

THE POSTAL RUNNERS OF EAST SUTHERLAND  
1794.

FROM THE GILCHRIST PAPERS CURRENTLY IN

EDINBURGH: PER MRS SYLVIA SWALLOW

TRANSCRIBED BY S.J.T. ROBERTSON.

PER/PRO MR JAS. K. BELL

DORNOCH,

SUTHERLAND.

5 APRIL 2001.

2 Runners John Suthd (?Sutherland) es

Bannermen — 3 times

a week (? by each?) them from Wilkha

to Dunbeath at 2/8 each time

or 8/1 a week (? for?) — 21 miles

Being in gr (? grant?) of 13 weeks

& 6<sup>d</sup> a week for the water

at Helmsdale

Receiving ho - - - - -

£ 5. 4
£ 6. 6
-----
5. 10. 6
10
-----
£ 6. - 6

note the long shaft of the "T" of time in the line below, cuts right through what is almost certainly "Wilkha" SR.

1 Dornoch to Wilkha 18 1/2 miles

2/4 (? 2/6?) each of 3 times or 7/10

week - (? agr (? agreed?)) - - - - - £ 4. 11

Ferryoons/a w - - - - - 13

(Ferryoons ≡ little Ferry - Jkoll) £ 5. 4

3/6 agr (agreed?) to posts for carry (? carry?)

the bag to Wilkha pd the post

chd (? charged?) by Mr Taylor

What is the meaning of this

is not the @ £ 5. 4 in full to

the posts

Transcription  
S. H. T. Robertson 5/4/2001

Mr Taylor to Wm Fraser 20 Novr 1794  
As (Sent?) of the Gentlemen on the wast (?West?) side of Suthd. (Sutherland)  
complain of the charges made by me in the quarterly  
post quotes(?) - Vizl for paying the Runners the carriage  
of their Bag, and 1 sm (one shilling?) promised the postm<sup>r</sup> (postmaster?) by their  
own Minutes for (scalling?) the Bag keeping(?) -----(?)

I am resolved after the end of the curr<sup>t</sup> (current?) q<sup>r</sup> (quarter?) (agreeable  
to Mr Edwards recommendation to me) to dis-  
continue to send any letters (to quot?) in the Wilkho (?Wilk House??)  
Bag as the allowance of 1<sup>st</sup> (?one shilling?) for each Gentleman  
concerned for all the trouble of that Bag will hardly  
keep me in wax (?) for it, not to mention trouble of  
Keeping (?) ~~of keeping~~ Books (? quotes) & Outlay of  
Money — I prefer discontinuing a practise which  
I hitherto supposed did Services to the Gentlemen  
concerned in it without any adequate Return to  
myself than have Imputations made on me (?)  
wrong or extravagant charges. After the end  
of the q<sup>r</sup> (quarter?) the letters and Papers will be given the  
Runners as usual and this youll communicate  
to those concerned as my Services are either (?)  
Suspended or not required — I am & co

Transcription  
S.J.T. Robertson 5/4/2001  
SE

Mr Edwards Surveyors letter to Wm Fraser 19 July 1794.  
 Sir, In consideration of your having engaged to keep a receiving house for letters, and to superintend the Runners between Wilks Cross Dunbeath fm (? from?) the 10th Octr (October) next — the Allowance for the Runners Helmsdale Water as for your own trouble will stand (? stand?) as follows, and be paid to you quarterly by the Postmr (Postmaster?) of Dornoch.

for the Runners to Dunbeath — 8/p week.	£ 20. 16
for Helmsdale water	1. 6
for receiving house	<u>2. —</u>
	£ 24. 2

As (parleir?) Directions will be given to the Postmr (Postmaster?) of Dornoch to remit to you at the end of every quarter the sum of £ 6. 1/1 ~ I trust there will be no further occasion for any Mistakeness in your Accounts with him — Should any part of the above Allowances be retained by the Postmr of Dornoch or if he should not be regular in his payss (? payments?) you ar desired to acquaint me therewith by the first Post I am & servt

Mr Edwards to Wm Fraser fm (? from) Tain 19 July 1794.  
 Informs Mr Fraser that he spoke to Mr Mose (ss un?) Mr Taylor yesterday at Dornoch respecting the money due to him, and that he may depend upon the sum of 13/ being remitted to him in a few days and also a the 17/ for Dunbeath Water soon after the end of the work quarter — MR Edwards by giving this assurance of the pay<sup>t</sup> (payment?) of Mr Frasers demand expects he will immediately settle with the Runners Bannerman & Suth<sup>d</sup> (sutherland?) the arrears of 25/ that they claim for post Services.

Transcription  
 S.S.T. Robertson 5/4/2008  


Mr Thomassons (?Thomsons?) to Mr Fraser 29<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1792

From 3 July 1791 sh(?) aller(?) alter — the Allowance (???) (?credited?) to the postm<sup>t</sup> (?Postmaster?) of Dornoch were

1st For Runners from Dornoch to Wilkho 18 1/2 miles at 2/4 <sup>e</sup> each time at 7 <sup>sh</sup> (7/-) a week — p annum	£ 18. 4.
For the little Ferry — 2 <sup>d</sup> each crossing } or 1/10 weeks . . . . . 4 an . . . . .	<u>2. 10</u> £ 20. 16.

2<sup>d</sup>ly.. And which you should have received Vizt

For Runners fm (?from) Wilkho to Dunbeath 21 miles at the rate of 2/8 each time or 8/pr week p. An	£ 80. 16
— for Helmsdale Water at 1 <sup>d</sup> each time or 50 s <sup>r</sup>	1. 6

and for your own trouble	<u>2.</u>
which you ought to receive a year for	£ 24. 2

yourself as runners twixt Wilkho as Dunbeath as as above fm (from) Dornoch to Wilkho	<u>20. 16</u> £ 44. 18
Total Allowance for the whole	

So that you should have received at the end of each quarter £ 6. 0. 6  
making as before stated £ 24. 2 / a year

Fm (?from?) this youl see that the Runners fm (?from?) Wilk<sup>o</sup> to Dunbeath includg the allowance for Helmsdale Water shoud have 2/10 each time or 8/6 a week between them — making 4/3 a week to each

Cass (?also?) the Water of Dunbeath as that is fordable except in Speats (?spate?), an dues(?) should be made & attested by the Post Mr (master) there when they are obliged to take the Boat that an allowance may be made for it according to the actual (?) ss (?versus?) real expense so as to prevent any delay

As to the letters you received Wilk ho I. think you should receive half of the allowance made by the Gentlemen for the Wilk ho Bag as having 1/2 (?half?) the trouble of it with the postmr (postmaster) of Dornoch.

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S.J.T. Robertson 5/4/2001