

Addressed to: M^{rs} John Johnston, Stromness

From: Capt L. Gillespie, Craigs Court, London

London Nov^r 20th 1794

My Dear Madam,

I know not whether you will be most surprised at the receipt of this unexpected epistle or at the presumption of the author, but this I will know that you have much more reason to be surprised than offended. You owe to friendship on my part that I have taken such a liberty, and from the same sentiment on yours, I expect it will not offend.

It will serve to inform you that about three months ago I saw all your relations at Quebec. A severe series of bad health in the W^t Indies obliged me last summer to proceed to the continent of America. I landed at Charlestown, South Carolina, went from thence to New York & from that to Quebec. Your relations were well but could not exactly inform me in what part of the Orkneys you were.

Should this ever reach you it will I trust p..... me a line to say that you are well & happy, and should my peregrinations in search of health lead me at any future day towards the Orkneys it will be my direction (?) to your habitation at which I should certainly call. The address of this letter is particular and I conceived it necessary it should be so, least more than one of your name might mislead to some other of these islands.

Wishing you the greatest happiness that heaven can bestow, with constant health & your wonted good spirits

I am my dear Madam

In great truth

Your very sincere friend

L. Gillespie

I beg my best wishes to Mr Johnston

Direct to me

Capt Gillespie 32nd Reg^t at

Mess^{rs} Cox & Greenwood, Craigs Court, London