house to put him into.

Owing the late Ploughman's Mother living in one, of which we don't want to put out till the weather gets warm, or they probably finds a place elsewhere.

Our wages is 10/- per week, a free house, a rood of manured land, for potatoes, they laboured but not seeded, or 12/- per week, free house, and no manure.

It is a right good place for a man who looks after himself, horses and keeps his temper.

Yours truly  
R. R. Robinson.

To

John S. Weir Esq J. P.  
Carrick-brack  
Convoy. Co. Donegal.

Rockhill Jan, 15<sup>th</sup> /95.

General Stewart

I write & beg to say when you were staying at Rockhill, there were 9 Sheep killed, buying in price 16/- each, weight of Mutton 414 lbs.

15 ducks cost 18/9.

16 Chickens £1-7-6. with others that the maid reared. Since you left I bought 32 @ £2-2-8, they are here in store for you now. Total number of fowls in stock at present time 69.

Why not you have two or four of these sent over weekly. The Dairy Maid was not very accurate in her killing account for the month of October.

We have a very severe storm of frost and snow here for the past 15 days. Snow is lying fully 10 inches deep on the level.

I sold 15 fat cattle on the 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 1894, @ £210.

I understand Crossfield is not for taking all the blown down timber



although he is still carting away from the Beech Hill. I dare say owing to the recent storm timber will be a drug in the market and probably that is the reason he is so shy as the blown down timber can be cross-cut much cheaper than the standing.

While the Ploughman left us the day after Christmas of his own accord, and we have got no one since owing to not having a house to put him into.

He left us with the intention to cut timber with Dunphy but is not doing so yet.

I remain,

Your obed servant  
Robert Robinson

To

General Stewart  
23 Lennox Gardens  
London.

S. W.

Rockhill, Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>

General Stewart.

I write & beg to say we sent you a pair of chickens yesterday and will do so every Monday, their postage was  $1/4^2$ , which I think makes them dear. Supposing the head and feet were cut off and they cleaned by the Maid & rolled in light canvas it would cause them to go cheaper, but probably they might lose their flavour.

We can only send you a small quantity butter for some time, owing to the cows being in-calf. Only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  gallons milk coming into the Dairy daily. If all go right we shall have a cow calving on 6<sup>th</sup> February, & after that date can send you six lbs butter weekly.

The frost & snow still continues. While the ploughman came back to me after cooling three weeks, and I took him on as usual. Dunphy declined to give him work. Crossfield I believe will



take the timber, he is a difficult man to work with. He has now over a £100 sterling worth of timber carted. About 780 trees were blown down, not counting any blown down that were marked by you.

I am,

Your obedient servant  
Robert R. Robinson.  
Rockhill Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Dear Sir,

I write & beg to say I enclose you Deposit receipt for £210, price of 15 Cattle.

I hope & trust by this time you are better and in your usual health again. I should very much like as soon as you conveniently could give us a run round some day, as the place is in a fearful state owing to the Gale, and I should like your opinion on some things.

It is now a month of a storm with partial thaws intervening. Dunphy

should be compelled to clear away the small wood as well as the large, this he is very dilatory in doing.

Yours truly

R. R. Robinson

E. Murphy Esq. J. P.

Rockhill, Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> /95.

My dear Mr Hilliard.

I write to say I have been much pleased to receive your welcome but unexpected letter. We are indeed all well pleased to hear that you are still in the flesh, yet, and that you may continue so for many years to come, in the enjoyment of good health.

We are also glad to hear of Tom being married. It will still be the means of keeping a comfortable home for you. And we hope the Convoy Rug you took him has given you full satisfaction.

We are all well here now thank God, I had another touch of influenza last year, but this year I have escaped for so far thank



God. We have had a very severe storm and heavy gale here. Over a thousand of the large old trees blown down.

The wire fence you put up is broken in twenty places. Probably you might be down once more to see it yet.

Sarah Jane has grown quite a tall girl and is thinking of learning dressmaking.

You will accept of her sincere thanks for that magnificent Xmas card of which you so kindly sent her.

Mrs Robinson, her, and myself all join in saying Good Night, and wishing you happy days to enjoy your glass of toddy.

Yours truly  
R. R. Robinson.

W. Hilliard Esq. 37  
37 York Street  
Dublin

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Rockhill, Feb 4<sup>th</sup>/95.

Dear Sir,

I write to say the total number of Tons of Timber Carted, including the 3 loads Alder we talked about is 607-9-2.

I find a difference in Beech. I have looked all over the tickets again. I find I give you the correct weight. You had better therefore send this weight namely <sup>tons cut 920</sup> 607-9-2 Carted up to 31<sup>st</sup> January 1895.

Yours truly

R. R. Robinson.

Mr D. Patterson, The Port.

Rockhill Feb 4<sup>th</sup>/95

Dear Sir

In reply to your letter of 31<sup>st</sup> ult, I write to say we received no damage on House property or stock by the recent gale whatever. But a complete smash on the large trees in plantation. Trees of over 200 years standing, weight 4 to 6 tons, have been uprooted and broken & smashed into firewood.

One plantation of Larch of 16 yrs standing



not a single tree left. Crossfield of Barrow-in-Furness, has men working here at timber he bought previous to the gale.

I conclude there must be a glut in the market, as he seems very cautious in making further purchases.

This prolonged seems to be intensifying itself today again.

With best wishes.

Yours truly

R. R. Robinson.

A. Manning Esq. Mulroy.

Rockhill, Feb 4<sup>th</sup>/95.

Dear Sir

Your letter of 31<sup>st</sup> ult. duly received and in answer thereto I write to say.

H. J. Crossfield, Barrow-in-Furness, is the address of the party who purchased timber here, from General Stewart.

Their men are working here now, and it seems to be a strong firm. Their payments are regular, and their cash

sure. It was a terrific gale here, and <sup>done</sup> over a large amount of harm to standing trees and Hay peaks.

With kind regards & best wishes.

Yours truly

R. R. Robinson.

Mr J. Stoddart, Castlegrove.

Rockhill, Feb 7<sup>th</sup>/95.

Dear Sir.

I write to say enclosed you find Bill and weight of Timber. By calculation you can see 12 1/2 is the correct amount.

You will therefore kindly let me have a new Bill for that amount, and the enclosed Tickets returned.

Believe me,

I remain

Yours truly

R. R. Robinson.

Major H. A. Doyne.

Murrac-a-boo.

Letterkenny



Rockhill, Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Sir.

I write and beg to say I heard today that Dunphy and his men are going to cut timber at Ards. If this is so I think it would be well of you to write Mr Clark to ask Dunphy to remove what trees I will point out to him here.

One week longer would do it, as it is a pity to see leaning trees lying up against others doing mischief, and he not take them away.

They are working at the best timber easiest to cut and cart, and left the trees blown down into others, especially about the Pleasure Grounds.

The frost never seems to go away. We are thinning the young plantation in Creeve, and in fact nine-tenths of it are blown down.

Yours Truly  
R. P. Robinson

E. Murphy Esq. J. P.

Rockhill, Feb 19<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Dear Sir.

I want you to be good enough to give no more tickets to carters without naming the class of wood, as I find today two more unnamed.

Yours Truly

R. P. Robinson.

Mr D. Patterson, The Port.

Rockhill, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> 1895.

Dear Sir.

I write to say, firstly you should have two stone of the Early Puritan, these you can get from Canon Baillie. Secondly, you should plant 8 stone blusters, 8 stone Champions, and 8 stone Main Crop Kidney.

As to Irish Whites, we have only grown them for pig feeding, but I could buy you a measure of them in Letterkenny and send them down by Van.

The bluster, champion, and Main Crop we can send you.

If the frost continues on much longer



I fear there will be rather seed not setting going on.

Yours truly,  
P. P. Robinson.

John P. Baillie Esq.

Rockhill, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>

Madam.

I write to say, owing to the bursting of a water pipe in one of our Potatoe houses, we will not be supplying seed potatoes largely this year.

However we could supply you with any quantity you may require, of Main Crop Kidney, or Bruce, at 5/- per cwt, including Bag.

Owing to the intensity of the frost our cabbage plants are all headless, and therefore will not be recommendable

Yours truly,  
P. P. Robinson.

Mrs A. L. Dobbyn,  
Killybeg, Letterkenny.

Rockhill, Feb 26<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Seed Order for 1895. from  
James Dickson & Sons, Edinburgh.

12 bushels Perennial Rye Grass.

6 " Italian do " "

60 lbs Timothy

Some Meadow Fescue, some Cow Grass.

60 Alsike Clover

Mix the above thoroughly and leave them ready for sowing.

20 lbs Swede Turnip Seed

10 " Aberdeen Green Top " "

12 " Long Red Mangel. " "

60 Stone Sandy Oats.

The Sacks to be good as usual, to hold 6½ bushels, and lettered.

General Stewart, Rockhill, L. Kemy.  
Numbered 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29.

One Small Pocket Knife

Addressed

P. P. Robinson  
Rockhill, L. Kemy.



Rockhill, Feb 26<sup>th</sup> 1895

W. Drummond & Sons.

Sirs.

Enclosed you will find Cheque value 26 Shillings. Dec 14/5 for turnip seed sent me in 1894, and send me balance worth of your best Swede turnip seed, and bill for Genl Stewart.

Address R. R. Robinson, Rockhill

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson

Rockhill, Feb 28<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Messers Carter & Co.

Please send 5 lbs Goldfinder Mangel Seed, 5 lbs Kangaroo Swede turnip seed, and 1/2 box of the Goldfinder Potatoe, as trials in the North of Ireland.

Also send bill and cash will be remitted.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson

Landsteward

Rockhill, March 7<sup>th</sup> 1895.

General.

I write to say the wire can be repaired from the White Gate to Garden that is by Forth Field and Halb Doot.

From the Garden to the Old Lodge is cut in five places, but owing to the large quantity of Bush trees broken and blown down from Garden to Old Lodge it is useless mending the wire in that direction. None of the blown down timber in this part has been removed, and eventually Leitch will be claiming trespass, if it is not soon removed.

I explained this to Mr Murphy on last Monday when he was here. We have a large amount of wire in store, so that you can give the order to Horner at any time. Of course he has no work to do.

His milk bill for the past 13 weeks was	
41 Gallons @ 10 per gallon	£ 1- 14- 2.
His butter acct for the same	" " "
Period, 5 lbs @ 9 <sup>d</sup> per lb	0- 3- 9
do 1/2 dozen Eggs.	0- 0- 6
Total Amount:	£ 1- 18- 5



About the same consumption is going on weekly now.

I do keep an account of butter, postage, &c, it shall be sent to you regularly twice a week.

The frost and snow storm set in here on 28<sup>th</sup> Dec, and only a few days ago we have started to plough, and the frost gone out of the land yet.

I conjecture we shall have a good spring and probably a dry summer. It has been the severest winter I ever remember.

Mr Blay has not removed the gate yet. In about a month I shall be calling upon you for £50 to buy store cattle, as we shall require some more when the grass begins to start.

Your obedient servant,  
R. R. Robinson

General Stewart,  
23 Lennox Gardens,  
London. S. W.

Rockhill. Mar 7<sup>th</sup> 195.

Dear Dr Carr.

You shall have two loads more of poles, as they are so cheap.

The number and price were an arrangement between the Auctioneer and myself. You need not mind paying him until he & I settle between us.

The turnips we have after such a long frost I would not recommend them to you for a milch cow.

Be cautious and get your supply limited from time to time, as 75 per cent of turnips will rott immediately.

Yours very truly,  
R. R. Robinson.

To  
Dr J. Carr J. P.  
Letterkenny



Rockhill March 7<sup>th</sup> /95.

Mr J. Lang.

Dear Sir,

I enclose you a list for garden seeds which you will kindly send on as soon as you can.

We have 300 stone of White Potatoe Oats to dispose of, we guarantee not a gray in 100 stone. It is quite equal if not superior to any Scotch you can buy, price 1/- per stone. Let me here what you have to say to this.

Yours truly,

R. P. Robinson

Rockhill Near 9<sup>th</sup>

Madam.

I write & beg to say there can be no mistake about the Potatoes I sent you. 8 stone blusters, which come in for table use from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> November, 8 st Champion next in order, 8 st Main Crop as a heavy cropper & summer potatoe.

My man made a mistake in leaving

2 cwt bluster for you & sending 8 stone Champion to Canon Baillie instead of bluster. You will find also in mouth of bag a ticket containing weight and name of Potatoe.

Faithfully Yours

R. P. Robinson.

Mrs A. L. Dobbyn.

Hiltoye, Letterkenny.

Rockhill March 16<sup>th</sup> /95.

Sir,

I write to say I shall send 8 stone Main Crop, & 8 stone Irish Whites on Tuesday first. I cannot send you till until I ascertain what the carriage was, charged by Diver.

I shall also send you a few Early Pwintan to plant in your own garden, give them plenty of manure & plenty of room.

This is the first mild day for the Season.

Yours faithfully

R. P. Robinson.

J. R. Baillie Esq.



Rockhill, March 18<sup>th</sup>

Sir,

I write to say we intend setting up an Auricularia tomorrow. (It is probably more than we will manage) Will you kindly let me have the loan of your Rope & Sackle. It will be returned to you on Wednesday, if safe, and should anything happen to it I will be responsible and make it good.

Believe Me,

Yours faithfully

R. R. Robinson

W. S. Boyd, Esq. D. L.

Rockhill, March 19<sup>th</sup> / 95.

Dear Sir

I write to say you have taken General Stewart's rope, by mistake, & left your own instead. It was very stupid of those who have done so, as there were no similarity between the two whatever. Be good enough & have it returned as soon as you can do so.

and this one will be sent to you on at your own expences. We hope and trust that you are getting on well and that everything is working to yr satisfaction.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

Mr P. Dunphy, Ards House.

Rockhill, March 25<sup>th</sup>

Dear Sir,

I write to say I think it will be cheaper for to buy bags and send me on 80 stone Sandy Oats, You are aware it must be pure from grays and mixture of spots. If not we shall decline to accept it. Advise me when sent off. Address, R. R. Robinson, Rockhill, Letterkenny. Rail via Derry and then to L. Kenny Station. Enclose bill & I will send you Cash.

Yours faithfully

R. R. Robinson

James Patterson Esq.  
Letterkenny, Liskinore.



Rockhill, March 27<sup>th</sup>/95.

Dear Sir.

Yours duly received I write and beg to say, if I used the word Sandy Oats in my letter I made a mistake.

It was a perfect understanding on Saturday that it was Tan Oats I required

You will therefore oblige by sending me 80 stone of your Tan Oats, in bags addressed as directed in my last letter.

If this you cannot do, please let me have a note to that effect so that I be not kept waiting

Yours truly,

R. R. Robison

James Patterson Esq.

Rockhill, April 2<sup>nd</sup>/95.

Dear Sir.

Your advice note & post card received. Oats not yet arrived. Will send cheque on receiving Oats.

J. Patterson Esq.

Yours truly,

R. Robison

Rockhill, April 3<sup>rd</sup>/95.

Dear Sir.

Enclosed please find cheque, value £4-17-0, as price of Oats. Bill enclosed, sign & send to me.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robison

James Patterson Esq.

P.S. Examined your Oats today and I am agreeably surprised to find over 10% of white & immature grain. I weighed a bushel & found it <sup>less</sup> <sup>by</sup> 10 lighter than what I am selling here for 1/- per stone.

R. R. R.

Rockhill, April 7<sup>th</sup> 1895.

General Stewart.

I write to say the "Strawson knapsack sprayer", to hold 5 to 7 gallons cost not to exceed 28 Shillings, is supposed to be the best value in the market.

It has been a long winter & a late spring, vegetation almost inert. The fields only just beginning to get green. I have not



seen Mr. Clay about the gate, but I would advise not putting it up yet, until more of the timber is carted through. The place is completely cut up, you would scarcely know it. Mr. Donagle has taken the contract of cutting & carting, he is a troublesome man to work with, & Dunphy is gone a month ago to Ards.

The fence on the Lawn should be repaired at once, as it will not keep in cattle or sheep. I decline to take any instruction either verbal or written, from Horner the Coachman. If I am not capable of looking after Dairy, fowls &c I am unworthy of your trust & confidence. Anything you have to say, should come direct to me & not through him. Believe me it is not all to your profit to have two masters about one place. Mr. Murphy was here on a Sunday & also on Monday. I explained my proposition to him about lower walls, heavier slates, & stronger laths, for the cottages, & he thoroughly acquiesced with

my ideas. He took the plan & map of Creeve with him. He seemed to be in very poor health, and said he would write you fully.

Believe me, I remain

Your obed. Servant.

Robert P. Robinson.

Rockhill, Apr 10<sup>th</sup> 1795.

Dear Sir,

I write & beg to say there are a tree of yours lying across the River Swilly, & has been so for a length of time opposite Creeve Meadow. It is doing harm to Mr. Stewart's bank & no good to your own. Would you kindly give orders please to have it removed I mentioned this to your Steward some time ago when he promised to have it looked after, which has not been fulfilled.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

R. P. Robinson.

W. H. Boyd Esq



Rockhill, April 15<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Dear Sir,

You will please find enclosed receipt value for 4/6<sup>0</sup> price of One cwt Main Crop Kidney Potatoes, which was ordered for you by Mr Baillie.

I also bought & sent by same van, one cwt Irish Whites addressed to Captain Baillie, he writes to say he knows nothing about them. Would you kindly say if you do.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

R. R. Robison.

R. Bigley Esq. Ards.

Rockhill, 15-4-95.

Dear Sir,

Yours received this morning I beg to say I sent one cwt of Main Crop Kidney to Mr Bigley. By same van one cwt Irish Whites addressed to you.

Carriage paid. I find from a letter received from you Bigley that he

received the Irish Whites that was addressed to you. You kindly please can inquire of him.

I am, Yours truly,

R. R. Robison.

Capt. J. P. Baillie.

Rockhill, April 15<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Dear Sir,

I write to say that Mr Stewart's rope disappeared from here about the time you left, and it was so said to me that you had taken it away & left your own instead.

Your rope is still here, but Mr Stewart's is not. Mr Monagle now is the sole man for Clark. I am now doing nothing for Clark, he is a very troublesome man to work with, and most difficult to get money from. I hear Mr M. is getting Ards timber too. I hope you are well, Mrs Dunphy &c, & that everything will be flourishing in this good weather. We all join in sending you our best respects.

Mr P. Dunphy, Ards.

Yours faithfully,  
R. Robison



Rockhill 17<sup>th</sup> April 95.

Dear Sir.

The cheque you speak about is alright. It was in my daughter's handwriting and signature, as I was unwell myself.

Yours truly,  
P. R. Robinson.

J. Gracey Esq.

Rockhill 26-4-95.

Dear Sir.

You will kindly accept of my deep sympathy in this your sudden bereavement. It is certainly a pinch on the nerve as it occurred so suddenly. During those short intervals I had the pleasure of your company I formed a very high opinion of yr brevity. It brings back to us the old and good command "Be ye ready for ye know not the hour when the Master calleth."

Yours faithfully,  
P. R. Robinson

John Gibson Esq. Augharonau.

Rockhill, 24-4-95.

General Stewart.

I write and beg to say I bought two, two year old bullocks from J. Cassidy Glencar, @ £12, one bullock C. Hegarty Bomany, @ £7, one two year old bullock C. Harkin, Ballyconley, @ £7-10, two, year old calves R. Ashe, L. Kenny, @ £8.

When I purchase more I shall let you know the number and price. Store cattle are pretty dear just now.

Vegetation has made a rapid progress for the past few days. Spring work pretty near done. Grass growing very fast. A quantity of rain falling daily.

At the rate the timber is being carted away, the place will not be cleared for the next two years, about 1100 tons taken in all, & no one plantation cleared yet, but carting all the best of the timber for so far.

I am,

Your obed. Servant  
P. R. Robinson.



Rockhill, 24-4-95.

G. St. Mitchell Esq.

Dear Sir.

Kindly send to above address  
One waggon load of three inch pipe tiles  
& charge General Stewart.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

Rockhill, L. Kenny, 6, 5, 95.

Messrs J. McKenzie & Sons,

212 Gt Brunswick St, Dublin.

Sirs.

Would you kindly say what is the  
price of the "Strawson knapsack spraying  
machine" to use by hand. And if you can  
supply same, & the amount of powder for  
spraying 3 acres of Potatoes, for General  
Stewart, Rockhill, L. Kenny.

Yours truly

R. R. Robinson

Laudsteward.

Rockhill, 13-5-95.

Dear Sir.

You will kindly send to the  
above address by the end of month, One  
"Strawsons Antipest knapsack sprayer"  
and two 40 lb Bags of the Potatoe  
blight mixture for Genl Stewart.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

Messrs M'Kenzie & Sons.

Rockhill 27 May 195.

General Stewart.

I write and beg to say no more  
chickens to be sent but those today. Butter  
selling here at 6 per lb and slow demand  
even at that price. There are between  
15 and 20 tons of coals in Coal cellar. Now  
is the time for carting our supply when the  
horses are on hard feeding.

You will please let me know what quantity  
the Coachman gets for his own and also if  
any for the harness room. The weather  
for May is very warm and dry; the Rainfall



for month is 0.40. Upland hay will be very short and a light crop. Store cattle continue to sell very dear. If all comes right the Roan Mare will come to foal about the 12<sup>th</sup> July. If she turns out fortunate may I have her stunted again.

The Brown Paddy Horse is not turning out well; he still has a tendency to shy at small objects, and I believe has been hurt in training.

No timber a carting away from here now, nor no plantation cleared up. It has turned out just exactly what I told you. They carted & cut up the whole place in Winter & when the dry weather came in May they left and went to Ards.

Crops look fair. Stock all well. Nothing of importance has occurred in the district but Mr Dawson's marriage is cancelled with Miss Nellie Baillie.

Believe me,

Your obed Servant.

Robert R. Robinson

June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1895.

General Stewart

I write and beg to say I have ordered a sprayer from Mc Kenzie & Sons, Dublin, with sufficient powders to spray 3 acres of Potatoes. It is to cost 35/- as I believe the 29/- one not so good. I enclose you a directory list.

I will see Mr Clay as soon as possible about the gates and let you know the result. I dare say you forgot to mention the quantity of coal Coachman is to have for his own room, and also the quantity for the harness room. Weather awfully hot today. I will write you again about coal in a few days.

I am,

Your obed Servant.

Robert R. Robinson



Rockhill June 10<sup>th</sup>/95.

Dear Sir.

Enclose you cheque value for  
11/- as payment for General Stewart's  
account in full. I sowed your Mangel  
seed mixed with others; sowing two  
drills by itself, when about 2% of it  
came up. Too late to send on your  
seed now. Kindly keep it in view for  
next year.

Yours truly,  
R. R. Robison.

James Carter & Co. London.

June 16<sup>th</sup> 1895.

General Stewart

I write and beg to say you  
will find enclosed an estimate from  
Mr McBlay. I have suggested to him  
square piers at the Lodge not round,  
with heavy coping.

We have carted from Mr Hume 20  
tons Coals @ 15/- per ton, also 15 tons  
Coals @ 16/- per ton. The latter sum the

cheaper of the two at the money. The  
balance of five or six tons will be carted  
from the next vessel he brings in.

Should you close with Mr Blay's offer,  
bind him to begin work at once. The  
weather has been exceedingly dry and  
warm for so far. The turnips are a  
complete failure, & the grass burnt up. The  
glass is falling today, & signs of rain  
appearing. Potatoes have been completely  
damaged in bog land by frost every  
night for the past four.

I am,

Your obedt Servant  
Robert R. Robison  
June 28<sup>th</sup>/95.

Sir.

I write to say I know nothing  
when Mr Robison the Auctioneer sends  
you in his account. Write to him please  
on the subject.

I have been talking to Mr McHume  
relative to the lease of the Shore Park. He



has not signed any document, neither will he do so. B. Langan is the same; any others who may sign are but men of straw. You will therefore have a look out. The sooner you get the rear of rent from them the better, as I hear the whole thing will shortly fall through (This is private and only for your own information.) We are having some rain here today.

Believe me,

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

Capt J. R. Baillie.

June 28<sup>th</sup> 1895.

General Stewart.

I write and beg to say I have written to Mr McBlay saying you have accepted his tender, and to that I have had no reply. If the pier tops are heavy enough to hold the cramp and gate we will use them. We are having thunder & lightning, & heavy

rain today. Rain has been falling in several districts for the past eight days. Some potatoes have been severely injured by frost, others untouched, I must say we have been rather fortunate our potatoes look remarkably well and untouched. Our Oats good; flax good; one field turnips look well, another field not so good. The bottom part of it I have sown three times. Upland hay light, we are about half through saving it. The rain even yet will do an incalculable amount of good. Your cheque received, but not McBlay's letter.

I am,

Your obed Servant.

Robert R. Robinson

Rockhill, June 29<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Dear Mrs Galbraith.

I write and beg to say I sent you a small bottle containing some "Mountain Dew" which I hope you have received and tasted, and that it will



do you good. We have a shower here today, first rain for seven weeks.

With kind regards to Mr Galbraith and self.

Believe me,

Yours truly

R. R. Robinson  
Rockhill, July 7<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Sir,

Kindly forward my order to your firm of 15<sup>th</sup> May which you promised to have done before now.

Cash will be remitted to you on receiving same. Address R. R. Robinson  
Rockhill, L. Kemy.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

Messrs. Mc Kenzie & Sons.

Rockhill July 10<sup>th</sup> /95.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed please find cheque value £2-7-6 for Black Tarnish. Kindly send receipt.

Yours truly, R. R. Robinson.

W. Carson & Sons.

Rockhill, July 14<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed cheque value £2-10-0. This I count too much considering the Patronage I brought you about Letter-Kenny. Please send horse early on Friday to Rockhill, as both mare and foal seem a little weak, & oblige.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

Dr. Patterson, Camellon.

Rockhill, July 17<sup>th</sup> /95.

Messrs Mc Kenzie & Sons, Dublin.

Sirs,

Please send at once "One Strawsons Antipest Knapsack sprayer" and two 40 lb bags of the Potatoe blight mixture, for General Stewart, Rockhill, L. Kemy. Cash sent on acceptance of same.

Answer required at once, so that we may buy elsewhere, if not sent.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.



Rockhill, July 21<sup>st</sup> /95.

Sir.

I write & beg to say enclosed you will please find copy of Timber Sale as Genl Stewart has the original one. Manus McMonagle as you doubtless are aware is cutting & carting, and in a very slovenly way he is doing it. It seems to me they are picking out all the heavy hard wood, & what is most convenient to the roads & of easy access. They have been through the different plantations, & not one single place cleared away yet. If I dare prophesy it would be to the effect that Crossfield does not intend clearing it all up. The number of Tons of all woods carted up to Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July are 1320, and I think that would realize about £460 sterling. I know nothing about his cash payment. I wrote to the Genl twice & his replies were (I am writing to Mr Murphy on the subject). Crossfield

has cleared up my own small account to the last penny, but not till after repeated writings. Weights enclosed of the different kind of timber.

Stock all well. nothing new. Oats, potatoes & flax are good, but turneps miserable looking.

Dairy lost, Ross out.

I am,

Your obedt Servant.

R. R. Robinson.

E. Murphy Esq J. P.

Rockhill August 3<sup>rd</sup>

Dear Sir.

I write & beg to say I send you the full account of the timber weights. So far as my humble calculations go. The tickets are all in my possession excepting 50 sent by McMonagle till Mr Crossfield when he first began to cut & cart. I should prefer to have the tickets made out by your own clerk; should any objections be raised.



The weather has become very soft and not good for haymaking.

We expect the general here about 1<sup>st</sup> September.

I am,

Your obed. Servant.

R. R. Robinson.

E. Murphy Esq. J. P.

Rockhill, Sept 21<sup>st</sup> /95

Dear Sir,

Kindly insert this in the newspaper and oblige.

The Property of General Stewart:

Ten Stock border Leicester ewes;

three and four shear.

Four two shear black-faced Ewes.

Seven two year old black-faced wethers.

Some ewe lambs.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

John Robinson Esq.

Rockhill Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> /95.

Dear Sir,

In reply to yours of 21<sup>st</sup> inst I write to say the price of Rabbits for Trapping & shooting on Rockhill Demesne & Breve Glebe from 1<sup>st</sup> October till 1<sup>st</sup> March 1896 will be £7 Stg.

For shooting wood-cock, wood-pigeon &c. £3 Stg more, for same period £10 in all. A room for a trapper could be given on the Premises.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

Major Quin.

Rockhill 26<sup>th</sup> Sep /95.

Dear Sir,

I write to say the rent of Rabbits is £7 Stg; the shooting is from 1<sup>st</sup> Oct till 1<sup>st</sup> March; they have been let annually. Acreage about 350. Over 150 acres plantation. Balance laboured & pastured. No appointed watch over the Demesne. Don't know how many



caught in the Season. Genl Stewart  
Proprietor. A room containing fire-  
place can be given in the yard.  
Shooting of Wood-cock, wood-pigeon  
is included

Yours truly  
R. R. Robinson.

Long Smyth Esq.

Rockhill Oct 1<sup>st</sup> /95.

Dear Sir.

I write to say there are two  
farmers convenient. Each have a spare  
room, but I question if they be good  
enough at cooking. There are many private  
houses in L. Kenny, where you could put up  
at, & live much cheaper than in a Hotel.

Rockhill is 13/4 miles only distant from Letter-  
kenny. I think you should start & shoot  
over the outside boundaries, as soon as you  
conveniently could. I shall meet you at the  
station if you would kindly let me know  
what day you are coming.

Yours truly  
R. R. Robinson

Major Quin J. P.

Rockhill, Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> /95.

Dear Sir

In reply to your letter of 30<sup>th</sup> ult.  
I write to say the Rabbits are sold for  
more cash than I asked you.

Yours truly  
R. R. Robinson.

Long Smyth Esq.

Rockhill Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> /95.

Major Ker. Fox, Kerrykeel.

The Rabbit shooting is let on  
Rockhill. Demesne.

R. R. Robinson.

Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Dear Sir.

I write to say Mr Murphy took  
away a Book from here, containing timber  
acct. As the General is now coming, and  
probably would like to see it. Would you kindly  
at yr convenience send it by post to me.

I hope & trust that your health is improved  
since you went to Dunfanaghy.  
Capt J. R. Baillie.

Yrs truly  
R. R. R.



Rockhill, Oct 14<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Dear Sir.

I write to say the £100 cheque I received from the General, appears nowhere in my books. I have to return it back to himself again. Although it is now exhausted and £10 more, as you can see by the Credit side of my Report. The General is coming here this afternoon for ten days.

Apples seem to be selling here very cheap now, only 3/- per cwt.

Weather has suddenly changed to cold, bitter wind, and rain.

I am, Sir,

Your obed. Servant.

R. R. Robinson.

E. Murphy Esq J.P.

Oct 14<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Dear Sir.

Would you kindly send forward at once the Rod belonging to Mowing Machine.

J. Lang Esq.

Yours truly, R. R. Robinson.

Rockhill, Oct 26<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Sir.

I write and beg to say, owing to you not forwarding the Strawsonite in time as you promised, it actually arrived too late, & prevented me from spraying. The stalks being an overgrowth, the men could not get in to perform the work.

I have your powder remaining over untouched. Kindly say please will it be good enough for spraying purposes in 1896, and if so how shall I preserve it.

The Potatoe is a double productive one this year. I have weighed 17 tons "Bruce", over 16 tons "Main Crop Kidney" of sound eatable potatoes, from the Bunningham acre.

I believe the Constitution of the "Champion" has completely broken up, & ere a few years it will be numbered with the past.

Please find cheque enclosed value £3. Kindly acknowledge & send receipt.

Yours truly,

M<sup>c</sup>Kenzie & Sons,  
Dublin.

R. R. Robinson.



Rockhill, Oct 26<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Messers Dickson & Sons.

Will please forward as soon as convenient, for General Stewart, the following:-

2000 - Three year old good Larch quicks,

1000 - Good Alder quicks.

500 - Beech do

500 - Sycamore. The Sycamore to show a good leading stem.

Two good Auracarias. Let the last named be of the best description that can be sent.

Two (Small's) Admirable Standard Apple Trees.

Two other Standard Apple Trees (Early) I leave the selection to yourself.

Two Pear Trees (Early) Espalier for Wall.

One Good Pruning knife.

Fruit trees to be named on steel Labels, with wire ties.

Please let Mr Milne superintend

them personally. Address R. R. Robinson, Rockhill, Letterkenny.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson

Rockhill, Oct 29<sup>th</sup> 1895

Sir

I write and beg to say I am directed by General Stewart, Rockhill, Letterkenny Co Donegal, to enclose you 3 Potatoes of what is called "Main Crop Kidney", they are not the largest, nor are the smallest, but what we call medium sized.

The land they grew on was ten years grazed. Oats taken from same last year; land ploughed by digging plough in October. Grubbed by three horse grubber in March, potatoes first planted 1<sup>st</sup> week in April, sets were whole, 15 inches apart, with 28 inches drill from drill. About 40 tons well rotted farm yard manure; 4 cwt Lawis manure (potatoe) per Cunningham acre. First moulding end of May second or final 20<sup>th</sup> of June. Tried to



spray in July, found it impossible  
owing to the luxuriant growth of tops.

Raised 2<sup>nd</sup> week in October; measured  
land, weighed potatoes, found them  
weighed a little over 17½ tons per  
Cunningham acre.

I remain, Sir,

Your obed Servant.

Robert R. Robinson.

Landsteward to

Genl Stewart, Rockhill, Letterkenny.  
Sir Chas<sup>r</sup>. Cameron.

Rockhill, Oct 29<sup>th</sup> 1895.

General Stewart.

I write and beg to say I received  
your letter and cheque; I have by this  
days post forwarded to Sir Charles  
Cameron, 3 potatoes of what is known  
as the "Main Crop Kidney".

Snow began falling on Thursday  
night last, and has continued to do so  
since at intervals; but the sudden

change in the temperature, thermometer  
fell to '30'

No harm done excepting a few Oak  
branches which gave way under the  
heavy load of snow; owing to the  
leaves being still on the trees.  
Nothing new.

I remain Sir,

Your obed Servant.

R. R. Robinson.

Rockhill, Nov 5<sup>th</sup> 1895.

General Stewart.

I write & beg to say enclosed  
you will find a summary of transactions  
done by me of the £100 you gave in Sept  
8<sup>th</sup> 1893. It has been entirely kept  
separate and no way entered into the  
general account whatever.

Your draft of £50 of March 17<sup>th</sup> 1893,  
has passed into the general account, &  
been examined by Mr + Mrs Murphy. Your  
draft in the bank for £50 in 19<sup>th</sup> Apr



1895, has also passed into the general cash account, and been audited by Mr Baillie in May last.

I wrote you 24<sup>th</sup> April giving particulars of what was done with the money. I bought of Cassidy, Glencast, 2 bullocks @ £12, One bullock of Hegarty Romany @ £7, One bullock of Barker Ballyconley, @ £7-10-0. Two bullocks of R. Ashe, L. Kenny, @ £8.

These cattle are in stall. Balance of draft went into general acct, as I said before, acct examined through Mr Murphys office.

I cannot therefore for the life of me see how there are any difficulty to make the accounts clear.

I said to you at Rockhill on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October that I had finished the private account between you and me, as I found it most difficult on my part to keep it clear of the general cash account. You see

now that account is finished, and there are none but the one going on as usual.

I remain, Sir,  
Your obed Servant.

R. R. Robinson.

Rockhill Nov 15<sup>th</sup>/95.

Sir.

We offer you two shillings and ten pence per ton, for what Gas Lime, you may have to dispose of for one year. Yours terms with regard to payment shall be ours.

Robert R. Robinson.

To The Chairman.

Gas Co Ltd, Lutterkenny.

Rockhill Dec 4<sup>th</sup>/95.

Dear Sir.

I write & beg to say enclosed you will please find schedule containing number and different kind of trees standing and blown down. Many of these that were marked by the general are small, and do not deserve the designation tree. You



took away the plan of Labourers Cottages,  
and also the Map of Breve farm made  
by Gallagher, from here in March last.  
It is blowing a gale and very stormy  
here today.

Believe me

Yours faithfully,

R. R. Robinson.

E. Murphy Esq J. P.

Rockhill Dec<sup>r</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1895

Dear Sir,

Kindly send me one cockerel and  
one pullet of your best Plymouth Rock.  
Also send bill along with advice note.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

S. Glenn Esq, Kilkenny.

Rockhill Dec<sup>r</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1895

Sir,

Kindly say what would be the price  
of one of your "Dux Plows" left ~~for~~ in Derry.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson Landsteward

A. Jack & Sons, Maybole.

Rockhill Dec<sup>r</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Dear Sir,

There is a man called Mr George  
Allen, Porti. Road, Lutterkenny, who says he  
will buy any timber you may have to  
dispose of here. Supposing you and he  
can agree about the price.

We have very few out-lying cattle this  
year. About half stores for next year; &  
only four calves for the year after, and I  
have no money to buy any. Consequently  
therefore I would prefer leaving off the  
erection of the Shed in Breve, until  
Summer, & I hope before that time you  
will kindly call and select its site &c.

There is a portion of the Garden Wall  
collapsed without any reason whatever.  
We are having it rebuilt. Frost has set  
in very keenly here.

I remain Sir,

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

E. Murphy Esq J. P.



Dec 12<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed list of Horned cattle here at the present time. I consider we want 10 year & a half old bullocks. These should cost from £6 to £8-10-0 each. We should also have 10 or 15 calves. These are selling generally at from £3 to £5-10-0 according to class & breed.

I had Allen out here today concerning the timber. I think he is going to make you an offer. Should you and he come to terms, please be sure and bind him strictly up, for he is what I call a clever man in his trade.

Believe me,

Yours truly,

R. R. Robison.

E. Murphy Esq J. P.

Rockhill 16-12-95.

General Stewart.

I write & beg to say please find enclosed schedule of number of

men & wages per day, and the amount for one week.

Kennedy's bill was for repairing roof of Houses after the gale of 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 1894. I consider he charged too much. I asked him to make me out a detailed bill, & he refused to do so.

The weather has been very stormy recently, frost, hail, rain and snow alternately. I hear Crossfield has refused to take the timber.

I remain,

Your obed Servant.

Robert R. Robison.

Rockhill, Jan'y 26<sup>th</sup> 1896.

Dear Sir,

I write to say I am very sorry to hear you have been laid up with bronchitis. I hope and trust that you are now alright again.

Allen was here today, and will make you an offer for the timber on Tuesday, or Wednesday next. You are doubtless



aware we have the greater part of the  
Lawn, & paddock ploughed up, which is  
to be left down in grasses. There are  
15 acres of manured land, to be left  
down also. Would you kindly please  
let me have your opinion on the  
quantity & quality of the grass-seeds  
that we should use, as this is likely  
to amount to a large bill. I should be  
glad of your opinion.

The weather has been very mild altho'  
treacherous here. A large amount of  
people are complaining.

Believe me,

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

E. Murphy Esq J. P.

Rockhill, Jan 28<sup>th</sup> 1896.

Dear Sir,

I write to say, enclosed you will  
please find an estimate from Allen for the  
timber. I told him I had permission from  
you to take £100 and no less. So the object

ended there. There are about 10 tons of cut  
wood lying promiscuously in the different  
plantations. This I offered to include to  
him, and the 1080 trees.

I hope & trust your bronchitis is better.  
The quay at the port is completely blocked  
up, not a foot of ground to lay timber on.

I remain

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

E. Murphy Esq J. P.

Rockhill, Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 1896.

Dear Sir,

I write to say I am very glad your  
cold is better. I will submit yr suggestion  
to Allen, but he seems quite careless about  
it, as he has recently bought from Bob  
Mansfield, and Mr Grove, what timber  
they had to dispose of. The greatest draw-  
back at present is there being no room  
for it at the port.

Should he take it, be sure and make the  
agreement correct, and put a heavy



penalty on him, should any tree be found in his possession without the letters J. V. S. stamped on it.

He is perfectly honest in money matters, & can make you a deposit beforehand.

I weighed 9 battle, on Mr Boyd's weigh-bridge. Sold 4 of them to D. Langan, by live weight @ 30/- per cwt. He lost £6 in the transaction, & refused to buy any more by live weight. Others dealers in fat Battle are they same. Up to the present I refuse to sell except by live weight, which is the whole cause of my having them on hands yet. We have plenty of feeding. I never had better turrips.

I hope you will let me have the benefit of your experience, about the grass & clover seeds for the Lawn, with any note you may kindly add thereto.

Believe me,

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

E. Murphy Esq J.P.

Rockhill Jan '29<sup>th</sup> '96.

General Stewart.

I write & beg to say we will send you 2 chickens weekly while the last, beginning on Monday first 3<sup>rd</sup> ult. We cannot send you any butter for some time yet, owing to the cows being in calf. There are only 2 gallons daily coming into House. I will write you again and let you know when we shall be able to send you over the quantity you may require.

The merchant who bought Mr Boyd's timber has only a small portion of it taken away ~~it~~ yet. Owing to the quay at the Port being completely blocked. Crossfield has over 1000 tons remaining there yet.

Mr Murphy sent down a man from Dublin here but I think he was not disposed to buy owing to no place to cart the timber to. Allen the Lutterkenny man has offered £100 as a lump sum, for all trees marked & including the Larch plantation between Danger & Farm Road.



but wants to November 1897 to clear it away. Mr Murphy first wanted £150. and has now offered at £125. Whether Allen may increase his offer I do not know yet. I have had several letters from Mr Murphy on the subject. He has done nothing about the labourers cottages yet. He has been badly laid up with bronchitis but in his letter received this morning he has got abright again.

The weather has been a surprise for its mildness, several of the Rhododendrons here are in full bloom, & strange to say many are complaining of a very bad cold in the neighbourhood.

I am,

Your obedient servant.

Robert R. Robinson.

Rockhill Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 1896.

Dear Sir,

I write to say it would be almost impossible to prepare the land in Lawn for green crop, owing to the tree roots

extending so far along the top stratum. so do what we have done has very nearly upset both men & horses. The paddock at the Entrance Gate could be worked thoroughly, but then that would involve an outlay, by erecting a paling between it and the Lawn & beside the General sum most anxious to have it returned to a green sward as soon as possible.

It is a difficult thing to give you a correct idea, or using an opinion about the timber for three reasons, 1<sup>st</sup> there is a very large amount of stuff for the small amount of money, 2<sup>nd</sup> then the greater part of this not being good owing to Crossfield out nearly all the best, 3<sup>rd</sup> It is <sup>more</sup> difficult to remove than what Crossfield did. But on the whole it must leave no matter at what price. I have not seen Allen since, but when I do I will try if I can make anything over £100 & let you know the result at once.

Believe me, Yours truly,

E. Murphy Esq J.P.

R. R. Robinson.



Rockhill, Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 1896.

My dear Mr Stewart.

I write & beg to thank you very much indeed for your kind present of a pocket book. It was so kind of you to think of me, & especially as it is such a handsome one. We are all much pleased to hear indeed of Lady Mary, the children, & yourself enjoying good health, & especially to hear the good news of another young heir having been born to you.

I am sending over a pair of chickens to make soup for him.

The Meenadran route is the most central, but has got nothing to feed on. It is supposed the traffic would not pay for the coals the steam-engine consumes. The Coast Line is the most favourable one, but is very circuitous, & there are great engineering difficulties to contend with.

The Raphoe & Conroy line is practically thrown overboard, as the Derry merchants to a man refused to contribute a shilling,

to it. But they are going to extend the Finn Valley Narrow Gauge Line, from ~~Stranolla~~ Strabane to Derry. As at the present they are doubly handicapped by the Great Northern at Strabane.

The engines on the Letterkenny Line, have not capacity enough to perform to work they are compelled to do.

Taxation is very high in the Barony of Raphoe at present. Fancy the General, having to pay a Grand Jury less of 2/8 in the £ on over a £000 valuation.

Thank God I have got over my old enemy influenza, only a very slight touch for two days. I hope & trust that you have. It is a nasty complaint, & I can see now it is brought on by people not being careful at the beginning.

The weather has been one scene of surprises, four different temperatures in one day. It has been the mildest January that we have had for the past thirty years with almost no rain, the barometer



standing at summer guage. Owing to the mildness of the season, Rhododendrons are in full bloom here.

I send you a Derry Sentinel. We are all well thank God. With best wishes.

Believe me, I remain

Yours truly,

Robert P. Robinson.

Chas. J. Stewart Esq.

Rockhill, Feby 1896.

Dear Sir,

I would to say we have not a single "Pwitan Potatoe" to spare. Owing to the dry summer those planted in the field, the rooks left none. We have had them here for 10 years & during that period, I found none so early & so heavy cropper of the same flavour. I could send you some "Fortyfold" & some "Bluster" but they are only a second & third early.

Yours truly,

R. P. Robinson.

J. A. Serrill Esq.

Rockhill, Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 1896.

Seed Order for 1896. from  
James Dickson & Sons, Edinburgh.

20 bushels Perennial Rye Grass.

10 " Italian " "

20 lbs Timothy " "

25 " Meadow Fescue " "

30 " Red clover " "

30 " Alsike " "

The above to be sent separate.

20 lbs Swede turnip seed

20 " Green top Aberdeen

12 " Red Mangel " "

80 Stone Sandy Oats

4 St Jeanie Dean Potatoes.

The Corn Sacks to be of the best quality, the same as usually sent me, to hold 6 1/2 bushels, & lettered General Stewart, Rockhill, Letterkenny, Numbers beginning 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 17, 23, 27, 28, 29. The Sacks you sent last year were not worth sending over. They were



were too coarse and of rotten material. Addressed, R. R. Robinson, Rockhill, Letterkenny.

Rockhill, Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 1896.

Dear Sir

I write & beg to say would you kindly remember the seeds for the laying down of the Lawn, as the time will soon draw on for sowing. I would suggest owing to the Rushes springing up again in a year or two, that very fine expensive seeds would be choked.

The weather has been remarkably fine, & ploughing is well advanced.

We have 12 head of fat cattle on hands yet & probably may have to send them to Scotland the week after this as the local dealers & we cannot agree.

I remain,

Yours very truly

R. R. Robinson.

E. Murphy Esq. J. P.

Rockhill, Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 1896

General Stewart.

I write to say we have now four cows calved, & if you would kindly send over some empty butter boxes, we could supply you with what quantity you may require, twice weekly.

It has been remarkably fine weather since this year has set in. I never remember the spring work so far advanced so early in the season.

We have burned the bramble & planted the gaps where you suggested when over here. No timber has been taken away since, excepting a few light blown down poles that I have sold about the "Dash Linn" and "Forth Field."

The Police barrack is to remain as usual in Letterkenny. Mr & Mrs Boyd, and Miss N. Baillie are in France for some time. What am I to do with these roots of the large silver Fir trees blown down opposite the library at the Dark Walk,



They are very ugly to look at but it will be very expensive getting them into the holes again, as part of the tree still remain attached.

I am,  
Your obedient servant.  
Robert R. Robinson.

---

Rockhill, March 1<sup>st</sup> 1896.

Dear Sir.

I write to say the Oats you sent me is not the same as what you showed me. It was plump in form & white in colour. This is brown coloured & did not come properly to maturity. Beside I find in bill charged £2 where it should be £1-16 with bags returned.

I would ask you please to kindly pay attention to this.

Believe me,  
Yours sincerely,  
R. R. Robinson.

Wm. Thompson & Co. Derry.

Rockhill, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1896.

Dear Sir.

I want you to bring me 100 Spruce Fir from 2 to 4 feet high if you have them, newly dug up out of the earth, on Friday first with the 200 Larch I ordered from you on Friday.

Can you also bring me two Sea Pines.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

J. Bannigan, Strabane.

---

Rockhill, March 11<sup>th</sup> 1896.

Dear Sir.

Please find cheque enclosed value £170. you will kindly acknowledge receipt of same. Has anything been done about the grass and clover seeds for Lawn yet.

The weather has become quite wintry like since March set in.

Yours very truly,

R. R. Robinson.

C. Murphy Esq J.P.



Rock Hill, March 17<sup>th</sup> 1896.  
General Stewart.

I write to say the last of the chickens have been sent you from here today.

There was a fair gale blowing last night & today. There are some 30 or 40 trees blown down, but they have all been wind shaken before. The leaning Silver on left-hand from House to Garden Well, & the Silver fir it was leaning against have both gone down & made a bad gap in wire, they tumbled up with very large roots. No damage to House properly, only 1 or 2 slates, not no good tree blown down.

The weather has been very stormy and wet since March set in. The rainfall for January last was 2.56 inches, February 2.95 inches, and 16 days in March 7.62 inches.

Mr. Clay has never made the Entrance Gate lockable. I am afraid

we shall have to get a new lock.

I am,

Your obed. servant.

Robert R. Robinson.

Rockhill, March 17<sup>th</sup> 1896.

Dear Sir,

I write to say there are about 20 Statute acres in field to be left down in Grasses. Please send the seeds in 7 bushel sacks of good material that will wash, and have them lettered General Stewart.

Rockhill.

Letterkenny.

also numbered, 71, 72 and so forth in consecutive order. You might also send me 12 lbs of your best Swede turnip Seed Address R. R. Robinson, Rockhill

Letterkenny Station.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

Wm Drummond & Sons Ltd, Dublin.



Rockhill 18-3-96.

Dear Sir.

You can have any quantity of Sandy Oats you may require & on any day suitable to you. We have two prices for our Oats. One Oat @ 11 per stone, & another at 1/- per stone.

I should thoroughly recommend the latter as it is only one year imported & perfectly free from grays.

Believe me.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

Mr R. Bigley, Ards.

Rockhill March 22<sup>nd</sup> /96.

Dear Sir.

I write to say the Oats will be sent into Hegarty's yard, Letterkenny, on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> inst. at 2 o'clock.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

Colonel Mansfield,

Rockhill 24-3-96.

Dear Sir.

Please find enclosed Cheque value £3 price of the Planet "JR" Horse Hoe. Please acknowledge receipt of this.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

A. Dickson & Sons, Belfast.

Rockhill April 1<sup>st</sup> /96.

General Stewart.

I write & beg to say the postage of 26 lbs Butter is 2-4. Postage of chickens 14 is 7-4. Canvas for rolling same 1-2. Total 8-6 up to March 31<sup>st</sup>. The month of March has continued out a wet one. Rainfall for 1896. 11.28, do 1895. 3.96. do 1894. 5.79. do 1893. 2.84.

This day is mild & looks as the beginning of Spring. The Lawn is a troublesome job to get properly pulverized.

I remain

Your obed servant

Robert R. Robinson.



Rockhill, 12<sup>th</sup> Apr 96.

General Stewart.

I write to say Boyle thought it impossible to have the Entrance Gate scraped, owing to so many robs & chucks & it could not be burned, as the ornaments are all put on by lead. He and I therefore came to the conclusion to try the effects of Red Lead. It got one coat in January, of red lead & oil, & also another in Feb, which seemed to be doing their work well.

We now think it better wait to June to find out what effect the warm sun would have, before applying anything else. He thinks the black Varnish will will not come through. If you think we have done right I shall write you on the subject again in May.

Weather very cold at present, with sleet & hail showers. I have signed a second bill for Mr Kinney, see that only one is paid.  
I remain, your obed servant.  
Robert R. Robinson.

Rockhill, Apr 27<sup>th</sup> 96.

Sir.

Please send one 5 gallon drum "Lubricating" Oil. One bag "Balf Meal"; and one cwt "Barb Grease" for General Stewart, Rockhill, Letterkenny, Address R. R. Robinson, Landsteward, Rockhill, Letterkenny, Ireland. These can be sent by the Derry & Liverpool Boat. Cheque will be remitted on receipt of goods.

Yours truly.

R. R. Robinson.

Simpson & Co, London.

Rockhill, May 7<sup>th</sup> 96.

Dear Major Quin.

I write to say you are doubtless aware that the Rent for Rabbit Shooting is now due. As we close our yearly account in May for audit on 1<sup>st</sup> June, you will kindly please let me have your cheque. Best wishes.  
Believe me, yours truly.  
R. R. Robinson.



Rockhill, May 10<sup>th</sup> 1896.

Dear Sir.

I write and beg to say please find enclosed an inventory of the stock on Creeve & Rockhill Farms.

I called on Allen today who says he has 3 months work at Pellipar, Co Derry. He gave no satisfactory answer, but rather declines to take the timber at £100.

The weather is delightful & warm, & on the whole has been a good Spring. I am afraid the grub worm is beginning to do some harm to Oats on sea land, in some places, however we are free yet.

Believe me, Yours truly  
Robert R. Robinson.

Edmund Murphy Esq. J.P.

Rockhill, May 20<sup>th</sup> /96.

Dear Sir.

I write to say I did not see your man at the Station, nor was the Tea sent on by the Van, & of course we have not received it.

D. Best Esq, Derry.

Yours truly, R.R.R.

Rockhill, May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1896.

The Controller,

Dead Letter Office, Dublin.

Sir.

I write & beg to say I posted a letter in Letterkenny on 8<sup>th</sup> April last, containing a £10 cheque, addressed Mrs M<sup>o</sup> Caffrey, Augharonan, Suckinore, Omagh. Letter not cheque never arrived at destination.

Would you kindly ferret it out & oblige.

Yours obed servant.

Robert R. Robinson.

Rockhill, May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1896.

Dear Major Guinness.

I write & beg to say your cheque duly received with thanks. I shall put your views before Mr Duley. The Rabbits are multiplying here by hundreds. I drove a horse & trap into a field last evg. & counted 112 rabbits, they seem quite at ease when you are on a vehicle. Mrs R is quite well as I trust you are.

Believe me Yours truly

R. R. Robinson



Rockhill, May 26<sup>th</sup> 1896.

General Stewart.

I write to say the young horse took what is called a puffing or swelling on the off hind leg. He has been blistered for it & is now nearly alright again. I thought it better to have him to a Vet, least anything should go permanently wrong with him, & I herewith enclose you the Vets report. As the greater part of the Spring work is now over, probably you might let the Coachman have him. You will have to send him written directions etc. Oats, flax & potatoes are looking well for so far, but Upland hay will be short owing to the dry May.

I enclose you better account for March & April. The selling price for May is 7<sup>d</sup> per lb.

The weather is charming & fine. Nothing new in the neighbourhood. We are all much pleased to here of Mr Charles' success. What about Coal

there are 6 cwt going into House weekly, about 20 tons in store.

I remain,

Your obed servant.

Robert R. Robinson

Rockhill, May 27<sup>th</sup> 1896.

General Stewart.

I write to say we have finished the clipping of sheep today. There will be a little over 200 lbs wool (unwashed) The selling price here is only 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> per lb. What say you is to be done with it?

Your obed servant.

Robert R. Robinson.

Rockhill, June 15<sup>th</sup> 1896.

Dear Sir.

I write to say Mary Harkins' family of Creeve have been using a path through one of Mr Stewart's fields, leading to her Farm from her own house. Our field is now in turnips, and



they are actually continuing on the path through the drills, & want to establish a right of way. Both women & men of them have been using bad & threatening language to myself on several occasions.

I should like sir very much you could see your way to either let them have the path, or have it stopped at your convenience. No use in me summoning them, as the Magistrates refused to let me ~~pay~~<sup>prosecute</sup> without I pay an attorney.

Kennedy never came near me since he wrote you wanting £-10 more. If it would not be out of place for me I would suggest you letting him have the £10 more.

Allen has never turned up about the timber yet. It cannot receive much damage owing to the greater part of it being attached to the earth & still showing vitality. Weather fearfully hot.

I remain, your obed servt.

Robert R. Robinson.

E. Murphy, Esq J.P.

Rockhill, July 4<sup>th</sup> 1896.

General Stewart.

I write & beg to say we sent off 270 lbs Wool yesterday to Pitlochry in five corn sacks (Sacks will be required to be looked after by the Mill-workers and returned here). Mr Murphy has sent me the Specification for the Cottages. Kennedy has accepted the tender of same for £-110. He is to make a beginning on them about the end of this month.

The weather has been showery for some time past. On the whole I think we will have a good season. Crops are looking fairly well. I am afraid the color you have chosen for the Entrance Gate is a very common one. However this you could cheaply change when staying here. Coachman is exercising the Brown Horse for the past few days.

I remain,

Your obed servant.

Robert R. Robinson.



Rockhill July 20<sup>th</sup> 1896.

Dear Sir.

In reply to your note of the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. offering £62. 10 for what timber is marked including the lying larch in the Plantation called "Danger" I write to say, my instructions are, not to take less than £100. However as you & I have had dealings before, I will take upon me to reduce the amount by £10, that will be £90 stlg clear cash.

Hoping you are all well, as we are.

Believe me,

Yours truly,

R. R. Robison.

Mr G. Allen.

Port Road, Letterkenny.

---

July 29<sup>th</sup> 1896.

General Stewart.

I write to say we have no horse that would suit you when at home, not could I buy one to please the Coachman. He acts more like an engine driver than a horse driver. I hear the horse shies, but don't you know all spirited and high fed animals are subject to make fun. I think you are quite right there is no more use in breeding carriage animals here. In my opinion you had better buy and send over one, & have the Brown horse sold, as he is unsuitable for the farm. We have also a younger one intended for you, from the same horse & Mare, & I suppose she must be sold to. Should you not meet with a suitable horse, there are two here that has been driven occasionally, & probably they would drive for a while until you would find a suitable animal. The Oats in the Lawn are heavy, I trust we will have a good harvest.

R. R. Robison.



Rockhill, July 29<sup>th</sup> 1896.

Dear Sir.

I write to say the Brown Horse you saw is nearly alright again, only a little puff. The Coachman has been riding and driving him for the past month, he has turned out a nice horse & very gentle. The General does not want him this year & I have got permission & must sell him. He is in fair condition & I now put myself in your hands, and kindly let me know what I should do with him. Please let me have a line out to you at your convenience.

Believe me, Yours Truly  
R. R. Robison.

J. Howatt, Vet. S. Derry.

Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> 1896.

W. Thompson & Co.

Would you kindly forward by rail the ton cotton cake I ordered in your firm last Thur for Gen Stewart.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robison.

Rockhill Aug 1<sup>st</sup> 1896.

Dear Sir.

I write to say I had to go to Strabane fair today & cannot be present with you. You will therefore sell all the Meadow & do the best you can. You will also sell the six lots in Dobson'sholm they will be composed of three flats in each lot these I should let go from £1-10 per acre & upwards. If you possibly can, sell the two fields of Oats from £5-10 & upwards per acre. Let your first lot go at no matter what price.

Matthew Black will point you out the several lots, & he is then at your command to give him any instructions you may think suitable. Hoping you will have a good sale. With best wishes & kind regards.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robison.

John Robison Esq.

Ballygrainie

Letterkenny.



Rockhill Aug 6<sup>th</sup> /96.

Dear Sir.

In reply to yours of 1<sup>st</sup> inst, I write to say I submitted your letter to Mr Murphy, from whom I have got no reply, therefore you can see at once I am not in a position to alter one way or the other.

There must be something wrong in the timber market, as I have sold less tonnage of timber for £350. The Larch to dispose of here is of an exceptionally good quality. With best wishes and kind regards.

Yours truly,  
R. R. Robison.

Mr G. Allan, L. Kenny.

Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> 1896.

Editor Derry Sentinel.

Sir.

Kindly send me by first Post, Book containing rain gauge measure, left in your office on 31<sup>st</sup> July & oblige.

Yours truly,  
R. R. Robison.

Rockhill, Aug 6<sup>th</sup> /96.

General.

I write to say the cutting of the harvest will be on in a week or so. It is earlier than usual. Men are difficult to get & I must take White thorn from the garden, to make up the requisite number of hands for 3 scythes, and I want your permission for doing so.

Mrs Mansfield gets married on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

I remain,

Your obed. servant.

Robert R. Robison.

Rockhill, Aug 18<sup>th</sup> /96.

Dear Sir.

Please find enclosed list of sheep to be sold by you on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept. next. I think it would be a good thing to have it circulated immediately now and before the sale, in the Derry papers.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robison.

J. Robison Esq.

(continued)



To be Sold, 14 Breeding Ewes,  
(One, two & three Shear.)  
6 pure bred Shrop Ram Lambs.  
1 Border Leicester Dogget Ram.

Rockhill, Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> '96.

Dear Sir.

I have been reading lately the success of Sheep under your management. Would you kindly write me a line & say do you have maggots, and what is your treatment as preventive. as we in the North of Ireland here are greatly annoyed with the maggot in both fat & lean sheep.

I remain, yours truly.

R. P. Robison.

Mr John Dixon, Meath.

August 26<sup>th</sup> '96.

Dear Sir.

In reply to yours of Monday I write to say, Genl Stewart & other gentlemen are here shooting. It will not be possible for you to have what you require.

Believe me yours truly

J. Dime Esq, Derry.

R. P. Robison

Rockhill, Sept 8<sup>th</sup> '96.

Dear Sir.

I write to thank you very much for your letter and kind advice relative to the "Maggots in Sheep". I left off using Cooper's "poisonous dip" twenty years ago, as I blamed it for killing a very fine young heifer. We are very much given to Maggots here owing to so many and the flies about. Thanking you again for your kind information.

I am yours Faithfully.

R. P. Robison

Mr John Dixon, Meath Co.

October 7<sup>th</sup> 1896.

Dear Mr Deir.

Please find Cheque enclosed value £2.12.6 price of Ram Lamb sent me by you. Many thanks for your prompt attention. I wish you had sent us a better one, he is a poor worm & not a foot to stand on. With kind regards & best wishes.

Believe me, yours truly.

A. Deir Esq.

R. P. Robison



Rockhill. Oct 19<sup>th</sup> '96.

Dear Sir.

I have used your "balf meal" for the past three years in conjunction with New Milk. The calves have turned out entirely to my satisfaction on the above feeding.

Believe me, yours faithfully.

R. P. Robinson.

Simpson & Co, London.

October 19<sup>th</sup> 1876.

Dear Sir.

Kindly forward to my address for Genl Stewart, 10 cwt "Beauty of Bute" potatoes for seed of best quality. One "Auracaria" of what you yourself recommend. Let it be rooted properly, as those you sent last year were, <sup>more</sup> rooted for the fire than transplanting purposes. What would be your charge per 1000 for 10,000 one year seedling Larch. Hoping you are well as we are.

Believe me, yours truly

R. P. Robinson

A. Milne Esq.

Order sent to Mr Murphy for Quicks.

October 19<sup>th</sup> 1896.

5000, Larch, 2000 Alder, 1000 Sycamore,  
1000 Ash, 500 Scotch, 500 Silver, 500 Spruce,  
and 500 Beech. Total 11,000.

The Harvest Home at Rockhill.

On Thursday last at 5 o'clock 20 Farm employees sat down in the Servants Hall of the Mansion, assisted by eight indoor servants to a substantial dinner. After each got an allowance of tobacco sufficient for one week's smoking. General, his brother Admiral Stewart, Mrs & Miss Kathleen Stewart visited the Hall and wished them all a pleasant and happy evening. Refreshments were served out at intervals. Singing & dancing were then commenced & kept up until the small hours of morning, when all separated well pleased, by three hearty cheers for General and Mrs Stewart and the urbanity of Mr Robinson the Landsteward. It has now become you an annual thing



at Rockhill & much looked forward to by  
the men.

The Editor Sentinel.

Kindly insert the enclosed in the  
issue of your Sentinel and oblige

Yours truly

R. P. Robinson.

Rockhill, Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> 96.

Dear Sir,

Your Quicks duly received and much  
surprised indeed to find you sending such  
a class here. Your Hawthorn has been  
exposed to the air for weeks, then healed in  
in a dry state, nine-tenths of them are  
rotten at the top, and about half dried up at  
in toto and will not grow. I have been asked  
by the Genl who is here just now to return  
them to you. Your "Pute" potatoes seem to  
be a heterogenous mixture, composed of  
different shape and different colours. I  
question if it is your intention sending such a  
material here.

A. Milne Esq.

Yours truly

R. P. Robinson.

November 30<sup>th</sup> 96.

General Stewart.

I write a line to say Kennedy the  
contractor of cottages will call on you for  
£50 stg, that amount you might please give  
him. He has the houses at the Square that  
is the building complete except the topping  
of the gables, for so far I consider he has ex-  
ecuted the work fairly well. He has the slates  
on the ground & I have rejected them owing to  
being too light. He says they are the class  
mentioned in the agreement. I have  
written to Mr Murphy today on the subject.  
For the present I decline to let them be put on.  
He is to demand no more money from you after  
this instalment until the houses are finished.

The weather has been exceptionally fine here for  
the season. For the past fortnight not a cloud to  
be seen and the thermometer standing at 52.  
Nothing new of importance in the district.

Believe me,

Yours obed servant  
Robert R. Robinson.



November 30<sup>th</sup> '96.

Dear Sir.

I write and beg to say Kennedy is getting on fairly well with the building. He is pretty near the square, there are some extras in the height of the sidewalls which causes more masonry. Prices are to be left to you. He has slates here 20 x 12 wide, he says they are "Countess" they same as mentioned in the agreement. I consider them far too light, & say they would be no good in such an exposed place. They are a very clean smooth slate but very thin. Should I weigh what would cover 6 feet square, then you could be a better judge, or if you were anywhere in the district. Would you please kindly give us an inspection for an hour or so within the next two months. The weather has been remarkably fine for the season. Nothing new in the district.

Believe me your obed<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>  
R. P. Robinson.

Ed Murphy Esq J. P.

December 6<sup>th</sup> 1896.

General Stewart.

I write to say I did not go to the Nooy fair, the morning was very wet & stormy but I went to Raphoe next day & had no offer whatever. I was in Derry last Wed sold the Horse for £25 clear. The mare I could not sell as she will not let a stranger handle her, however she must be sold as she is no good here. I had the Coachman in both fairs. I am on the look out for a good strong horse, with some action at a cost from £25 to £35, but in either places there were none of this class. I intend trying Strabane on the next fair to see if I can find one.

Allan has not signed the agreement nor taken any timber. I have written him, he is still in Pellipar and will be for some time yet. Mr Butler will get the Rhododendrons. I enclose you Kennedy's receipt for £50 and also the amount of one weeks wages of 17 hands.

The weather is cold & wet now. W.P.



have Dickson's young trees all healed  
in, and the "Auracaria" planted.

I am

Your obed Servant.  
Robert R. Robinson.

December 20<sup>th</sup> 1896.

Dear Sir.

I write to say I received your Postal  
Order today for which accept of my best  
thanks, especially as it came unexpected  
and unsolicited, which makes it more  
valuable.

After using your turnip and mangle  
seed for the past twelve years, which have  
done thoroughly well both with us and  
some of my neighbours. Your grasses  
and clovers do not do so well, I consider  
the climate rather cold for them. Again  
thanking & wishing you many happy  
returns of the season.

Believe me, Yours truly.

W. Drummond & Sons.

R. R. Robinson.

January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1897.

Dear Mr Singer.

Please accept of my best thanks  
for your kind & unexpected present  
which we received safely. It was so  
kind of you in sending it. Mrs & Miss  
Robinson joins me in sending you and  
Mrs Singer our best respects and  
wishing you both many New & happy  
years to come.

Believe me, Yours truly.  
R. R. Robinson

Mr C. Singer, London.

January 17<sup>th</sup> 97.

Dear Sir.

I am sending you over by tomorrow  
(Monday's) night's boat 19 Black faced Sheep  
to sell. I thought to have seen you on  
Saturday but missed you. With best  
wishes and kind regards.

Yours truly.

R. R. Robinson.

Chas Langan, Glasgow.



Rockhill, Feb 19<sup>th</sup> '97.  
Seed Order from Dickson, Edinburgh.  
for 1897.

- 60 lbs Perennial Rye Grass.
- 42 .. Italian
- 30 .. Cocksfoot
- 18 .. Timothy
- 10 .. Red clover
- 10 .. American Cow Grass.
- 10 .. White clover
- 6 .. Alsike
- 3 .. Trefoil
- 20 .. Long Red Maugle
- 20 .. Swede
- 5 .. Turnip seed same as sent Porterfield.
- 20 .. Aberdeen
- 80 stone Sandy Oats.

The Corn Sacks to be fine & best quality,  
not like those you sent last year, to hold  
6 1/2 bush, & lettered Genl Stewart, R. Hill, L.  
Kenny, No beginning on bag 32, and so on in  
Consecutive order. Address R. R. Robinson.  
Rockhill, Letterkenny. We are only

leaving down 3 acres land this year.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson  
Jas Dickson & Sons.

Rockhill, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> '97.

Dear Sir,

I write & beg to say we can supply you  
with a reasonable amount of Sandy Seed Oats  
one year only imported from Scotland, well  
saved, & guaranteed pure of a single gray, at  
1/- per stone. Should you kindly favor us  
with your esteemed order, I shall send it to  
Kilmacruma, so that your carts can make  
the double journey in a single day.

I am, yr obed Servant.

R. R. Robinson.

Capt J. R. Baillie.

Rockhill, Feb 28<sup>th</sup> '97.

Sir,

I write to say by direction of Capt Baillie  
I am sending you 100 st Sandy Oats, to Kilmacruma  
on Thur first 4<sup>th</sup>, Man will be there at 10 a.m.  
Would you kindly send your empty Sacks,



so that our man can have his Sacks home.  
Price of Oats is 11<sup>d</sup> per sb. I know it will turn  
out to your entire satisfaction. Please keep  
it separate fr any other Oats.

Believe me, Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson

Mr Bigley, Ards.

March 4<sup>th</sup> 1897.

Genl Stewart.

I write & beg to say I recvd your  
Cheques safely today. Kelly the Saddler's farm  
acct is quite in keeping with the trade. I tried  
in Derry & found it higher, especially for  
repairing old work.

You will kindly say please to Miss Kathleen  
I recvd her Photo perfectly safe at Ennas, &  
a splendid one it is. My sole reason for not  
acknowledging it was; I was still waiting a  
letter from her announcing its dispatch to  
me. Tell her I am sorry for not thanking her  
but I hope to do it personally when she  
returns home. The butter acct shall be kept  
separate. The Cottages are finished all but

rendering of roof, & Kennedy has the doors  
locked for the past months. It is so said I do  
not know if truth, that Engineers generally  
condemn on first visit, & Certify for on second.

In my opinion the Railway would not pay  
for what coal it would daily consume, much  
less working expenses. The L. Kenuy & Lough  
Swilly Rly are still getting 4<sup>d</sup> in the L, handed  
them by the Secretary of the fraud jury.

If the Conservative Government remain much  
longer in, they will spoil the country by hand-  
ing everything over to the clamour of the R. C.  
Priests, & they more they get the more they want.

The weather has been very stormy with wind  
& rain for the past fortnight. Influenza has  
broken out again in this district & is causing  
a lot of sickness. I have escaped for so far  
thank God.

Nothing new in the district.

Believe me, I am

Your obed Servant.

Robert R. Robinson



Rockhill 27. 3. 97.

General Stewart.

I write to say we had the thorns on the boundary fence cut all round this year, & fell outside. The Flaunigan's cut the strongest of them for firewood, that fell on the farm they were ejected from. Mr Boyd wrote me to have them collected, as he was putting cattle on the land. This I declined to do for two reasons, firstly the Flaunigan's interfered & trailed them here & there on taking out the largest of them, secondly, when I came to Rockhill the late Mr Stewart informed me that he made the double ditch entirely at his own expense, and on his own property, & cleared five feet outside boundary from which he removed the clay to make the fence. ~~On~~ talking except where there were a running stream. On talking to the old Labouring men who are dead spoke to the same effect. These reasons I told Mr Boyd yesterday in the Corn Market & asked him to write you on the subject. I should think

you have a map of Rockhill, which should explain this one way or the other.

Allen has signed the agreement for the timber for so far seems to be a very disagreeable man to work with. He has never removed a single tree yet, he has brought a saw bench & Pulleys here today & intends making a start on some day next week, when he gets his Engine erected.

The Garden Boy Johnie White has left the garden, & gone to Ardo garden for a little more wage. This he done without letting me know, until he was engaged. I count it very indifferent of the Whites, as I took that boy in & gave him a very fair wage, when in fact he was able to do little in the garden or elsewhere.

The month of March has been one continuation of squally weather, sleet and wind. No other neighbours objected to the thorns falling outside.

I am,

Your obed Servant.  
Robert R. Robison.



29<sup>th</sup> March '97.

Genl Stewart.

I write & beg to say I had your letter this morng concerning White, & I think it very unfair towards myself. The Boy's Mother could say she disregarded me or any one else as she had Mr Stewart at her back. I hear he took sick when he came back from Ards. And I never saw him since. Mrs White is a very far seeing woman, about one of the cleverest that has ever come in contact with me. The boy was a very exemplary one, and I told you my reasons for putting him in the garden. Every boy does not suit the garden. It requires a clean, honest boy & there are none of that class about. I was much annoyed when the boy told me he was going to Ards, & when I asked him how he got the situation he told me Canon Baillie had got it for him. I think a queer thing for a clergyman to do. I really intended the boy to be the future gardener here & he could have risen to £1 per week. It is settling at the present time &

neither Potatoes or Oats planted yet. I am writing in a hurry & shall study your letter more fully.

I am, your obed servant.

Robert R. Robinson.

April 17<sup>th</sup> 1897.

My dear Miss Stewart

I write and beg to thank you very much for your kind present, the beautiful book I have received. It is so thoughtful & kind of you, & as far as I can see will be well worth reading & study. I hope & trust you are well, & all the family are in good health. Influenza has been very rife for the past 3 months, very few escaping, but no so virulent as it has been in previous years. It has been one of the wettest Springs, we have had for the last forty years. Errigal & the distant hills are covered with snow as I write with sleet & hail falling. Again thanking you for your beautiful present.

Believe me, yo very faithfully  
Robert R. Robinson



April 17<sup>th</sup> 1897.

Genl Stewart:

I write & beg to say Allen is cutting timber that was marked by you some years ago, under a pretence that he cannot know the difference between the new & old Stamp. He is very reckless & lets the tree fall where it likes. I think you had better send Mr Murphy here at once to have a talk to him before he goes any further or does any more harm. Weather showery & wet.

I am your obed servant.

Robert. R. Robinson.

April 17<sup>th</sup> 1897.

Dear Sir.

I write to say Allen is cutting trees marked by the Genl two years ago, and according to his agreement he is only to cut those marked & stamped in Oct last. His pretence is, he does not know the difference between the new & the old mark, both being same stamp. He is felling them at whatever they like to fall & is doing damage to the

place. Could it be possible at all, that you could come to see us, to prevent him from doing further harm, as soon as you conveniently could. He is a very troublesome man to work with. Very unfavourable weather to get the spring seed planted.

Believe me

Yours very faithfully.

R. R. Robinson.

Edmund Murphy Esq J. P.

April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1897.

Dear Mr Milne.

I write to ask if James A. McLean communicated with you yet. I met him the other day & his answers were very grumbly. Kindly look him up & let me have your cheque. Your Sandy Seed Oats sent here has turned out very inferior from what you usually sent in past years. I have 118 grains picked out of one bag, but your Grass & other seeds seem to be perfectly good. Trusting you are well as we are.

Mr A. Milne.

Edinburgh.

Yrs faithfully. R. R. R.



May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1897.

Dear Mrs Boyd.

In reply to yours of 30<sup>th</sup> ult, I write to say as the Genl has placed the trouble on Mr Boyd of sending his Piano tuner, I think he would not object in whom he selects. He knowing perfectly well Mr Boyd would not send over a bad hand. I therefore think you should use your own discretion in the matter.

Believe me, Madame  
Yours very faithfully,  
R. R. Robinson.

Mrs Boyd, Ballymacool.

May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1897.

Dear Mrs Milne.

I recd your kind letter & cheque, many thanks for same. John Macky Esq. Solicitor, Ramelton is the best lawyer, but R. Ramsey Esq. Solicitor, L. Kinneg. would do it cheaper. Probably the best way & safest in the end would be, when McClear is threatened with law, he paying

the full amount & any costs that might be incurred, with a letter of apology from McClear the thing might drop.

With best wishes & kind regards.

Yours truly,

R. R. Robinson.

Mr A. Milne, Edinburgh.

Rockhill. May 9<sup>th</sup> 1897.

Genl Stewart.

I write to say I herewith enclose you butter & postage acct, also a deposit receipt for £50 received from Allen, & put in bank to yr acct. Allen has cut <sup>fourteen</sup> trees that have not been newly marked. Some of these he has carted to the Port & the remainder are lying here. I gave him a written notice with the number of trees, saying that these 14 does not belong to him. I have now to keep a man standing in the plantation constant. The weather is very wet & cold, snow lying on the hills & hail showers daily. The wettest Spring I ever remember. Inches rain fell in Apr.

I am, yr obed Servt. Robt R. Robinson



Rockhill, May 29<sup>th</sup> 97.

General.

I write to say there will be a Rly inquiry on June 4<sup>th</sup> in L. Kenny Courthouse. I think to enquire into the merits of proposed line, that is to see who is against it or who is for it. The amount of capital that is likely to be subscribed to it, the landlord's opinion whether he will give his land free or not.

If it goes a certain route Mr Stewart, Ards & others have promised their land for nothing. I am of the opinion that Mr Murphy or some other Government Arbitrator will value the land later on, but not just at the present stage of enquiry.

I see by report the Government are determined on making it. When made it will be left as a legacy to Donegal, the Board of works will have to step in, & work it at the expense of ratepayers.

As it is you are paying £10-16 annually to support the Lough Swilly & L. Kenny Rly, where a large amount of traffic is

carried to & from. In my opinion the proposed line would not buy coal to support the Engine. I sent you yesterday's Sentinel, marked so that you can judge its merits and demerits for yourself. The Government will not make it, except the Grand Jury of Donegal pass a presentment for it. Why not come over at the Assizes & hear & learn all things on its bearing, and try & prevent it, should you think fit.

The weather has been dry & warm lately.

I am, your obed servant.

Robert R. Robinson.

Rockhill, 30<sup>th</sup> May 97.

Genl Stewart.

I write to say since I wrote you the former letter, I was this day talking to Mr Boyd, & he says that if you intend to oppose the Rly. The first 4<sup>th</sup> June would be the proper time to do so, and he further says that as far as he is aware there will be no opposition to it, he promised to write you fully on the matter.

Robert R. Robinson.



Rockhill, June 6<sup>th</sup> 97.

Dear Sir.

Mr Mallins could not well read the General's protest, as he was acting for the Leitrim estate. I telegraphed to the Genl. to let Mr Macky do so, & to that he did not reply. I then went to Mr Fallow the Chairman & Mr Roberto the Engineer who read it in private, handed it back to me & told me to put it in an envelope & have it addressed to the Chairman of Rly Enquiry, which I did on Sat mng, so that Mr Fallow has the protest, & promised to read it at Falsavagh on Mon. You can see him on this. I believe the Bishop & Mr Boyd has it all cut & dry, & the route will be persisted in, no matter what opposition, or from what quarter it may arise.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

R. A. Robinson.

To  
Edmund Murphy Esq J.P.

June 13<sup>th</sup> 1897.

Genl Stewart.

I write & beg to say I recvd yr letter yesterday evg, after lying in L. Kenny P.O for 24 hours, as coachman says he saw it the evg before. What occurred with the protest was exactly this. I recvd it on Thur, went to L. Kenny on Fri, saw Mallins at eleven, who read your protest & also your letter to me, authorising him to read it. He promised to do so & kept it. At one o'clock when the Chairman arose, Mallins said owing to the turn the inquiry took, he could not read it. I told Mr Boyd so who advised me to telegraph to you, this I did at once. At a quarter to six I saw Mr Boyd again who advised me to either read myself or give it to Mr Macky. I spoke to Macky on the subject who would have read it but Mallins having it, & he could not be found. When he turned up I got it, went to the Hotel, saw Mr Fallow, the Chairman & Mr Roberto the Engineer, who recvd me very frankly. They read your report, asked my



opinion of the Rly, & several other local questions of farming &c. I handed me back report, instructed me to have it addressed to the Chairman, & handed to him publicly. This I did on Sat mng, found them very courteous, & he promised to read it at Falcarragh on Mon. Afterwards I had a letter from Mr Murphy saying he would read it at Falcarragh I saw Mr Murphy here on Tues last, who said the thing could not have been better done.

One thing I do say, no gentleman's letter has the same sway as personal attendance. Mr Murphy was here on Tues & I had to complain to him why he is so long in getting the Cottages finished. They are never finished, the doors locked up, & the keys in Kennedy's pocket. He promised to look into them. I enclose you a newspaper cutting, showing you the promoters of the Rly, who will call on the Grand Jury at Lifford, to tax parts of the county from £1 to 15,000 per annum.

This is surely a nice legacy for the Government to bequeath, on an already

overtaxed area.

I am, your obed servant.  
Robert R. Robinson.  
June 27<sup>th</sup> '97.

Genl Stewart.

I write & beg to say I have engaged 40 tons of Coal from Mr Quiney, best Broughton Domain, @ 16/- per ton, hand coal. I believe it is the best thing I could do. I find I cannot send you a Rly map, or tracing, as they have not been furnished to the Workhouse yet. These not having been deposited one month before the Assizes, it is so rumoured that it cannot pass sooner, by the Grand Jury than March 1898. Probably this is only a dodge. You had better come over to the Assizes, in the meantime.

The Grand Jury met on Wed 14<sup>th</sup> at 4 P.M. The Judge comes in on Fri 16<sup>th</sup>, I was talking to Mr Boyd who says he was remaining neutral this is not true, as he & the Bishop are advocating this line strongly. There was to be a protest meeting of the farmers in the Workhouse.



yesterday. but on the explanation Mr Boyd  
Chairman gave, the meeting partly fell  
through. I send you a newspaper cutting  
of the L. Kenny meeting.

I gave the housemaid yesterday 26 lbs  
Soap, 12 lbs Candles, according to yr written  
order, & all requisites she wanted for the  
House. The Soap she rejected & gave a deal of  
bad language. It will not do to break your  
own order to me, & allow her an increase of  
Soap on applying to you.

The weather has been mild & hot for the  
past few days.

I remain, yr obed servant.

Robert R. Robison.

July 19<sup>th</sup> 1897.

Geul Stewart.

I write to say I thought when you  
were at Lifford you would have come on  
to Rockhill, after the Assizes, if not I should  
have gone to see you. I now see by the papers  
that the Rly has passed by the Grand Jury  
& I hear the Parish of Luck is exempt from

from the guarantee area. The neighbours  
may thank you for that. What I want you  
now to do is this, write to Mr Murphy & get  
the Map he got from me two years ago, of  
Creve, & Creve Glibe. Go to Mr Balfour &  
have the line of Rly changed about 30 yds  
in the northerly direction. By doing that  
it will then be running parallel with the  
Arterial drain in Creve Meadow, then  
through Litchie Meadow, & Parallel with  
the Main drain in Rockhill out to Bomanay.  
If you can get this scheme to work it will  
do your property comparatively speaking  
little harm, whereas the present route  
cuts it all up into sections. There is no  
difference in the Engineering work.

The weather has been exceedingly  
fine since the 9<sup>th</sup>.

I remain.

Your obed servant.  
Robert R. Robison



Rockhill, 3<sup>rd</sup> July. 97.

Dear Sir.

I write to say I had a letter from Genl Stewart, relative to a horse that you were to send to Wilkinson's, L. Kenny for my inspection. I had also a second letter from him, asking what I have done in the matter. Do you know anything of the matter, or would you kindly say please what is the cause of the horse not having been sent over.

Believe me, yours truly.

R. R. Roberson.

John Olphert Esq.

July 26<sup>th</sup> 1897.

Sir.

I write to say from your record this morning, I shall see your mare in L. Kenny on 10<sup>th</sup> August coming. It will be quite time enough.

Believe me,

yours truly.

R. R. Roberson.

J. Olphert Esq.

July 26<sup>th</sup> 1897.

Sir.

I saw your mare, I consider her a fair animal of her class. I shall send my report to Genl Stewart, who will probably be unable to answer you for some time, owing to his being in Germany.

Believe me, yrs truly.

R. R. Roberson.

John Olphert Esq.

Rockhill, Aug 1<sup>st</sup> 97.

Genl Stewart.

I write to say the Coachman & I saw Mr Olphert's mare <sup>at</sup> Kilmacreuan. She is a fair animal of her class, seems quite gentle & civil, & I am sure would do quite well for driving the ladies, but I consider would not be strong enough for your dogcart. She does not seem to be quite sound, & I think they would be unwilling to put her before a Vet. I should not like to give more than £20 for her. If we cannot pick up a carriage horse



in a week or so, McMonagle will supply  
you with one at £1 per week.

The weather has got warm again after  
a tempest of wind & rain.

I am, your obed servant.

Robert R. Robison.

Rockhill 18<sup>th</sup> Aug. 97.

Dear Sir

You will please see your way to have  
these Sheep auctioned on Sept 8<sup>th</sup> at one o'  
clock. If possible have a small ring  
that each ram can be sold separately,  
the sheep in pairs. I shall send help to  
bring sheep from pen to selling ring.

You will also please have it advertised  
in the Derry Papers, two or three times  
at least, as I have been asked by several  
why not publish the sale of our sheep  
more. I shall be glad to hear fr you if  
you can have this carried out.

Yours truly

R. R. Robison.

Mr John Robison.

over

6 Pure Bred Shrop ram lambs.

~~6 do Shrop Lambs.~~

1 Shearling do Ram.

1 do Border Leicester Ram.

8 half bred hogget Ewes.

8 Breeding Ewes, 2 & 3 Shear.

The above are perfectly clean & free  
of disease.

Sept 30<sup>th</sup> 1897.

The Editor Sentinel.

Sir

Please insert twice in the week  
the enclosed advertisement. I enclose  
cheque for 7/6.

Yours truly

R. R. Robison.

Wanted, a Yardman, to feed Cattle,  
Sheep & Pigs, an assistant kept.  
House, manured land & good wages  
to a proper man.

Apply, Landsteward, Rockhill.

L.R.



