

Wednesday 25th Dec^r 1907 [17]
Evening
Xmas
day.

BONSHAW TOWER,

BOOLEFECHAN,

N.B.

My dear Clausman,

Indeed being a
descendant of Washington
Irving, I might say to
you, remote Kinsman.

Your very nice picture
of Sunny side, arrived
this afternoon, Xmas day.
Unfortunately the glass is
smashed in the binders, but
that does not matter, as
I can easily get another
glass, & the picture itself
is uninjured. I am very
glad to have it & it shall
hang in the main staircase.

Hall where already hangs
a portrait of

JOHN HALL

JOHN HALL

18

Washington Irving
himself. It is a good one
it should be here on a
Tuesday. Within the last
fortnight I have had 2 letters
from 2 Irvines, one living
now in Orkney, & the other
having been born there, &
both claiming to be of the
same blood as Washington
Irving. as follows: First
Wm B. Irvine, Rector of
Evangelical Academy, Dundee.
(Where he has been teaching for 43 years.)
he says; "my knowledge of the
Clan is a great extent confined
to the Drum Branch of which I

[23]
claim to be a scion; being descended
from William Irvine, who came
to Kirkwall in the 3rd quarter
of the 14th century. In the early
part of the 17th century my
ancestors possessed, if not the
whole, a very considerable
part, & that the best, of the
Island of Shapinsay; in
which same 63 years ago I
first saw the light. Washington
Irvine's father, who left Shapinsay
in the 18th century was a
near relation of my grandfather,
John Irvine, farmer & weaver,
& Session Clerk of the Parish in
the early part of the 19th
century. My family left
the Island of Shapinsay in
1854, & settled in Leith, near

have all joined the majority
except myself. 33

Second The Rev^d J. S. W. Irvine.
The Manse. South Ronaldshay.
~~Orkney~~ Orkney. He says
66 but father was a small
proprietor in Orkney and
claimed to be connected
with Washington Irving.
I have been parish minister
here, since 1871 & my
son is at present assistant
to the Rev^d W. S. St George,
Edinburgh. 33
I thought you would be
interested in these accounts
of kinsmen of yours over
here. That you possibly
have never heard of before.
If you feel inclined to write
to them, I feel sure they

[3]

will answer, & will be
interested.

TELEGRAPH
STATION,
MILFORD

BONSHAW TOWER,

ECOLEFECHAN,

N.B.

Re the post card you
sent me. It is curious
that I had a similar one
brought me by a young
Irving Moffat, whose
grandmother was an
Irving. It was sent
home here by his brother
who is employed somewhere
in your labour hood,
& who sent it home here,
thinking I would be
interested in it.

The Photo you have
sent me is most artistic,
& the place must be very

beautiful, such lovely

free & I value it
very much. But the
post card seems to give
you the best idea of the
house itself.

However I hope before
very long to go out to
the U.S.A.; when the
book is well [redacted]
& then I hope to see it
myself.

Long before this you
will have received your
copy of my Clan Book,
which I sent to you on

18th Nov^r last, from
Aberdeen.

The book has been
very well reviewed over
here by the newspapers.
I have not had a word
of anything but approval
from any of them.

"The Daily Telegraph"
of 18th Dec^r one of the
leading papers, if not
the best paper over
here, gave a very good
report. I sent you the
article & shall be obliged
if you will show it to any
of the Clan you may
know. So far I am doing

well with the book, still
I am a long way yet from
covering the very heavy
expense of publishing as
I have done. My Publishers
bill alone is over £600.

But I insisted on keeping
the price of the book down,
because I was so anxious
as many of the Clan as
possible should have the
Book. I have even come
very enthusiastic for
Clanmen have been
invaluable to me in
going & writing & hear from you
again. Your very sincere Chieflain.

Boushara