

Acc.12100  
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## **Inventory**

**Acc.12100**

**Rev Robert Brown, Cumnock, Ayrshire and Family**

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Papers of the Brown Family

1810-1899

61 folders

### **Biographical History**

Robert Brown (1795-1847) was born in Ayrshire on 25 May 1795. He began his training as Calvinist minister of the Calvinist Secession Church (Associate Presbytery) in Glasgow in 1817, was ordained in November, 1823 and settled in the congregation of Cumnock, East Ayrshire that same year. Following a brief courtship, he married Margaret Anderson (c.1800-1870) on 1 June 1826. The marriage produced four children Jane Hay Brown (1827-1895), Margaret (Maggie) Brown (1830-1859), Jessie Brown (1833-1863) and James Brown (1835-1890). Margaret also gave birth to another baby girl in 1829 however the child died a few hours after birth. Reverend Robert Brown was prone to illness and he succumbed to his declining health on 18 July 1847.

In the years following the death of Reverend Robert Brown, the Brown family began to fragment and move away from Ayrshire. James Brown pursued his father's career as a minister of the church, settling in St James' Manse in Paisley and married Kate Scott in the 1850s; however the exact dates of his ordainment and marriage are unknown. Jane Hay Brown undertook a position as a governess in Madame Steinhardt's School for Young Ladies in Hildesheim, Germany, leaving for Hamburg in October 1857. Maggie Brown became engaged to James Harvey Hoey (1832-1865) in 1852. However, that same year, James Hoey, along with his brother Thomas Hoey and Andrew Hamilton (1816-1870), the widower of a sister to the Hoey brothers, departed for the colonies in Melbourne, Australia. Maggie Brown elected to join her betrothed in the colonies, departing on the *SS Great Britain* two years later, and they married on 14 September 1854. The marriage produced three children, Robert Brown Hoey (b. 1856), Maggie Brown Hoey (b.1857) and Henry Brown Hoey (b. 1858). In 1856, the Hoey family departed from Melbourne and settled in the Gold Fields, Eagle Hawk Gully, Bendigo in order to pursue quartz mining. After the birth of her children, Maggie Hoey (née Brown) fell into ill health and requested her sister, Jane Hay Brown, join her in the colonies. Jane Hay Brown sailed to Australia on the *SS Royal Charter* in 1859, arriving in Bendigo in August of that year where she tended to her sister until Maggie Hoey's death on 19 November 1859. Unfortunately, a less detailed account is available on the third sister, Jessie Brown, as she does not feature as prominently in the Brown family letters. She married William Stewart in 1859 and died in childbirth 5 years later in 1864.

Jane Hay Brown chose to stay in the colonies following the passing of her sister, Maggie Hoey, and married Andrew Hamilton in 1860. Andrew Hamilton had been firmly invested in the Gold Fields of Eagle Hawk Gully with the Hoey brothers in the 1850s; however by the early 1860s the profits from the enterprise had begun to wane and the Hamilton family are forced to seek financial aid from Margaret Anderson Brown and Jane Hay Frew, friend to Jane Hay Hamilton (née Brown). The Hamilton marriage produced three children, John Hamilton (b.1862), Jessie Hamilton (1864-1866), who dies in her first year, and Jane Elizabeth Hamilton (b. 1868). Shortly after the birth of their third child, Andrew Hamilton became ill and passed away in December 1869. Choosing to abandon the colonies, Jane Hay Hamilton returned to her mother in Scotland with her two surviving children on the *SS Loch Katrine* and arrived on 20 April 1870. Margaret Anderson Brown passed away shortly after Jane's return to Scotland although the exact date is unclear. Jane Hamilton's son, John

Hamilton, was sent to school at Aberdona Villa, Dollar and went on to study at Glasgow University. He then trained as a minister of the United Presbyterian Church at the Theological Hall in Edinburgh and briefly settled in Alloa, Clackmannanshire. Shortly after his ordainment, John Hamilton resigned as a minister, instead opting for a career as a school master at Merchiston Castle School and subsequently founded St Mary's Preparatory School for Boys in Melrose, 1895. Jane Hay Hamilton passed away in 1895 and although there is a small amount of correspondence between Robert Hoey and John Hamilton following her death, the correspondence of the Brown family ends with Jane Hay Hamilton.

## **Scope and Content**

The archive contains the correspondence of the members of the Brown family from 1810-1899. The letters reflect the personal lives of the Brown family and provide a stark insight into the lives of early settlers who travelled to the Victorian colonies in Southern Australia to reap the benefits of the quartz mines and the gold fields. The collection also contains documents that complement the narrative portrayed within the family's correspondence.

## **Arrangement**

Upon its accession, the collection arrived ordered and numbered with corresponding typed transcripts and notes for each of the letters completed by Agnes Mary Alison Walker Weir. To enable use of the transcripts and notes in tandem with the original correspondence the original order of the collection has largely been maintained. The correspondence has been divided into four series, each reflecting a distinct phase in Brown family life.

The initial series covers the Brown family's time in Cumnock, Ayrshire prior to the death of Robert Brown. This deviates from the original order as correspondence relating to Robert Brown's official duties as a minister have been separated from the more personal family correspondence. The second, 1850-1862, contains correspondence between the members of the Brown family who remained in Scotland following the death of their patriarch, a majority of whom had left Ayrshire and relocated to Glasgow. The third and largest of the series contains the correspondence of the family members that travelled to the Victorian colonies in Australia. In the original order, some of the correspondence had been separated into folders containing letters sent outbound from Australia to Scotland and those sent from Scotland to Australia. These have been rearranged to fit into chronological order; however to allow use of the transcriptions, this order has been maintained within the folders. Where this occurs, the entries will appear as one description with two corresponding folder numbers, a note has been made at file level to indicate the contents of the folders. The fourth series pertains to correspondence sent following Jane Hay Hamilton's departure from the colonies and has been arranged chronologically, as it appeared upon accession. The final series contains documents relating to the Brown family correspondence. This series also deviates from the original order as the documents had originally been included with the Brown family letters. These documents have been arranged into four individual folders and each folder corresponds with a series of correspondence.

The transcriptions that were provided with the collection upon accession appear after the series containing the original correspondence and documents. These have been arranged to mirror the arrangement of the Brown family letters within their folders. Each individual transcription was assigned a number prior to accession and these numbers correspond with the numbers that appear on the letters and documents within the collection.

<b>1-50</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>
<b>51-54</b>	<b>Brown Family Documents</b>
<b>55-60</b>	<b>Transcriptions and notes</b>
<b>61</b>	<b>Printed Book</b>

**1-50 Correspondence**

**1-3 Reverend Robert Brown Ministerial Correspondence**

1. Correspondence, 1816-1823, relating to Robert Brown's 'call' to a congregation following his graduation as a licensed minister. It includes correspondence with ministers from the congregations of Kirkcaldy, Kinghorn and Cumnock.
2. Correspondence, 1817-1824, with John Newlands (1797 -1852), friend and fellow student, discussing examinations and ministerial duties.
3. Correspondence, 1825-1835, with ministers pertaining to personal matters and issues of the church, principally Henry Renton, Robert Simpson and Hugh Crichton.

**4-11 Brown Family Correspondence, Cumnock, 1810–1849**

4. Correspondence, 1810 – 1824, of Margaret Anderson and her sisters, Janet Anderson and Elizabeth Anderson, Isabella Newlands, a family friend, and Robert Brown.
5. Correspondence, 1825, of Margaret Anderson and Elizabeth Anderson, Janet Christenson, her cousin, and Robert Brown.
6. Correspondence, 1826, of Margaret Anderson and Robert Brown. Also present are letters sent from a Margaret MacFarlane to Margaret Anderson concerning the death of her sister, Janet Anderson Stewart.
7. Correspondence, 1826-1830, of members of the Brown family, primarily Margaret Anderson Brown, Elizabeth Anderson, Robert Brown and Matthew Anderson, Margaret's father, concerning the birth of Margaret Anderson's first child with Robert Brown and the death of their second child shortly after birth.
8. Correspondence, 1831-1839, mostly of Margaret Anderson Brown, Robert Brown and Elizabeth Anderson on family and personal matters.
9. Correspondence, 1840-1842, of Margaret Anderson Brown and Elizabeth Anderson, in Glasgow, and of Jane Hay Brown and Jane Hay Stewart.

10. Correspondence, 1843, primarily of Jane Hay Brown, temporarily residing in Glasgow with her cousin, Jane Hay Stewart, and Margaret Anderson. There are also several letters sent between Margaret Anderson Brown, Elizabeth Anderson and Robert Brown.
11. Correspondence, 1846-1849, pertaining to the declining health and eventual death of Robert Brown. Features correspondence between the Brown family members and letters of sympathy to Margaret Anderson Brown. Also present are letters featuring testimonials on behalf of James Brown.

#### **12-16 Brown Family Correspondence, Glasgow, 1850-1862**

12. Correspondence, 1850-1856, primarily of the Brown family. A majority of the letters are between Margaret Anderson Brown, Jane Hay Brown, James Brown, Jessie Brown and Maggie Brown.
13. Correspondence, 1857, pertaining to Jane Hay Brown's relocation to Hildesheim, Germany, following her acceptance of a job as a parlour governess in October, 1857. Primary correspondents are Jane Hay Brown, Margaret Anderson Brown, James Brown and Jessie Brown.
14. Correspondence, 1858-1859, of Jane Hay Brown, currently employed in Hildesheim, Germany and the Brown family members still residing in Glasgow. A majority of the letters are addressed to Margaret Anderson Brown, James Brown and Jessie Brown.
15. Correspondence, 1858-1863, of the Brown family members remaining in Scotland. Reverend James Brown, Jessie Stewart.
16. Correspondence, 1861-1862, pertaining to time spent by James Brown and his wife, Kate, in France. Most of the letters are to Margaret Anderson Brown and Jessie Brown.

#### **17-36 Brown Family Correspondence, Australia, 1852-1869**

17. Correspondence, 1852-1854, of the Hoey brothers, Thomas Hoey and James Harvey Hoey, and the Brown family, primarily Margaret Anderson Brown, Jane Hay Brown and Jessie Brown. During this period, James Hoey is engaged to Maggie Brown and correspondence features letters from James Hoey to Margaret Anderson Brown requesting her permission to allow Maggie to join him in Melbourne, Australia.
18. Correspondence, 1854, featuring letters sent by Maggie Brown and James Harvey Hoey to the Brown family members remaining in Scotland during Maggie Brown's voyage on the *SS Great Britain* and following her arrival in Melbourne,

Australia. Letters discuss the voyage, including a three week delay due to the ship's quarantine following an outbreak of smallpox, her arrival in Melbourne and subsequent marriage to James Harvey Hoey, September, 1854.

19. Correspondence, 1855, including letters sent by Maggie Hoey (née Brown) and James Harvey Hoey to Margaret Anderson Brown, James Brown, Jane Hay Brown and Jessie Brown. Letters discuss life in Australia and the birth of Maggie Hoey's first child, Robert Brown Hoey, 21 October 1855.
20. Correspondence, 1855, including letters sent by Margaret Anderson Brown, Jessie Brown and Jane Hay Brown to Maggie Brown following her departure to Melbourne.
21. Correspondence, 1856, including letters sent by Maggie Hoey and James Harvey Hoey to the Brown family members in Scotland. Letters discuss the relocation of the Hoey's to Bendigo, [Victoria], in order to mine quartz due to the struggling mining business in Melbourne.
22. Correspondence, 1857, primarily featuring letters of Maggie Hoey, now residing in Melbourne, Australia, and James Harvey Hoey to the members of the Brown family remaining in Scotland, Margaret Anderson Brown, James Brown and Jessie Brown.
23. Correspondence, 1858-1859, containing letters written by Maggie Hoey and James Harvey Hoey, in Eagle Hawk, Victoria, Australia, to Margaret Anderson Brown, James Brown, Jessie Brown and Jane Hay Brown, in Hildesheim, Germany. The letters discuss Maggie Hoey's declining health and the birth and subsequent death of their son, Henry Hoey.
- 24-25. Correspondence, 1859-1860, between Jane Hay Brown, Margaret Anderson Brown, Maggie Hoey, James Brown and Jessie Brown. Letters discuss Jane Hay Brown's voyage to Australia on the *SS Royal Charter*, the death of Maggie Brown, 17 November 1859 and includes Maggie Hoey's final letter to the Brown family at home in Scotland.
  24. 1859-1860, outbound letters from Australia to Scotland.
  25. 1859-1860, inbound letters from Scotland to Australia.
26. Correspondence, 1859-1860, features love letters sent between Jane Hay Brown and Andrew Hamilton, following their engagement in 1859 and culminating in their marriage 14 June 1860.
- 27-28 Correspondence, 1860-1861, primarily of Jane Hamilton (née Brown), Andrew Hamilton, Margaret Anderson Brown, James Brown and Jessie Stewart (née Brown). The letters discuss Jane's marriage to Andrew Hamilton, life in Eagle Hawk, also present are several condolence letters on Maggie Hoey's death.
  27. Outbound letters from Australia to Scotland.

28. Inbound letters from Scotland to Australia.

29-30 Correspondence, 1861-1862, of Jane Hamilton, the Brown family members in Glasgow, Margaret Anderson Brown, and Jessie Stewart and James Harvey Hoey. The letters discuss financial constraints as a result of a lull in the mining business in Melbourne, Australia, the failure of the Saint Mungo Reef Mining Company (established by James Hoey and Thomas Hoey and in which Andrew Hamilton invested) and the birth of James Brown Hamilton, March 1862.

29. Outbound letters from Australia to Scotland.

30. Inbound letters from Scotland to Australia.

31-32 Correspondence, 1863-1864, of Jane Hamilton, Margaret Anderson Brown, James Brown and Jessie Stewart. The letters pertain to the homesickness of Jane Hamilton, James Harvey Hoey's relocation to New Zealand from Australia with his new wife, Mary Mortley and the birth of Jessie Hamilton to Jane Hamilton, August 1864.

31. Outbound letters from Australia to Scotland.

32. Inbound letters from Scotland to Australia.

33-34 Correspondence, 1865-1867, of Jane Hamilton, Margaret Anderson Brown, James Brown, Kate Brown and Jane Hay Frew. The letters pertain to the deaths of James Harvey Hoey in November 1865, Jessie Stewart in childbirth, December 1865 and Thomas Hoey, February 1867.

33. Outbound letters from Australia to Scotland.

34. Inbound letters from Scotland to Australia.

35. Correspondence of Jane Hamilton, 1868-1869, features letters to Margaret Anderson Brown, James Brown and 'all at home'. Also present is a letter from Jane Hamilton's nephew Robert Hoey from the *SS Norfolk* en route from Australia back to Scotland to stay with his uncle following the death of his father, James Harvey Hoey.

36. Letters, 1868-1869, to Jane Hamilton from Margaret Anderson Brown, James Brown, Kate Brown, Robert Hoey and from her friend, Jane Hay Frew. The letters pertain to the relocation of Robert Hoey to Scotland and Andrew Hamilton's declining health.

### **37- 50 Brown Family Correspondence, Scotland, 1870-1895.**

37. Correspondence, 1870, of Jane Hay Hamilton, James Brown, Margaret Anderson Brown and Elizabeth Anderson. The letters discuss the death of Andrew Hamilton and Jane Hay Hamilton's return to Scotland from Australia. There are also testimonials on Jane Hay Hamilton's behalf testifying her merits as a teacher.

38. Correspondence, 1871-1872, of Jane Hay Hamilton, James Brown and Jane Frew. The letters discuss the death of Margaret Anderson Brown and there are a number of letters from Jane Hay Hamilton's acquaintances in Hildesheim, Germany.
39. Correspondence, 1873, containing testimonials on Jane Hay Hamilton's behalf, discussing her merits as a teacher and letters from James Brown and Kate Brown to Jane Hay Hamilton.
40. Correspondence, 1875-1876, including letters from James Brown and John Hamilton to Jane Hay Hamilton. The letters relate to John Hamilton's schooling at Aberdona Villa, Dollar.
41. Letters, 1877-1879, to Jane Hay Hamilton, from James Brown, John Hamilton, Robert Hoey and her niece, Maggie Brown Hoey. John Hamilton discusses his progress in school at Aberdona Villa, Dollar. There are also includes letters to his sister, Jane Elizabeth Hamilton.
42. Letters, 1880-1883, to Jane Hay Hamilton, primarily from her children, John Hamilton and Jane Elizabeth Hamilton, Robert Hoey and James Brown. The letters relate to John Hamilton's time as a student in Glasgow University and James Brown's travels to Jamaica, West Indies. Also present are condolence letters to Jane Hay Hamilton following the death of her aunt Elizabeth Anderson in 1883.
43. Correspondence, 1884, of Jane Hay Hamilton, John Hamilton, Jane Elizabeth Hamilton and James Brown. Letters relate to John Hamilton's residency in Edinburgh and a trip taken by Jane Hay Hamilton to Paisley, Renfrewshire.
44. Correspondence, 1885, primarily between Jane Hay Hamilton, John Hamilton, Jane Elizabeth Hamilton and letters from James Brown to Jane Hay Hamilton. There are also letters from various friends, addressed to John Hamilton.
45. Correspondence, 1886, containing letters between Jane Hay Hamilton and John Hamilton, letters from James Brown and Robert Hoey to Jane Hay Hamilton and letters from various friends, addressed to John Hamilton, relating to his studies to become a minister in Edinburgh.
46. Correspondence, 1887, of Jane Hay Hamilton and John Hamilton. Letters relate to Reverend John Hamilton's dislike of his recent appointment as minister in Alloa, Clackmannanshire. Also present are letters from friends of John Hamilton discussing his professional situation.
47. Correspondence, 1888, containing letters between Jane Hay Hamilton and John Hamilton, letters from James Brown to Jane Hay Hamilton and letters addressed to John Hamilton from various third parties discussing both the personal and the professional.



48. Correspondence, 1889, primarily featuring letters from James Brown, Kate Brown and John Hamilton addressed to Jane Hay Hamilton. Letters relate to James Brown's travels to Sydney, Australia on the *SS Orient* and John Hamilton's voyage to Las Palmas on the *SS Warwick Castle*.
49. Correspondence, 1890, of Jane Hay Hamilton, John Hamilton and James Brown. Also present are letters of condolence addressed to Jane Hay Hamilton following the death of her brother, James Brown.
50. Correspondence, 1893-1899, of Jane Hay Hamilton and John Hamilton and letters addressed to Jane Hay Hamilton from several acquaintances, relating to personal and financial matters. Also present are letters from Robert Hoey to John Hamilton following the death of Jane Hay Hamilton in 1895.

#### **51-54 Brown Family Documents**

51. Sermons and documents, 1743-1846, relating to the Cumnock correspondence 1810-1849, the ministerial duties of Reverend Robert Brown and his marriage to Margaret Anderson Brown in 1826. Handwritten copy of the Bond of the Covenant sworn by the Ministers of the Secession Church (Associate Presbytery), a list of preachers for 1823, an 1822 sermon and an action sermon dated 1 December 1838, Reverend Robert Brown's stipend book for the year 1831, a copy of the marriage certificate of William Anderson and Margaret Hardie, 1 December 1800, a marriage certificate of the Reverend Robert Brown and Margaret Anderson, 14 June 1826 and a marriage certificate of Samuel Clerk and Wilhemenia Anderson, 4 July 1832.
52. Essays, 1841, completed by Jane Hay Hamilton for school aged fourteen. They largely discuss the life of biblical figures or books from the Bible but also the steam engine, grammar and the moral and physical advantages of society.
53. Documents relating to the Brown family correspondence during their time in Australia, 1852-1869, including a journal entry made by James Harvey Hoey entitled 'My Apology for a Journal', 24 November 1852, an invitation extended to Jane Hay Hamilton to spend an evening with Captain E. Raphael of the *SS Royal Charter*, a log of the *SS Royal Charter* from Liverpool to Melbourne, 1859, an account of outgoing money kept by Jane Hay Brown, May 1860, a leaflet for the Young Ladies' School, California Gully that Jane Hay Hamilton (née Brown) intended to open in April, 1867 and a bill from Doctor H.L. Atkinson to Andrew Hamilton, 31 August 1869.
54. Documents relating to John Hamilton, containing pamphlets, essays and notes written by John Hamilton from his time studying at Glasgow University, a handwritten draft of a programme for a church event, three copies of a printed programme of 'Saturday Evening Entertainments' to take place in Greenside

Mission Chapel, Alloa, Clackmannanshire in 1887 and a draft proposal for a Dollar Club Academy, 1889.

**55-60 Transcriptions and notes**

- 55. Transcriptions of letters in Acc.12100/1-11
- 56. Transcriptions of letters in Acc.12100/12-16
- 57. Transcriptions of letters in Acc.12100/17-28
- 58. Transcriptions of letters in Acc.12100/29-36
- 59. Transcriptions of letters in Acc.12100/37-54
- 60. Notes of Agnes Mary Alison Walker Weir

**61 Printed Book**

- 61 Agnes Mary Alison Walker Weir, *A Family History for the Brown-Hamilton Letters*, with CD