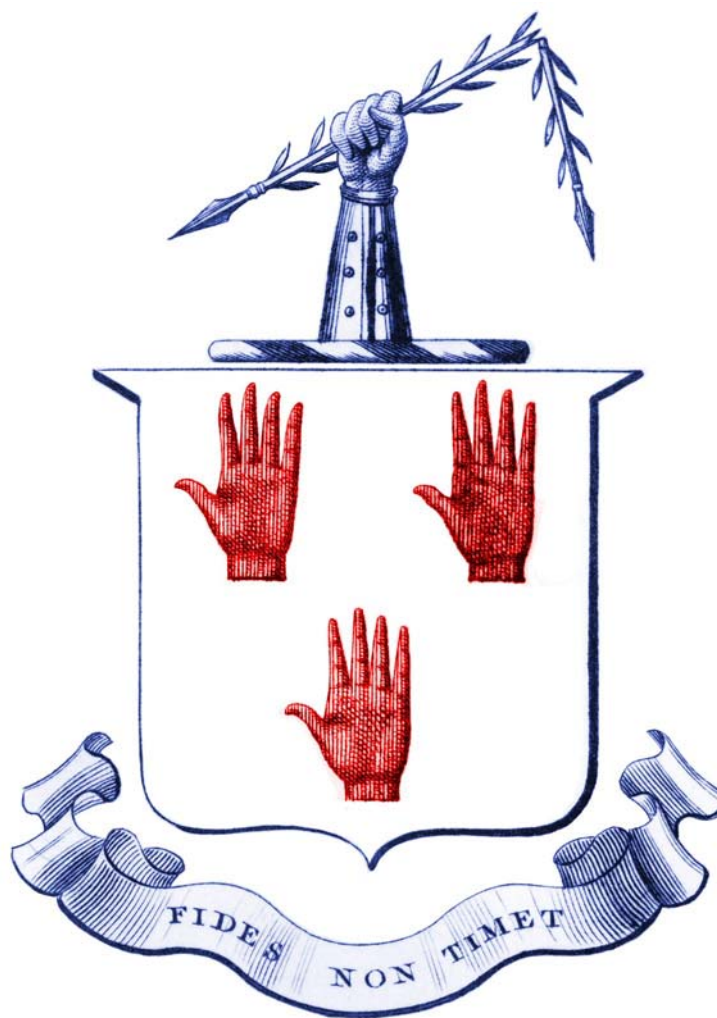


Facsimile Edition of the Cochrane - Crawford - Neilson Letters

*Correspondence across the Atlantic
from 1800-1807 & 1914-1920*



*Collected by
Patricia M Causey, U.S.A. &
Geoffrey H Henderson, U.K.*

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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The one person, without whom none of this would have been possible, is Cecil Cochrane [Lt Col Robert Cecil Cochrane FRCVS (1871-1925)]. It was he who arranged for his wife to send seven 19th century family letters to New York in 1914 and it was he who preserved eight other letters to be passed on to subsequent members of the family in England.

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CONTENTS

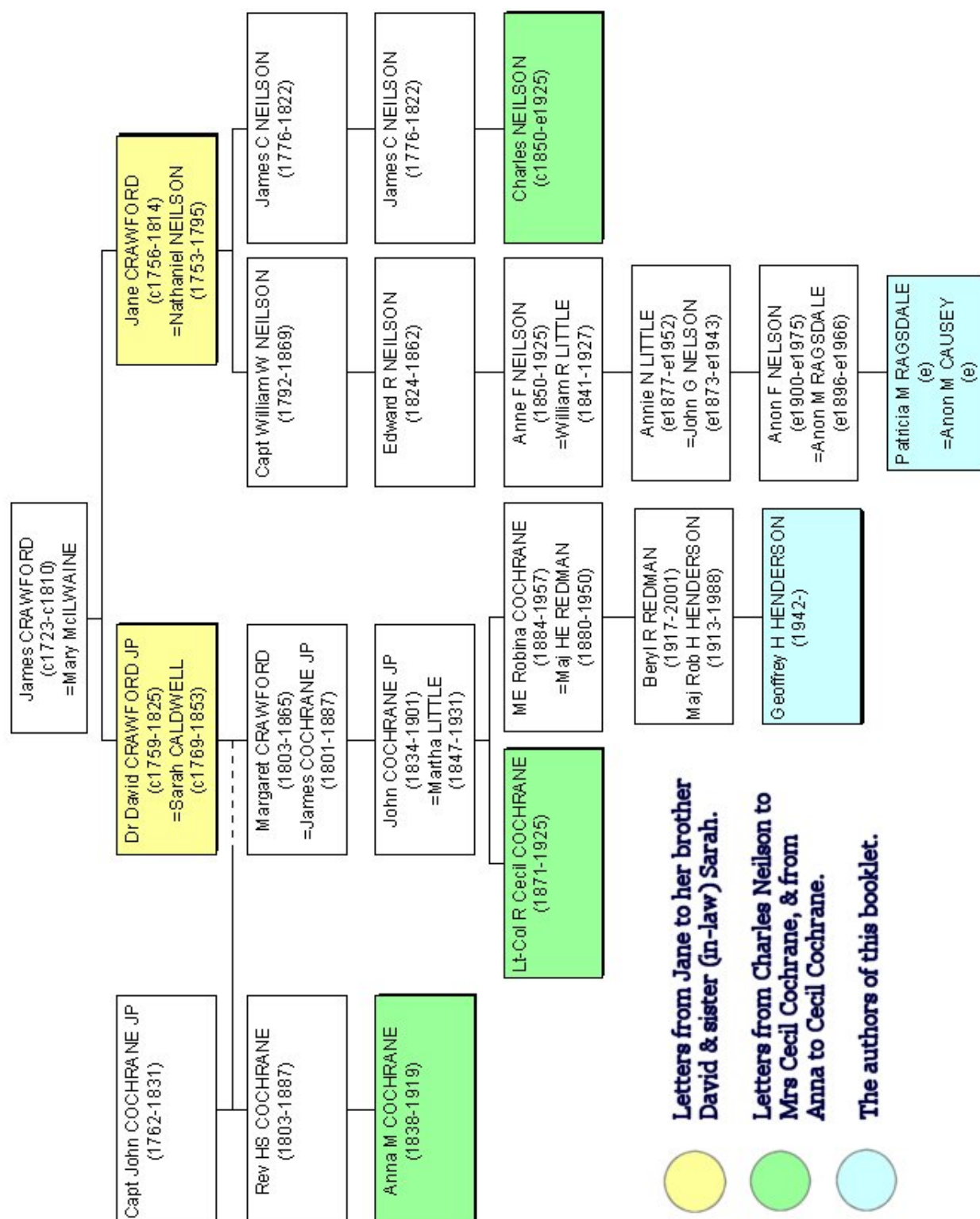
PREFACE	4
THE EARLY 19 TH CENTURY LETTERS (1800-1807)	6
1800 Apr 19 – Jane Neilson to Dr David Crawford	6
1801 Jan 02 – Jane Neilson to Sarah Crawford	8
1802 Mar 14 – Jane Neilson to Sarah Crawford	10
1803 Dec 17 – Jane Neilson to Sarah Crawford	12
1806 Jun 12 – Jane Neilson to Sarah Crawford	14
1807 Sep 21 – Jane Neilson to Sarah Crawford	16
1807 Dec 21 – Jane Neilson to Sarah Crawford	18
THE EARLY 20 TH CENTURY LETTERS (1914-1920)	21
1914 Jun 29 – Charles Neilson to Anna Cochrane	21
1914 Jul 13 – Anna Cochrane to Cecil Cochrane	25
Business Card and Neilson Coat of Arms	29
1914 August – Lily Cochrane to Charles Neilson	30
1914 Aug 25 – Charles Neilson to Lily Cochrane	31
1916 Mar 15 – Charles Neilson to Lily Cochrane	35
1920 Jun 25 – Charles Neilson to Lily Cochrane	39
1920 Jul 26 – Charles Neilson to Anna Cochrane	43
1920 Oct 10 – Charles Neilson to Cecil Cochrane	47

Preface

This facsimile edition is intended to supplement the main document “The Cochrane – Crawford – Neilson Letters”, which provides fully annotated transcriptions of the fifteen letters written between members of the family in both the early nineteenth and the early twentieth centuries.

The original letters have been scanned at 300 dots per inch, so that the reproductions here are of a very high quality. In presenting these letters in electronic form, they are now accessible to a far greater number of Family Historians. In a few instances, in the main document, the editors have noted that certain words or phrases are either illegible or incomprehensible. Readers can therefore try their own skills at unravelling these few mysteries.

So that the reader has a clear understanding of where the letter writers and editors fit into the family structure, the facing “family tree” gives a simplified view of the main characters.



The Early 19th Century Letters (1800-1807)

1800 Apr 19 – Jane Neilson to Dr David Crawford

*The mistakes in
spelling etc. were
mostly in not typing*

Baltimore, April, 19th, 1800

My Dear Brother.

Yours of the 10th Nov. to Jas. came to hand but four days ago and tho' or so long a date afforded us much pleasure and comfort to know that even five months ago my good father and mother were alive and that many of my other friends were well, tho' ashamed I am to say it is the first information has been received by any of my family or our friends since our departure from Derry. I think I should have suffered bitter reflections had I been so negligent and I must say with good reason then how can every one of you think I should be less anxious. Surely you must allow I have more cause from the age and infirm state of my poor father and mother and so many near relations that are very dear to me yet, as the most conscientious way of acting is to do as you would be done by, I shall take every opportunity of writing to some one of you.

I hope ere long this reaches you my good McKirk will be with you and will be able to give you every satisfaction respecting us and can give you more particular information of the mercantile business than I can ~~merely~~ pretend to do, it has taken a most unfortunate turn with the greatest people here, and tho' every creature in less or more degree suffered, my good James still stands his ground and if possible his friends and credit increase every day. He is loved by every one here. I can never be enough thankful to Providence for the Blessing of such a Child. He is a particular example of duty and affection and is blessed with good health and spirits. He has no assistance since McKirk left but David who seems to do very well. He has constantly a porter and was obliged in the winter to have two. His business is more extensive than I could have any idea of. He meets with every mark of respect and kindness from our relations. The Purvances who are now numerous are all very attentive to us. They live in the first style as do all of our other friends. They are now preparing for their Country Seats which some of them have very elegant particularly Mrs Falls. The summer is dreaded very much from the heat and every creature that can leave town does it. Thin dress is regularly prepared the men wear gings and the women muslin. Every article is extravagantly high even the fruit they gather in from the open woods and fields and bring to market they get an extravagant price for. I meet some old acquaintances here, a few days ago Christopher Bucanna called to see me. He lives seventy miles from here at a place called Chamberstown. He looks well and says he has made a good support for himself and family by his trade and is now about to become a storekeeper in that place. I lament poor Alex Stevens family. I think he has left a distressed family. God support her, poor woman. I had little hopes of his being long alive when I left that country.

I anticipate the pleasure we shall all have at Mr K. return as I trust he will bring me good news of you and your family's health and happiness of all the other friends. You will give the most affectionate duty and love of every one of this house to all the Donegal Edenmore families also to your good Mrs Crawford and all the little boys best comp't to Mr and Mrs Wallen. Davy says he will write the first good opportunity to all his friends in Ball-on as I will also James, till then assure yourself of the sincere love and affection of J Neilson. Remember me to Nancy.

Addressed to
 Doctor Crawford
 Ballyshannon
 Ireland.

Facsimile 1 - Typed transcription of letter from Jane Neilson, dated April 1800. The annotation "*The mistakes in spelling etc, were mostly in my typing*" was evidently added by the original transcriber.

1801 Jan 02 – Jane Neilson to Sarah Crawford

Baltimore, Jan'y 2nd 1801

My Dear Sister:

I was so fortunate as to receive ~~your~~ your letter of the 28th Sept six weeks after date also one by McKirk for which accept my thanks. It is always the greatest ~~satisfaction~~ gratification to me to hear often from my friends and must acknowledge your particular attention in that respect and I shall always hope for your repeating the obligation as often as your mind is convenient. I am sorry to find that you have had so severe an illness in the summer, indeed you are not half careful of your self you are much readier to accommodate others than to attend to yourself. It is surely wrong in a nurse to expose themselves to cold, and I think I would not allow you to attempt that favorite occupation of yours again unless you resolve to be more careful. It is a great comfort to me to find my dear father and mother still enjoy a tolerable share of health, and that they are able to "zant" about among you, as it must now be their greatest pleasure, and the dear little boys and girls seem to increase and thrive with you all, which I am very happy to hear. By and by you will be able to spare one or two to come to see us and I trust by the time any of the boys are fit to come, they will have more inducements as I hope more of my boys will be settled by that time. At present they are all doing well in their several departments; this is a place where industry meets its reward, tho many good people have been ~~unhappy~~ unfortunate since we came here, principally from speculating too deeply, there are so many advantageous hits made at times induces many to exceed, and one capital failure ~~occasions many~~ occasions many. About forty happened in the course of last year, but neither these misfortunes nor the havoc the fever made seems to effect the people in general much; they seem to carry on their parties and amusements quite gay.

I know you will be glad to hear that Beck has got quite rid of the fever and her and myself went to the Country the begining of August and was fortunate in getting a healthy situation. We both recovered in health and ~~strength~~ strength tho I have but little reason to complain, yet the heat of the town is very oppressive and weakening to the constitution. We also had the satisfaction of finding room for all the family when they were obliged to fly from the sickness. I had James, Nat, McKirk and all the other boys and girls with me for some weeks. It was a great comfort to have them all removed so far from infection, tho James was oblig'd to be frequently there on account of his business.

You will be so good as to give my most affectionate regards to Nancy, and tell her I had all my children together for several weeks, and as she knows the number perfectly, she will allow we will take a tolerably large table. She will also be pleased to hear that my good James seems to have as great a pride in seeing them all around him as I do. He is the ~~father~~ father in every

respect. Mr and Mrs Purviance desired when I wrote y

you or David to remember their best wishes to you both as also to our friends in Donegal. They are most kind attentive friends to every member of my family, they enjoy every blessing this world can afford and are ~~very~~ very deserving. As I have nothing more to say that ~~will~~ would be interesting to you but I have mentioned from time to time I shall with requesting you to accept the love and best wishes of all here for your happiness and welfare in which I include my good brother and his little boys, subscribe myself your ever affectionate and sincere sister

J. Neilson

You will remember me where you think it due. This goes by a young Mr More of Derry who returns immediately to this country. We hear often from John also he is very well but has been unfortunate in business from different failures that happened in his part of the Country, his last letter was wrote in better spirits and he expects to recover some part of his debts.

Addressed to Mrs S. Crawford

Ballyshannon

Ireland

For'd by

Me Sam Moore.

Facsimile 2 - Typed transcription of letter from Jane Neilson, dated January 1801.

1802 Mar 14 – Jane Neilson to Sarah Crawford

Baltimore March 14 1802

My dear Sister:

I hope a sufficient apology has long ere this reach'd you for my long silence as I wrote my rather in December after a ~~long~~ tedious and severe illness I experience in last summer and fall, and I must acknowledge you are entitled to my best endeavours on that score I felt more particularly indebted, however I am now thank Providence as well as I have been for ~~several~~ some years but rumatism which I must not mind at my time of day and I trust I shall be long able to acknowledge many kind favors from you. I mentioned in my last letter Becky's marriage to John Kelso and now I have to acquaint you with Mary's who was married the 2nd instant to a James Fulton a Derry man he has liv'd principally here these six years and is largely in business with his brother they have been very successful and to every appearance seem calculated to make her happy. All her connections seem highly gratified at her choice and I also add his which are not a few and I dare say you may know something of them. I shall mention to you Hugh Young who is married to his aunt lives here in the country. John Alexander, the widow of Furgerson Moore is his aunt, one brother and two sisters unmarried and all seem much attached to Mary. I hope she may long deserve their good opinion. She is not to leave me until next month. Well on the occasion was obliged to come home from Becky. I had also expected her and John but the distance scared her to attempt in this season but promises us a visit in May. They live 260 miles from us and the roads horrid tho a public stage runs from here to Richmond which is sixty miles in this side in a little over three days.

This winter has been remarkable fine very little frost and almost throughout the last three months more like your April than winter. It has been very gay tho some unfortunate failures of some of the leading merchants have happened those not immediately concerned enjoy all their amusements and the expense and extravagance of their tables is beyond all reason. The peace between England and France seems to have hurt their trade but the consideration of my dear friends enjoying that peace and safety readily reconciles me to a more moderate mode of living. I trust plenty has been added to that blessing ~~which~~ is my most earnest prayer and that ~~much~~ you may live long to enjoy it. The addition to your family must add much comfort to my dear mother and rather. I hope they will yet be spared long to enjoy the many comforts they so well deserve and I think the society of you and your dear little boys must be among their greatest. As I know every particular of my family will be interesting to you I shall mention them respectively. My good James is still the same steady dutiful son. Nat I expect next month from Liverpool he is well thought of by his employers. Robert lives with Sam Walker. David in our own store they both do well. the two little boys and Chitty are at the first academy in town. They are all beloved. They all grow fast and

are remarkable healthy. Belle and Anne Jane are my house keepers so you see we are all engaged usefully and I have the greatest comrort or seeing them well respected and well beloved by their relations. Mr and Mrs Purviance desire me to give their most sincear regards to Brother David and you. they are still in great grier for the young David or their daughter that died in May last. She was married to young David Stuart and a very clever man.

As I never hear anything of Mrs Brabazon or my Uncle since I left you I ~~xxx~~ request that you will let me know if they are in the land or the living. I long much to get the picture you promised me. Please make my most affectionate love to the original little boys and all my friends in D. Best regards to Nancy Tate and assure yourself of the sincear love and affection

J Neilson

Addresses to

Mrs Sallie Crawford

Moor Donegal

Irelands.

Facsimile 3 - Typed transcription of letter from Jane Neilson, dated March 1802.

1803 Dec 17 - Jane Neilson to Sarah Crawford

Baltimore Dec'r 17th 1803

My D. Sister :

Your goodness in writing to me is by much too gratifying to neglect the first opportunity of acknowledging it and of appraising you I am perfectly satisfied in having my full proportion of your leisure moments and that you judge right in saying that a letter from you in any shape or form comes very acceptable to me. Let David say if he pleases a little flattery is a powerful incentive to your writing. I know you feel more the particular anxiety I suffer on account of my ag'd parents and beloved friends to wait the regular returns of ships to this port as letters sent to any other port and put in the post office will come equally safe. Your approbation of Kitty's letter is very pleasing to me I don't remember to have seen it her disposition and understanding is naturally good and she has had advantage of the best schools since her arrival she is much the favorite with her brothers and indulged a great deal ~~xxx~~ females of every station here are much

attended to in their education indeed they carry it to extravagance in my opinion as girls without any prospect of fortune are taught French music ~~and~~ dancing drawing and all come to a very great expense. This city increases rapidly so much so as I begin to doubt myself when I ~~xxx~~ wish to tell you of its population but thus I can say that not less than five hundred homes have been built in the last eighteen months. The imports and exports also increase. Some of the grandees of France inhabit our city no less the brother of ~~xxxx~~ Bonaparte and other six gentlemen of rank they live in great style There is nothing observed but French fashion and French manners. I don't much admire them a natural prejudice against the whole nation is strong in me. I trust they will never have power to interrupt your happiness or invade your Country, they have many friends here however. My poor McKirk is once more to sea he is now supercargo in a ship Nat is master or they left here for the West Indies in Sept last It is impossible he can settle he tires immediately of any stationary employment yet I hope he will some day establish himself when he is tired of voicing about he has great abilities and ought to have been a rich man by this he still continues to have that strong attachment to us he first formed we expect them in next month.

Burton Foster has been here a few days ago he is in perfect health seems grave by turns tho he has picked up since his first coming. He is doing vast business for his employer for which he is largely paid he is esteem'd a steady sober industrious man and no doubt will succeed well here. you will be so kind as to present my best wishes to all his family. I understand John Montgomery has commenced business in ~~xx~~ partnership with his uncle Will'm.

time and Will'm Bryant has been in this town for some at the printing business. I fear he is doing

little good. All our relatives here are well. I regret the loss of Mr. and Mrs. McCreery's society as they are now living at the new city. He is a member of Congress which reflects great honor to be sent by so respected a Commonwealth as the City of Baltimore. There is also a Sam Purveience in Congress from South Carolina much admired as an orator he is a son to Will'm Jr who my mother and rather know.

I am happy to hear from you or my poor rather being able to see you so often he must feel great comfort in having you so near him. I hope you will all be long spar'd for each others comfort. I am glad poor Nancy enjoys better health and that she is reconciled to her daughter as it must make her mind easier tell her ~~and~~ all her children here as she call'd them remember her with affection and to ~~wait~~ except of my best wishes I think she must find plenty of employment among the boys. You must not let them forget me tell Nancy so and I hope Bob will correspond with Kitty she is at present on a visit some little distance (this word under sealing wax) in the Country or she would write. David is too much the man of business to mind letter writing he is become a very large fine looking boy quite as tall as James with a steady attentive mind. Rob't is six feet tall the young boys also grow and are all much freer of headaches than some years ago.

I wish you to present my most respectful compliments to my friends in Derry Unkle Will'm particularly when you see or write them. Best love to Brother David and all the dear little boys. Thanks and com't and assure your self of the love and to witness it cold frosty fingers can apologise for bad writing I can with safety make it.

affection of
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ J. Neilson

Mrs. Sallie Crawford

Moor Donegal

Ireland.

Facsimile 4 - Typed transcription of letter from Jane Neilson, dated December 1803.

1806 Jun 12 – Jane Neilson to Sarah Crawford

Baltimore June 12 th 1806

My D. Sister :

Tho I have little more to communicate than I have just now written to Bro James yet I feel desirous of making many inquiries of you respecting all your family and of inducing you to write me at every leisure, you have always been my best Correspondent and that you have at present much to occupy you yet I feel mortified at not hearing from my friends for more than ten months but since Mr McDonnells arrival I have been much relieved. We have felt much loneliness since ~~James's~~ James's departure but the prospect of his soon returning to us and his being engaged in a business he wish'd for much compensates to us as I hope he has acquaint'd his uncle by this time or his arrival in England I need say nothing more. Nat and Bob't are both with me but talk of soon both going out again they are both esteem'd in their respective pursuits my three girls are also with me. Kitty is by much the largest woman of the family and enjoys better health than any of the others they are very much teas'd with headaches yet they seem now to get inured to it and bear it patiently. We hear from Becky often the distance is too great to have much intercourse but by letter she has never been here but once since her first going away. They have a large plantation and a number of slaves which she attends to and gives her an abundance of employment as you know her disposition you may think she has now full scope ~~xxx~~ all her industry she is quite a standard for it in her neighborhood. The families of that Country have not so much depending on them but that they have to attend to make their Blacks work which would be to me a hard enough task. I think they own fifteen or that tribe ~~xxxx~~ men and women one of which is a weaver they raise cotton tobacco etc. etc. Becky has sent me two handsome countepanes of her own make and growth of figur'd cotton like old fashion'd dimety. I have been promising them a visit but at present cannot leave until James returns. his consequence in this family is like that of a much belov'd parent in our Dear David we lost a second guardian and protector there never was a person at his age such a serious lost his conduct was more like a man of thirty than sixteen he was so much known he could get employment or any ~~credit~~ credit and had the prospect of being a very wealthy man if it had pleas'd God to to have spar'd him but in all these pleasing prospects I have been disappointed surely for good and wise purposes. I wish to know how your dear little boys come on, how many sisters they have, if their learning is easy to them, if they grow much and if you have yet fix'd on any pursuit for them, and everything I like to hear from them particularly my Dr. little David who I am still partial to. I also wish to know of your health I trust it is steadier than I knew it and that you are more careful to avoid colds you are really are now at liberty to make too free of yourself. I hope I shall hear good accounts of you. I shall be happy yeyr Rob't and Jas. would correspond ~~xxx~~ with Kitty and Will'm or both. I am greatly pleased with my cousin Bells marriage. Mr Neilson is a man I always

had the best opinion of I sincerely wish their happiness. I shall by the most opportune time write me B. David and my dear father from whom I receiv'd letters a few days ago. Mr and Mrs Purvance always desire I may present their kindest regards to all the family I see them often they make constant inquiries of you and brother. They are the most astonishing old people ever seen I don't think there seems the difference of one year between the old lady and myself in looks and they are both cheerful and gay I receive much attention from all the family they have two sons and two daughters settled here all in the first rank. When you see or write your uncle Will'm and Aunt Mary give them my most respectful compliments. Mrs Given and Mrs Hood you will also remember me too. my love and blessings to your dear husband and children in which my family join from your sincere and affectionate sister J. Neilson.

I have been persuading Bell to write to her friends which she promises to do. Please remember me to Nancy McGancy tell her I always remember her with affection

Addressed

Mrs Crawford

Moor

Donegal

Facsimile 5 - Typed transcription of letter from Jane Neilson, dated June 1806.

1807 Sep 21 – Jane Neilson to Sarah Crawford

Baltimore Sep't 21st 1807

My Dear Sister:

All your letters and the pleasant accounts they contained came safe and add'd much satisfaction ~~to~~ to all this family you are indeed not among the number chargable or neglect. I must do you the justice of acknowledging your kind attention in writing more frequent than any other of my friends tho sometimes I ~~was~~ ~~ready~~ am ready to condemn all hands when I am a length of time from hearing from someone, my aged parents occasion me much anxiety and I may add with sincerety all of the family connection do you think I shall ever see any of the young ones the others I must give up. I am much pleased at the progress your boys make and your daughters too. I have a very particular account of them all by A Crawford and W Kirkpatrick my good Bob't stands high in their estimation he shew'd early a good disposition. I trust he will always be a comfort to you all the boys are highly spoken of, or all houses by the two young men or whom I am glad to mention their getting employment in about two weeks arter their arrival, which does not always happen, they are both respectrully fix'd, as yet not very lucretive but they may change if a more profitable place offers. sometime hence. In respect to young men this country is much changed as there is sometimes more here than they know what to do with at the same time it is the country for every industrious young man they will in time reap the advantage of prudence and industry.

I am sorry to learn from the young men that you are likely to leave the Moor. I lament for those who had the comfort of your society for some years wack perhaps you may not remove iar. I should suppose the air of that place more healthful for you than Shannon which ought to be the first consideration for you. I have not seen B. Foster for more than a year since his wife came his business has been quite stationary he has been but once in this town since that time howerver I hear often of them they are well but I understand Mrs F is much dissatisfied with her situation at all events they are ungrateful to forget the good people of ~~Foster~~ Fostercourt.

My family have been pretty generally ~~healthy~~ healthy but Mary who is still very delicate and Rob't who I think suffer'd much from the West India climate he had a severe attack of spasms about 18 months ago immediately upon returning from the West Indies of which he got over and was perfectly well in the fall and winter and in the winter set out on another Voige and return'd arriect'd in the same way but did not continue long and he seems now quite well he has had the first medical advice of this Country and I trust he will never again experience another attack in his last trip he met Mr Crawford of the Thurstbank family at Kingston Jamaica he was at that time likely to be provided in a parish. Robt. liked him very much he says he is a gay lively young man.

We look for James every day I even postponed

writing until the last minute that I might have the happiness of saying he was arrived. I hope in a few days we will have that comfort every individual in this house long for his coming.

I wrote Bro James a few days ago by a vessel bound for Cork which I am fearful may not go safe but you will be so kind as to tell him I receiv'd his very kind present and that it was very acceptable to us. I shall by the next opportunity write Bro David but I begin to reel so bad at writing that (a word or two covered by the seal) my friends won't be too ~~cerimonious~~ cerimonious in waiting answers but for them to write by any ~~chance~~ chance for any part of this Country Boston New York Or Philadelphia the letters will all come equally safe put in the post office or either places. I wish to mention old Mrs Purviance who is very particular in her inquiries for you and all my friends. I always receive every attention from her and all her family. I know if Bro David would write her some little complimentary letter it will be grateful to her she often talks of all her old acquaintances they seem quite fresh in her memory and she also likes to be remembered by them.

Remember me with affection to all around you present my best respects to Mrs W. Cauldwell and Miss Mary C. when you see them and assure yourself of the sincere regard of J. Neilson

My young folks desire their love to g. father & mother aunts aunkles and cousins &

Addressed to

Mrs Sally Crawford.

Moor

Near Donegal

Ireland.

Facsimile 6 - Typed transcription of letter from Jane Neilson, dated September 1807.

1807 Dec 21 – Jane Neilson to Sarah Crawford

Baltimore December 21 1807

My Dear Sister:

Your welcome letters came ~~xxx~~ safe to hand by Mr Walton which at all times gives me much satisfaction and reel much indebted to you for your unremitting attention in giving every information respecting my friends I am much pleased to hear of your Rob't's predilection for business as I know from experience the sooner young men are employed the better for them and particular ~~ly~~ when they are so fortunate as to be under the care of a good and worthy man such as I esteem Mr Caldwell ~~xxxxx~~ I trust and hope you will have every comfort in him and all other of your family. I think you must have all experienced great satisfaction in seeing Aunt Brabzon in your part of the country particularly my poor father and mother after so long a separation I suppose at least thirty years the change in them must have appeared great to each other. I hope she will be more at liberty to visit her friends than heretofore. I know her well she has a kind affectionate disposition and I ~~xxx~~ hope she has the means of gratifying the pleasure she would have in seeing you often. My James returned from his expedition in perfect good health and spirits and has in contemplation to make another trip to Europe if he will be allowed but this country ~~is~~ is greatly threatened with war which I most fervently hope will not take effect. It would destroy I suppose many individuals and the whole country suffer less or more. There is now a cessation in business which I ~~xxx~~ hope will not long continue.

Poor B. Foster and his family are in this town at present his prospects have not brightened since I last mentioned him to you. He is however blessed with good health and ~~xxx~~ an industrious disposition and there is ~~xxx~~ still no fears but he will yet ~~succeed~~ succeed his wife is near being confined of her second child. I ~~xxx~~ hope they will yet live happy and surely I think there is a rich reward reserved for the good old lady of N. Court in another world for the many objects of distressed she has ~~relied~~ relieved in her time and if it were God will pity her family should suffer any want. The family of ~~Mr~~ Richard Caldwell live here and enquire for you when I see them James Laws are very comfortable. old Mrs Purviance is also a kind friend in all her inquiries of all my friends as I now write to my Brother I must conclude with requesting you will keep me in the ~~remembrance~~ remembrance of your children and believe me your sincerely affect, J. Neilson

Adressed

Mrs Crawford

Moor

Donegal

Ireland.

The Early 20th Century Letters (1914-1920)
1914 Jun 29 – Charles Neilson to Anna Cochrane

TELEPHONE 1638 BROAD

CHARLES NEILSON
30 BROAD STREET
NEW YORK

June 29, 1914.

My dear Miss Cochrane:-

I hardly know how to thank you enough for the kindness of yourself and cousin in hunting up the Neilson information for me.

Nathaniel Neilson, the lawyer, who about 1750 married Rebecca Scott, the father and mother of Nathaniel Crawford, were evidently my great grand parents some distance back.

The son of Nathaniel and Jane Crawford, who was my great grandfather, James Crawford Neilson, married Albertina N. Backher. They were the father and mother of my father, James Crawford Neilson, a Civil Engineer and Architect, who married Rosa Williams of Maryland.

We have a complete history of the family on my mother's side, who was the ninth from Pocahontas through the Bollings, Randolphs and Flemmings. And on my father's side including all of his mother's family, that is the Backer connection mixed up with Moores and a lot of other people, but father's history of his own family only goes to Nathaniel Neilson who married Jane Crawford.

The letter of your cousin indicates that there is a good deal of Neilson history in the letters which he possesses, written by the Baltimore Great grandmother, a copy of which I would like very much to have, because it is quite possible that there may have been some feeling in grandmother's make up against the others of the Neilson family. I mean now the one who was Miss Backer. She was a very hard headed, determined old lady as I

remember her and after the death of grandfather on his way to Mexico, she took her children and went to Brussels to educate them. She did not come back here until father, who was next to the youngest, was almost grown up. From the letters and papers which I have, she evidently kept up her friendships with her own family, but I do not find any indication of any Neilson affiliations excepting with my great uncle, Robert Neilson, who married Anne Ogle, living in Baltimore, and William Neilson who lived at Columbus, Mississippi, (after leaving the U. S. Army as a Colonel of Cavalry, (where he had a large family. Many of them are still living there.

I know that my grandfather had a brother Hugh and some sisters, as there was quite a large family of them, but just what became of them I do not know.

If your cousin would kindly let me have those letters, I will gladly have them copied and returned to him. Is there any information or anything else that I can do for you or your cousin or any of your friends. I will take great pleasure in looking up anything you want to know.

I will, before long, write to the Presbyterian Parson. All my family have been Episcopalians. Certainly since grandmother's time and possibly before.

Will you kindly thank the Postmaster who forwarded you my letter or better still will you give me his name and proper and I will take great pleasure in doing so. Thanking you again

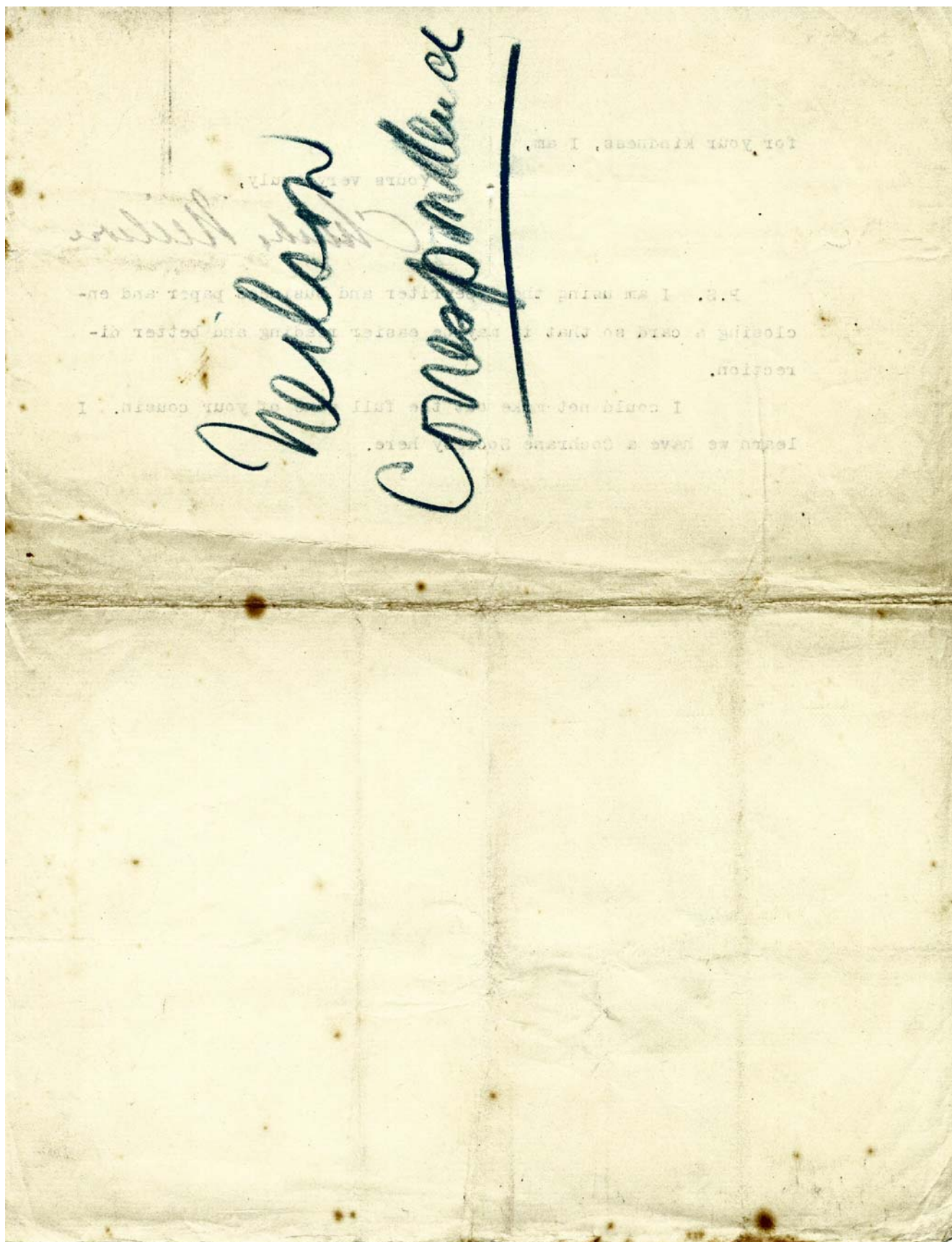
for your kindness, I am,

Yours very truly,

Christie Neilson

P.S. I am using the typewriter and business paper and enclosing a card so that it may be easier reading and better direction.

I could not make out the full name of your cousin. I learn we have a Cochrane Society here.



Facsimile 8 - Typewritten letter dated 29th June 1914 from Charles Neilson to Miss Annie Cochrane of Edenmore. Her cousin Cecil Cochrane had later written "Neilson Correspondence" on the back and folded it on the outside of the other letters in this series.

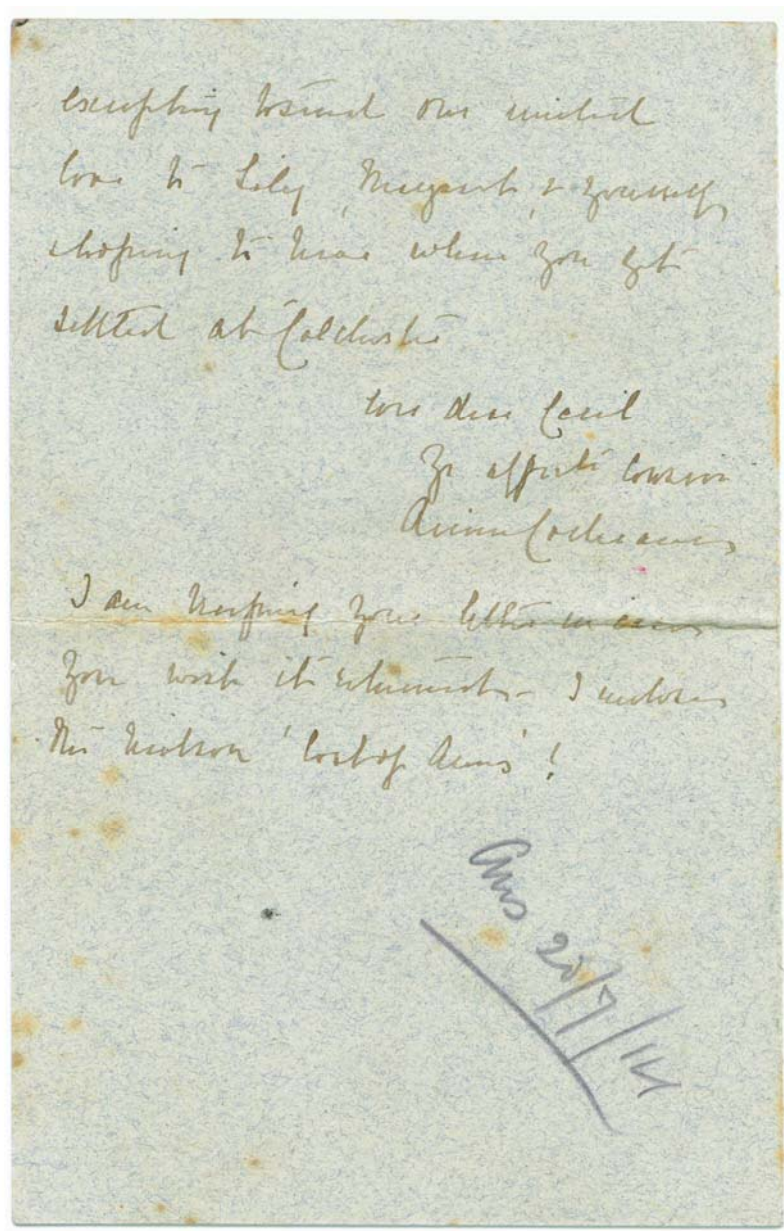
1914 Jul 13 – Anna Cochrane to Cecil Cochrane

Edinburgh
July 13th

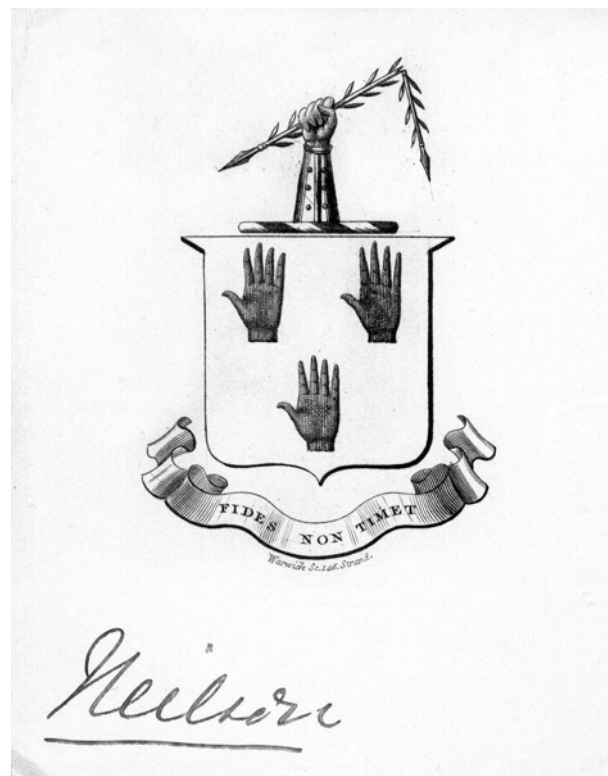
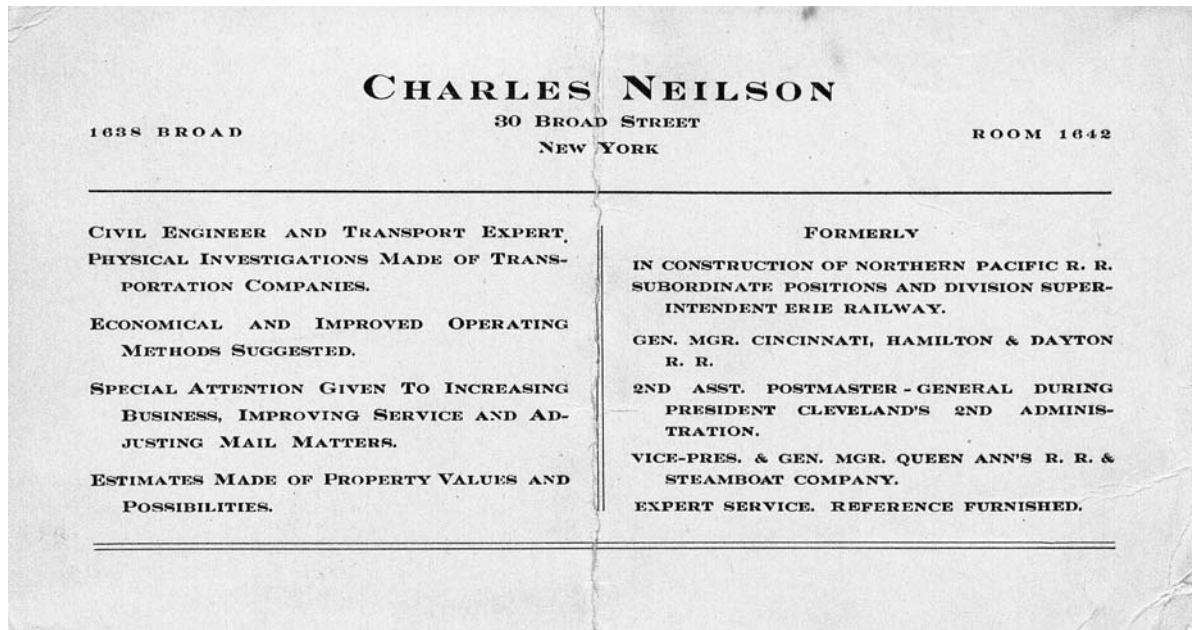
My dear Cecil I hope you will
not think me too trouble some sending
you Mr Neilson's letter, acknowledging
the information you gave me for him.
I see he would like to know the
name of the "letters" you were told, &
I think it better that you should
communicate with him without any
interference! I do not know what
he means by a "Cochrane Society" but
perhaps he could help you in your
researches, though I don't know what
he had much to do with America,

but please thank him for his
kind offer, & tell him I will
give his message to Miss McClintock,
the Post-Mistress at Stranorlar -
I heard from a friend that the
Rev. Dr. Leman Chappin was in Donegal
was a Neilson from Cullinstown, & also
that a friend of Crawford had
been that town - I was glad
to hear that you thought Crawford
impressed by his boy's story, & suppose
he will soon come to Lifford, to
welcome his new niece, & greet
his brother - I heard from Nancy

The latest account of both is
favorable. She hopes to get a Holiday
the end of the month, & goes to visit
Ned, but I suppose you will be on
the move before that. Henry is
much as when you were here, not
inclined for much exertion but
looking fairly well. His men begin
cutting the meadow today - it looks
tolerably good, but in general hay
is hardly worth the cost of mowing,
& indeed few of the crops look worth
much. I will not trouble you with
any more of my illegible writing



Facsimile 9 - Letter dated 13th July 1914 from Annie Cochrane to her cousin Cecil Cochrane. The PS mentions the "Coat of Arms" and this is reproduced on the next page. Cecil's annotation "Ans 20/7/14" gives the year.

Business Card and Neilson Coat of Arms

Facsimile 10 - Business Card and Coat of Arms evidently included with Charles Neilson's letter of 29th June 1914 and mentioned at the end of Facsimile 9 by Anna Cochrane.

1914 August - Lily Cochrane to Charles Neilson

Dear Mr Neilson

I am writing on behalf of my husband who is very busy at the present time, and unable to do so owing to his military duties - he is a Major in the Army Veterinary Corps -

He asks me to say his cousin Miss Cochrane forwarded your letter, to him and I enclose ⁺⁺ letters of Julia Neilson written about the ^{which you asked for} year 1800. He wishes you to return these to me as is all probable he will be at the front before long.

He says nearly all the Scotch settlers in Ulster in the 17th century were Presbyterians but many of their descendants became members of the Church of Ireland - the Crawford + Cochranes amongst them.

Miss Cochrane has thanked the Post mistress at Shenorlan on your behalf.

I believe there is a Mr Neilson in Donegal, he is the Presbyterian clergyman there and probably some relation of yours.

My husband would like to know what you mean by the sentence "I learn we have a Cochrane Society here" - ^{my husband's full} name is Robert Cecil Cochrane ^{his} second son of the late John Cochrane.

Facsimile 11 - A single remaining sheet of a draft pencil-written letter from Lily Cochrane (wife of Cecil Cochrane) to Charles Neilson. By looking at the dates and content of the previous and subsequent letters, this was evidently written in late July or early August 1914.

1914 Aug 25 - Charles Neilson to Lily Cochrane

TELEPHONE 1638 BROAD

CHARLES NEILSON

30 BROAD STREET

NEW YORK

Aug 25. 1914

Dear Mrs Cochrane

Your letter of the 14th with the enclosures came safely to hand - yesterday - the lady who wrote those letters - that you call Julia - was really Jane Crawford - Dr Crawford's daughter who was my Great Grandmother. Her son James that she speaks of so fondly was my Grandfather - These letters confirm and complete the story that we had - Some how places were all left out & I could not couple up - just what they were doing here - These letters indicate

that My Great Grandfather
was a Sea Captain - but
Nothing states that positively -
I can readily see how Grand
father came across Grand
Mother in the West Indians where
her father was an English
Governor - They were married
in England - as the Certificate
shows - Grandfather's brother
Robert - died in Baltimore -
William who was an Army Officer
a Col - When he retired died in
the South - where he left a large
family - Having had 3 wives
(at different times) -

The Kelso people are
the only ones I can't account
for - I have the name in my
family, both - but did not -

TELEPHONE 1638 BROAD

CHARLES NEILSON

30 BROAD STREET

NEW YORK

Know they must & Virginia
And don't know what became
of them - I will have these
letters copied and return
them to you shortly.

I am sorry you are
all mixed up in that war.
I know how you must feel
especially having your
husband pretty in it -
He had War here - the Civil
war - We were all on the
Southern side - And many
of us were in the Army
though boys - 2 of William
Neilson's sons - Got out of the

Prison Camp - Now up
in New York State - John &
Crawford - One 18, and the
other 16 - And got down to
their home at Columbus
Miss on 1700 Miles - They
had a cut and were in
Confederate Uniform -
John is now a Judge -

I hope you good people
will understand how I appreciate
your kindness, and how much
themed I am to you.
I want to show these letters to
some members of the family who
are as much interested as I
am -

About the Cochrane Society
I will find out - I send you all
the particulars -

With kind regards - and best wishes
for the future I am sincerely yours C Neilson

Facsimile 12 - Letter dated 25th August 1914 from Charles Neilson to Mrs Lily Cochrane (wife of Cecil Cochrane).

1916 Mar 15 - Charles Neilson to Lily Cochrane

676 Riverside Drive
New York March 15/16
My dear Mrs Cochrane
Your letter of the
26 of Feb'y reached me
a few days ago. On my
return from the South,
I have the seven
letters your good husband
sent me to copy - safe
and sound - I have
not returned them because
as a matter of safety
I wrote - No! receiving a
reply - I thought best to
wait until some one
said something,
As the mails are
so badly mixed - and many

letter, love - don't you
think I have better keep
them a letter longer, with
matter, settle down -

You shall have them
when ever you say so -
I only make this suggestion
for safety.

These letters are
written by my Great Grand-
mother - to her sister who
I suppose was your hus-
band's Great Grandmother -
My Grandfather - is the
one she calls James -
He was lost in the Gulf
of Mexico - My Grandmother
who was, Albertina Anna
Backer. with the 4 children,
My father the 3rd one. to
Brazil - & educated them

them there - Father was 5 years
old when they met &
about 20 when they -
Grandmother and the 4
children came back
to Bullmore -

I have a copy of the marriage
Certificate - of James Crawford
Neilson & Albertina Anna
Backer - made by the Rector
of the parish of St Mary's Steps
in the City of Exeter on the
behalf of the Rector of the Parish
of St Edmunds on the Bridge
dated - 1816 - 5 day of May -
If I am a little mixed -

please don't mind - I am
getting it out of a book a
mile long - I mean the story

Our family book
is quite a mixture - you
know some things of father's
side - Mother is a mixture of

Pocahontas - Sir Michiel
 Le Fleming of Flanders -
 John Stimpf related to
 Frederick - Baron von der
 Treuk
 You see what
 kind of an Indian I
 would make - though we
 claim it like Natives -
 You must be very
 thankful to get your hus-
 band home - through all these
 dreadful things - We know
 some thing of war - in a June
 day - We were all on the Sou-
 thern side from 1861 to 1865 -
 and living in Maryland -
 mostly in the middle of it.
 The Southern Nelsons - were in the
 Southern Army - While the Phila-
 & Marys Nelsons were Yankees
 I wish I had not - to show you
 with unimpaired information
 676 Yours Truly
 Reverend Sir Wm C Neilson

Facsimile 13 - Letter dated 15th March 1916 from Charles Neilson to Mrs Lily Cochrane (wife of Cecil Cochrane).

1920 Jun 25 – Charles Neilson to Lily Cochrane

521 West 112 Street
New York June 25/20

Dear Mrs. Cochrane

I am making
a third attempt to
reach you by letter to
know about returning
my great Grandmother's
letters that your good
husband was kind
enough to send for
me to see -

I suppose I have
made some mistake

in the address - So
I am going to try again

Please send me
the proper address - & I
will return the key
as I promised

I hope you all
are recovering from the
dreadful war - Our
people who got home
again are doing reason-
able well - but living here
is dreadful - prices are
simply out of reach

As a illustration I went
to the usual Store - about
a straw hat - this morning,
the hat that I usually
purchased for ^{\$}6. - today
Cost ^{\$}16. & now tax of ^{\$}1.
Most things are not quite
in that proportion. But
every thing is more than
double. One of Mrs Neilson's
family who has an income
of just over one million dollars a
year - has to hand over to the
Government seven hundred and
eighty five thousand dollars a

year - Glad I don't have
whence on so much,
but the letter hurts.
With kind regards
I am. Very truly yours
C Neilson

wrote on Sept 10th asking if
Mr Neilson would care to retain
his letters as they were of more
interest to him - MM

Facsimile 14 - Letter dated 25th June 1920 from Charles Neilson to Mrs Lily Cochrane (wife of Cecil Cochrane),
with annotation at the end by Cecil Cochrane on 10th September 1920.

1920 Jul 26 - Charles Neilson to Anna Cochrane

521 West-112 St.
New York July 26/20

My dear Miss Cochrane
Through your kindness
your Cousin sent me my
great Grandmother's letter to
her sister - his grand mother.
to read - Just before the storm
broke out. I thought it
unsafe to return these notes
even though I was quiet again.
His wife wrote me and I told
her I would send them when
I was sure they would reach
her. I make my promise good

I wrote the enclosed letter
which was returned this
morning. Would you send it
to her - so that she may tell
me just what to do.

Naturally I would
like to have them. but they
are his - and should be returned
to him - I hope some day the
world will return to the old
fashioned happy state and
people stop sitting each other
up. A lot of the family here
have been in my war - and
some of them are in France
Some of them will never come

will never come back

You speak of a Presby-
terian. Can you give me
his address. I do like very
much to visit him. Most of
the Neilsons here are Presby-
terians, those in the South
My Father's Mother - who was a
Baker. A Church of England
woman ~~started~~ ~~started~~ that way
and my Mother's family - were
that way also. Besides English
Mother was the 8th and I saw
the 9th from Pocahontas - the daughter
of Powhatan - the big Virginia Indian
We are therefore more Americans

These men public.
 They would not let me
 in the Army this time. Being
 over Age - I am in my 72nd year
 I can't help feeling that I have
 enough Irish and Indian in
 me - to make trouble for some
 body yet - ~~Especially~~ the Germans
 but they wouldn't have me -
 I have been shot at by a
 Yankee - an Indian and a
 Chinaman - and wanted to add
 to German to my list - Pardon
 my talking so much about things
 that may not interest you
 Yours Very Truly
 C Neilson

Facsimile 15 - Letter dated 26th July 1920 from Charles Neilson to Miss Anna Cochrane (cousin of Cecil Cochrane).

1920 Oct 10 - Charles Neilson to Cecil Cochrane

TELEPHONE HANOVER 8800

C. NEILSON
CONSULTING ENGINEER
ROOM 102
7-9 HANOVER STREET
NEW YORKWe live at
521 West 112 St

NEW YORK

Oct. 10/20

My dear Col Cochrane-

I am extremely obliged to you for your letter and the gift of my Great Grandmother's letters - I assure you - that we all value them most highly - They are not carefully folded away with the old family papers & look which my father left. He was most careful of records and history of the Neilson's and the Craigs, and the Backers - His wife was a Backer, the daughter of one of the English Governors of Trinidad. There are quite a number of Neilson's here - that is about New York - They are very distant of any relation to us - The only ones of our family that I know of here - are in Maryland and Minnesota - Grandfather's brother - William - Thomas are now off - next to Columbus Miss - I left a large family

My Grandfather was James Crawford
 Neilson - for whom my Father was named.
 I am the last of our family left -
 except 2 daughters of my brother Albert.
 and my own two children - Atty & Gail.
 John's Sister Mary - married an English
 preacher - named Backer - (no kin to
 her mother -) and her daughter married
 another preacher named May - She
 had six or seven sons - all in the regular
 Army - They left & started from George
 town - British Guiana - South America -
 Aunt Mary - died years ago. I knew
 her Mr Backer was a Bishop - but I am not
 sure. The daughter & son came here for a short
 and lived with us - but that was years ago.
 I am nearly 72 - So you can understand
 why I don't know more of them - One of
 the May - named Portier - is a May and
 is some kind of important person at Trinidad
 now. I have seen him - He's a nice fellow.
 His first wife was daughter of the regular
 Governor of the Fiji Islands - or some such
 place - She died & he has no 2 - I don't know who she

TELEPHONE HANOVER 8800

C. NEILSON
CONSULTING ENGINEER
ROOM 102
7-9 HANOVER STREET
NEW YORK

NEW YORK

2

I got the book you suggested. It has given
the family a Clean-sight into Irish
Matters we never had before. It is Splendid
written. I have now read the 'The first 7
Discussions' by Hamilton. We had Mount
Munier - but its nothing like Hamilton -
We have also read the Bishop's books -
What's his name - Birmingham or some
thing like that - They are good - We are
all Irish enough to keep up our interest
in Ireland - but not from the usual
Catholic Irish Stand point. And we know
these gentlemen and appreciate them - I am
Yours - We have always been Democrats -
Before the Civil War - As Southern - held
Slaves &c &c - Many of the family were
in the Southern Army &c &c - Since the
War - We have been mixed up all over the
Country - The Civil war upset our finances
and cleared up all that was left -
So the younger ^{of the family} members have had to work -

I have been in the railroad service -
 most of my life - until lately -
 I was in the 2nd Cleveland Administration
 as one of the Post Master Generals.
 Since then I have been building & paths
 together Transportation Facilities person
 by here - Railroads & electric lines
 of course the war stopped all that, but
 it shows signs of life again now.
 We are all going to vote the Right ticket
 for Harder. We don't like Wilson idea
 of a one man Government. - No with Democrats
 & Wilson. We have great Courts here -
 It does and will stand a lot. - Come out on
 top - One of our great troubles is the "Lawyer"
 He makes all the laws. & then works all the
 people - It is the greatest Manufacturing business on
 earth. He manufactures all the fit. & for a few
 dollars to keep onto. There pulls him half out for
 the question fee he thinks you can stand
 that's really our great trouble - and must
 be corrected. Perhaps I have written you a lot of
 unnecessary matter - if I have forgive me. - If I
 can I will come here at any time - please let me
 know. or look after any of your friends that come on
 there is a Cochrane Association here. if you are interested &
 will find out about them. Love Mrs. Wm. Neilson
 Thanking you again.

Facsimile 16 - Letter dated 10th October 1920 from Charles Neilson to Col Cecil Cochrane.

Rear cover photograph of
Cecil Cochrane (1871-1925).

Kindly provided by his niece Lois Moriarty (1910-2013).

