

The Hamond Letters

Falconry, as many of us know, crosses many borders. Falconers will come together to enjoy their ancient sport regardless of religion, politics and even wars. England and Holland are known throughout the world as having practising Falconers for centuries and during the late 1700's and early 1800's English and Dutch Falconers were regularly crossing the water to each other's countries for that one and only purpose..... Falconry. Because of Falconers, the town of Valkenswaard in Holland is well and truly known to many. Many Falconers once lived in Valkenswaard and travelled annually to trap Falcons and were employed in many European cities as Falconers to nobility.

In 1839 The Royal Loo Hawking Club was formed, often referred to as an Anglo Dutch Club due to the number of English and Dutch Falconers and followers at its formation. The club enjoyed many years sport until 1855 when many began to lose interest in Falconry.

Valkenswaard, apart from Falconry, is also well known for its Cigar Industry which was started in 1865 by Jan (John) van Best, who at the time was one of the richest men in Valkenswaard. It is not known why he started making cigars but it is known how it all started, how he became so rich and that Falconry was to play a huge part in this industry being started.

To learn how it all started we must return to Norfolk, England and the ancient villages of Westacre and Swaffham. At 'High House' in Westacre lived Anthony Hamond who was born in 1742. Anthony Hamond was from a noble family and a huge figure head in the local area being the owner of much land and buildings. Hamond was a Justice of the Peace and twice elected as Sheriff. He was a sporting man, in particular coursing. The Swaffham Coursing Society had been established in 1776 chiefly through the patronage of Lord Orford. Following his death it was supported by Hamond who had his own coursing ground 'Westacre Field' where a prize of fifty guineas was run yearly in November for about 16 greyhounds. The coursing lasted some four days. His other great passion was Falconry.

In October 1773 his first son Richard was born. His wife (Polly) Amelia sadly died shortly after his birth. No records have been found as to exactly why she died at the young age of 27. Hamond married again to Sarah and five more children were born. Sarah in 1780, Anthony in 1781 but died in 1783, Philip in 1782, Susan in 1784 and Robert in 1785.

It was in 1795 in a letter written by Richard to his sister Sarah that the story commences. In this letter the Falconer John Daems is mentioned, and he is obviously known to the Hamond family. Another letter written in 1796 by the Reverend Salmon introduces John Dawson Downes to Anthony Hamond. These letters, discovered in the Norfolk Record Office led to the finding of many others that had been preserved and retained by the Hamond family and in particular Sarah who kept many of the letters that Richard wrote to her over the years. As the story unfolds, through the letters that are copied below, many are in their original form, copied exactly with the abbreviations of the time, and the spelling mistakes that were made. On occasion, some words are unreadable and due to rips and tears of letters being over 200

years old and indeed some parts have faded. However, in the main they are readable, and some falconry history and names of Falconers known to many of us will come to light.

Commencing with the first letter written by Richard Hamond (aged 23) to his sister Sarah (aged 15).

Swaffham June 9th 1795

Dear Sister,

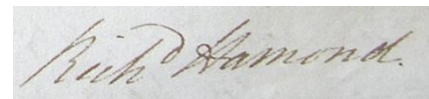
*I received your letter to day since I have been here as has M^{rs} Barrett my fathers. I am sorry to inform you that my Aunt was very indifferent last Thursday, but now thank God is as well as when you left her. Myself & the rest of the family are in good health & I am glad you arrived safe back at Cheltenham & that you have got lodging according to your wishes tho I cannot exactly make out either by yours or my father's letter where to direct, **you may tell my father that I went to Munford last Friday, John Daems was then out in search of a Hawk which he had lost the preceding evening.** I then went to Mr Wilson's who had wrote to my father the day before, part of which letter I have enclosed. **I saw John Daems in the evening when he returned with the lost hawk, he says that at the proper season he was not suffered to leave the country, but since that time having spoken some words in favour of the British army he was obliged to stay & having a rough & long pafsage over one of the Hawks died, one he has lost since so that his stock is reduced to six. He looked over thin & says if it was not for his family & property he would not quit his country again. I saw & spoke to his relation who is a very fine looking fellow but as well as John seems rather down in the mouth. I understand that he does not know anything about deer, he seems very desirous of getting a gamekeepers place.** I am sorry to tell you that our hen Canary bird died this morning. My Aunt Barrett intends writing in the course of this week & in the mean time wishes my father to consult M^r West about her, as he has a great opinion of him. As the bells are ringing for church, I now subscribe with duty to my father & mother Your affectionate Brother*

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Richard Hamond." The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

Westacre June 14th 1795

Dear Father,

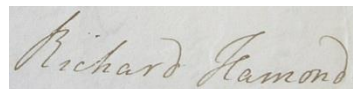
I received your letter but today (as I was from home on friday & saturday) which gave me great pleasure to here that you all continue well as we are here also. I am very sorry I cannot give so good account of my Aunt who has been but indifferent this week. D^r Redfearn I expect has been there today (but as M^r King intends coming here tomorrow I shall not close this up till I see him when I hope to give you a favourable account of M^{rs} Barrett. I suppose before this you have received hers and my joint letter in which I informed you about poor James Case (we heard today by luck) he still continues very ill & it is D^r R's opinion he cannot last long. M^{rs} R Hamond Leaves Swaffham tomorrow I understand M^r Farington goes there on wednesday next. **I was a hawking last wednesday when the Hawks (owing to the lateness of the season & want of sufficient training) flew so indifferent that they determined giving it up for this year. I told John Daems that I had not heard from you. he said he should stay at Munford till some 2 day & then go to London where he meant to dispose of his Hawks, he told me that his relation could get a place in town with a single gentleman but that he preferred a game keepers place. I wrote to him today when I received yours saying that you did not want a game keeper at present but that he might let me know where he would be in case you should want one. I also desired him to let me know what he would take for a couple of Hawks (as I think if he did not ask too much) I & Vander could manage them to catch Crows & Magpies.** We had four or five hours rain here last Wednesday but scarce any since the wind is NE & still continues cold. There was a letter for my mother today I believe from M^r Salmon which I intend sending tomorrow. Monday 15th M^r King is fast come & am glad to hear that my Aunt is better today. M^r K saw her before he left Swaffham. D^r Redfearn was there yesterday & says he does not think her worse. M^r K enquired of M^r Farington about Edward King's land who gives his opinion, that E^d King enjoys that on the same conditions he does the rest of the Estate. M^r Gorge & M^r Morphew have been to look at Walton church & are very well satisfied with it except that (if you have no objection) they wish to have the pulpit placed at a the South Corner near the chancel which M^r K says may be easily done. James Lift intends cutting the (?) tomorrow. I have nothing more to say only Duty to you & my mother & love to my sister & believe your dutiful son



West Acre June 18th 1795

Dear Father,

I received your letter this day which gave me great pleasure to hear that you & all the family are in good health, but not that you are dissatisfied about me not answering your last letter sooner, but I hope when you received it you was convinced it was not delayed by neglect. I dined at M^{rs} Barrett's yesterday as did Horace Hamond who went there with M^r Farington who intends staying at Swaffham a fortnight or three weeks. My Aunt's cough was very troublesome but she appeared better in the evening. She said she had written to you to know if you disapproved of her taking Godbold's vegetable syrup. She seems very desirous of having it as she learned from M^r King that M^r Bailey an attorney at Leatham is in a decline and given over by the faculty & that by taking Godbold's medicine he is now so recovered that he is able to follow his profession as formerly. M^r Bayly is of opinion that it will not hurt her, if it should not be of service. H H has not been here, he has given me a general invitation but I think it will be better not to accept it. On Tuesday morning the wind got to SE & the weather became warm. It rained yesterday at Lynn from 3 in the morning till Ten but there was very little here. Last night the wind got to NE & it turned cold. Today it has rained fast from 4 in the morning till now (3 afternoon) when it seems likely to clear which if it does I intend going to M^r Henley's this afternoon & staying till Sunday. I mean to dine with my Aunt on Sunday. **In consequence of the letter I wrote to John Daems he sent his relation here on Tuesday morning with a couple of Hawks. He did not fix any price upon them, but said I was welcome to them, so I sent John a Guinea & gave Peter a Crown. Peter instructed how to manage them & we have fitted up Scarf's Hole for their reception. John & his relation set off for London yesterday where the latter expects to get a place with a single gentleman.** Brill, Luickfett & Drop pupped yesterday. Brill has eight white one, four of which we have sent to Phillis. Luickfett has 4 black ones. Drop has seven, some black, others black & white (they are by M^r King's dog) I wish to know if any of Drops should be saved. The bay filley ploughs extremely gentle & well. The Hen canary bird has laid an egg this day but the others don't seem likely to breed. I saw Susan at Lynn on Tuesday, she was very well & is to stay there till next Tuesday as it was not convenient to M^{rs} Barrett to have her this week. Rear Admiral Prescott left Lynn last week & is succeeded by Captain Woollett. I shall now conclude with duty to you & my mother & love to my brothers & sisters & hope that you will continue in good health as does your dutiful son.

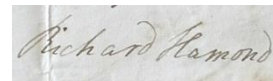


Richard Hamond.

Westacre June 20th 1795

Dear Father,

I received your letter yesterday while at Swaffham. M^{rs} Barrett was in very low spirits in the morning but she was better in the afternoon and she attributed her lowness of spirits to the effects of the medicine, I saw M^r King yesterday who intended visiting this week but now intends deferring it for three or four days as he hopes by that time to learn more about King's land. I enquired of M^r K what day the meeting is to be at Lynn concerning leaving the town he says it is to be on Tuesday the seventh of next month but he cannot learn whose scheme it is no more than that it was agreed to by the Corporation. M^r K intends being at the meeting (if you wish I should you will let me know) I was at Lynn on Tuesday where I found Susan and all friends in good health, except poor James Case who was so well last week as to be able to sit up & speak a little but he had a fit on Tuesday morning (which he had not had for a fortnight) & was very indifferent after it. M^r Bagge & M^r T Bagge are gone to his summer fair & are expected home tomorrow or next day. Susan comes home on Tuesday and goes to M^{rs} Barrett's on Wednesday or Thursday. M^r Clements continues much as usual he was at Westacre last Thursday & staid till the Saturday. I saw M^r Dixon Hoste at M^r Kenley's who desires me to tell you that Whiter appointed jailer for Grafs is all down & we hope to get the Hay up the beginning of next week. The wind is now SW & we have had fine weather interspersed with showers ever since Sunday so that the corn now looks well & the turneps come up very fast. Three of Brills puppies are dead & the five remaining are 4 Bitches 7 a dog. Two of Drops are dead so that I could only have 3 black ones 2 dogs & a bitch & a black & white one, **I am sorry to say that we have lost one of the Hawks but the other being an old one Peter says will never fly away, the experience of keeping is not very great as they will live very well upon Rooks and woodpigeons with a little beef if they work very hard. The one we have is now a moulting so that he can't fly much at present but he killed a rook the last time we flew him.** The hen canary sits upon only one egg. Vander is not at home at present but (?) says as well as he can recollect the Beer Barrells contained eight gallons each. I intend going to M^r Randall's tomorrow for a week or ten days so you will direct your next letter there I am glad to hear that Cheltenham waters have been of so much service to you & I hope you will reap equal benefit from Bath. I & all the family are in good health & that you & all the family may enjoy the same is the sincere wish of your dutiful son.



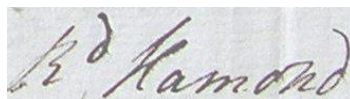
P.S. Vander had a letter from **Peter Danakers*** this week who is at Easing near Newmarket but has not got a place.

*Pieter Danckers

Norwich July 1st 1795

Dear Father,

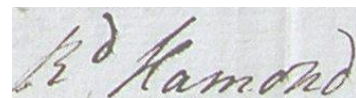
I received your letter yesterday which gave me great pleasure to hear that you all arrived safe and well at Bath, and am also glad to inform you that by a letter (which Mifs Mary Randall had yesterday from M^{rs} Farington) I hear M^{rs} Barrett is very finally & Godbold's medicine agrees very well with her. On Friday last Jonas Browne's widow came to High House along with her Brother from Rudham. She was much disappointed at your being from home but says if you choose she or (if she should not be able to come down from London again) her brother will pay you the money due to you & the servants & take the clothes and wages that are due to Browne to pay other creditor as far as they are able. I told her I would inform you of it & you would let her know your opinion, so she left her direction (which is No 10 lower Brooke St Grosvenor Square) also the certificate of her marriage, the woman is very well behaved & if I recollect right is upward of forty. I do not know what Peter Danakers is doing at Easing but if you recollect, I told you in a former letter that he could get a house servants place in London but prefers a Gamekeepers place, he appears very civil & well behaved but is very tall & stout tho not fat. The last time I saw Horace Hamond was at Lynn he did not talk of leaving Hafsingham at present. I never heard him mention the paving bill. I believe he constantly attends the land Tax meeting but Harry Henly does not intend to act. The servants have behaved very well & have not been idle. The coachman & Bob have been employed in the garden till now. Horace & Crown are cleaning windows. Vander was gone to Downham for a day or two when your last letter arrived so that I was obliged to write before he returned (which was on Friday afternoon) Reynolds mistook it was 18 gallons instead of 8. I cannot learn whether M^r Salmon is at Ormsby or not. Orton sailed for India from Portsmouth last Thursday fennight I certainly will be at the meeting at Lynn tho probably I may return here again. However I intend visiting Ormsby for a day or two. M^r Crowe gave a Ball last night from which M^r Randall's family & myself returned between three & four this morning. M^r Crowe looks better than ever I saw him and desires his Compl^{ts} as does M^r Woodhouse who was there. We have had a good deal of rain by showers sufficient to make the corn look well but not to insure the hay. M^r Randall's family desire their kind remembrance to you & family & I remain in good health with love to my brothers & sisters.
Your dutiful son

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. Hamond". The ink is dark and the paper is aged and slightly yellowed.

Westacre July 8th 1795

Dear Father,

I received your letter on my return home on Monday & am very sorry to hear of the death of M^{rs} Arnold but it gave me pleasure to hear that you and the rest of the family continue in good health as does myself & all friends here. I was at the meeting at Lynn yesterday but nothing was done as there were scarce half a dozen country people present. The meeting is adjourned to the 27 of October when the Lynn people mean to produce their plan but it is quite uncertain whether it will go on as the Lynn people themselves are not at all unanimous about it. M^r Whincop desires me to say that the businefs about Tim Baker is settled as you wished. I saw poor James Case who was not so well yesterday as he had been last week he has not had a fit of a fortnight but it is quite uncertain how long he will continue. We expect to get up all the Hay except that of the meadows at Westacre today. Jack begs to tell you that he intends going away at Michaelmas. I found three letters for you when I returned on Monday. One from the Veterinary College begging your to pay your arrears of subscription which are two guineas to the 30th of next September, either to the collector at the College or to M^{rs} Ransome Moreland & Hammersby Pall Mall. The other is from M^r Holliday directed Westacre near Norfolk (Bongham being left out) dated June 24 but did not arrive till last Friday saying that he was then going to enter Caldwell at Brazon Nose College & as he was advised to let him return for the long vacation he wished to know whether you could receive him (as M^r Wilson will be from home) or otherwise he was to go to his sister Crafton at Brandon & she to be allowed for his board. I have answered his letter saying that you was still at Bath & would continue some time (but not on account of being ill as he understood) & that I should be from home so that we should not be able to receive M^r Caldwell. The third is from M^r Mansell with a draft for M^{rs} Barrett & an account concerning Taxes & which I shall enclose if she thinks proper. As I shall dine with her today in my way to Norwich I intend if M^r Salmon is at Ormsby to go there on Saturday next return to Norwich on Monday and come here on Tuesday or Wednesday. Charles Randall came home with me as he never was in this part of the country before. My frowthing(?) will be finished next Tuesday. I am happy to inform you that my Aunt is better than she was on Monday & is now as well as when M^r Bayly wrote. I shewed her M^r Manesell's letter in which he sent an account & draft for her money but as the account is not quite right she intends sending a receipt for the draft but will explain to you about the account when you return therefore she thinks it not necefsary for me to send the letter. The little black greyhound has got 7 puppies 4 bitches & 3 dogs, 3 black one 3 black & white 7 one blue one, let me know what you will have saved. The Canary still continues to sit on one egg. Susan is here & very well & joins me in duty to yourself, mother & love to brothers & sisters & believe me your dutiful Son

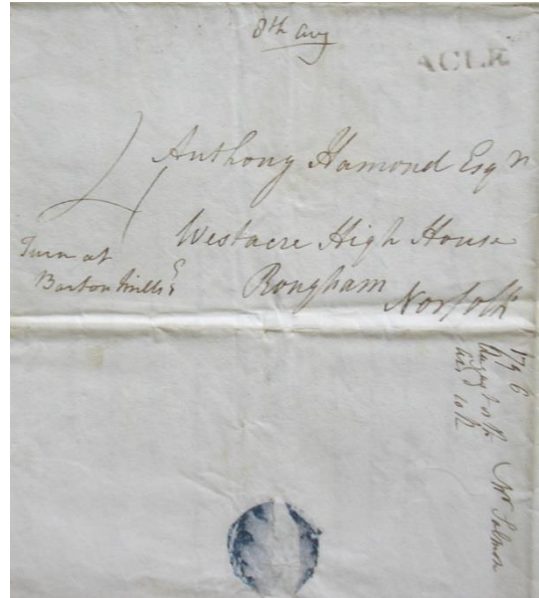


P.S. My Aunt desires her love & hopes to hear soon

Ormesby 8th Aug. 1796

My dear Sir

I hope this will find you, & all y^r family having returned to High House with ample show of health & spirits, & that you will find your affairs so little neglected, or disengaged; that you will be able to fix an early time for favouring us with you company at Ormesby; when in all probability you will have the terms, on which of Tithes of Sporle will be at your Service; for M^{rs} Lucas's answer to my application made thro one of y^r young men, was "That she had no objection to hunt with them, & had given order fro them to be surveyed & appraised". I have to observe it is not known, for whom the application was made. She was married last Thursday, & immediately set off for M^r Sherston's Seat at Wells near Bath.



I am particularly requested by M^r Downes, who is a great Bird Fancier at Yarmouth, & who has been informed thru your Falconer that you have now a nest of young Hawks, "To ask one of y^r young ones of you". I told him I really did not know the value or nature of the favour I was to ask, but that I w^d mention of Circumstance, & if you w^d part with one I would let him know. To which he replied that if you w^d spare him one, he would send a man over for it. This looks as if he considers the Thing as a Matter of some value & Importance wherefore I think it necessary to add, that I beg you w^d not consider me in your Determination concerning his request, & that if I have asked any thing improper I do it thro ignorance.

I have not had any Letter by the India Ships from my son at present, but hope this week will not pass without satisfactory amounts from & of him --- M^{rs} S & my Daughter are still at Caistens, where they purpose to remain till tomorrow night when they will return to Ormesby --- I have it on charge however to present their united best wishes & Compts to yourself M^{rs} Hamond & family with those of Dear Sir y^r ever obliged & faithful.

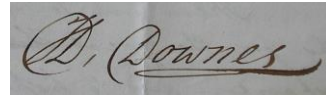
B.W. Salmon

Yarmouth Dec 7th 1796

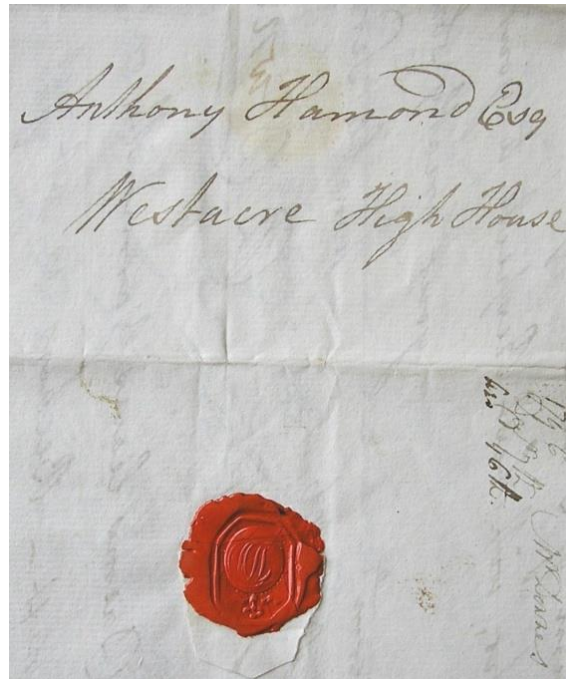
Sir,

*I duly received your Favour of the first Instant – and a brace of Hares, for which please accept my best Thanks – Lord Cork is very much obliged to you and will send the Bitch when she goes to heat – she is a great Favourite, and the distance His Lordship does not regard – His Lordship hopes you will not subject yourself to inconvenience respecting the Dog – **John Daems has been with me since Thursday – the weather has been very unfriendly to Hawking – we had the misfortune to loose the Tiercel Goshawk the first Day we went out – but keen Sportsmen must not sink under difficulties they must sometimes balance the bad, by anticipating the good – Mr Salmon had no pleasure in seeing your Hawks fly – surely, those whom neither good nor bad can please, must make but poor Judges – Sir Thomas Gooch had invited Lord Rons and some friends to have Hawked with us on Monday last – but the Weather prevented our going to Benacre – I think Sir Thomas is in for Hawking – I shall not fail to bite him if I have the power – I am Sir, with best Respects to your Family your greatly obliged humble Servant.***

J.D.Downes



P.S. Daems leaves Yarmouth on Sunday next – Beechers is not yet arrived



Yarmouth 22nd Dec 1796

Sir,

I was favoured with your letter of the 15th and am highly flattered by your kind notice of me, and my Hawking pursuits – We had the ill luck to loose the Tiercel the first flight – and have not heard the least of him since – The Slight Falcon I was attempting to train to Partridges – she flew a Bird sharply, a good flight, into a Whin Bush, and not being able to get it up again soon – and having set down the Pigeon we took it out in a Basket, when the Hawk went off – we could not serve her, and she left us – the Evening was closing and prevented our following her – The next Day I saw her on the Beach when I was out with Lord and Lady Cork with my Goshawk – I did not go to her, thinking I could take her in the Evening – and have not seen her since, this happened before Daems came to me – My Goshawk (the only one I have at present) I am training to Rabbit, but the continual bad weather prevented our going out, and the Bird is out of exercise – she has flown several good flights at netted Birds – wild birds she has seen only three or four times and they were too much for her – Daems and I used to talk constantly about hawking – we intend publishing upon it – he is to bring over a Falconer for Lord Cork for the Game Season certainly – he is not certain of coming in the Spring – unless we have Peace – he is to let me have a Slight Falcon and a Tiercel Goshawk – I am sorry to hear of your old Falcon's ill trick – she had, I thought, the appearance of having moulted well – I hope you did not experience a second disappointment in the Trees- the first was occasioned by the Frost setting in after the Wherry sailed from hence which stopped the Navigation near Norwich – otherwise they would have been at Norwich at the time I mentioned – M^r Salmon could have told you of a Day's Sport he had with Captⁿ Bennet, whom he met hawking with me – M^r S. invited the Captⁿ to shoot, not doubting, most likely the ability to show him superior sport to the killing one Partridge – the Captain who is very fond of Shooting went a Day or two after and had the good luck to get one shot – I enclose herewith the Pedigree of Lord Cork's Bitch – she was given to him by M^r Corsellis – His Lordship is much obliged to you, and reckons much upon the produce from your Dog – The Great Owl is almost a Show – seldom a Day passes without several calling to see him – he is in perfect health – and made a meal yesterday off a wild Goose – The weather prevented Daems from going out while with me, except the Day we lost the Hawk – wishing you and Family many happy returns of the approaching Season – I remain Sir your greatly obliged humble Servant.



Yarm^h 22^d Jan 1797

Sir,

*I received your favour of the 19th Ins^t and a brace of Hares, for which I beg to return you many Thanks – **Businefs has prevented my doing anything with my Hawk, except training a little for Rabbit, which she now begins to know – The Haggard which Mr R.Dashwood sent me, I have taken in hand to brake in, she reclaimes fast, and at present promises well – but this is a new field to me – I shall take off her Rufter Hood in a day or two – in coming she broke the three first Feathers in each Wing – in every other respect she is perfect, if you can supply me with Feathers to imp them, I shall be much obliged – I then shall be enabled to ascertain whether I can make her fly or not, a circumstance I have often wished for an opportunity of trying – I am ignorant of the meaning of a Beaver Bitch also – Lord Corke can expect nothing from his Bitch, but to get a good breed, as she is broken down – In an old Book printed in the year 1496 which Mr Fountain has lent me, I find the properties of a good Greyhound to be***

*“A Greyhound should be headed like a Snake
And necked like a Drake
Footed like a Cat
And Tailed like a Rat
Sided like a ^xTeme
And chined like a Beam”*

^xThis word I do not understand

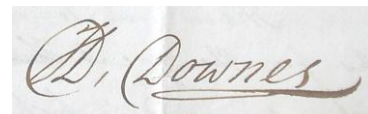
Mr Salmon has been unwell – but is now recovered – he expressed a wish the other day to be able to shoot with you a few days before the Season goes out, but doubtful his ability of getting to you – I am sir your greatly obliged Noble Serv^t



Yarmouth September 2^d 1797

Sir,

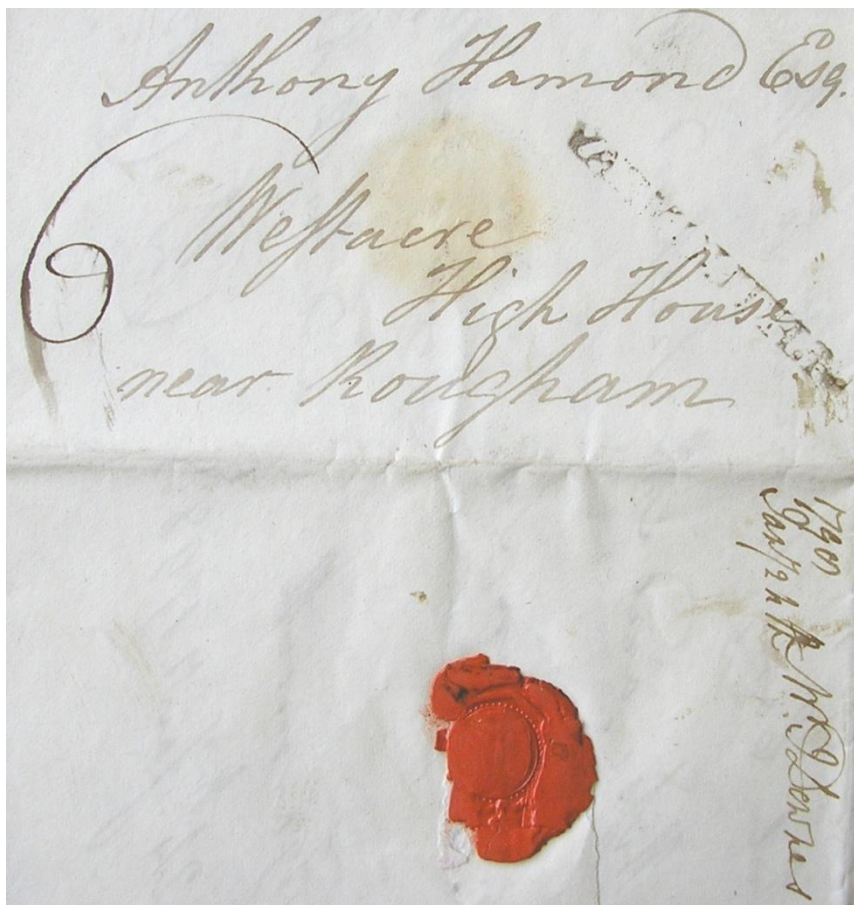
Mr Salmon has communicated your kind mefsage to me respecting the Goshawk, for which I am extremely obliged to you – M^a A.Fountaine will do me the Favour to deliver this by Tuesday Evening or Wednesday Morning – I will either be in Norwich, at M^r Stevenson’s, Bookseller in the Market Place, or have a proper person there, to meet Peter on Friday next the 8th Instant – The Carriers and Pheasant shall be sent at any Time by the conveyance you choose, I remain, with most respectful Compliments to all at High House your greatly obliged hble Servant



Yarmouth 24th Jan^y 1798

Sir,

I have to return your many Thanks for your Favour of the 21st Instant, and for an abundant present of Game, which came in good orders – **I should have the greatest pleasure to see your Hawks, - no one can enjoy the Sport more than myself, but I can not now be absent from Businefs – I had the great Misfortune to have my Goshawk shot last week – my cast of Falcons are forward in training, and promise well, I have also a capital Merlin – M^r Salmon went to London with his Daughter, and I believe intended to return by Westacre, in which case, I requested of Him to inform you, that I would send my young man to Norwich with the Pheasant and Pigeons any Day you may appoint. I have written to Brooks and Bayley, to enquire the price of Gold Pheasants, the latter I believe to be as fair a Man as is in the Trade – Should Granger not be able to supply you – or be exorbitant, I shall be glad to get you any information in my power – With most respectful Compliments to Mrs Hamond, Mifs, and Mr Richard Hamond, I remain Sir your greatly obliged and moft hble Serv^t**



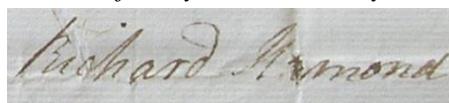
Wednesday
Westacre March 28th 1798

Dear Father,

I received your letter on Sunday (on my way to M^r Astleys) it gave me great pleasure to hear that you & my sisters are in good health & that my Mothers face is better & I hope by this time it is perfectly recovered. M^r Astley & family are in good health M^r & M^{rs} Pratt are gone from thence to Dereham today. M^r Pratt is but indifferent & seems very low spirited. I was rather surprised at not finding a letter from you today. One of the heifers which were at Massingham has calved. I suppose you intend the calf should be fatted. James Lift began plowing the three Coach Horses on Monday & they all plow very well. Poppets eye has been but indifferent for this two or three dayspast but John has put a feton in his neck & it is now rather better. The Bay Carricle horse is more lame than he was of his hind leg. M^r Astley says he has a spavin coming advises me to blister it if not fire it, but I shall not do any thing till I hear from you. The black eared greyhound has got six puppies with two blue & white one dog & one bitch three black ones, one of them a bitch and a blue dog. I should wish to know what you would have saved. I expect Drop will pup soon I suppose you would have all hers saved. Vander wishes to know if you choose to have the Rabbits burroughs in the Park filled in with mud from behind the kennels now or some time hence. **Peter had a letter from John Daems today saying that he arrived at Munford last Monday with six cast and half of Slight Falcons & a Gyrfalcon all in good health.** M^r Astley desires me to tell you that he expects M^r John Browne will be at Melton in a fortnight or three weeks & if you write to M^r A what you wish him to say to M^r Browne he will take the first opportunity of speaking to him. M^r A wishes me to visit Burrough a second time I intend therefore going from Lynn hither tomorrow & shall have Will meet me Fakenham who is to call at the Post on his way. I expect to return here on this day sennight & mean to go to see Robert at Wisbeach (on the Friday) before he sets off for Bath & the following week I think of going to M^r Salmons. **M^r Pratt has invited me to Byrton whilst he Hawks are at Munford.** I have ordered Vander to forward any Bath letters to me at Burrough. I intend finishing this letter at Lynn so shall now conclude for the night.

Lynn March 29th 1798

I am now returned from the Cavalry muster. Colonel Bulwer was there and says he expect they will be called out within a month & that we are at liberty to change the horse before that time but I understand the money which is due to the principal will not be paid before mid summer. I have seen M^r Bell today who desires me to inform you that M^r Coldham called on him last Tuesday. He gave him the notice M^r C said he should write to you but seemed to think the rent too high. Mifs Hogg died last night. I have just now seen Susan who is in good health & spirits as are all friends here. Who join in love to you and the family at Bath with your dutiful son.

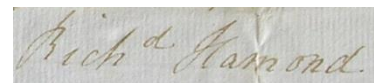


P.S. Tell Mary her Father is better

Westacre April 9th 1798

Dear Father,

I returned from Wisbeach yesterday after having seen Robert & M^r Coulcher off for London, Robert was in good health & spirits. I received your letter on my return from M^r Astleys who with his family I left very well. I got to Wisbeach on Friday which did not interfere with M^r Coulcher's business as his Holiday began that day. Whilst I was at M^r Astleys we dined at Col. Bulwers where I learnt that rather more than half of the Provisional Cavalry (which will be sufficient to form a Regiment) will be called out very soon, & that those who are not called out will be obliged to share the experience with more that are. I have saved a black & blue dog greyhound puppy & the two bitches. Drop has pupped this morning seven dogs & three bitches but none of them like the dog being more like Pointers. I shall however save the three bitches & two dogs till I hear from you again. The unbroken bay Mare fouled last week a very fine filly foal. I expect the other to foal daily. The key of your Glafs case opened the Stocking drawer, & I found a key which opened the closet in my Mothers parlour where the Patterns were therefore I shall send them as desired by the Bagge family. M^r King is now here but has nothing for me to say. He intends going to Lynn tomorrow where I shall go also. I received a letter from M^r Salmon last week mentioning his journey to London & desiring M^r Tutems books to be sent to London & I shall take care to have them properly packed up. I understand from M^r King that Horace Hamond was at Swaffham last Thursday. He did not see him nor know which way he was travelling. He has not been here nor am I more desirous of his company than you are therefore shall take care to avoid him. I & all the family are very well & I hope that this will find you & all friends at Bath the same To whom I beg my Love & Duty & remain your dutiful Son



Westacre April 15th 1798

Dear Father,

I take the first opportunity of answering your letter as not expecting any letter from you I did not send to the post on Thursday & Friday I went to Munford so did not receive yours till too late to answer it by return of Post. **I found John an all his hawks both in good health but hardly in flying order as he was detained a fortnight at Yarmouth for a Passport. Major Wilson came to Didlington on Friday so John intends flying his Gyrfalcon and two or three cast of Slight Falcons. I intend going over if the day is fine.** I think of taking the Alien act to M^r Fountain this afternoon as he will then know how to give Peter a fresh passport. Now for answering your letter as best as I can recollect you did know that M^r Hinde was my Tutor, but M^r Bennet's so strongly recommending M^r Briggs & my saying that M^r B was very regular & that I thought M^r H was a better Tutor for an upper than a lower boy being rather a noble fellow. If you recollect it I myself chose M^r H for my Tutor when f^r Heath was made Head Master. I delivered my Mothers message and saw Susan yesterday who had just then

received a letter from Sarah in which I am very glad to see she is much better I hope that she still continues mending & that you my mother, brothers and all the Bagges are in good health. Thank God we are all very well here, I have some thoughts of going to M^r Salmon's the latter end of this week but intend writing to you by Thursday post. I have seen nothing more of Horace Hamond. I shall now conclude with Love & Duty to you & family and Comp^{ts} to all friends at Bath so remain

Your dutiful son



Westacre April 19th 1798



Dear Father,

I received your letter on Tuesday evening, as Monday proved such a windy day that it prevented me going a Hawking & Tuesday being a very fine day I took that opportunity. M^r King went to Lynn & I called at his house for my letter on my return. **John Daems had one cast of Slight Falcons for Herons one of which took a Heron but the other mifsed. He trained the Gyrfalcon (which he expects will take a wild heron the latter end of this week) & flew two Slight Falcons at a Rook.** Tom Gould brought the Horse on Monday. I told James Lift about your mefsage but he says as John Howlett has got the two fillies, the mare which came from Mafsingham, & the great chesnut mare at work & that the Horses are ploughing up here he thinks the Horse had better remain here & plough with the other Coach Horses. I am sorry to say that Tom Gould thinks Poppett's eye entirely gone, he looked at the bay carricle Horse. He says he has got a sparvin & thinks the best way will be to have him fired as a blister will be of no service without at present he is turned out in the day time. The new Horse is gone to work this morning & ploughs very well. John looks after the Horses very well & has not been at all out of temper. Vander employs himself in looking after Deer and other jobs about the house & park & has been very little from home. Young Tom Matter's publication came out on Tuesday last. M^r King has it, but has not yet read it nor heard any opinion of it. The Goats are clipped & I wish to know if you would have the wool sent to Kings of Leyton. You have not mentioned your wishes about Drops puppies. The Greyhound Bitch at M^r Hall's of Winch has got four puppies three blue ones & a quarter coloured one, three dogs & bitch. M^r King is now here & bids to say that Hudson wishes to take out a liquor licence if agreeable to you. All our Turnips will be finished in a few days & M^r K thinks all the Heifers except five (two of which have calved & three near calving) had better go to marsh & all the sheep except the stock sheep & sheep with fat Lambs some of which are nearly fit for the butcher. I have written to M^r Salmon to say I shall be at Ormsby on Saturday I suppose you would wish me to be at home on Sunday sennight. M^r King intends writing to you on this day sennight. M^r Henley has been at Sandringham for this fortnight past. I have not seen him. I am now going to Lynn so shall not close this till I have executed your commifsion there. I & all the family continue in good health & I hope this will find you & the family at Bath continuing to reestablish yours the effecting of which is the sincere wish of your dutiful son

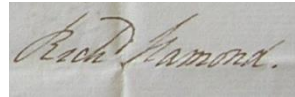


Westacre Saturday June 11th 1799

Dear Father,

I received your letter yesterday which gave me great pleasure to hear that you & my sister are both nearly recovered from your Coughs & Colds & that my Mother & Susan continue well. I have not heard from Philip lately. M^r King was here yesterday & intends buying a wagon or two at M^r Marsters sale if they are to be had worth money. It is the Mares at High House that I mean should be covered. With regard to the Cart Horses it does not signify how they are entered therefore intend entering them all here. I intend killing the Rats as you propose before I thought of employing a Ratcatcher. I expect to meet M^r Brett at Hillington on Monday when I shall deliver your mefsage to him. As you do not like to have D^r Lawrence's mare rode in your absence I shall get up the Grey one. Tom Gould was here this week & says the best way will be to put a pair of Shackles on the brown mare & lead her off with them on. The Horses knee goes on very well & I hope will continue so. M^r Sleven's came down to Swaffham on Wednesday last but is not yet got into the House as his furniture (which he sent from London by shipping) is not arrived. I suppose Sarah has heard from Pleasy Bagge saying she is gone to see her sister. She desired me to make her excuses for the scrawl she wrote as she was in a great hurry. We have had some fine warm days this week & today it has rained very mild & pleasant which I hope will make things grow. We have taken off part of the East side of the park for Hay. The black mare foaled on Thursday last. The Carassos continue very well. **I intend Peter & myself go to Hanstanton for the Hawks tomorrow morning.** I don't think I have any more to say so remain with duty to you & my mother & love to my Sisters.

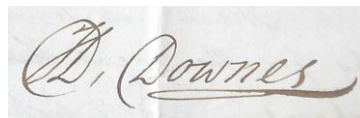
Your dutiful Son



Yarmouth Sept 13th 1799

Sir,

I embrace this opportunity to acknowledge your communication respecting Carassos, Gold Pheasants and Grouse, the latter I have never seen living – I am glad to learn the Carassos have stood the severity of the Cold – and am sorry to inform your Gold Pheasant and my **Hobby have not survived it – The Tiercel is well, and is a great Favourite – my Goshawk is in good order and has taken many Rabbits. Sir John Sebright has entered the list, he has sent John Beechers for Goshawks, and next year intends to have Slight Falcons in high Style, he has supplied me with a first Rate Pointer so I expect great things next Season – I mean to get a pair of Gold Pheasants this Spring, and will if you please make enquiry for some for you – I am in possefsion of a Rufsian Ewe and Lamb, which are much at your Service – they are not unlike a small Lincolnshire Sheep, but seem more spirited – I have sent a **hawking Muzzle which I make to prevent Dogs from hurting the Hawks** – I beg my most respectful Compliments to Mrs Hamond, Mifs, and Richard Hamond and remain Sir, your greatly obliged and obedient SerV^t**

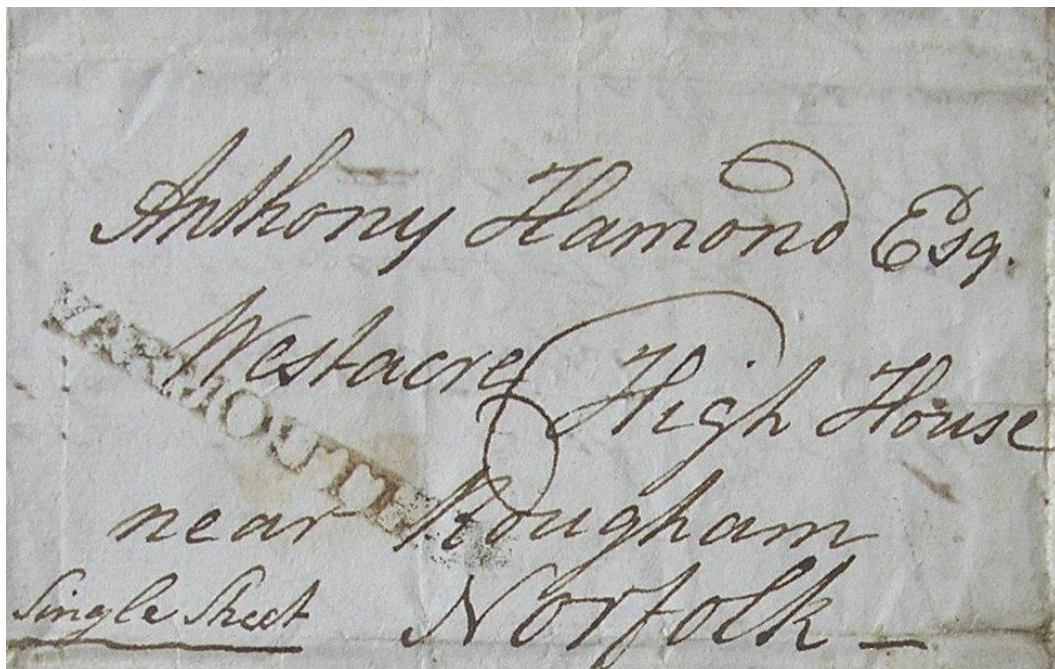


Mr Salmon waits while I write beg you will excuse haste.

Yarmouth Dec^r 9th 1799

Sir,

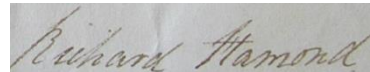
I embrace the opportunity by Mr Lucas to repeat my best Thanks for the Kindness I received at Westacre – and to send the Canaries for Mrs Hamond, which I was prevented from doing by the earliness of the Hour at which Miss Hamond set out – **I have again been unfortunate with the Hawk which you gave me – she never was quite right since I got Home – and was so frequently from her Stomach that I never put her upon Wing – she died ten Days ago – Daems is here detained by the Wind, we have been prevented from going out by the unfavourableness of the Weather – About six weeks since I took a Water Rail with my Goshawk which I have now in high Health – with a Woodcock, which my Brother's Gardener picked up five weeks since in perfect Health also – A few Days since I address'd a small Hamper of Red Herrings to you, which I hope you received – Please to make my respectful Compliments to Mrs Hamond, Miss Hamond and Mr Richard Hamond, I am Sir your greatly obliged and obedient Ser^vt**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Downes". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.A handwritten address on a piece of aged, slightly stained paper. The text is written in cursive and reads: "Anthony Hamond Esq.
Westacre High House
near Yarmouth Bougham
Single sheet Norfolk". There is a faint, diagonal stamp or watermark that says "YARMOUTH" across the middle of the address.

Westacre March 25th 1801

Dear Father,

I received my Sisters letter on Saturday which gave great pleasure to hear of your safe arrival in Town & I hope you have been equally fortunate in your journey to Bath & that Susan has not suffered any inconvenience or fatigue in travelling. Philip left High House on Saturday morning & intended getting to Peterborough that night. I was at Lynn yesterday where I found all friends well; M^r Bagge told me that M^{rs} R Hamond had left a bundle, M^{rs} Vander has searched for it in vain. The people were inclined to be riotous at Lynn yesterday, but a man & his wife being taken into custody soon put a stop to the tumult. We had a very wet day on Friday last but since that the weather has been dry & these two last days remarkably fine. We have had a great number of lambs come since you left us, the Sheppherd puts them in that piece where the fat bullocks were, there are a great many twins, & M^r King says we have much better luck than our neighbours. The workmen will begin about Geyton Thorpe Church next week. Tell Sarah that old Wick's leg is better, but that Davis's wife has the third Ague as bad as ever. She continues to take the medicine. I intend to consult M^{rs} Pittman about her the first opportunity. I called at the Bridewell about the Spinning Wheels. Rowen expects some every day. I shall have the flax in a day or two. It is with pleasure I can say that all things go on well & that they may continue so is the sincere wish of your dutiful Son.



Westacre Sunday March 29th 1801

Dear Father,

I received your first letter on Thursday & should have answered it this evening had not I received your second this day. It gives me great pleasure to find that you are all arrived at Bath in good health & spirits & I shall do my endeavours to manage for the best here. I have taken care of Susan's saddle & pad. Tell Sarah that I have got a rug for Jumper's wife. That I was at Bridlewell yesterday & the wheels are not yet come. Wicks leg continues mending, Gooderson's Girl has not yet lost the Ague. I sent her a supply of medicine today, all the other patients have got rid of their Agues, except Davis & Wife, I have consulted M^{rs} Pitman about her who says she will not get well till after she is brought to bed. I began the new stock of Coals yesterday, & expect that, the meal will go on very well. The Herrings are all sold & I shall endeavour to get a few more on Tuesday. The sooner the Rice arrives the better. The lean to at the end of the Harrison's will be quite sufficient for him, if Downing takes all his shed & what is necessary we will supply him with. I understand I am not to have my new shirts till Sarah returns, but doubt I shall want them before that time. Pray did Sarah deliver my letter to Wells & order any Saloop for I have received neither I have enclosed the Norwich paper, in a handbill of M^r Buck's saying in a very indignant manner, he is going to

give up the Swaffham Coach. I have this day received a letter from M^r Edmund Rolfe saying that he has received an answer respecting Chad's commifion, lowest price 1800 G's he thinks furniture included, only that one on sale, his friend will be happy to give any further information. The Agent has received instructions from Chad to sell as soon as pofsible. I intend sending the letter to Philip tomorrow, whom I have not heard from since he left High House. Powell's bill for Porter is £1..3s..6d for a Carving Knife & Cayenne pepper. I am sorry to inform you of the lofs of the Dun Cow, she had calved about five days, was very well at night & found dead next morning. Old Gooderson says it was the Blain which is certain death, if not relieved immediately, luckily the yellow & white Heifer (*who had lost her calf before you left home) takes the Calf very well. I have disposed of all the dogs we meant to part with. The Coach Horses are ploughed constantly by John Camps & Squirrels & Peters Horse by Loades. The Cultivator has been used with good effect up by the long Plantation. Wednesday April 1st we begin sowing Barly tomorrow, when I expect the double, & single Horse ploughs will be in constant use. The wind has been Easterly since Sunday with bright & not cold weather. M^r King says it is time to begin selling the Bullocks as the markets continue very good & our Turnips will not get a head of us now. You was in doubt whether you should keep the two Homebred Beasts on, or not, M^r King thinks it will be better to sell them now, than risk a change of the Markets hereafter. The Sheppherd cut the Lambs last Friday & has not lost one of them. I spoke to M^r Kendle about Gibson he readily agrees to allow him eighteen pence, thinking it cannot be lefs. M^r King & myself have consulted about the potatoe ground for Sycamore & Chapman, & are of opinion that as Hudson does not want more than half the Garden, it will be much better for them to have the other half, as the garden is taking harm for want of cultivation, & they having but little spare time, it will make it very late before the other Ground will be fit to plant. With regard to my Income Tax I expect it will be time enough for you to deliver in your statement when you return as the businefs is not yet began. I saw John Swan yesterday & found him in better health & spirits than I expected. He said his wife was somewhat better. I think can give no further details only that Editha & all the family at High House & join in best wishes & remembrances with your dutiful Son.

Richard Hammond.

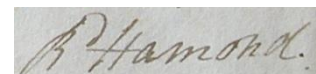


High House at Westacre

Westacre Wednesday 2nd April 1801

Dear Sarah,

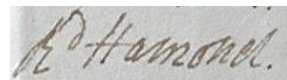
I was at Lynn yesterday, where I found the Rice had arrived safe, & it is to come home by the Waggon tomorrow but there was not a Bill of parcels, so I have written to M^r Plestow to send me one as soon as possible. I went to Cooper's & he sent home by me six hanks of worsted, which I gave to M^{rs} Shilling this morning. Poor Newton has got a sore hand, but their daughter improves very much in spinning, Cock jumpers wife goes on very well but has now the Ague every day, & sometimes twice a day, but not near so bad as when she had it every third day. M^r W^m Bagge has no intention of going to Bath, M^{rs} Vander has rummaged every place in search of your black feathers, & can find none, except a rose which you liked to wear on your habit Hat, & I suppose that is not worth sending. Gooderson's Girl has not yet lost her Ague, so to day I shall send her some bark & sal volatile to try what that will do. Wick's leg does not heal up, but continues so well that he is able to go to work constantly, so much for our patients. I heard at Lynn yesterday that M^{rs} Pratt was brought to bed on Monday of a daughter. M^r & M^{rs} Astley sett off for London on Sunday. M^r & M^{rs} John Partridge were at Lynn yesterday I saw him but not her. I saw Editha who looks very well. Yesterday was the Country Sefsions at Lynn, M^r Jewells yardman was admitted as evidence against the receivers. John Williams, Melton & Charles & his Brother have ran away. They have taken one of the Rodwells this morning. I don't doubt but what his Brothers & many more in Westacre & elsewhere are concerned. I had a letter from Philip desiring me to send his clothes to Town immediately, where he then was but expected to leave it as today He has purchased Chads Commifision but did not say what he gave for it. I have sent you two powders in Lynn paper today, which I hope will arrive safe. I called at John Swan's yesterday he was not within, M^{rs} Swan's Sister told me that M^{rs} S was very ill & that JS had been very indifferent so I gave them a Guinea as I think that is what my Father would wish to be done. Tell my Father that M^r King says we sold the Bullocks in the right time as they are now not worth so much by near two shilling per stone. The price of Corn is so lowered that the Barley we have been selling at 30 & 32 per coomb was worth only 25/ yesterday. M^r K thinks we had better continue selling as it is likely to be cheaper every week. The weather has been very warm & fine for this two or three days past but yesterday the wind got to the Eastward & it is now much colder, 'tho it continues dry the land works well & we are very forward in Sowing Barley. I saw M^r Whincop Jun' yesterday, he has paid the Money my Father desired & has got the Leave from the Bishop of Ely but not the other. He has fixed the Court at Swaffham for the twentieth of May & intends selling M^r Spelman's Estate at Narborough the next day at Swaffham. I shall deliver your mefsage to M^{rs} Pitman the first time I see her. I do not know of anymore I have to say only that we are all well & happy to hear that you continue the same. With kind remembrances to all friends believe your affectionate Brother



Westacre Wednesday May 6th 1801

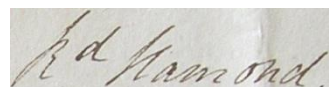
Dear Sarah

I am sorry to hear by your letter which I received on Sunday so indifferent an account of my Mother's health. But hope this will find that she has not had any return of her complaint, & that she is now much better if not perfectly recovered & that Susan has not had any return of her Head Ach & sicknefs, I saw Chasteny on Monday, she was then spinning, she does her stint, & by what I can find goes on very well (the Girl Goodbody has not been at Westacre for some time) Chasteny is pretty well in health, she has finished the Electuary, but continues the Honey, which she says agrees with her best. Newtons hand is getting well, she had drefsed it with M^{rs} Pitman's ointment only before you wrote. She has a pound of Rice a week in the manner you ordered. The price I make the rice come to is five pence, farthing a pound. I now expect Davis's wife will lose the Ague as she has mifsed it two or three times. Gooderson's Girl has mifsed her also. Wicks leg is much better since he has used the white ointment, instead of the yellow. I brought some more Worstead from Cooper's yesterday which I shall send down to Westacre today. I did not know of M^r & M^{rs} Bagge's intention of setting of for Town yesterday, so mifsed seeing of them but I have sent the Stocking by Mr Whincop Jun^r who is going up to Town to day, & will give it to M^{rs} Bagge for you. I do not chuse open clocks, but let the clocks be rather plain than not. Your garden & plants go on very well, except being in want of rain. The Canary birds have built a nest, but not began to lay. M^{rs} Vander wishes to know if she shall order any beef against Saturday sennight. Flour fell ten shilling a sack at Lynn yesterday. I think I have told you nothing but Good News so remain with best wishes to all yours affectionately



Dear Father,

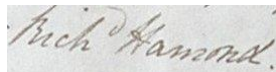
We had some Rain here on Sunday, but it has been dry weather since. However there is plenty of grafs both at Ingolds Thorpe & Wooton. M^r King has sent what sheep he intends & the lean Bullock stock to Marsh. Corn Market was still lower, yesterday Barley that was worth 30 loc(?) sold for 18/ yesterday, Beef continues dropping and lean stock are lower especially pigs. I saw M^r Whincop Jun^r yesterday who is obliged to be in London about the 20th of May therefore has deferred the Court at Swaffham till the tenth of June & the sale of M^r Spelman's Estate till the eleventh. M^r W will send you the particulars as soon as he has them. M^r King understands that the Arable Land at West Dereham sold for about £35 per acre and the pasture Land about £50 per acre. We finished sowing Barley on Saturday with the Land all in good order. I am now going to a meeting at Hillington on the Income businefs where I hope not to have so much trouble as last year. I have nothing more to say so subscribe myself your dutiful Son



Westacre Wednesday April 7th 1802

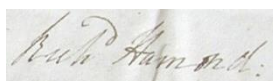
My dear Sarah

I received my Fathers letter on Sunday also that on Thursday, both of which gave me great pleasure by informing me of your safe arrival & welfare at Bath. I am sorry it is not in my power to say the same here; with regard to our own family we all thank God continue very well, But if you are not already acquainted with it I must inform you of the death of Mifs Fountaine; who died last Sunday morning. She had been indifferent some time, but not to be confined, I dined there on Sunday sennight she sat at the Table, but I understand was taken much worse on Tuesday & continued so till she died. D^r Marshall attended her from the Tuesday. I forget whether Tom Tooley was ill before you left home, He died on Monday; M^r Bayly attended him from the first of his illnefs; M^{rs} Gee is not dead but remains very ill. Davis's wife was brought to bed of twins last Thursday but they are both dead since. Garner is gotten well. Howell is recovering (& as Rodwell went yesterday to live with John James at Castleacre) has got into that House. M^{rs} Shilling is very well & is sorry that owing Mary's not writing so soo as I did; that you misunderstood about her receiving M^{rs} Oughton's letter & her going to Fakenham. Mary Shilling went on Saturday, M^{rs} S begs me to inform you that every thing in the School goes on in a proper manner at present. M^{rs} Wicks continues poorly, his leg is better, Old Rich^d Hamond is something better. Wetherell continues well. I have given M^{rs} Kendle & M^{rs} Barell a Bushell of Apples each and the Gardener says we shall use the rest ourselves. When I was at Lynn yesterday sennight, I did not tell Editha of S^r Edw^d Astley's death. On my return home I found a letter from M^{rs} Astley to my Mother begging her to get Editha mourning, I answered her letter next day saying you were all at Bath, thinking M^{rs} A would write to M^{rs} Hamond, or some one else at Lynn; yesterday finding from M^{rs} Carter that she had not heard, I told M^{rs} C the contents of the letter & she will provide what is proper. Editha was very well but had the badge of idlenefs on her head. M^{rs} Carter desires her best respects to the Family, particularly Susan, whom she hopes will receive all pofsible benefit from Bath. As I have nothing more to say to you believe me with best Love ever your affectionate Brother



Dear Father

A letter arrived from M^r Augertgein on Sunday which I carried to M^r Bagge yesterday, M^r Lane has written a copy of the letter (wrote to you) to M^r Bagge. We have no rolling to do at present. The Coach Horses continue to plow very steady & well. The news of the definitive treaty being signed, arrived at Lynn yesterday sennight, about Market time. Which caused no businefs to be done in the Corn Trade; Merchants talked of fourteen for Barley, & thirty for Wheat, therefore M^r King did not attempt to sell anything, Yesterday the Merchants talked of 15 or 16 for Barley and 32 for Wheat, M^r King id not well, as he thinks markets will be better in a week or two hence. Our Lambs are chiefly come, & cut, & we have very good luck with them. Expect the Turnips will last a week or ten days. We have finished sowing oats, & are pretty forward with Barley. We have had a continuance of fine dry sun shiney weather the wind West by North West, do not yet want rain as the Lands work very well. The fattening Bullocks improve very fast at potatoes, & M^r King (& if markets suit) thinks of selling them in a fortnight, M^r K has seen Walton who is willing to survey solitaire at three pence per acre; & waits your answer. I learn from M^r Pitman that M^r Brown is not at Cambridge at present, nor does he know when he will return. I cannot recollect any thing else at present only that I



*found all friends well at Lynn yesterday & that you continue the same is the sincere wish of
Your dutiful Son.*

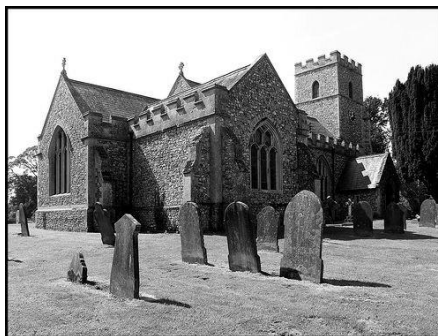
Westacre Tuesday Evening April 13th 1802

Dear Sarah

I received your letter on Sunday, which afforded me much pleasure by informing me of your welfare. I was in hopes that 'eer now Bladuds? Waters had conquered the monsters in Susan's side but hope he will not prove invincible. Poor Mifs Fountaine was buried yesterday & I believe in quite a private manner. Old M^r Fountaine (who is much affected) went with M^{rs} Riley to Dashwood's. I don't know if Andrew went. You are misinformed with regard to Mifs F's disorder as I learn from D^r Marshall that it was a compleat decline & that a Cold with a slight fever proved too powerful for her broken constitution. Old M^{rs} Gee continues to live & is something better. The other patients continue mending. M^{rs} Shilling is very well & has no complaints to make. The Box form is the School Room is completed. I delivered your mefsage about Sunday Scholars going to Church on Good Friday, also that to (?). The supply of Books is not yet arrived. I learned you are about to have an addition to your Bath party. As I have now a letter from Martin Coulcher (which should have came on Sunday) desiring your addrefs at Bath as he intends leaving Wisbeach tomorrow & reaching Bath on Sunday next.

The streets of Lynn swarmed with French Prisoners today, one thousand having arrived yesterday from Norman Crofs & two thousand more expected tomorrow. Part of the Norfolk Militia were disembodied today at Dereham & the remainder expect it in the course of the week. So poor Famant will be deprived of his (?) Comifsion & miftrefs at the same time. I wrote to Philip yesterday to acquaint him that M^r Viper arrived at Westacre safe & well on Saturday last I heard from Stanley the other day who is very well & desires to be remembered to all at High House not forgetting Editha (whom I saw in good health to day). He has not got into his new Parsonage as the widow of his predecefsor wishes to continue there at present to which he has consented. He very earnestly invites me to view the wonders of the North this Summer which would afford me infinite pleasure in many respects. We have had very fine warm weather 'till Friday last when the wind & frequent squalls of hail & sleet yesterday it thundered considerably. Tell my father M^r Bagge mentioned having received a letter from him, which he intends answering tomorrow. Wheat was rather higher and Barley lower today very little businefs done, we did not sell anything. M^r King spoke to Walton about beginning to Survey; M^r K has sold the Bullocks which went away yesterday. I am happy to be able to say that every thing goes on well & that we all continue in good Health. I hope this will find it to be the same case at Bath & believe me with best Love & wishes to all affectionately.

Rich^d Hamond.

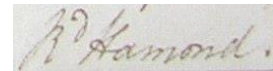


All Saints Church, Westacre

Westacre Wednesday April 21st 1802

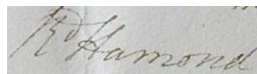
Dear Father

I received your letter on Sunday, on my return from Roxham where I left all the Hultons in good health. I should not have gone, only Col. Hulton had asked me several times and I thought it the best opportunity when M^r Edward Hulton was there. They stay at Roxham till this day fennight. I took waters with the Grey Horse & Peter both to Quebec & Roxham. The Coach Horses continue to plow very well. I have turned M^{rs} Barretts (?) out. The other Horses are all very well. I have sent away those Dogs you desired some time ago. The rest are very clean & well. Neither Philips Setter, or the Old blue Greyhound bitch are with pup. The latter I think is only worth hanging. We had a nice rain last Thursday & Friday with warm weather since which has made the grafs & corn to grow & look very beautiful. As M^r King gave you a particular detail of every thing else in his letter yesterday, I think I may addefs the rest of my letter to Sarah. So remain your dutiful Son.



My Dear Sarah,

It is with great pleasure I receive the account of you all continuing in such good health at Bath & especially that the pumping has the desired effect of relieving Susan's fickle. I am happy also to be able to give you a good account of our welfare in this part of the world as there is no one added to the sick list since I wrote last & those are mending except poor John Askew who continues a miserable object. M^r Bayly says there is an absefs forming within him which he don't think he will get over; Old M^{rs} Gee is a good deal better & M^r B thinks she will get well. I saw M^{rs} Shilling this morning she is very well & has no complaints to send. I expect the tow will arrive today which will do very well. As M^{rs} Davis begins to be able to reassume her occupations in the school your Books are not yet arrived. Wetherall continues to get stronger & better her legs do not work so much as they did & she takes one dram of hitre in a gill of Ale as you ordered her before you left home. Master Jimmy continues very well. M^{rs} Vander has him here once a week, the Girl says she does mind the things on a Saturday, but M^{rs} V intends to look them all over next Saturday. I have not seen Sir Jacob & Lady Astley, Editha was very well when I saw her yesterday, only her mourning makes her look peekish. There is not much news stirring hereabouts & what there is I don't doubt you have pretty quick from your correspondents. The only Bit I think you are not likely to know is that M^r Bagge has left his house on the Plain to M^r Kirkton who (with M^{rs} Kirkton) is going to live there at Michaelmas. The warm weather has made even this barren country look pretty. I suppose the neighbourhood of Bath is quite beautiful. Tell Father M^r J Browne is now here with M^r Pitman on his way to Cambridge where he will continue till midsummer, I now subscribe myself with best wishes to all not forgetting Bobby Hamond & his Tutor. Your affectionate Brother



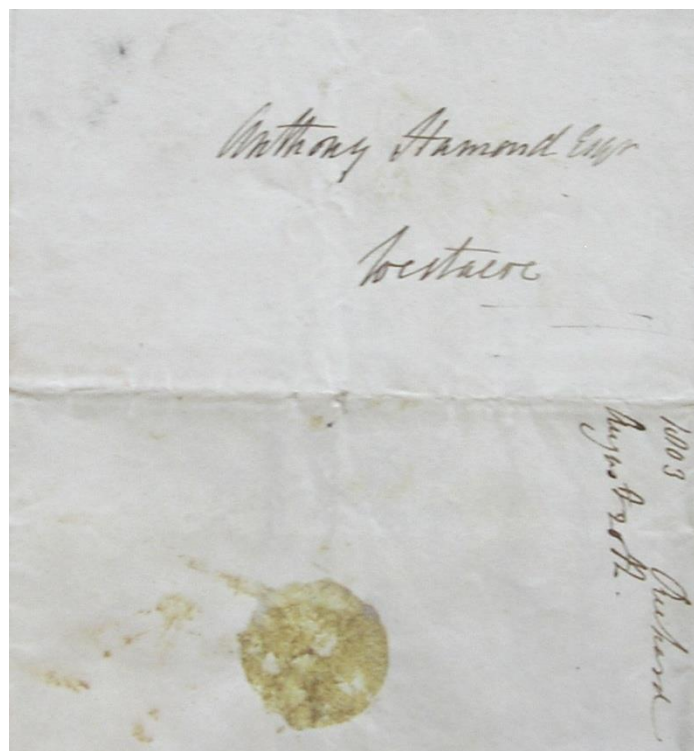

PS Tell Mary her sister is well & still about

Saturday August 20th 1803

Dear Father,

It was my intention, but could not meet with an opportunity of speaking to you last night. But now Sir I think this the best mode of addressing you; to request your consent to my marriage with Miss Barrett. I have communicated to her my wishes on the subject & received for answer, that she could not think of engaging in a affair of such consequence, until informed of your concurrence & approbation, addressed to Lady Nugent to whom she communicated the contents of my letter. The following particulars of her family & connections I learnt whilst at Bath. She is the natural daughter of the late S^r Peter Nugent, her mother is dead & she has for some time been brought up by the present Lady Nugent, she has now two hundred a year, and will have three thousand pounds when S^r Peters affairs are Settled. Lady N has a jointure of twelve hundred per annum and is likely to settle something handsome on Miss B if she marries with her approbation. If this account should raise any objections in your heart, hope they will be done away to promote the Happiness of a Son whose conduct has been in many instances blameable. But who will endeavour to repay with Gratitude. The unestimable favour conferred on him by your assent to his request & subscribes himself.

Ever your dutiful & affectionate Son



Letter to Anthony Hamond

Bath Nov 4 1803

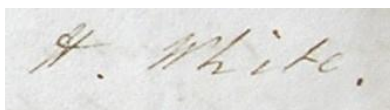
Dear Sir,

That I may do strict justice on both sides without leaning to either; I think it necessary to tell you, that Lady Nugent a Day or two ago, desired to have some conversation with me upon a certain subject. She told me that she had stated to you in the clearest manner she could Mifs B. expectations, that I was welcome to examine the Will, & what perhaps might be still more satisfactory to have every sort of explanation from Mr Plowden her Solicitor, who has come down to her to arrange her own concerns in Ireland; & who both know the state of Sir Peters affairs better & could explain them more clearly than any body else. On seeing Mr P. I requested him to detail the several circumstances my Lady had promised me. He said he was Sir Peter's attorney, that he had gone over his Estates in the Counties of Westneath & Longford, that they were capable of being raised to Six.

There is a debt upon the Longford Estate of Thirteen Thousand Pounds; created as all the other Debts were by Sir James, the Elder Brother of Sir Peter. That until the Debts were paid of course, the Legacies must stand still, but that they were all now before Chancery, and must before long be adjusted. That Sir Peter himself had none, or scarcely any debts.

Mr Plowden went on to say, he did not doubt but Mifs Barrett would receive every part of her Legacy. So much for our conversation. I thought it too material not to relate to you.

With a sincere wish that the matter may end to your satisfaction I remain Dear Sir your devoted & Faithfull Serv^t



Letter to Anthony Hamond by a friend of Richard.

May 27th 1804

Dear Sir,

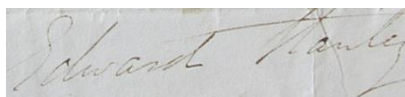
I feel (?) that whatever differences may have induced my friend Richard to quit Westacre so abruptly it will be a matter of satisfaction to you & yours to hear that he is well –

Happy as I am in his visit it certainly will afford me more pleasure, if his continuance here awhile be sanctioned by you, & his return to Norfolk be grounded upon terms equally acceptable to both parties –

Had your Son been in better Spirits he would have written, but will no doubt in a day or two considerately & state the motives which have influenced him to this step –

Allow me to subscribe myself with every good wish for your family.

Plumbland
Nr. Cockermonth
Cumberland



Edward Hanley

Second Letter to Anthony Hamond by a friend of Richard.

Plumbland July 13th

Dear Sir,

Tho' I feel all the delicacy due to family concerns, I cannot from my friend Richards late communications consider myself quite an uninterested Person – before I presume to address you on his behalf I must assure you that till his arrival here I was entirely ignorant of the causes which induced him to quit Westacre nor had I (although at different periods I had written) received any answer for upwards of two years.

Your wishes for his return reached him on Wednesday, most willingly would he have obliged them had your letter held out forgiveness of the past, & an accordance to his future hopes. How far his Expectations entitle him to make demands I know not yet the same reasons exist for a competence at his time of life tho' the scales of it be varied.

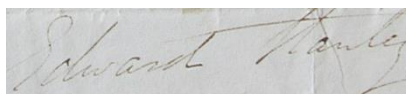
To enquire further into matters of this kind could not even on the plea of friendship be excused, pardon me however when I say, that Richard not being placed in some profession which this might have rendered him independent, makes me consider his prospects equally favourable, whether they depend on your affection or whether after a melancholy & strict yet distant event they must be realized.

His leaving home was certainly ill judged, but worse so with respect to those he left behind, than to himself – I can however with truth declare than in every conversation he speaks with the greatest regard of you M^r Hamond, & also the family, nor can he resolve the motives which have influenced him to this step, into any thing but the petty altercations which a dissimilarity of age & pursuit so generally give rise to. – Only I am sure is no part of my friends composition yet he can not but feel hurt that the pleasures resulting from a Horse, a Dog, or a Gun, should have been thought so congenial to him as to preclude the offer of seeing more liberal enjoyment.

By no means do I connect his plan of Matrimony with that of Independence – the former must rest solely upon your approbation or those who can appreciate the Lady's merit, the latter, will I think find many advocates. If Richards continuance here proves but agreeable to him it really will be so to me on this same I trust you will not solicit his return nor indeed on any other, unless it be with an assurance that he will be received most cordially by every branch of the family, & that his request has met with a reasonable consideration— I cannot close my letter without begging you to forgive the liberty I have taken in writing to you on this subject, Interference I am well aware would have been more pardonable in a relative or a person better known to both Parties, it would however have made more public the cause of his absence & given rise to many injurious reports, which my friend would on any account most feelingly resent.

Believe me my Dear Sir with best Compliments to those I have the Honour to be known to at Westacre.

Your faithful & most obedient Humble Servant



Undated letter written by Anthony Hamond to Edward Hanley

High House

Dear Sir

I think myself much obliged to you for your letter as R left Westacre so abruptly, it reassured great anxiety on me & M^{rs} Hamond but by his letter which he sent back with the horse from Wisbeach he said he was going Northward. I therefore told M^{rs} Hamond I thought he was going to you. I cannot account for his going away so suddenly without asking my consent, & which had he asked I make no doubt but I should given him. We have not agreed lately why he was captain to you. M^{rs} Hamond informs me that he appeared for some days before he



went, in particular good spirits, next great trouble, as he left everything which he understood to manage, in such an unsettled state, however as his younger Brother is soon coming from Cambridge I hope his company & assistance will be a great comfort to him. M^{rs} Hamond & I intend going next week to London for a few days & expect my daughters will return with us. I therefore hope & expect I shall be more comfortable about M^r Richard who I am happy to hear is so well & in such good company. He has very often been by me told of his faults & he has often promised to mend, but I am sorry to say he generally soon broke his promise. I am with Love to him & best thanks & Comp^{ts} to yourself in which M^{rs} Hamond joins me. Your much obliged & obedient Serv^t

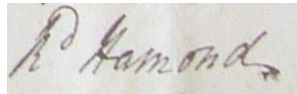
A small, square inset showing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to be 'Ae'.

Anthony Hamond

Belle Isle Winander Mere Thursday 26 July 1804

Hon^d Sir,

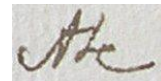
In answer to yours which I received on the Eve of my quitting Plumbland for this place (where it is our intention to remain till Saturday) I must inform you that in Compliance with your wishes I shall gladly turn my face again towards Norfolk but have some engagements which will detain me in the Country about three weeks longer, after which I will sett off on my return & with the greater pleasure as I am induced from your letter to believe my affairs will be quickly settled in such a manner as will prove perfectly satisfactory to all parties. Tell Sarah I will again write to her the first opportunity after I leave this most delightful spot, in the mean time with best wishes for the welfare of yourself & the whole family at High House believe me your affectionate Son



August ?? 1020h

D^r Richard

I received your letter yesterday & am very sorry, disappointed & angry at your not returning home immediately as I particularly desired in my last as well as in a former letter. As to your engagements they cannot be of any consequence. I desire you to sett out for home immediately. Want of time & spirit will not permit me to say more. We here are all glad to hear you are in health as thank God we all are and write in Love to you. Yours affectionately.



Plumbland Friday August 10th 1804

Hon^d Sir,

On my return here yesterday coming from Workington I found your letter & am sorry you should be angry at my continuing here as I did not conceive that my immediate return was at all necessary. This the intention of M^r Stanley & myself to sett out from this place tomorrow morning for Alistone Moor which is not out of my road to Norfolk. Where after taking a few days moor Game Shooting I shall leave him & proceed homewards where I expect to arrive on Tuesday or Wednesday (?) night at latest & trust I shall find you & the rest of the family in good health to whom I desire very kinds wishes to remain your affectionate Son.

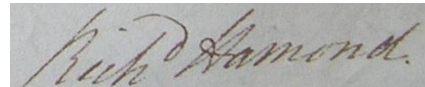


M^r Hanley begs his Compt^s to you & that part of the family which is known to him

Westacre Nov^{br} 29th 1804

Hon Sir,

The number of times that I have been blamed of late, & not unfrequently (in my opinion) undeservedly has determined me again to address a letter to you; in which I must beg leave to state, that I am not a little vexed & dissaponted at no arrangements with respect to my future plans of life having as yet taken place. With much pleasure & anxiety did I look forward to the meeting which took place between you, M^r Johnson & myself at Swaffham; fully expecting that every thing would have been then & there settled to our mutual satisfaction. No small disappointment did I feel at the subject not being mentioned, when so favourable an opportunity presented itself. M^r Johnson's unexpected journey into Devonshire has been a frequent cause of regret to me as I hoped with his assistance to have had the Businefs brought to a conclusion before this. I do not think it necessary to enter into particulars, sufficient is it to say that those causes of uneasinefs to my mind which before determined me to quit your roof by length of Time. My sole dependence upon you for my future prospects in Life does not in my opinion lessen my claims, A sufficient competency is what I desire, which granted, I do not doubt but that we shall pass our days much more amicably than we have done hitherto. For my part I am convinced that the settling my present affairs, & an insight into my future prospects, will remove a heavy load of anxiety & misery from my mind. I hope and trust you will give an early consideration to this epistle which mode I have always thought far preferable to any personal discussion with one who subscribes himself. Your affectionate Son



Bath Jan 5 1805

Dear Sir

Through the Hands of M^r Denic, reced one of the finest brace of birds, I was beheld, which I should have thank'd you for before but that I had a similar obligation to M^r Fountain, & wished to inclose both letters in a hand.

I need not tell you, as I conclude you saw in the Papers the marriage of my young Neighbour. It relieves you however from some unpleasant sensations which I am glad of. I hope Richard consoles himself that her preference to him was not as strong as he had reason perhaps to expect. Her temper was certainly not a good one.

As I don't hear from Mifs Young to the Contrary, I hope & conclude you are all well. With best Comp^{ts} to M^{rs} Hamond & the Ladies, in which M^{rs} W begs to write.

I am ever Dear Sir, Y^r obliged servant



Wroxham Novb^r 3rd 1805 Sunday

Hon^d Sir

I arrived at Norwich in very good time for the sale of stores, not in the least the worse for my evening ride to Dereham, the Biscuit was in very good order, but sold the greatest part of it for twelve shilling p^r cwt none under Eleven, which with the carriage home I thought would be much too expensive. I met Col. Preston in Norwich (where he had slept the preceeding night) & returned with him to Wroxham where I found M^{rs} P & her young family in good health. I went to Norwich on the Wednesday with Col. Preston to get my good & chattels, & to see M^r Martineau but he was from home. I was at Norwich again yesterday, when I saw M^r Martineau who said that I looked so well, that he thought there was little occasion for my consulting him, or any one else. The pain in my side he paid little regard to thinking it would cease of itself; his chief advice was to wear flannel next me, which I had already adopted by M^r Bagly's recommendation. Whilst I have been here I have enquired after a postilion & footman in both of which I believe I have succeeded the former. I saw yesterday a lad turned eighteen about the size of Waters, lived last with Capt. Irby a year & half & two years with Goose the Horn dealer. He now rides postilion for the Expeditions as far as Thetford, by which he will aquire some knowledge in driving. He appears a nice lad & in my opinion will suit us very well. The footman I have not seen but shall on Wednesday. I understand I can have a good character of him from where he lived two years & half. I deferred writing 'till today thinking I might see M^r King at Norwich yesterday. I went to see M^r Hardy's birds yesterday. I saw the girl Brest whose knee is much the same as when Sarah saw her she looks very well but rather thin. Should thank you to let me know your wishes about these servants as soon as you can as I think of returning to Westacre the end of this week. I am happy to say I am now in good health & spirits & with the presentation of the best wishes of Col & M^{rs} Preston & my own kind Love to all. I remain ever your affectionate Son.

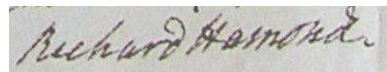
Rich^d Hamond.



Plumbland Tuesday Oct^r 6th 1808

Hon Sir,

After a long time of suspense & expectation, I yesterday received your letter, at which I feel myself not a little vexed & disappointed; as I had every reason to expect from what I had learnt (from my Brothers & Sisters) your consent to & approbation of a plan; which in our eyes appeared perfectly reasonable & likely to prove pleasant thing to all parties. You say, you doubt my abilities in the management of a Farm, or an House; neither of which have ever been tried, & the event remains to be proved, before a judgement can be formed altho I don't expect to make a fortune by farming, so small a quantity of land, as an hundred acres; still I expect it will prove a source of employment both useful & amusing, & see not the least probability of my getting wrong with it. Even if that should be the case, I must be content to live upon my proposed allowance as I shall not think you at all bound to advance any further sum. Attention I know it will require, but with the service of a good Foreman I shall also be able to find sufficient leisure for other pursuits and occasional visits to my friends in Norfolk. Your plan of my boarding & lodging with a family, I am sorry to say I have many objections to in the first place, there is no family (except in large towns) in this country whose hours, manners, & habits of life, would be likely to agree with mine. Secondly I could not live in that manner, or near to comfortable, or indeed so respectable a way as I could with an house, & some land of my own, & lastly idleneffs (which we all allow to be the root of all evil) would creep in, and a want of better pursuits, might lead to bad connections, & induce one to reassume those bad habits, which I pursued in Norfolk & which I hope & trust I have now entirely relinquished & should be extremely sorry to again take them up thro want of employment or uneasing of mind. Since I have been in this part of the world, I believe I can safely say that I have conducted myself in such a manner, & in such rational pursuits, that no one of my acquaintance can speak to my discredit of my fare assertions are not sufficient. My friend Stanley (with whom I have now been five months) can fully corroborate this Testimony, I so fully expected your consent, & approbation of my plan, that during the long delay of your writing, the person whose farm I am about to hire, & had given me the refusal of it, has been presented (by my not giving a final answer), from letting it to other people. He having taken a large farm near Bath which he enters a new Lady day next. I have so nearly closed with him, that was I so inclined I think I could not with propriety relinquish my plan. I sincerely hope you will see the busineffs in the same light as myself & the rest of the family do & by a speedy answer of acquiescence relieve me from a great deal of anxiety & uneasineffs. With regard to the Scotch husbandry you have been much mislead. I understand they are tolerable good farmers in Berwick, & Roxburgh there, but the part I was in, viz chiefly Galloway, which is a fine soil & country they are many years behind Norfolk, & the South of England (what few tolerable farmers, there are, are from England). They grow scarce any turnips & after two or more crops of Oats they leave the land to lay it self down for the next five or six years. While in Scotland I made enquiries after such a Gamekeeper as you mention but could not meet with none, who understood any thing about Hawks. I found of one or two but they were old infirm men & had given up the busineffs. Having now I think fully answered your letter. I remain with a very good wish your truly affectionate Son.

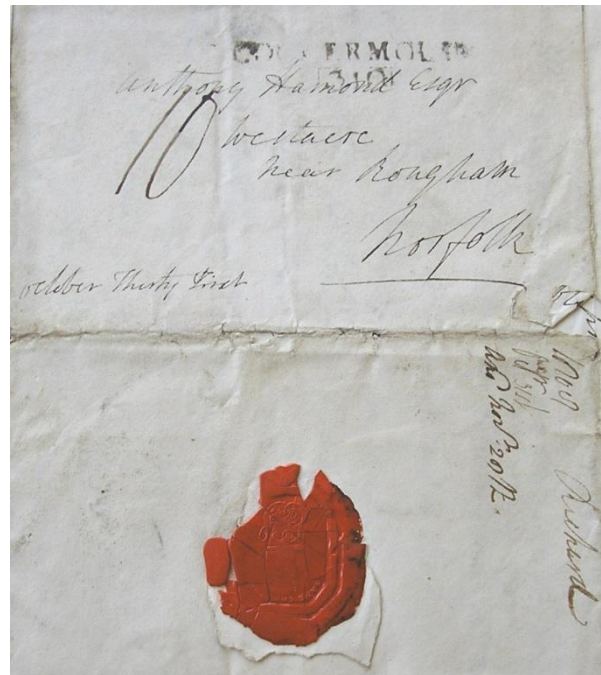


PS M^r Hanley desires his best regards

Plumbland October 31st 1808

Hon^d Sir,

I was favoured with your kind letter & draft on Wednesday last, for which I have to return you my best thanks. So far from not following your advice, I certainly do not intend entering into a matrimonial engagement, or any other plans of moment without consulting, & applying for your consent, & approbation since I find it contrary to your wishes, & the opinion of the rest of my friends, I shall give up all thoughts of entering into any connection with Mifs Macmurdo as it is not my intention to for a match which may be the cause of uneasiness, & displeasure to myself & friends for the remainder of our lives. I have now another plan in mind, which I hope & trust will prove much more satisfactory to you, & the rest of my friends as I think I am now arrived at that time of life, at which I am able, (if ever I shall be) to enter into a plan for the future, as it is a thing of all things I should wish to avoid would be returning to the situation I left at Westacre & not feeling myself at present at all inclined to settle In Norfolk & being unwilling to lead a life of idleness. There is no an opportunity offered to me of hiring a comfortable House & about an Hundred acres of good land, for an Hundred Guineas per annum, in this village which I think would prove a very eligible & comfortable situation for me. There is seven years of the lease unexpired at Candlemas next, for which the present Tenant would expect a dower of two hundred or two hundred & fifty pounds in consideration of the land being in a far better state than when he took it & if it was now to be let, would fetch an advanced rent for the rest of the term, far beyond the proportion of that sum. If therefore you agree to the measure, & would make me an allowance four hundred a year, & advance me a thousand pounds which should be replaced in case I survive my Aunt I have no doubt but that I could enter upon the farm & live and conduct myself in such a manner as will be comfortable to myself & approved of by my acquaintances, friends & relations. Do not suppose that this plan is connected with any scheme to continue an intimacy with Mifs Macmurdo and I will pafs my word & honour that I will enter into no matrimonial connection without your consent. A speedy & acquiescing answer will much obliged one, who with sincere love & best wishes for the welfare of yourself & his sisters & brother. Subscribes himself your most affectionate and much obliges son.



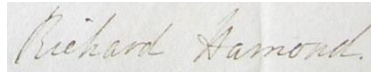
Richard Hamond.

PS Hanley desires his best wishes to yourself & family

Plumbland Sunday December 3rd 1808

Dear Sir

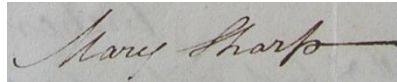
I have to return you my grateful thanks for you kind letter enclosing a draft for one hundred pounds. I am extremely sorry that my proposed allowance of four hundred pounds a year does not meet with your approbation but hope and trust on reconsideration you will not think it too ample & that in future I shall receive it regularly. It gives me great pleasure to find that you & all the family are well & that you may continue to enjoy that Blessing is the sincere wish of ever your affectionate Son



Parsonby Feb^y 17th 1815

Sir,

According to your request I take the liberty of informing you that for some time past I have been under the necefsity of supplying Mr Hamond with many necefsaties towards House keeping, & am now obliged to request you will have the goodnefs to remit me seventy Pounds; as in our poor situation it will put us to great inconvenience to remain long without it. I am Sir Your most ob^d Sev^t

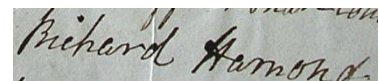


Mary Sharp

Parsonby Feb^y 17th 1815

My dear Sir

You will see by my writing that the letter you now receive from Mary Sharp is not sent without my knowledge & as she has always behaved both extremely well & honestly by me & as it is long since I have received any remittance from home & the old adage says whilst the grafs grows the steed starves & being difsapointed in getting the money which I lent to Charles Randall & they having a large small family it would confer another favor upon one who must always subscribe himself every your much obliged & affectionate Cousin



PS My kind & best wishes for the Welfare of M^{rs} Bagge & family

Arkleby January 29th 1816

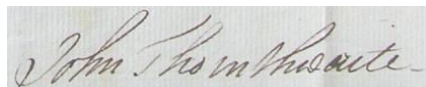
Honoured Sir,

I am very busy discharging M^r Hamond's Bills. You must know at my last commencement in this businefs, I thought it advisable to settle with his Tradesman first, before I paid those extravagant Drinking Bills: amongst the latter their was one sent me last September from one Thos Pape about Ten miles from this place, where M^r Hamond called at, about three years ago and got so intoxicated that he was obliged to stop all night. A few months after there was Bill sent after him made up thus. To Hay & Corn 27Qts of Ale at 6d per Qt 13s 6d. 49 Glafses at 6d pr Glafs, £1 4s 6d altogether £2 4s. A person called twice upon Mr Hamond for the amount, the answer he received was that M^r Hamond had at that time no money. This Bill which I have received is a second, being such an exorbitant charge, and out of the way and Pape himself never call upon me, it was deferred amongst other of the same kind; now the other day Pape has serv'd a writ of Justices up M^r Hamond. I took this writ and Bill to M^r Fisher the Attorney asking his advice upon them. He told me the Bill was an extravagant charge and that 30 shillings more added to the Expences already commenced would be the same at the County Court. Therefore he advised me to proceed against it, and if I should get the Bill reduced a few shilling, as the Jury would see the neccessity for it, Pape would be cast of all the Expences; for in a Court of Justice, to encourage such charges, was countenancing Imposition and Idlenefs. I have paid Sharp £75, the rest I would not pay unlesfs she could bring forward a man of respectability to justify his Bills for I could not. (?) Bill I cannot get settled unlesfs she will suffer me to curtail his Bill also.

Now Sir let me ask a few questions. Although M^r Hamond unfortunately strayed out of the Paths of Soberity is he to be imposed upon? If he belongs to a Noble Family, and they limit him down money at Command is that money to be lavished away extravagantly? If he be living far distant from his aged Parent and relatives is their never a Man around him enduced with Christian Virtues ready to step forward in his Defence? Those questions will be best answered by Proofs. M^r Hamond's Term of the House which he holds of me expires at Candlemas next. I met with Him the other Day very Cool and Pleasant. I put the question to him about changing his residence, His Heart began to throb, Tears begun to flow and his answer was I will consider of it. This ever shows the goodnefs of his heart, I cannot push him further upon that subject unlesfs he comes of his own weight. Whatever time of the year, he wishes to go from my house his rent shall cease at that time.

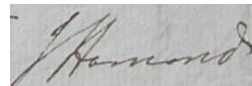
Will write you again in the course of a few weeks to inform you how I am getting on.

I remain your sincere and devoted Ser^t John Thornthwaite



My dear Richard

I have been wishing to write to you for some days but as Papa expected me to write to him I thought it was more than necessary to send two letters in or even one every day. I am sure you will be glad to know I am much better since I came to London & this warm weather which people are apt to complain of agrees with me exceedingly. I hope it does the same with Papa & you & Robert which I shall be glad to hear from you & I hope you will give me a full account of every thing at High House. How are the Gambles? **I hear you have lost one of the Hawks which John Pells left** – Philip & Anne with Maria and little Robert came here tonight & I believe stay till Sunday when they go home – Susan did not bring either Emily or her Boy to London but left them in the Country pleaster a great deal at this time of they year – As I have not time say any more than that I am dear Richard ever your most affectionate Sister



Susan Mr Elwes and all this party desire to join in Kindest Love to you. Papa & Robert give the enclosed notes directly.

(This letter was written by Sarah and addressed to Richard at High House. It was post marked 1817 and appears to have been written in the summer)



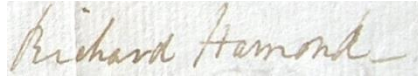
.....

N.B. This appears to be the last letter that exists whilst Richard Hamond was still in England. It is known that some 2 ½ years later, in 1820, Richard Hamond moved to Valkenswaard following numerous differences with his Father. Although his Father died in 1822, some two years after his arrival in Valkenswaard he never returned to England. Any letters written to his family between 1820 and 1831 do not appear to have been retained. On arrival in Valkenswaard he lived in the house of Jan Daems and then later the house of Jan van Best.

Valkenswaard near Eindhoven Sunday December 5th 1831

My Dear Sarah,

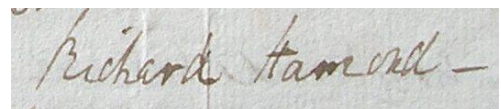
No doubt you wonder at my long silence but it unfortunately happened that our letters crofsed on their passage so I deferred writing in hopes of giving the tidings of the arrival of the newspapers but they are not yet come to hand. I can give you little or no news as the places are full of Soldiers but whether it will be peace or war nobody knows, for my part I trouble myself very little about it as I continue thank God to enjoy good health & have some good sport in coursing. It very little concerns me to whom the living & church preferment goes to but feel extremely sorry & hurt that they should behave so unjust and scandalously to poor Billy Coulcher But Shire folk will be Shire Folk. **Still James Botts will we expect arrive in England with the Hawks in the Spring & return here about Midsummer** when you will have an opportunity of sending the ring. I have been in expectation of seeing or hearing of Philip from Strasbourg but no news is good news. I have nothing more to say at present only that I hope this will find you in good health & believe me to remain every your affectionate Brother.



Valkenswaard near Eindhoven Thursday December 29th 1831

My dearest Sarah,

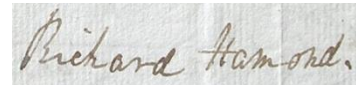
Your kind letter came safe to hand on the 28th and I took no time in acknowledging the receipt of it. I am glad to say that the newspapers arrived the same evening after I had sent my letter to the post. I am very glad that my friend Dick Gurnly won the plate. M^r Wilkinson or Chute I know little about. I have had very good sport with my Greyhounds but have been interrupted by the frost as the coursing season here closes with the year tomorrow & Saturday are my two last days & as I purpose going a little distance from hence I write to you today lest anything should prevent my writing on Sunday which is the proper day. I am happy to say that by the blefsing of God I continue to enjoy the Blefsing of health & sincerely hope you & all friends do the same. I will not fail to write again as soon as I receive your intended kind present. I am extremely sorry poor Billy Coulcher is thrown out of place but hope & trust that you & your friends will lose no opportunity or endeavour to procure a situation I suppose by this time Susan has been confined & sincerely hope you may be able to give a good account of her in your next. I am happy to say I hear no tidings of the Cholera mortus in these parts. The war is at present at a stand still & I hope it will end in peace shortly. This place lies on the high road from one power to the other we are pretty well filled with troops. With best love and respects to yourself & all friends not forgetting old Mother Lemon believe me to remain your much obliged & loving Brother



Valkenswaard near Eindhoven Saturday January 28th 1832

My dearest Sarah,

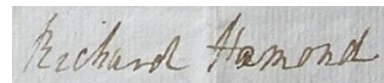
I take the earliest opportunity of informing you that I received the box containing all the things you mentioned in the inventory on the twenty fourth inst & all in very good condition, the charge to this place was five shillings English. I have to return you my very best & sincere thanks for your kind remembrance of me which I do not know how it will be in my power to repay. I am very happy to hear that our dear Sister Susan is doing well after her confinement. I hope you have quite recovered from the cold that caught you in your poney jaunting car. My Servant John's wife has presented him with a little girl and am happy she is quite recovered and the Gyp gone going on bravely. I am happy to say that by the blefsing of God I enjoy good health. I should be much obliged to you if when you send any more newspapers you will recollect to send to me Blaines Medicine for the distemper in dogs having nothing more to say believe me to remain with kind love & best wishes to all friends & yourself every truly your much obliged & affectionate Brother



Valkenswaard Monday March 5th 1832

My dear Sarah,

I have been some time in expectation of hearing from you but as my regular time of writing is come I now take up my pen to say that by the blessing of God I continue to enjoy good health. I hope & trust that you & all my friends do the same. When you send anymore newspapers I would thank you to enclose some packets of Blaines Medicine for the distemper in Dogs when you write let me know about the coursing meeting & the amusements & wonders of Lynn. **The Falconers will start in about a fortnight** when I think of sending a copy of my Will to Frederick Lane. I understand that the letters from England here are all purified before they are distributed but do not know whether it is the case from hence. I would thank you to inform me how those bandages are made which you said you would send but did not. When you do send any more newspapers I will thank you to send Gays original fables in verse and an account of the field sports of the North of Europe by L. Lloyd Esq. Gay Fables I had when I was a boy and it used to be in the first part of the Library in the Billiard Room. I cannot find any thing more to say so now conclude with best love and wishes to yourself & all friends & remain ever your most affectionate & obliged Brother

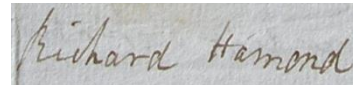
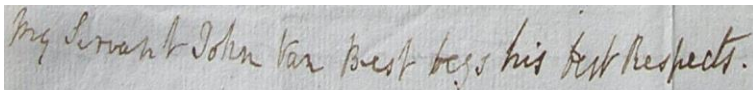


P.S. John Van Best begs his best respects

Valkenswaard near Eindhoven May 16th 1832

My dearest Sarah,

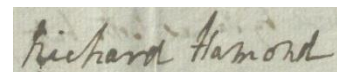
You will see by the date of this that it beyond my usual time of writing but in the first place I have been in expectation of an answer to my last letter to you, secondly my servant John Van Best has been very ill with an intermitting fever but now I am happy to say that by the blessing of God he is nearly recovered. I hope and trust that this will find you in some degree recovered from the shock that the sudden death of our dear Sister must have given you & that you enjoy good health & are able to follow your former amusements and occupations. I myself thank God continue to enjoy good health but am not able to make any excursion about this part is so filled with troops that it makes travelling uncomfortable & much more expensive than it used to be. Apropos if you should see or have any communication with old Bobby or Frederick Lane I would thank to remind them that my money has been due since the twenty seventh of last month. As he told me he wishes me to let him know if I did not receive my money with a fortnight after it was due. When you write again (if you can) give me some tidings of our nephew Philip as I wrote to him at Strasburgh about six months ago & have not heard from his since. I am anxious to receive some English newspapers as I learn by the Dutch ones that the ministry & other great changes have taken place in England & also inform me how it is with the Cholera morbus but now at present believe with best love & wishes to all to remain ever your affectionate and obliged Brother.



Valkenswaard Monday July 9th 1832

My dearest Sarah,

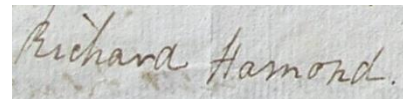
Your kind letter reached me on the fourth but I deferred writing till I could give you some tidings about the newspaper which I am happy to say arrived all safe on Saturday evening so I now take the earliest opportunity of thanking you for them. I did intend sending my Will by James Botts but government doesn't allow any sealed up package to go by private hand. So according to your wishes I shall send it by the post directed to M^r Henry Dugmore at Swaffham & not mention any thing of it to M^r Lane. I hope this will find you arrived at Swaffham in good health & that your spirits have in some measure recovered their usual tone. I expect you have found my last letter to you there dated the second of this month so that I have very little to put in to this. I have received my remittance from Old Bobby & Co with an apology saying that absence from home was the cause of his delay in sending it. I was not a little surprised to hear that my nephew Philip is in Ireland as the last time I heard from him was from Strasbourg when he talked of coming to me for fear of Cholera but now poor fellow he is out of the Frying Pan into the fire as you say the disease is in Ireland but hope he may have the good fortune to escape it. You left a blank & did not say the number of the regiment. I am happy to say that I continue to enjoy the blessing of health & that you and all my friends do the same is the sincere wish of your much obliged & loving Brother.



Valkenswaard Monday July 22nd 1832

My dearest Sarah,

I have been for a very long time in expectation of hearing from you, but now the beginning of July having arrived I will defer writing no longer hoping this (which I shall direct to Swaffham) will find you in good health & in some measure recovered from the effects of the loss of our dear & much to be lamented Sister. I myself thank God continue to enjoy the blessing of good health & spirits although we are not a little annoyed by the wars & rumours of wars & of the cholera morbus by looking over my list of letters written & received the last I received from you was dated the twenty second of March. I hope you will not defer answering this to inform me of the occasion of your long silence. I hope most sincerely that this will find poor Elwes in good health after the sad affliction he has suffered. It was my intention to have visited Aix le Chapelle this summer but owing to the continual passing and lodging & providing provisions for the troops neither myself nor John who (I told you is married & has a little girl 7 months old) like to leave home for any time but without that I pass off my time very well as John has some land in hand & I act as head farmer & have a good deal of employment in making & mending nets & fishing & I look forward to a good coursing season as I am well stocked with what I believe will prove good Greyhounds. I will endeavour to make myself happy & content & believe me to remain with best wishes & kind love to yourself & all friends ever your much obliged & loving Brother.

A rectangular inset showing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Hamond."

Valkenswaard Wednesday August 15 1832

My dearest Sarah

I put off writing at my usual time in hopes that you would be returned into Norfolk & it is very well I did so as on Monday morning I received a letter from M^r Lane informing me of the death of old Betty Allum late of Dersingham & that she has left me a House in high street Lynn now occupied by Mr Thos Cooper. I should be much obliged to you to enquire into all the particulars about it & give me your opinion what will be best for me to do concerning it. With regard to my will I shall at present let that rest but I have turned over in my mind in whose care I should place it & think I could not place in better hand than Henry Coldhams. I have nothing else to say only that by the blessing of God I continue to enjoy good health & hope & trust this find you the in some measure recovered from anxiety & fatigue & believe me to remain ever your much obliged & loving Brother

A rectangular inset showing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Hamond."

Valkenswaard Saturday Nov^{br} 3^d 1832

My dearest Sarah

I received a letter from you on the fifth of September in which you said you would make some enquires about the house at Lynn & inform me about it for which reason I have deffered writing until now but as tomorrow is the first Sunday of the month my usual day of writing I now take up my pen to say that by the blessing of God I still continue to enjoy good health & have had some good sport with my Greyhounds. **The Falconers have not yet procured their number of Hawks but expect to have them soon.** I hope to hear from you shortly by which time I expect you will have made some enquires and will be able to let me know the value of the House or thereabouts as I will make up my mind what I shall do concerning it as I do not like to have my concerns hanging on from time to time. I hope this will find you in good health & believe me to remain ever your much obliged loving Brother.


Richard Hamond.



Valkenswaard Wednesday November 21st 1832

My dearest Sarah,

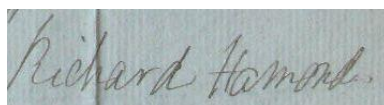
I have been in daily expectation of a letter from you in answer to my letter dated the third of this month giving your opinion about the value & sale of the House in high Street. I have just now received my half yearly remittance in which also he says he has had the house valued by Messers Newham & Landler who estimate it under four hundred pounds there is ten years of the lease yet to run. M^r Thos Cooper to whom the adjoining premises belong is willing to give me four hundred pounds for it but no more. I answered his letter saying I would not give a final answer until I had heard from you so beg you will not delay answering this. Also giving me a full & particular account of the coursing meeting. I am happy to say that by the blessing of God I continue to enjoy the blessing of good health & that you & all our friends do the same is the sincere wish of your much obliged & affectionate Brother



Valkenswaard Sunday December 9th 1832

My dearest Sarah

*I received yours containing the Coursing List on the twenty fourth of November & also your second kind letter on the fifth of this month. I am sorry that you should have had so much trouble & uneasiness about the House in Lynn but I am happy that the business has been concluded to the satisfaction of both parties as I have this day written to M^r Lane that I am willing to let M^r Thomas Cooper have the House for four hundred pounds clear money without and deductions. I have also desired him to send me half the money directly & to have the other half ready whenever I apply for it as I have a place in view in the village which is very likely to be sold which will suit me exactly. With respect to my Will I am not yet determined as some people in this country are of opinion that is better to keep it where Testator resides. I have no scruple to let you know what it contains namely it is made almost entirely in your favour excepting some legacies especially to John Van Best who by the request of our old friend **John Daems** his grandfather and his own good behaviour towards me for eleven years deserves my first & best regards. I am very glad you have had such good Sport at the Coursing meeting bill in my opinion it was too early in the season as you were likely to meet with many Hares not sufficiently strong. I recollect (if I mistake not) being at School at Harrow with a Boy of the same name who won the cup but from what part of the world he came I cannot say. I have had some good Sport with my Greyhounds but have unfortunately lamed one of my best & I am afraid he will be able to do little more this season. **The falconers have got sixteen slight Falcons & a Gyr Falcon with which when they get to England they hope & expect to show some good Sport.** I am happy to say I enjoy the blessing of Health & that all friends may do the same is the sincere wish of your ever much obliged & affectionate Brother.*



Valkenswaard Monday May 6th 1833

My dearest Sarah,

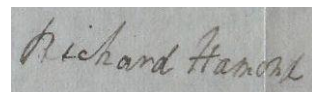
Your last letter I received on the 16th of March, of having despatched a parcel which I now have the pleasure to inform you is now arrived all right & for which I have to return you my very best thanks. My reason for delaying writing so long was that I might be able to release any anxiety you might have respecting the safety of it. I continue to enjoy good health & if things continue quiet it is my intention in the latter end of this or beginning of next month to take a journey as far as Aix la Chapple. I suppose by this time my nephew Phillip is about to start for North America when or where ever he goes I wish him health, happiness & good luck as in these time the least said is soonest mended. So with best wishes for the health & happiness of all friends believe me to remain every your affectionate & much obliged Brother.



Valkenswaard Wednesday June 19th 1833

My dearest Sarah.

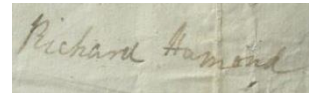
I begin to fear you have lost the (?) of letter writing of which you used to be so fond as it is now nearly three months since I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from you. I should have written on the first Sunday of this month but was at Aix la Chapelle at that time when I had been taking the waters & bathing for (?) weeks. The distance from hence to Aix la Chapelle is sixty miles but on account of the war & other circumstances I was obliged to make a circuit of one hundred & sixty both going & returning. I am happy to say I continue to enjoy the blessing of health but feel doubtful whether I shall be able to carry on my coursing on foot as hitherto the (?) season therefore if you could look me out a suitable poney or (?) & send over by the falconers it prove very useful & agreeable. I have now two hundred pounds in Lanes hand so that you may receive the money as soon as you have laid it out the remainder of that money he had better remit as I can put it out to advantage here in (?) rents as I have done some already but if you think it safer or better in England I shall wish it to be put out there. Whilst at Aix la Chapelle I saw in Booksellers Shop window the Memoirs of Eugene Brem which I purchased & found a very pleasant & interesting work more especially to me as it is founded on the life of the person who taught our dear mother writing & arithmetic. I don't know very more to add only hope this will find you & all friends in good health to whom I beg to be kindly remembered & believe me to remain ever your much obliged & loving Brother.



Valkenswaard Monday August 5th 1833

My dearest Sarah,

Your kind letter of the fifteenth reached me on the twenty second so I thought I would delay writing till my usual time & as it happened it is very well I did to as the newspapers arrived safe on the twenty fourth for which I return you my very best thanks. With regard to the poney I am sorry it hasn't happened so I must get on as well as I can until another year if I do not chance to meet with one here. **The falconers are all arrived safe & well & James Bots says he wrote to you from London telling you the name of the Eggs namely the white one the Golden Eagle, the other the Herons, he also got the 'eyes' safe for which he is very much obliged to you & next spring will be time enough for the Bustards Egg.** You say my nephew Henry Elwes is a collector of Eggs if I should by chance meet with any rare ones in this country I will preserve them for him and send by the falconers next year. I have been amusing myself with fishing this summer and have been most successful having caught several tench from one to four pounds weight & also pike up to ten pounds & plenty of Eels & I hope & expect to have some good sport coursing as I believe there is a good breed of Hares & I shall be pretty well off for dogs. When you are so kind as to send any more newspapers I would be much obliged to you to send me memoirs of S^r William Hoste I am happy to say that by the blessing of God I continue to enjoy good health & that you and all friends do the same is the sincere wish of your ever much obliged & loving Brother.

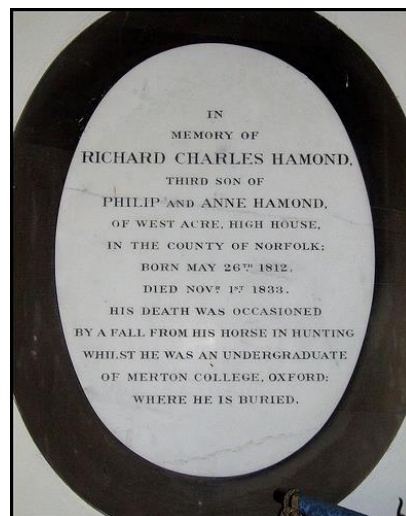


PS John Van Best desires his best respects & remember me to all friends.

Valkenswaard Nov 17th 1833

My dearest Sister

Your kind letter I received yesterday & if I may judge by my calculation there is as much blame on one side as the other. I am happy to say that illness has not prevented my writing but merely each expecting to hear from each other. I also received a letter by the same post containing the shocking & melancholy account of the death of my nephew and Godson Richard from my nephew Anthony in a very kind letter from Oxford giving me a full account of the accident alas poor young man. I learn from him that my nephew Robert is obliged to quit the Navy as he will be prevented from advancement in that owing to the impediment in his speech that is a new qualification necessary in these enlightened times & that he is now going into orders. I was not aware the oratory was more necessary on board ship than in church.



(Remainder of letter missing)

Valkenswaard Jan^y 1st 1834

My dearest Sarah,

According to your letter of the sixteenth of December your most noble & kind present of Pheasants, a fine Turkey, a Ham & two Bottle of flour of mustard, the memoirs of Sir W^m Hoste, almanack, Pocket Book & Blains & newspapers arrived safe yesterday evening & in excellent condition. The Hen Pheasants I have dined upon today as sweet & as good as could be desired. I sent a brace of the Pheasants to the Heer Van Heeze & for which I have received a thousand thanks from his lady he being from home but is expected this evening. I find no letter or coursing list in the box but all the rest is quite right, the eclipse of the moon was so visible here that a young man going from my home to his own nearly ran into a pond. I am happy to say that by the blessing of God I continue to enjoy good health & wish you & all friends a Happy New Year do the same is the sincere wish of your much obliged thankful & loving Brother.

Richard Hammond

PS The Eggs which you have procured for **James Botts** you had better keep till he arrives in England. John Van Best as usual desires his best respects.

Eggs
Goshawk
Moult
Coughlegged Falcon
Great Eared owl
Short Eared owl
Little Owl
Little Horned owl
Great Butcher Bird. nest & Eggs.
Hooded Crow
Red legged Crow
Nutcracker
Bohemian Chatterer
Roller
Ring ouzel
Kestrel
Grosbeak nest & Eggs.
Pine Grosbeak nest & Eggs.
Little Bustard
Golden Plover
Dottrel
Spoonbill
Night Heron
Little Bittern
Cuckoo
Whimbrel

Skins
Eagle
Goshawk
Great Eared owl
Little Owl
Little Horned owl (Scops)
~~Nutcracker~~
Nutcracker
Bohemian Chatterer
Ring ouzel (pair)
Pine Grosbeak (do)
Little Bustard
Austrian Pratincole
Spoonbill
Night Heron
Little Bittern
Eggs.
A pair of Blue Beasts wth nest
& Eggs.
Rev^d Henry Dupont
Suffham

Valkenswaard Monday February 3rd 1834

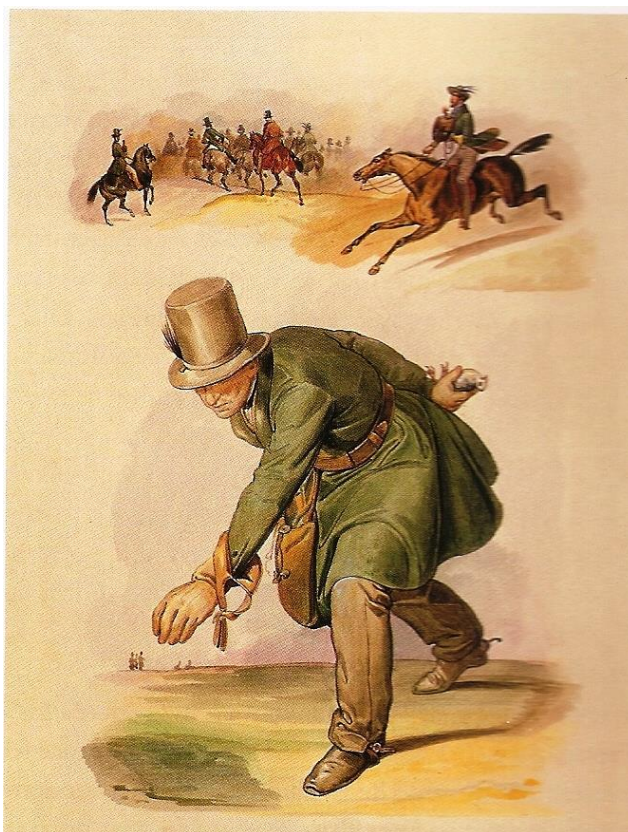
My dearest Sarah,

I hope & trust that my letter acknowledging the receipt of your kind present reached me in safety. I suppose that letter & your last crossed each other on the way. The eatables all proved very good more especially the Ham which I think is superior to any I ever eat. In my letter to my nephew Anthony as he offered to do any for me that laid in his power I said I should feel my self much obliged to him to procure for me a pony and two brace of Greyhounds against another season. M^r Lane has two hundred pound part of the money which the house at Lynn produced & which I wish you to give your opinion about if it would not be best to put out on England the interest of which would be ready to pay for anything I may wish to have from there. I am happy to say that I continue to enjoy the blessing of health and pass my time very comfortable. I was yesterday at the wedding of John Van Best's eldest sister the bride grooms Mother was there also aged eighty three as hearty & cheerful as a person of sixty.

(James Botts the falconer is also married, the Hawks are going on well & will soon be trained in the field which will be another source of amusement to me.)

I am now going to my fishing nets so will now conclude with best love & wishes to all friends & believe me to remain every your much obliged & loving Brother.

Richard Hammd



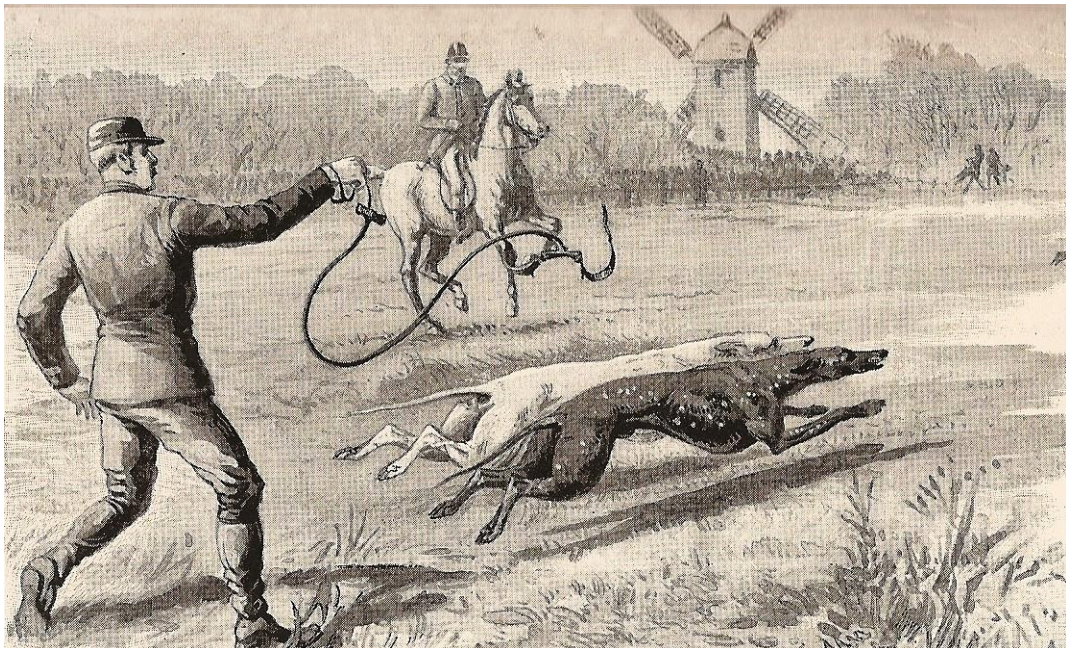
Jan (James) Bots

Valkenswaard Wednesday March 5 1834

My dearest Sarah,

Your kind letter of the 13th February I received on the 19th & believe me that I am extremely sorry that I should have caused you so much alarm & uneasiness by unthinkingly letting John Van Best direct the letter for doing which I must beg your pardon & will take care it shall not take place again. I am sorry you are displeased at my writing to our nephew Anthony about the Horse & Greyhounds & should not have thought of doing so had he not himself made an offer of it in a very kind letter I received from him & I thought it no harm to have two strings to my bow but I shall now leave it entirely in your hands & shall write to him on the subject after I have received an answer to this from you when you have an opportunity of procuring a brace or a leash of Greyhounds. I should prefer females not over old, if rather cunning not the worse as Hares are very swift & strong. I should like to be foremost on the file on the Greyhound line in this part of the world. I have not yet received the coursing meeting list which you mentioned it was your intention to send. **The falconers talk about starting for England in about a fortnight or three weeks.** John Van Best's wife was so pleased with the taste of the Norfolk ham that she wishes to have the receipt & I have no doubt she will make good use of it as she is a very clever & industrious person & a good housekeeper having been accustomed to it from her youth. I am happy to say that I continue to enjoy the blessing of Health & that you & all friends do the same is the sincere wish of your much obliged and loving brother.

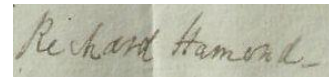
Richard Amord



Valkenswaard Monday April 7th 1834

My dearest Sarah,

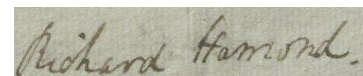
Your kind letter arrived safe on the fifth inst enclosing the receipt for curing hams & the news that you were about to send off some newspapers & probably an Ham with regard to the pony & Greyhound businefs I have this day written to my nephew Anthony begging to consult with you. I also had to congratulate him on the birth of son heir which intelligence I learnt by a letter I received on Saturday last from Frederick Lane from which letter I enclose that part concerning the £200 of the disposal of which for the best I wish you to consult with him about & I shall abide by your decision. I expect by this time you have heard or seen something of the **falconers** that you have received lace safe two pieces one of five yds & half & the other nearly five yards which is all I could procure of that sort but hope another year to some better quality & more in quantity. I am happy to say I continue to enjoy the blessing of health & that you do the same is the sincere wish of your ever much obliged & loving Brother.



Valkenswaard Monday June 2nd 1834

My dearest Sarah,

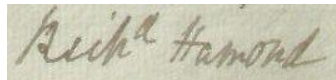
No doubt you have been in expectation of hearing from me but I deferred writing until I should have received the newspapers but as the first Monday in June is arrived & no package arrived I will not delay writing any longer so now take up my pen to say that by the blessing of God I continue in good health. In my letter dated the seventh of April I inclosed a part of Lanes letter about the two hundred pounds as to which I have not given any directions what to do as I wished to have your opinion upon the subject first. I have my half years interest of which I have acknowledged the receipt & said I should write to him again concerning the other money. I hope that in this you & Anthony have put but not knocked your heads together about the Poney & Greyhounds & that I shall receive them all safe in due time. I have nothing more to say about private affairs & with regard to public ones you may learn more from the public newspapers so now believe me to remain with every good wish for the health & happinefs of yourself and all my friends your much obliged & loving brother.



Valkenswaard Wednesday June 25 1834

My dearest Sarah

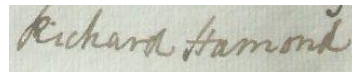
Your kind letter of the 12th reached me on the 21st which gave me great pleasure to find you still continue to enjoy the blessing of health. It gives me great pleasure to learn that you received the lace safe & that it gives you satisfaction. I hope & trust I shall be able to say the same with regard to the Poney & Greyhounds you may draw the money out of that which Frederick has in his hands. **I learn from his family that James Bots remains in England with M^r Birch till October.** But you can send them equally well with the other Falconers as the coursing here begins in September & ends with the year perhaps you will think this epistle very concise but will be pleased to learn that by the blessing of God I continue to enjoy good health & pass my time happily & remain with best wishes to all friends every your loving Brother.



Valkenswaard Monday July 7th 1834

My dearest Sarah

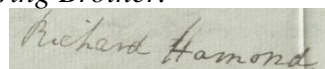
I now take up my pen at the regular time & also have the pleasure of informing you that the newspapers accompanied by a most delicious ham arrived here in good condition on Saturday last for which I have to return you my very best thanks. **I suppose by this time the Falconers are about starting for their return here & hope & trust they will bring the Greyhounds & nag safe and well.** You may believe me I am not a little anxious to see them. The weather has been very fine & hot here & I have had plenty of good sport in fishing as a proof of it I one day caught upwards of forty brace of tench weighing from one pound to three pounds each. By the blessing of God we all here continue in good health & that you & all friends do the same is the sincere wish of your much obliged & loving brother.



Valkenswaard July 30th 1834

My dearest Sarah

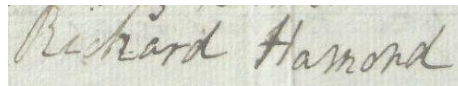
I am happy to inform you that two of the **Falconers** arrived here on sixteenth of this month bringing with them the poney & a brace of Greyhounds all safe & sound also the newspapers and the book for which I have to return you my very best & sincerest thanks. The poney I am happy to say goes perfectly steady & well both in harness & with saddle. The greyhounds are very handsome & I trust will prove themselves equally so in the field. But I shall be equally thankful for those you think of sending by **James Bots** as they are of such an excellent breed & then I think I shall be as well stocked as a man need be. I have not written to Anthony to thank him for his kind present as I thought it very likely he would have written to me when you see him give him my best thanks & tell him I shall not be long before I write him myself. By the blessing of God I continue to enjoy good health & live very comfortable and happy not with standing the wars & rumours of wars & sincerely hope that you do the same & believe me to remain ever your much obliged & loving Brother.



Valkenswaard Monday Sept^{br} 8th 1834

My dearest Sarah

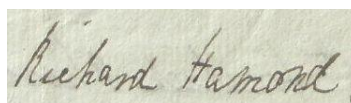
I have been some time in expectation of hearing from you but this being the first Monday of the month I now take up my pen to say that by the blessing of God I still continue to enjoy good health. I am still ignorant to whom I am to return thanks for the Horse but whether it is to you or my nephew I can assure I am truly very much obliged as it suits me in every thing being perfectly steady both in harnefs & saddle as it is also with dogs & gun. **James Botts is returned home which is six weeks sooner than was expected** for which reason I doubt you will not have an opportunity of sending the other Greyhounds. But I hope & trust I shall be able to get on without them hitherto the weather has been so very fine that the Hares are not much on the Heath. In your next letter be so good as to let me know exactly how old my nag is. You will think this a very short epistle but as I have not yet received an answer to my last letter I must now conclude with kind love & best wishes to all friends so believe me to remain every your much obliged & loving Brother.



Valkenswaard Sunday November 30th 1834

My dearest Sarah

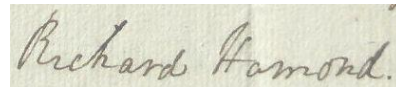
Your kind letter written on the coursing list dated November the 20th reached me on the 26th for which I have to return you my very best thanks. I am very happy that you give so good an account of the health of M^r Elwe's family & also of my nephew to whom I shall write shortly to thank him for the poney as till lately I did not know exactly who it came from. A week ago I received my half years interest from Frederick Lane deducting £6 11s 6d which he paid to a M^r Smith in London concerning which you & he must settle for I know nothing about the matter. He also sent the interest at 4 p^r cent of the £200 he has in hand. It gave me great pleasure to hear that the operation performed on James Carter has succeeded and I sincerely hope he may by the blessing of God be returned to health as he is a man I have a great regard for as he always behaved himself as an honest just & good servant whilst in my service. My dear Sister previous to your sending any parcel off to me you must write a letter to M^r W Smith & Co Rotterdam to whom the parcel must also be directed & he will not fail to forward it, with kind love & best wishes to yourself & all friends believe me to remain ever your much obliged & loving Brother.



Valkenswaard Wednesday January 7th 1835

My dearest Sarah,

I now take up my pen with great pleasure to return you my unfeigned & very best thanks for your most kind & noble present which reached me on Sunday last in most excellent condition with the note pinned on the papers. I am extremely glad they arrived in good order as it has given me an opportunity to make a few presents namely a brace to General Borcel who in return sent me part of a Gloster cheese & a brace to Baron Van Thuyl commonly called Heer van Heeze. I had the Turkey which weighed 18lbs cooked yesterday in way quite different to any I ever saw in England namely in an Iron pot over the fire which in my opinion was superior to any roasted before the fire as it retained the flavour & juices much better & proved a most noble & delicious dish. The mince pies also proved most excellent & I expect to have the mince meat made up in to pies preferably as there is a young man in the village as son of the post master who has been brought up a pastry cook who I expect will try his hand at making the crust. The ham also is most excellent. The present altogether is so noble & bountiful that I know not how it will be in my power to repay it. I am happy to say that I continue to enjoy the blessings of good health & happiness & that you & all my friends do the same is the sincere wish of him who subscribes himself ever your most affectionate & much obliged Brother.




John Van Best & James Botts the Falconer begs their best respects as does old Frank Van den Heuvel

Valkenswaard Wednesday Feb^{ry} 25th 1835

My dearest Sarah

Your kind letter reached me yesterday and you may believe me did not a little shock me by the account of the awful & sudden death of our cousin Billy Bagge whom I remember as well as I do any body for he was rather eccentric & he & I were very different in our pursuits in life still I had much regard & respect for him for I thought & believed him to be good man in his heart. My dearest Sister I shall not forget & endeavour to follow the kind & good advice you gave me. No doubt his unexpected death gave a great check & damp to the gaieties of the heart as I believe he was much respected. **The Falconers intend leaving on the eight of March they did think of starting on the first but are obliged to stop till after the Ballot for the Militia which takes place between those dates as the young falconer Adrian alias Peter Mollen is in the List. Be so kind as to acquaint Lord Berners with the alteration & the reason of it as he may be disappointed at their non arrival.** I have procured two pieces of Lace one of fourteen yards & the other twelve yards. I beg you to make choice one piece & present the other to my niece Anthony's wife with my best Love & Respects which I intend sending by the Falconers. I am happy to say that I continue to enjoy the blefsing of health as do all my friends here & that you & all friends in England do the same is the sincere wish of your ever much obliged & loving Brother.



PS John Van Best begs his best respects.

Valkenswaard Monday 4th of May 1835

My dearest Sarah

Your kind letter reached me on the 28th April and by answering it on this day brings me into my right course of writing the first Monday in the month. I am exceeding glad that the Lace pleased you & my niece. I have not received any letter from her but probably she does not perfectly know my direction therefore when you see her you had better give to her. I am very thankful & much pleased that you have procured a brace of Greyhounds & likely to have a third. I wish it may be a female & of good size as they are preferable in this country. Those Anthony sent me last year were too old for running but I have now a litter of young puppies which I hope will turn out well from the black one. The coursing in this country is on bare Heath sandy and hilly so that the Hares rise at a great distance & go a terrible pace when they are up. The word Soho is uselefs here as we don't find half a dozen sitting in a whole season. We always run a leash in this country & one of them must be an overflyer as it called in this country one that can get up to the Hare in double quick time. You write to me about flowers you may recollect I pay no regard to flowers except it is a cauliflower or flour to make a pudding but joking apart Haerlem is the mart for them which is upwards of an hundred miles from hence but if you wish very much to have some I will do my best endeavours to procure you some. I am rather anxious to see the newspapers as by what I pick up here I am afraid that affairs do not go on exactly right in England. I am happy to say that I continue to enjoy the blefsing of Health & that you & all friends do the same is the sincere wish of your ever much obliged & loving Brother.

Richard Hamond

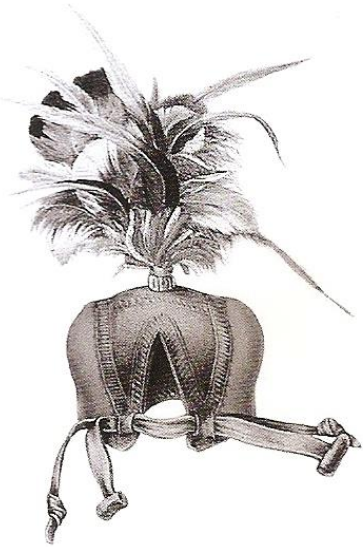
John Van Best begs his best respects



Valkenswaard Eindhoven July 5th 1835

My dearest Sarah

Perhaps you have been wondering at my long silence but as you mentioned in your last your intention of sending some newspapers I deferred writing till I could acquaint you of their safe arrival which took place last Wednesday & for which I have to return you my very test thanks. I have read some of the Norfolk ones & see that there was no small stir during the election much clashing of politics & disuniting of people as surprised me not a little among the rest one William Bagge a son of poor Tom Bagge I suppose who must have been quite a boy when I left England. I do not see my Nephew Anthony's name any where mentioned so suppose he has wisely kept himself aloof & continued looking after his roes & his boxes during the scuffle. I had a very kind letter from him not long since saying he should send me a prize Greyhound by the Falconers tell him when you see him that I shall write to him as soon as they arrive. I also hope & trust that you likewise have not been unmindful of me in that line. I am very glad I was not in England as I know very well I must have been busy whether it was for my good or ill. It has been very hot dry weather here for some time. Many people have deferred cutting their grafs in hopes of rain but John Van Best by my advice has made Hay whilst the sun shone as we finished getting in our Crop yesterday evening in excellent condition. It is now thundering & bids fair to be showery weather. The poney has of great service in that businefs as otherwise we should have had to run here and there for assistance & at last been obliged to make shift with a bullock which scarcely surpasses a tortoise in celerity. I have twice received four pounds being the interest of half the money which the sale of the house at Lynn but have nothing to show as a security for the principal if you think right I will tip him a line on that subject. **If you should see James Botts the falconer tell him JVB has sent the Hawk hoods to Rotterdam according to his direction.** I am happy to say that by the blessing of God that I continue to enjoy good health & that all friends do the same more especially your self is the sincere wish of your ever much obliged & loving Brother.



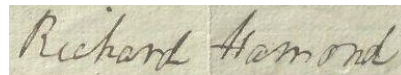
Richard Hammond

PS John Van Best begs his best respects.

Valkenswaard Wednesday July 22nd 1835

My dearest Sarah

Your kind letter of the 13th reached me on the 18th for which I have to return you my best thanks. **The Falconers arrived on the 15th** & brought the brace of Greyhounds safe & in good condition also a very nice spaniel from my Nephew Anthony to whom it is my intention to write shortly. I think there is some fatality in the name of Nelson as I had a Greyhound of that name last year which broke his fore leg & I was obliged to kill him & now again three days back the same accident has befallen a young dog of the same name whilst playing on meddow but I still have four good ones which I hope & trust will be enough to show me sport this next season & I have six young ones bringing up. **It was very unlucky in your not seeing the falconers as I understand they were at Newmarket on the same evening that you went thro on your way home.** I intend writing to Mr Lane shortly desiring him to let me know where my money is placed out & to send me a security to show for it. **If the afternoon proves favourable it is my intention to go with the falconer & try to have flight at an Heron.** By the blessing of God we all here enjoy good health & that you & all friends do the same is the sincere wish of your obliged & loving Brother.

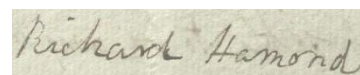


PS John Van Best begs his best respects

Valkenswaard Sep^{br} 3^d 1835

My dearest Sister

According to your wish I wrote to M^r Lane concerning the securities for my money. After waiting some time I received the enclosed letter which I think it is better to send to you as then it is impossible to be any mistake, but intend not to proceed any further in the businefs till I hear from you as it is my wish & intention to ask your advice about my money concerns as you are fully acquainted with that businefs & much more likely to study my interest than any person in the law line. I am sorry to say that I have been very unfortunate with my Greyhounds as out of nine puppies I have lost seven by the distemper tho placed out at different walks. The distemper must have been of a very bad sort as scarce any puppies in this neighbourhood have survived it. The black greyhound which you sent from England proves to be with young but I expect she will pup before the coursing come in which will be on the fifteenth tho' I have given you such a melancholy of canine species I am happy to say that by the blessing of God we all here enjoy good health and that you & all friends do the same is the sincere wish of your ever much obliged & loving Brother.

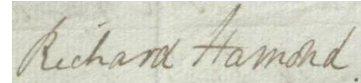


PS John Van Best begs his best respects

Valkenswaard near Eindhoven October 9th 1835

My dearest Sarah

Your kind letter reached me on Monday last which gave me great pleasure to find that you continue to enjoy the blessing of health & that all my friends do the same. I am extremely glad to hear that Cater is quite recovered as he always conducted himself in a proper manner whilst with me. I expect to hear from M^r Lane shortly as my money will become due & I will then desire him to place all the securities in your hands namely for nine thousand pounds & two hundred pounds of the house at Lynn which is still in his hands. The two greyhounds you was so kind as to send me have had a visit from Lord Stradbroke & hope you will be able to procure me a brace or a leash again next Spring. I do not know who you have for your Game keeper at Congham but wish you to give him half a Guinea or Guinea from me for the trouble he has had with them apropos. Are you the Lady of Manor of Swaffham? I am happy to say that by the blessing of God I continue to enjoy good health & that you & all friends do the same is the sincere wish of your much obliged & loving brother.




PS John Van Best begs his best wishes

Valkenswaard Wednesday Nov^{br} 18th 1835

My dearest Sarah

Perhaps you have been expecting to hear from me but I deferred writing being in expectation of a parcel which you mentioned in your letter of the 21st of September that you intended sending off the following week which is not yet arrived. I yesterday received the coursing List intermixed with your kind letter which informed of the very fine weather & good sport that you had at the coursing meeting for here it was a sharp frost as also the week following so that I was thinking that the meeting would have taken place a week later instead of a week sooner than formerly. The brace of Grey hounds you sent are capital for in the last four weeks we have run more than twenty Hares & missed only one so that if those you intend sending next year turn out equally good I shall reckon myself a Top Lawyer. I yesterday received a letter from Lane enclosing my half years Interest I acknowledged the receipt of it this day desired him to place all my securities in your hands. He wishes very much for me to send him my Will that he may see that it is correct. I intend sending him the form of it which in my opinion will be sufficient. I am happy to say that by the blessing of God I continue to enjoy good health & that you & all friends do the same is the sincere wish of your much obliged & loving brother.



PS John Van Best begs his best respect.

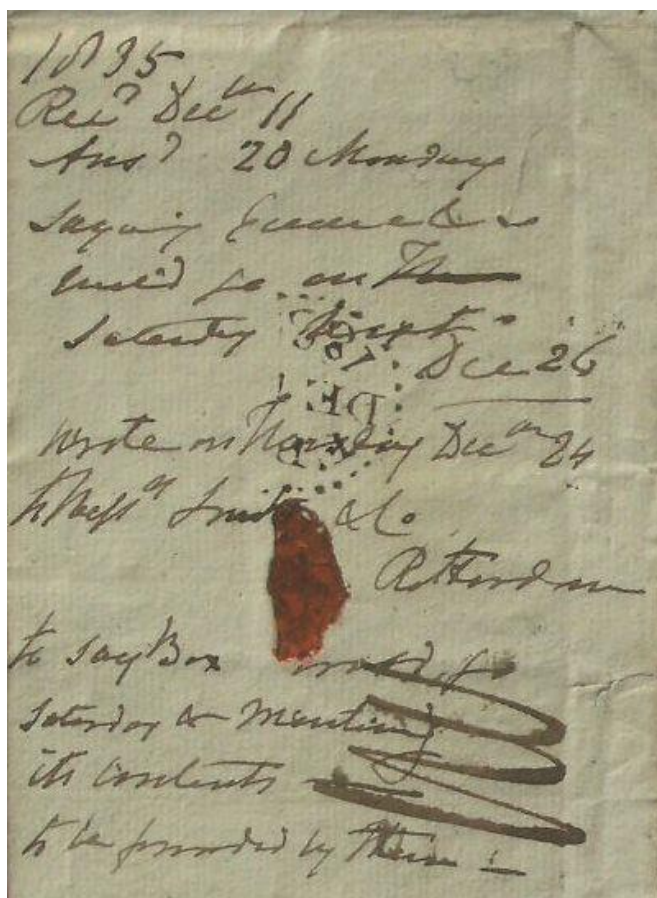
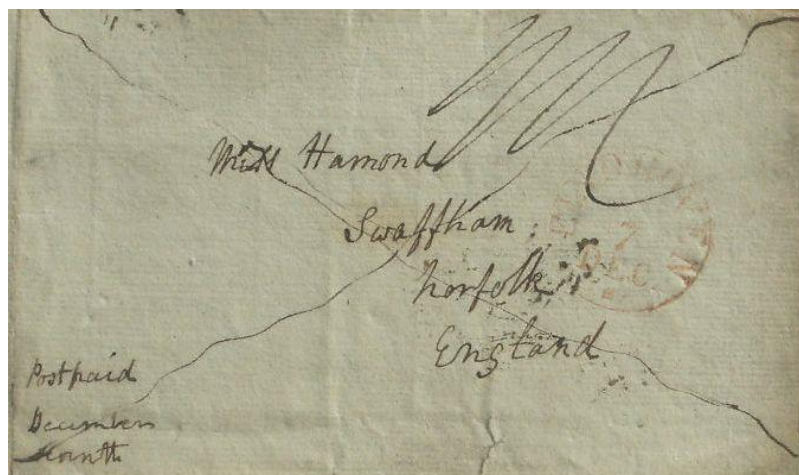
Valkenswaard December 7th 1835 Monday

My dearest Sarah

Your kind letter of the 31st inst reached me on the fifth & I answer it the first opportunity hoping that this may reach you before you send off your package that may be able to enclose half a pound of Swedish turnip seed as John Van Best who is a bit of a farmer wishes to try it & we have no opportunity of procuring the seed here. I shall follow your advice with regard to my Will & when I have a good opportunity will send a copy for your inspection as I suppose it is only to satisfy his curiosity that Lane wishes to see it. I am happy to say that by the blessing of God I continue to enjoy good health & that you & all friends do the same is the sincere wish of your much obliged & loving brother.

Richard Hamond

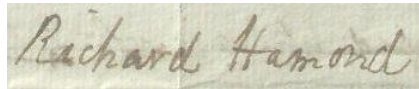
PS when you send off your package apprise M^r Smith & Co Boomfis Rotterdam of it & also send him a declaration of its contents & value signed by yourself as he must procure a Passport at Rotterdam as Valkenswaard lies on the Line of Customs. JVB begs his best respects.



Valkenswaard Eindhoven March 3^d 1836

My dearest Sarah

It being the beginning of the month I now take up my pen to give you a bit of scrawl as I have little or nothing to say only that by the blessing of God I continue to enjoy a good health & go on in the usual way. **The falconers intend setting off from hence in about fourteen days** then I intend sending by them a piece of Lace & half an ounce of Schorseneal seed. as soon as you receive it sow about 30 square feet of good ground when sown make the ground flat & firm. Keep it clean during the summer & take it up for use in winter as you want it when used it is to be scraped like a carrot cut into pieces & boiled then stewed with a little butter, nutmeg & vinegar, it is excellent sauce with any roast meat but particular with veal & fowls, the Roots will keep good for use two years without being taken up. perhaps after all this palaver about it, it may be quite common with you but I never any of it in England. I have seen General Borcel since I wrote to you last who thanked me very much for the pheasants & says he kept one of them ten days & it was perfectly good. He again pressed me to pay him a visit which I intend doing when the days are longer & the weather finer. Pray do not be long before you send me some newspapers & a few entertaining books voyages & travel you know are most to my taste & what you pay out I shall gladly order Frederick Lane to repay you. It is long since I have heard anything of John Scales is he in the land of the living & how is he going on. Inform me of all domestic news you as here I have nothing here to relate so that I must now conclude with my love & best wishes to all friends & believe me to remain ever your much obliged & loving Brother

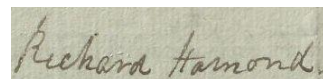


PS John Van Best begs his best respects

Valkenswaard Eindhoven Wednesday May 4th 1836

My dearest Sarah,

Some questions in your letter of the seventh of March I now take up my pen to answer imprimis the contents of the Box was all correct. M^{rs} Van Best has cured some hams after your receipt but they did not prove equally good which I believe the reason is the Pigs here are larger & of a coarser grain than those you keep. The print of my Bible is small but I still can read it very well as I think thank God that my eyes continue equally good. I think I mentioned to you about the greyhounds if not I should like to have a brace of females if you can procure them & send them by the **Falconers**. Your kind letter of the twentieth of April reached me on Saturday last. I am sorry that I have been remiss in writing but delayed it, in hopes of receiving the newspapers which I did yesterday evening & for which I return you my very best thanks & also for Roberts' village sermons. I expect to hear from Frederick Lane in a few days & then suppose I shall learn what he has done about the securities for my money. I think you say you packed the newspapers yourself if so they do you great credit as I think I never had them done so well as they took as long time to unpack them as I suppose they might be printed in. Thank God I continue to enjoy the blessing of health which that you & all friends do the same is the sincere wish of your ever much obliged & loving Brother.

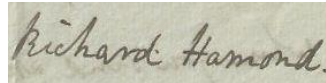


PS John Van Best desires his best respects & much obliged to you for the turnip seed & will try all he can to raise a good crop from it.

Valkenswaard July 23^d 1836 Saturday

My dearest Sarah

After such a long silence occasioned first by waiting to hear from you & secondly in expectation of the arrival of the **falconers** I now take up my pen to say that that the **falconers** arrived on Thursday evening bringing with them a brace of very handsome greyhounds & the parcel of newspapers & books all safe & in good order. The books are on a subject that is most agreeable to my taste of reading, now I am on that subject be so kind when you send any more, do not forget Ben Brace or the last of Nelson's agamemnon as it's title frequently mentioned in the newspapers. I thank you most kindly for the trouble you have taken but must by & desire you to make out your account & present it to Frederick Lane as I cannot think it right that you should be at the expence also. I believe in my last letter I informed you that I ordered Lane to place the securities of my money in your hands but since that I received a letter from him informing me that old Bobby did not like to do so without an order from me which I sent him so to do on the fourth of May. Let me know in your next if he has acted accordingly. Farmer Van Best by your directions sowed part of the turnip seed on nearly an acre of land in the beginning of June which now look very well & promise to be an excellent crop. As soon as they came up he sprinkled some turf & wood on them which I believe prevented the flies attacking them. It gave me great pleasure to see your letter dated from Portman Square as I have no doubt your visit there must be a comfort to Elwes & of great pleasure & service to his family. I continue much after the old sort & that you & all friends do the same to whom I desire to be remembered is the sincere wish of your much obliged & loving Brother.



PS John Van Best begs his best respects

Valkenswaard by Eindhoven Monday September 5th 1836

My dearest Sarah

This being the first Monday in the month I now take up my pen to say that by the blessing of God I still continue to enjoy good health & hope & trust that you & all my friends do the same. For some time past we have had not dry weather by which means the Harvest in the country is nearly concluded & the corn got in, in excellent order within these two or three days we have had some rain which will prove favourable for the second crop of hay & for the turnips which they do not sow until the rye is off. My Swedes go on very well they have been rather touched with the Mildew but I expect that the rain & wind will turn out a grand crop as many of them now bigger than a quart pot. The coursing season will begin in about 10 days when I am in expectation of having some good sport. When you send another packet of newspapers be so kind as to enclose the named books. Rattlin the Reefer by Capt Marriat RN & Ben Brace by Capt Charmier also a Box of Blairs Gowt & Rheumatic Pills not that I am troubled with either complaints at present but there is no harm in taking time by the forelock in having such a remedy by one all these extras I mention you must apply to Frederick Lane to reimburse you & place to my account. With kind love & best wishes to yourself & all friends believe me to remain ever your much obliged & loving Brother.



PS John Van Best desires his best respects.

Valkenswaard near Eindhoven Sept^{br} 20th 1836

My dearest Sarah

I received your kind letter this morning & take earliest opportunity on answering it as you desire to say that I shall have sufficient number of greyhounds for this season & there will be plenty of time to consider about the next. I have had little coursing as yet but will tell you of my Exploits some time hence I am very happy to find that you have spent such a pleasant summer. I have not been from home but have fully amused & employed the whole time. I am glad to tell you that the Swedish turnips turn out very well they were at one time struck by the Mildew but are now quite recovered & promise to come to a large size they already astonish the natives. I thank you most kindly for your good advice & as a proof I in some measure follow it I would thank you to send me a new prayer book of a stouter fabric than the last as that begins to be the worse for wear. With respect to paper & sealing wax I procure the best that is to be got here which is only a village. With regard to the securities I wrote to old Bobby himself about them & desired him to place them in your hands. I wish you to speak to old Bobby yourself & then I will stir up Master Lane with a sharp spur. At any event I will write to Lane shortly. I am to say that I continue (by the blessing of God) to enjoy good health & that you & all friends do the same is the sincere wish of your ever much obliged & loving Brother.

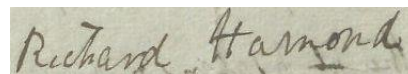


PS Yesterday a person in this neighbourhood shot a Snipe perfectly white which James Bots's Brother is going to preserve.

Valkenswaard Nov^{br} 2^d 1836 Wednesday

My dearest Sister

I received your kind letter with the Newspapers prayer Book the other books & sealing wax all correct for which I return you my best thanks. My dear Sarah don't you suppose these other Books will take off my attention from my religious duties as I never fail of reading the psalms & lessons of the day morning & evening. The Prayer Book pleases me very much when you are so kind as to send me any more books I would thank you to send me a Bible containing the apocrypha which this has not, but this I can see to read very well at present as by the blessing of God almighty my eye sight continues very good. I wrote to old Whincop himself about the securities and not hearing from him I supposed he had done as I ordered him. I shall jog his memory again today. I see by the Norfolk paper that Anthony was not able to attend the assizes but he procured a very efficient substitute in his Uncle Henry Packe is I think he is a man who would go thro the ceremonies in a more courtly manner than Anthony who I hope by this time is nearly if not quite recovered. I am glad that I can tell you that my Greyhounds afford plenty of amusement having run about fifty hares & killed upwards of forty. But one of the red ones named Actress is superior to the rest. I don't think I have anything more to say only that I continue to enjoy the blessing of health & that you & all friends do the same is the sincere wish of your much obliged & ever loving Brother



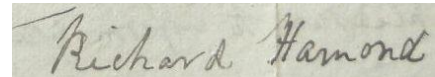
PS John Van Best begs his best respects

Valkenswaard near Eindhoven Wednesday December 28th 1836

My dearest Sarah

Your kind letter of the 19th reached me on the 24th advising me of your having sent off a Box of provision both for body & soul which I have the pleasure to inform you arrived safe yesterday all correct according to the enclosed list the pheasants much fresher than any I have received yet also a note for James Bots for which he returns you his very best thanks as it will be more serviceable to his wife than a gown piece or anything of that kind for all which I have to return you my very best thanks and if there anything I can do in return if you do but mention it will give me the greatest pleasure to use my utmost endeavours to perform or procure it. I am perfectly content with the note for four thousand which you have from Frederick Lane explaining where it is but there are two hundred pounds of the sale of the house at Lynn of which I have not any security. I received a very kind letter from my nephew Anthony about three weeks back pray give my best love to him & his family & tell him I shall write to him before long. I have moreover to thank you for the Bible a most excellent print & also for the penny Sunday reader of which I shall carefully & frequently peruse. The weather here at present is very cold with a good deal of snow on the ground & still falling so that the newspapers & other reading have arrived very opportunely. I think now I have nothing more to say only that I continue to enjoy the blessing of health & that you & all friends do the same is the sincere wish of your ever much obliged & loving Brother.

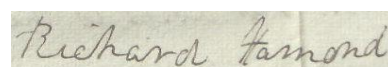
PS John Van Best begs his best respects.



Valkenswaard near Eindhoven February 6th 1837

My dearest Sarah

I have been rather in expectation of hearing from you before this but as it is the beginning of the month according to custom I now take up my pen to inform you that by the blessing of God I still continue to enjoy good health & sincerely hope that you & all friends do the same. We have here had a pretty severe winter & it still continues frosty which seems likely to continue until our Mart. This week I suppose ought to be the coursing meeting wind & weather permitting. When you send me another packet of Newspapers be so kind as to enclose a couple of Razors as those I had from you upwards of twelve years ago are now nearly done up. Please to remember I have a strong beard & a tender face which will be some guide to you what sort to send. As I hope & expect that the winter is drawing towards a conclusion I have some thoughts in the Spring of paying a visit to Aix la Chapelle & taking a view of some railways & other improvements that are carrying on in that part of the world as I have not the tact of making a long letter with little to say I must now subscribe myself with best wishes for the health & happiness of yourself & all my good friends ever your much obliged & loving Brother

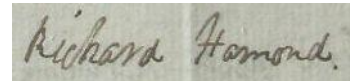


PS John Van Best begs his best respects

Valkenswaard April 4th 1837

My dearest Sarah,

Your kind letter reached me on the 11th of March I should have answered it before this but I myself have had the influenza which has been very prevalent hereabouts also but I have not heard of it proving fatal. I was very ill for a week but have kept the house for a month. I was attended by a Doctor Rauph who lives about six miles from hence is reckoned to best medical man in the whole country both as a Surgeon & apothecary. I am now thank God quite recovered but the weather continues still so cold & stormy that I dare not venture out much. You will be glad to know that I had every attention with regard to nursing as possible. John Van Best's wife being a very cleaver & attentive young woman & I wish you when you send any parcel for me that you would inclose a Norwich shawl, a gown piece or something of that kind as some recompense for her care & trouble. I am sorry that Elwes has lost a daughter by it & that you have had this slightly & hope & trust that his will find your self & all your household in Norfolk in good health. **The falconers will not leave this place till June where they will go to a M^r Hales in Cambridgeshire so that you will have plenty of time to let me know if you should want sent to you from this country.** I am very much pleased with the penny Sunday reader as is my servant Christopher Mohr who is a protestant but a Calvinist & we both read it daily so thank you to send me some more numbers of it also Southey's Life of Lord Nelson. I am much pleased with Ben Brace & Rattin the Reefer the latter I have gone through for the second time. John Van Best begs his best respects & believe me to remain ever your much obliged & loving Brother.

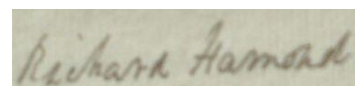


PS Pray is old Mother Lemon alive & well yet if so give my best regards to her

Valkenswaard near Eindhoven May 11th 1837

My dearest Sarah,

It was my intention to have written to you at the beginning of the month but being in expectation of hearing from you I deferred it & lucky I did so as now I have received a letter from Giltay & Pasche Cargadores at Rotterdam informing me that there is a package arrived directed to John Van Best but they cannot forward it until they are acquainted with its contents which I wish you would do immediately as soon as I received the aforesaid package it is my intention to make a tour to Brussels to take a view of the railroad & other new inventions & improvements in that neighbourhood. **On this day week James Botts started for M^r Newcome at Hockwold Wilton with three cast of Hawks & the other Falconers have arrived safe at Vienna.** I know not how it is with you in England but here it is more like March than May with showers of hail & snow & frost almost every night but in spite of wind & weather thank God I continue to enjoy the blessing of Health & that you & all friends do the same is the sincere wish of your much obliged & loving Brother

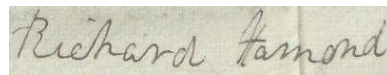


PS John Van Best begs his best respects.

Valkenswaard near Eindhoven Thursday May 18th 1837

My dearest Sarah

Your kind letter of the eight reached me on the thirteenth for which I return you my very best thanks. I am happy to say that I received the parcel safe & sound at last. M^{rs} Van Best is extremely well pleased with the shawl & begs to return her very very best thanks. I can assure you it is not ill bestowed as she is a very industrious kind good woman & John is very lucky in having such a wife. I have to return you mine also for the newspapers too but more especially for the Razors with which I have been shaved with for the first time this morning they went over my face like a feather. Remember me to old Davy & thank him for his good choice. By the blessing of God I am now in excellent health & intend on Monday next to start for Spa & that of the country & return by Mecklen when I shall be able to procure some Lace at the fountain head which I will not fail to do. My servant Christopher Mohr can read & understand English and English will not be of much use to him as he is Calvinist as are all the protestants in this neighbourhood except myself & he can always have use of one of mine when he wishes it. I shall not write to you again till my return from my travels when I will give you a full account of the whole so now believe me to remain ever your much obliged & loving Brother

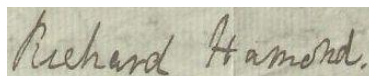


PS John Van Best begs his best respects.

Valkenswaard near Eindhoven Sep^{tr} 4th 1837

My dearest Sarah,

As it is such a long time since I have had the pleasure of hearing from you that I now take up my pen to tell you that I am still alive & enjoying the blessing of health thanks be to God for it. I have purchased some lace which I will send you as soon as meet with an opportunity of so doing. We have had fine weather for harvest which now nearly finished and proves a good crop. What they grow hereabouts is chiefly Rye & Buck Wheat some oats but little wheat or barley. They thrash the buck wheat on the ground in open air on the ground with eight or ten flails in a circle which we are going to do this afternoon, they bring it from the field to the place where they thrash it. **Two of the falconers have returned from Austria & preparing to catch Hawks to go there again so I hope & trust that noble sport will not drop tho that old foolish Lord at Didlington has given it up.** I do not stand in need of any newspapers at present but beg you will continue the penny reader & send it with the next packet. I hope this will find yourself & all friends in good health. I had nearly forgot to say that I have now possession of a piece of water of about twenty acres belonging to the Town so that I need not be in want of exercise & amusement. I think I have nothing more to say except my kind Love & best wishes to yourself & all friends & so no subscribe myself ever your much obliged & loving Brother.

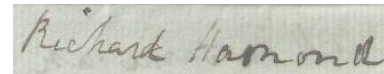


PS John Van Best & wife beg their best respects.

Valkenswaard October 1st 1837

My dearest Sarah

Your kind letter reached me yesterday which you may believe gave the greatest sorrow & anxiousness to hear that you have been so dangerously ill, but it also gave me great pleasure to find that you are now by the blessing of God & the attention & skill of S^r Charles Clark & my old friend joy you are now happily recovered. I am sorry you have lost my last letter but I will again relate my excursion which from hence to Holid, Tongres, Leige & Spa where I stopped a week from Spa to Leige again where I stopped a few days from thence to S^t Tround, Tirlemont Louvain & Mecklin at which place I happened to be at the very time that two trains of carriages passed each other on the railroad which was done with the same care as two carriages passing on a turnpike road. I purchased some Lace at Mechlin which I will send you the first opportunity. **James Bots is not coming to England this year as old Lord Berners has giving up the Hawking concern entirely.** It is not an English Gentleman but a dutch General by name Boral who has lent me some English newspapers but perhaps that source may likely fail so I wish you to send them on as usual. There is a Gentleman here by the name of D Hoy from Stoke by Nayland in Suffolk here in this village who perhaps will undertake to convey the lace for me. He will leave this place in about a fortnight & I shall ask him to take the trouble to do so. You have sent me the penny Sunday up to the end of the year 1836 & will thank you to send the explanation of the Liturgy as I think it must be a very edifying work. I am happy to say that by the blessing of God I continue to enjoy good health, that this will find you quite recovered & all friends well to who I beg my best love & wishes & believe to remain ever your much obliged & loving Brother



PS John Van Best & wife beg their best respects

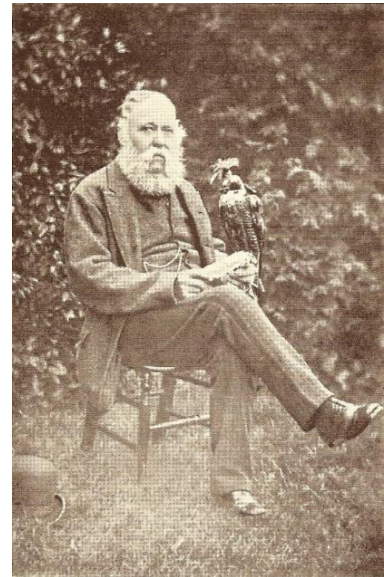
Valkenswaard Tuesday December 12th 1837

My dearest Sarah

Your kind letter dated 23rd reached one on the 29th for which & for the coursing meeting list I have to return you my very best thanks. I should have answered immediately but I would wait a few days in expectation of the arrival of the Newspapers which took place yesterday afternoon. I was in hopes that you would have eer this you would have been enabled to have acknowledged the receipt of a piece of Lace which I sent by M^r Hoy about two months back but since that I learnt that he has been very ill which most likely has caused its detention. I am extremely sorry that you were so unwell during the coursing meeting but hope & trust that eer this you are quite recovered. I see many names in the coursing list with which I am not at all acquainted but it is now so long since I left England that if was again to pay it a visit I should seem like a stranger in my native land. It appears that my nephew Anthony does not take any part or pleasure in the sport of coursing but is more occupied with his oues & his Boues but still whatever may be his amusements or pursuits still I sincerely wish him health & happiness. **James Botts is gone into France to make an engagement with a**

gentleman of Compagne I expect his return every day & hope he will succeed as he is now a widower with three young children. Pells & Mollen are going again into Austria with twenty Hawks when they join Glasscow Englishman where they are in service with an Austrian Prince not far from Vienna. By the blessing of God I continue to enjoy good health & I think my eye sight do not fail me much as I can see to read your letter at a yards distance without spectacles which I hope to be able to do your next & till then believe me to remain ever your much obliged & loving Brother

Richard Hamond



PS John Van Best begs his best respects

John Peels son of Jan Pells

Valkenswaard near Eindhoven Wednesday December 27th 1837

My dearest Sarah,

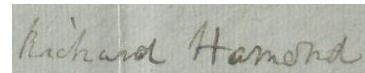
*It gives me great pleasure to inform you that your kind & beautiful present reached me safe & in excellent order tho not until the afternoon of Xmas day but better late than never which had a good chance of being the case as the people at the coach office could not make out the direction but luckily a friend of mine who lives in Eindhoven was aware of it's coming was there at its arrival cleared up the mystery & dispatched it off to me immediately. I made a present of one brace to the Heer Van Heeze another brace to General Borcel & a single bird to my friend at Eindhoven. The rest & the Turkey I kept for home consumption. I now return you my best thanks also to Elwes for his very kind letter & present of Books & tell him that eer long I shall trouble him with an Epistle. I suppose Portman Square will reach him safe without the number of the house. In return for my Pheasants General Borcel has sent me a haunch of Roe Buck to which I going to pay my best respects to at dinner today. **I think I mention in a former letter that James Botts had lost his wife & as misfortune never comes single since that he has lost his son, a nice little boy the eldest of three children. He himself is very well & begs his best respects & as he is engaged as Falconer with a gentleman In France & has his mother & sisters to take care of his children I hope he will go on well.** John Van Best his wife & family are all well & beg their best respects. I also continue to enjoy the blessing of health & that you & all friends do the same is the sincere wish of your much obliged & loving Brother*

Richard Hamond

Valkenswaard near Eindhoven July 26th 1838

My dearest Sarah,

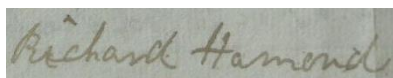
Your kind letter of the fifth of July came to me in due time but I deferred answering it until I should receive the newspapers which arrived safe last Monday evening for which I now take the earliest opportunity of returning you my very best thanks the newspapers are all correct also the other books. I am really glad to find that you were able to get such a good view of the procession & that you had sight of the young Queen which I should think far preferable to a place in the abbey. If I mistake not this is the day that the nuptials of M^r Barnaby & my niece Susan Elwes are to take place. I most sincerely wish them health & happiness & a long life to enjoy it. I intend drinking their healths in a good glass of wine this afternoon. I suppose that marriage will put off Elwe's visit to Aix la Chappall. I myself shall defer it until another year as my rheumatism is much better & the way on account of the difference between Belgium & Holland is twice the distance & moreover there is a great deal of trouble to procure passports. **James Bots & his brother are gone with Hawks to a noble Man at Compiene in France the other Falconers are expected home from Austria in a months time, Charles Stuart Wortley is about to try to obtain permission from the King of Holland to establish a falconry at Loo his residence in Gelderland where there is a very fine Heronry so there is now a prospect of that ancient & noble sport being again revived in spite of the beggarly cries of Diddlington.** John Van Best begs his best respects. I myself with kind love & best wishes to yourself & all friends remain every your much obliged & loving Brother.



Valkenswaard near Eindhoven October 2^d 1838

My dearest Sarah

Having been for sometime in expectation of hearing you and it now being the beginning of the month I will no longer delay taking up my pen to acquaint you a little with our goings on in this part of the world in the first place thanks be to God I continue to enjoy very good health But I am sorry to say that the youngest of John Van Bests three little girls who is now fourteen months old & hitherto been a very nice lively child was taken ill about three weeks ago & is now in such a precarious state that is not expected to continue long. **I think in my last mentioned that James Botts & his brother were gone with a cage of Hawks to Compaigne in France & what is very alarming & extraordinary there has been no tidings of them since tho their friends have written to them twice. The other party who are again going to Hungary are out catching Hawks but have not taken any as yet.** I suppose by this time the marriage in Elwes family is all settled & done with & that you are again living quietly at Swaffham. Pray don't be long before you answer this to give me an account of all your proceedings for some time past for my part I carry on the war much after the old sort very happily & quietly. I hope this will find you all in good health & believe me to remain with kind love & best wishes to yourself & all friends ever you much obliged & loving Brother.



Valkenswaard near Eindhoven December 3rd 1838

My dearest Sarah

Your kind letter written on the coursing list reached me on the 20th for which I have to give you my best thanks. I deferred answering it sooner that we might get into our old time of writing the first post day in the month. By the blessing of God I continue to enjoy good health & I presume you do the same as you keep fliting from place to place but probably you will now be stationary during the winter. I am extremely happy that my niece is so well married & that you and Elwes are on such friendly terms. Before you send off your Xmas presents you should send a letter of advice to M^r Smith the agent in Rotterdam saying what the parcel contains & the value of it.

James Botts & his Brother are returned safe & well from France & are engaged with the same gentleman to go to Loo in Holland in the Spring for Heron Hawking. Young Mollen & young Pells are going again into Austria. The noble old sport is again reviving as there are now upwards of fifty hawks in this place & both old & young are both high busy getting ready against the time. There are some English men engaged in the Hawking at Loo, namely Stuart Wortley, & Edward Clough Newcome of Hockwold Wilton.



Edward Clough Newcome

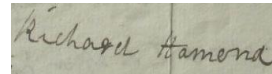
General Borcel has been travelling in Italy during this summer so that I have not had any newspapers from him, so I would thank you to send a good store of newspapers & some other food for the mind when you send the food for the body. I think I mentioned in my letter that John Van Best's youngest child was very ill & is since dead. John & his wife are very well & desire their best respects & believe me to remain with best love & wishes to yourself & all friends ever your much obliged & loving Brother.

Richard Hamond

Valkenswaard near Eindhoven Sunday 23rd December 1838

My dearest Sarah,

Your kind letter reached me on the 18th & the box of provender of which you gave me notice on the 19th all in such perfect order & condition as I never received them before nor is such quick time. I think your Epistle must have much pleased Mynheer Smith & I shall endeavour to do the same by sending a fine heath hare which he wishes to have. I sent one Brace of pheasants to Baron Van Thuyl & another to General Borcel but the latter were returned here having gone a trip to England & so after have done the genteel thing I am able to enjoy your beneficent present at my leisure. The old proverb says look not a gift Horse in the mouth but I make bold to ask why you have changed your breed of Turkeys for this which has now come to hand is not of that sort of old but as proof of pudding is in the spending. I will tell you of its merits here after as I intend having on my table on Christmas day with the ham & plum pudding old English jam. The mince pies baked in England & eaten in north Brabant are special good. I see by one of the Norfolk papers that Anthony's sister Almeria is married. I hope she may be happy if I write to Ewles I shall not forget what you say. Remember M^r Hindley to Anthony & wish him joy of his second son. I think if God Almighty spares my life some few years longer I shall be able to count up nephews & nieces & Grand nephews & nieces not a few. Give my best love to all of them & my other friends & believe me to remain in health & happiness at this. I trust will find you ever much obliged & loving Brother

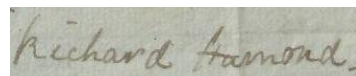


PS Expense of box ten shillings all paid

Valkenswaard Feb^y 24th 1839 Sunday

My dearest Sarah

Believe me not I was not a little pleased & surprised at the receipt of a package containing 8 fine pheasants books & newspapers which arrived very apropos on Valentines day & your kind letter reached me two days after for all of which I now return you my very best thanks. I should have written sooner but waited the arrival of the newspapers which you said you sent off with the letter there has now been three post days passed since that time & no tidings of it as yet. M^r Redhead whose death you mention I recollect perfectly well But the other person connected with Gurney's Bank I did not know. I expect this letter will reach you just at the conclusion of our Mart. We have had a long winter but not so severe as M^r Murphy talks of But now I hope it has given over that I may be able to resume my fishing operations. I think I mentioned to you that John Van Best had bought a piece of water containing upwards of twenty acres from which before the frosts set in I caught two pike about twenty pounds between them one forenoon. I see in one of the Norfolk papers Billy Coulcher mentioned as Clergyman at Longham has he got that living or is he only Curate who has got the property at Pensthorpe there is a living there alas tho without a church. The farm at Litcham in occupation of Daniel Grounds whose property is that now. Those two out of the way places I think would not be missed if they were handed over to Master Richard as there would be no difficulty in handing the rents over to him. I sincerely hope as the writer is taking his departure that your Rheumatism will leave you also and that you will be able to resume your gardening & other occupations in the Spring. I myself with kind love & best wishes to all friends ever your much obliged & loving Brother



PS John Van Best & wife beg their best respects.

Valkenswaard near Eindhoven April 8th 1839

My dearest Sarah,

I have been for some days rather in expectation of receiving a letter from you in answer to my last but as that has not taken place I now take up my pen to say that I continue to enjoy the blessing of health & hope & trust this will find you doing the same. The weather here continues very cold & harsh but Moon predicts a change for the better whether him & Murphy agree you will know best, **for some time past, there has been a gentleman here by the name of Clough Newcome a son of M^r Newcome of Hockwold Wilton & grandson by the mother's side of M^r Clough of Feltwell. He is a Captain in the West Norfolk Militia. He is now gone with James Botts & two other falconers to Loo a country seat of the King of Holland with the twenty two Hawks here they expect to have some good Heron hawking & to be met there by some gentleman from England & a nobleman from France where James Botts was last year so is also expected to be of the party. The place is about seventy miles from here & if I hear they have very good sport possibly I may go to have a peep at them. M^r Hoy is expected here in May I will also pay them a visit at Loo. I have read up all the newspapers so should find myself much obliged if you would send me a fresh supply & as I do not take so much out door amusement as I used to do I want you to forward me the works of Walter Scott & Lord Byron & you can apply to Frederick Lane for the amount of them. The particular newspaper which you said you sent by post has not yet arrived nor has some which M^r Newcome expected by the same conveyance. If you can find out any quick & certain way of sending once a week or once a fortnight the newspapers it would be very desirable if not let us continue our old plan. I now conclude with best respects & kind love to all friends & subscribe myself ever your much obliged & loving Brother.**

He is a Captain in the West Norfolk Militia. He is now gone with James Botts & two other falconers to Loo a country seat of the King of Holland with the twenty two Hawks here they expect to have some good Heron hawking & to be met there by some gentleman from England & a nobleman from France where James Botts was last year so is also expected



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Richard Hammond

PS John Van best & his wife beg their best respects

Valkenswaard Thursday May 23^d 1839

My dearest Sarah

Your kind letter reached me on the first of this month but I deferred answering it immediately in expectation of receiving the newspapers. At last I have received a single Norfolk one dated May 11th which reached me last Monday 20th the postage of which was only 3d for which I return you my best thanks & hope & trust I shall receive them regularly in future with respect to the other papers I must do as well as I can. I used to get an English newspaper Galignani's Messenger from General Borcel but since the Belgium business is settle he is gone to a distant part of the country. The old proverb of it is an ill wind that blows nobody good I am glad to find is exemplified in the case of poor Billy Coulcher & sincerely hope he may be able to get forward better than he has done. I am very sorry to find you have been so seriously & so long unwell but hope & trust that you will now get hearty & strong again. I myself thank god continue to enjoy the blessing of health. The weather as yet has not been very favourable for fishing having wet cold & blustering but still I have managed to get a dish for my table twice or thrice a week. But I am not able to take so much out door amusement as formerly. I am the more desirous of food for the mind so that the books you are about to send will be the more acceptable. I do not know of any thing more to say but with my best love & kind remembrance to all friends believe me to remain ever your much obliged & loving Brother.

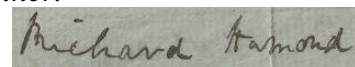


PS John Van Best & his wife beg their best respects.

Valkenswaard Sunday June 9th 1839

My dearest Sarah

Your kind letter of the 3^d reached me on the seventh for which I have to give you my very best thanks. I have received three Norfolk papers regularly every Monday and expect another tomorrow with regard to the London papers I would not have you give yourself much trouble about them tho as General Borcel has left this country I do not get any more English papers from him as for Walter Scot's prose works I should like to have them all not knowing what to select & the price not being so great & as I do not amuse myself out doors so much as formerly & I do not recollect having read any of them. I should like to see you scolding poor old Nephew after his walk to your house by way of a little refreshment for him. I received my half yearly remittance from Frederick Lane about a week back but he did say anything about the securities being placed in your hands if he has not done so tell him he has full authority from me & is to do. **I have heard that the falconers have had very good sport at Loo having taken about fifty herons.** I had some thoughts of paying them a visit but the weather being unfavourable I thought I would put off until another season which if God almighty spares my life & health till another I intend doing. I shall now conclude so with best wishes & Love to all friends believe me to remain your much obliged & loving Brother.



PS John Van Best & his wife beg their best respects.

Valkenswaard near Eindhoven Friday August 2^d 1839

My dearest Sarah

Your very kind letter of 25 of July reached me in due time giving me intelligence of your having sent off a package for me which arrived safe yesterday & for which I have to return you my very best thanks. You mention in your letter that as the Books were for private reading there would not be any duty on them but there was a duty charge of four shillings & eight pence & one pound two shilling carriage. The Norfolk paper which you sent me weekly has always arrived regularly. I am sorry to hear that your time in London has been so much engaged by the measles & other illness in the Elwes family but hope & trust that they will now all go on well & that you may be able to enjoy yourself in care & happiness at Swaffham. I am sorry to learn the death of Miss Lemon but everlasting won't forever last. You do not mention her age but I think she must reach a few years as by the blessing of God I now continue to enjoy my health so as to be able to amuse myself out of doors. I will not trouble you to send the London papers regularly but only a parcel now & then as it suits you as the Norfolk paper will be sufficient amusement with my other reading. I am glad that Frederick Lane placed the security for my money in your hands with regard to the two hundred pounds the sum received for the House at Lynn I thought it might as well continue in his hands as perhaps I may have occasion to draw it out without disturbing the rest. About a month back I placed my will in the hands of a notary royal by the name of Vander Heiden at Eindhoven the same who witnessed the signing of my affidavit of the House at Lynn which I was obliged to do according to a Law which came into force in October last in this country for which I have a receipt for. I hope will find you & all friends in Norfolk well to whom I beg to be kindly remembered & believe me to remain ever your much obliged & loving Brother.

Richard Hammond

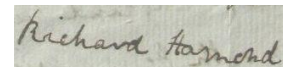
PS John Van Best & wife beg their best respects



Valkenswaard near Eindhoven Monday 18th October 1839

My dearest Sarah

I have been some time in expectation of receiving a letter from you in answer to my last but as it is now the middle of October I will now take up my pen to say that by the blessing of God I still enjoy good health. The weather here is very fine for the season & all the people are high busy in getting up their potatoes which is a crop of much care & consequence in this neighbourhood. **I think I told you in my last letter that Clough Newcome & accompanied by a young man from this place set sail for Norway to get some Gerfalcons, the young man has come back safe with three young Gerhawks & Newcome is gone to England but is expected here again in the course of a month. He is a nice young man & very lithe & active in anything he takes in hand. James Botts is now with M^r John Hall in Cambridgeshire but is expected back on the twenty fifth of this month all the other falconers are out catching Hawks as James Botts will want about thirty for his business & Adrian Mollen nearly as many to take into Austria so by Christmas I expect there will be above fifty hawks to be seen in this place.** I am glad to inform you that I receive the Norfolk paper & with my stack of other English Newspapers the weather continuing so fine I have not yet attacked Sir Walter Scott. I offered them to Baron Tuyll for his lady's perusal but he was much obliged to me & he was in possession of them himself. I have no news to tell from my side of the water but hope when you write again you will let me know all the family affairs on your side more especially about my Nephew Philip whether he has returned a Captain bold from Halifax or not. Now with kind Love & best wishes to your self & all friends believe me to remain ever your much obliged & loving Brother.

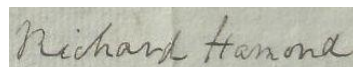


PS John Van Best & his wife who has now another daughter desire their best respects.

Valkenswaard near Eindhoven Jan^y 6th 1840

My dearest Sarah

I now take up my pen to acknowledge the receipt of two kind letters from you one dated Colesborne the other Swaffham which reached me on Saturday morning giving me the intelligence that the grand Sultan with his suite had set off on his journey to the Netherlands & was a little surprised at his arrival yesterday evening in perfect order of condition for all which I now return you my very very best thanks. I have sent a brace of pheasants to Baron Van Tuyll at Heize the remainder of your kind present I intend keeping for home consumption. You inform me in your former letter that our Nephew Henry Elwes has been paying a visit to our Nephew Philip Hamond in Canada but that he did not appear in good health. I sincerely hope that he may get leave of absence & recover his health in the old world. Of the Norfolk which you say you have regularly sent there are two missing namely 3625 & 3626. M^r Edward Clough & M^r Dennison who have been staying here for some time have left this place on a tour into Germany. The former who is a great sportsman in every respect has had his boat & Gun with him & has done a good deal of execution among the wild Ducks & Geese in this neighbourhood not a few of which have graced my table for we very intimate he spending many a winter evening with me playing at domino a game of which we used to have at High House & probably is there still. I am happy to say I continue to enjoy the blessing of health & that you & all friends do the same is the sincere wish of your ever much obliged & loving Brother.

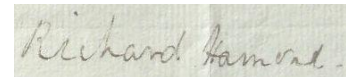


PS John Van Best & wife beg their best respects

Tuesday April 28th 1840

My dearest Sarah

Your kind letter dated the thirteenth I received on the twenty second for which I have to return you my very best thanks. I am sorry to find that you have been unwell but am glad that you are now better & hope if the weather continues as it now is you will be quite pert against May fair. Your account of Anthony's health gives me much uneasiness I should recommend if my option has any weight should advise him a trip to Jersey as a sea voyage with a change of air & scene together with the advice of his old medical man may set him alright which I sincerely hope it may do. With respect to the Lace I have already ordered it & expect to be able to send it by **James Botts who I believe intends going to England when he has finished hawking at Loo.** If not I will apply to **M^r Newcome** from whom I expect to hear in the course of a few days. I am sorry that you give such a bad account of poor M^r Joy but the old proverb is verified in him what is born in the bone will never go out of the flesh. Old George Spurgeon of Walton was his Uncle & he was a very hard drinking man. With regard to the newspapers I would wish you send them once a month & then by the charge which is made we shall be able to learn which is the better & cheapest way. I have this day received the Norfolk papers which hope you will continue to send as usual. So now believe me to remain with best love & wishes to all friends ever your obliged & loving Brother.



PS John Van Best & his wife beg their best respects



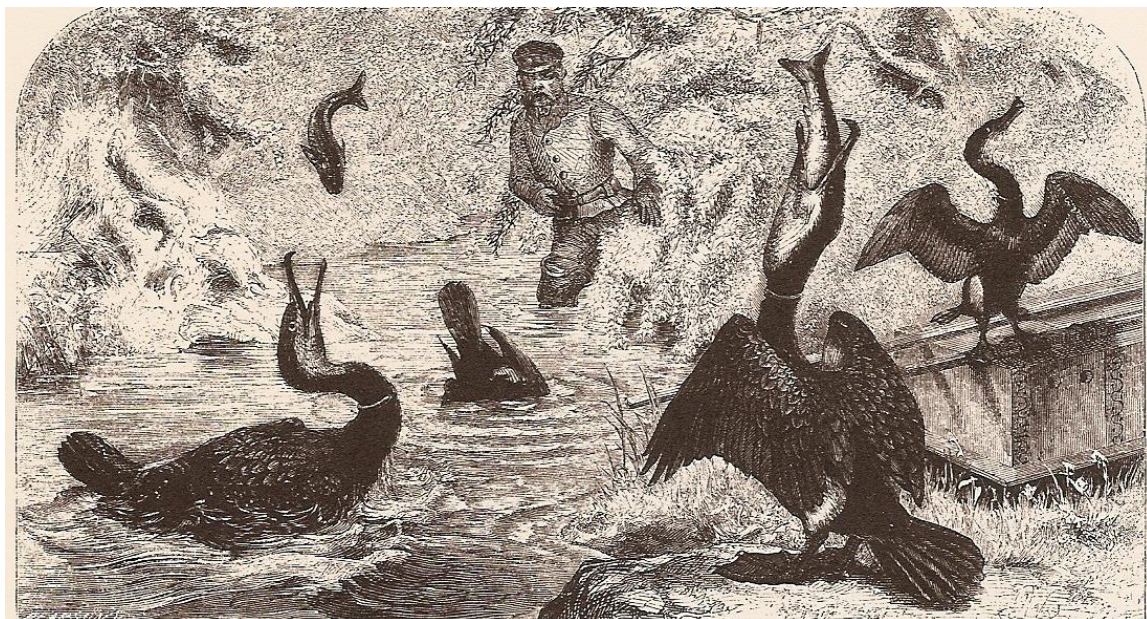
The Loo Palace

Loo in Ghelderland Tuesday July 9th 1840

My dearest Sarah,

Altho I am at present a distance from Valkenswaard I do not forget the time of writing to my dear sister so I now say that I arrived at this place on Saturday last where the falconers now are with their Hawks. We went out yesterday we had five flights & took four Herons, two flights very capitol ones. We were going out again today if the weather permit but at present it is rather windy with frequent showers. Clough Newcome, Sir Charles Stuart Wortley and some French men are here at present one of the young dutch princes has been here. This village almost surrounds the King's palace beyond which is open heath & a very large heronry with plenty of herons. Newcome has got some tame Cormorants & we are going a fishing with them on the king's park when the weather is favourable namely calm & fair. I procured two pieces of superior mechlin lace for you one of ten the other of twelve yards I brought with me here to send by either Newcome or James Bots but neither of them are going to England at present. But Sir Stuart Wortley & his Lady are going there in about a fortnight & her waiting woman named Holland is so kind to take the charge of it to London & forward to you by the Swaffam coach thereupon I hope & trust it will reach you safe & pray worthy of your acceptance. We viz myself John Van Best & my servant Christopher Park expect to finish our tour and reach Valkenswaard in about a fortnight hence & I hope to find all well there as we are here at present so now believe me to remain every your much obliged and loving brother.

Richard Hamond



Valkenswaard December 1st 1840

My dearest Sarah

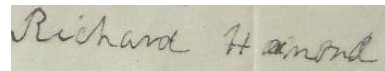
Your kind letter dated the 16th of November reached me safe on the 22^d having escaped the vigilant eye of the post office. I am glad that you had such good sport at the coursing meeting. I am happy to find that Anthony received benefit from his tour. I recommend him to repeat the dose next year & give me timely notice of his intention & I hope by the blessing of God to give him a hearty welcome. **M^r Clough Newcome** is still here. He comes to me every evening to play at domino & frequently accompanied by some wild fowl as he is a great shot & has a boat & a gun for that purpose. Don't suppose we are great gamblers as our stake does not exceed two cents which is not a halfpenny English a game. I receive the Norfolk papers regular except that you sent the twenty fourth of October two weeks following. I am happy to say I continue to enjoy the blessing of health & that you & all friends do the same is the sincere wish of your much obliged & loving Brother.



Valkenswaard December 21st Monday

My dearest Sarah,

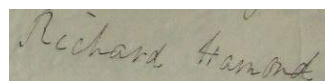
I am happy to answer your kind letter informing me that you had sent off your kind Christmas present which I received all right & in good order yesterday for which I now return you my very best thanks. I will almost directly send M^r Smith a brace of Hares thanking him for his attention. I sent off one brace to Baron Van Tuyll as usual who is at present at the Hague. **Clough Newcome left this place for England about a fortnight since with a young man from this place as Falconer for himself.** By the blessing of God I continue to enjoy knife & fork with the good things now in my house. With kind love & best wishes to all friends. I remain ever your loving Brother.



Valkenswaard Eindhoven March 1st 1841

My dearest Sarah

Having waited with great patience in expectation of hearing from you I now take up my pen to say that by the blessing of God I continue to enjoy good health which I hope this will find you doing the same. We have had a very long & severe winter here from November until now for it is a sharp frost today. **The falconers are getting on very well with their Hawks & expect to show some good sport at Loo.** I am in hopes to be able to go there & should be very glad if some of my lazy relations would stir their stumps & meet me there. Tell the Canadian it will be only a morning trip for him. Don't fail to write to me soon & let me know your going on since I last heard from you so now believe me to remain with best Love to yourself & all friends ever your loving & much obliged Brother.

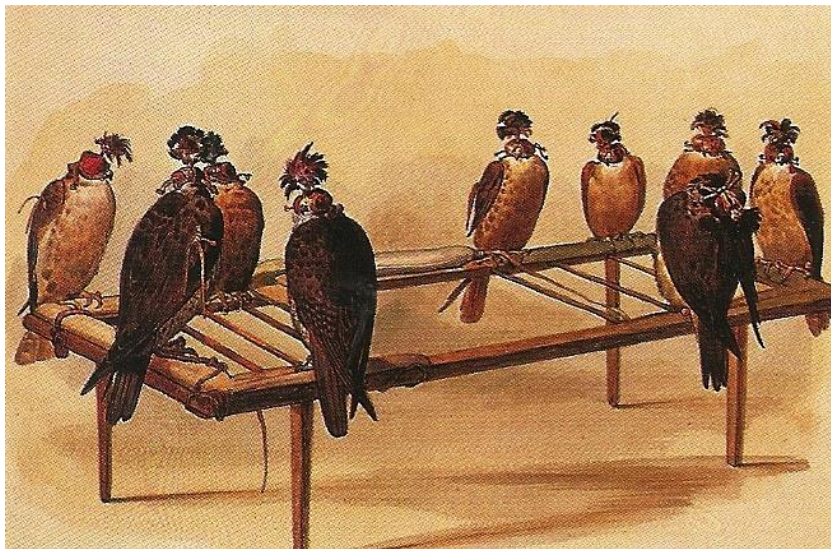


PS John Van Best & his wife beg their best respects

Valkenswaard Sunday April 4th 1841

My dearest Sarah

I now take up my pen to do what I believe I never did before that is to answer two of your kind letters at once. The package which you have been so kind as to send I received safe last Friday the Exciseman had put his claws in it but did not discover the dressing tape otherwise I suppose I should have stood a chance of losing it. When you are so kind as to send any thing in future to mention the contents & its value to M^r Smith as the duty is so small that it is not worth while risking them. **I expect by this time the falconers are all arrived at Loo.** The weather here is much the same as you have in England cold showery & frost by night. Your old servant Dodman whose death you mention I did not know as Mifs Rye was your School Mistris when I left England. All my relations seem to be flitting about from place to place. I myself continue stationary here possibly **I may make take a trip to see a little of the Hawking** or to Aix la Chapelle. Thank God I continue to enjoy good health but do not grow younger. I hope this find the same & with my very best thanks for all your kindness believe me to remain ever your loving Brother.

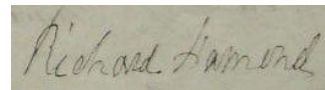


At the age of 67, Richard Hamond's health started to deteriorate. In particular he was suffering from Rheumatism and was not able to write letter himself. The duty of letter writing fell upon John Van Best who was able to write English incredibly well. The remaining letters below, from Richard are all written by John.

Valkenswaard June 6th 1841

My dearest Sarah

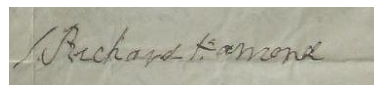
Your kind letter of 27th of last month reached me on the 3rd of June for which I now return you my kindest thanks. I hope this will find you quite recovered from your illness. I myself have been very unwell for the last three weeks but thank God now almost quite recovered. I applied to the fountain head at first, namely Doctor Raupp who is reckoned the cleverest Medical man in this neighbourhood, my complaint was almost the same as yours which I believe you call the Influenza. Who you mean by Robert Nicholas I do not know. stuttering Bob who went to Sea I know very well but I did not know he was married. You say my two nephews John Henry and Robert Elwes are going abroad and possibly may travel in my part of the country. If they think it worth a while to take a peep at their old Uncle Dick he will be very happy to see them. The Norfolk papers I have received regularly and I would feel obliged if you would have the kindness to send a package of London papers and in which you may include the Sunday readers and also an English Ainsworth Dictionary such as are commonly used in Schools. **All the falconers eight in number with 50 Hawks are now at Loo in Gelderland and not any I believe are going in to England.** I have nothing more to say at present so believe me with best love & wishes to your self and all friends your ever much obliged and loving Brother



Valkenswaard 28th of June 1841

My dearest Sarah

Your kind letter arrived safe yesterday. I am very sorry you are vexed that I did not write with my own hand but I am now so little in the habit of writing that I can not write quick nor well enough to please my self, so I thought it better to employ John Van Best, as there is nothing in our correspondence that need be concealed from him. I am now thank God pretty near recovered from my illness, but still a good deal troubled with the rheumatic gout in consequence of which I can not take so much exercise as I used to do but I have procured a sort of vehicle in which I can be drawn about to take the air and exercise. I have read the speech of my Nephew Anthony in one of the Norfolk papers which I think was a very good one. You say I have now some time to read the Bible. I have long daily read the day of the month, and the lessons of the day which I still continue. I shall direct this to Portman square where I hope it will (find) you quite recovered, and all friends there well, to who I beg my best love and believe me ever to remain your much obliged and loving brother.



PS I saw a paragraph in the paper concerning John Scales, let me know whether he is yet in the land of the living or not. John Van Best desires his best respects.

Valkenswaard 25th July 1841

My dearest Sarah

Your kind letter reached me on the twelfth and brought me the tidings you had despatched a parcel with newspapers and books which had very near been returned to England because you forgot to direct Valkenswaard on it, and do not spell John's name properly for you wrote Van Berst which should be Van Best. We found out the parcel was laying at Eyndhoven and so did send for it directly but the man there had already returned to Rotterdam, who then wrote to Mr Smith the agent at Rotterdam who had just time to prevent it being returned to England. It is however now come safe to hand & its contents correct for which I return you my best thanks. The Norfolk paper I did not yet stir much about. I spoke to the Doctor about the medicine you mentioned but he says I do not want any strengthening physic as I am in good health but very much troubled with rheumatic gout and Cramp in my leggs and feet. The Dictionary you was kind enough to send is not the one I meant, for I meant an English Dictionary published I believe by Entick and is a book very commonly used in Schools in England and does I think give an explanation of the words, and has a list of man & woman's Christian names. **The falconers are now all returned from Loo, but not any going into England. James Bots & one of his under falconers are gone to Norway to catch gerfalcons. Mr Newcome is here again and I believe intends to stop some time as he is getting his great gun & Boat in a different style to what it was, there being a good many Ducks in the ponds about here and he expects to have some good sport. I have nothing more to say so hoping this may find you and all friends well to who I beg my love and best respects. I remain ever your much obliged and loving Brother.**

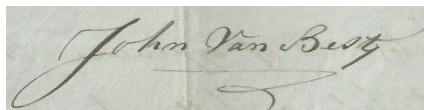


Valkenswaard Saturday August the 21st 1841

Madam,

As Mr Richard Hamond is not able to write at present, and more over is hardly well enough to dictate a letter, I feel it my duty to direct this line to you, to say, that he is still suffering badly from gout and rumatism in consequence of which he has lost almost quite the use of his legs and arms. His appetite too beginning to fail him, and I am sorry to say the Doctor is of opinion that, should his illness not take a better turn, he can not live much longer. I still hope he may be mistaken and that God almighty in his mercy may restore him yet to better health. I take this opportunity to assure you Madam that he is waited upon in every respect in a proper manner by my self and his three Servants, that all his wishes are complied with, and that I leave nothing undone or untried that may contribute to his comfort and ease. He is dayly visited by Mr Clough Newcome who is staying at this place, and is duly attended to by an eminent Doctor who lives only five miles from this place.

Sunday morning 22nd Mr Hamond has had a good nights rest and says he feels a good deal better this morning. In hopes that he may continue to recover I remain with kind respect
Madam your obedient Servant.



Valkenswaard the 26th August 1841

Madam,

I am happy to say Mr Hamond is a vast deal better, the Doctor says his illness has taken a favourable turn. Sincerely hoping he may continue to be on the mending hand. I remain
Madam your obedient Servant.

Madam.

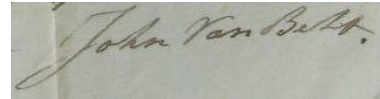
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is a vast deal better, the Doctor says
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Sincerely hoping he may continue to
be on the mending hand I remain
Madam your obedient Servant
John van Best

Valkenswaard the 26th August 1841

Valkenswaard 6th September 1841

Madam

A second letter containing the happy intelligence that Mr Hamond is better has I suppose reached you before this. Yesterday I have received yours which I perused and then took it to Mr Hamond who, although he was well enough to read himself, ordered me to read it to him, I did so, and it caused both Him and myself rather a troubled sensation. You need not be anxious about his care, with regard to religious duties, for I believe not one day, in twenty years that I have been his constant companion, has passed, without his reading the Bible & prayer book twice a day regularly. Mr Hamond is dayly visited whilst being ill by the protestant parson from this place and more over is well aware of his present State, for often he will say to me, John, I am worn up but I can not live for ever, although very slowly, Mr Hamond is still on the mending hand, and is able to sit up at least ten or twelve hours in the day. I am sorry to say that he has to suffer so much pain from the gout, and a sore or open place in each foot. Believe he suffers from what the doctor call Hemorrhoids or piles as Mr Hamond calls it and his voice or tune of speech is altered a little being feeble, and difficult to be understood for all this Madam Mr Hamond is not low spirited or Cast Down, for dayly he plays at the game called Domino's with old Frank Van Den, A Bots, his servants and my self who all understand to talk English, and many a tale he will then tell yet. The Doctor who was here on Saturday last found Mr Hamond better and said, that although he did not think Mr Hamond would quite recover he trusted however that he might get better and do middling well. Sincerely hoping that it may please God, this to be the case, I remain Madam your most obedient Servant.




Mr Newcome from Hockwold Wilton has left this place for England.

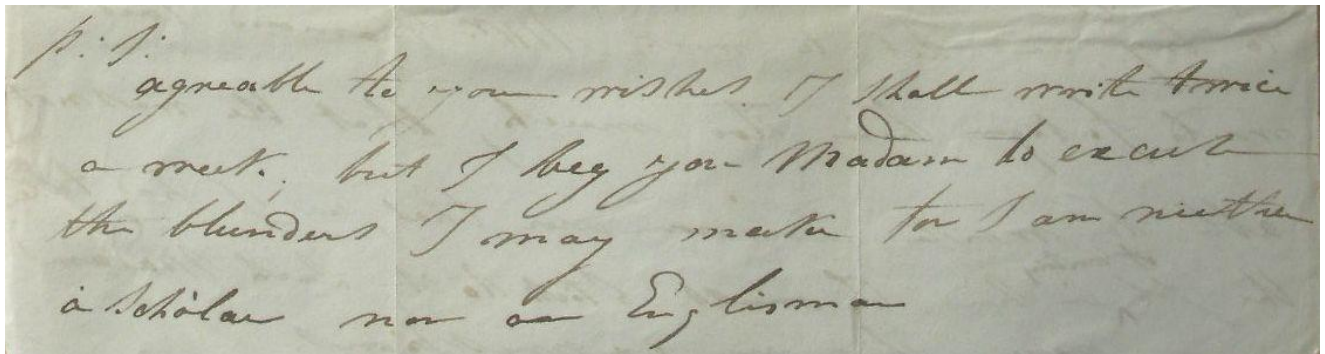
Valkenswaard September the 9th 1841

Madam

Your letter dated second September reached me on the 7th and today being our foreign post day I lost no time by again directing this to you, today that I did hand over your letter to Mr Hamond who did read it himself & who I am happy to say is still improving. Yesterday afternoon I did put him in mind of writing, & told him how extremely glad, you said, you should be, to see his own handwriting again, but I could not persuade him to try and set to work. Mr Hamond said it would fatigue him too much, that he was not able to write and more over that, as I had taken the job of writing in hand, I must stick to it. Such Madam were his own expressions. I have this morning asked Mr Hamond what he wished to have me say to his Sister, when he told me to say he would be very happy to see his dear Sister and his Nephew Anthony Hamond, that he was a great deal better, and not ill in body at all, but did not expect to get young again, and that I should not forget his very kind & best wishes to his Sister, Mr Anthony Hamond and all friends.

The Doctor has not been here since last Saturday, but will come and see Mr Hamond this afternoon, in hopes that I shall be able to give a further better account in my next I remain with respect Madam your very obedient Servant





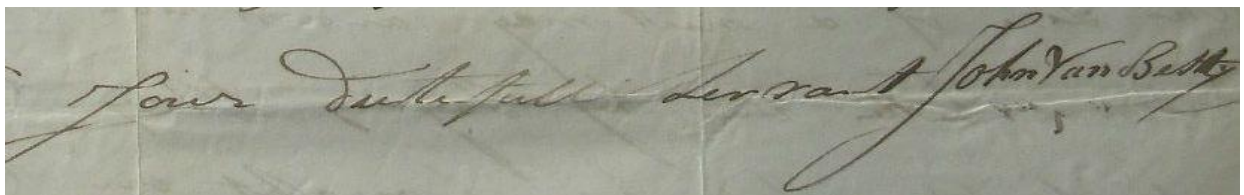
P.S. Agreeable to your wishes I shall write twice
a week, but I beg you Madam to excuse
the blunders I may make for I am neither
a Scholar nor an Englishman

P.S: Agreeable to your wishes I shall write twice a week but I beg you Madam to excuse the blunders I may make for I am neither a Scholar nor an Englishman

Valkenswaard Monday 13th of September 1841

Madam

It is with real content that I am able to give a further good account of Mr Hamond's health. He is now improving gradually, & the Doctor, who was here on Thursday last said that he entertained great hopes that Mr Hamond would soon be almost as well as ever, about three weeks ago, at this time Mr Hamond's illness was come to a crisis, he had on his knees and feet some seven or eight blains, some of which were the size of a nutmeg, and which I can not describe better than by saying they looked just as if they had been brought on by scalding the places with boiling water, the Doctor told me this blains were symptoms that indicated bad consequences but all have since then to have disappeared. His feet very near healed up again & on the whole is as well as can be expected. I of course appraised Mr Hamond of my intention to write to you, when he told me to present his very kind respects to his dear Sister, and to say, that he hoped to be able again in a short time to write himself. I forgot to say Mr Hamond is able to sit up from morning till night and amuse himself by reading and playing at Domino's. Sincerely hoping that God in his endless bounty will still further increase his strength and bestow on him the blessing of health. I remain Madam your dutiful Servant.



Your Dutiful Servant John Van Bette

Valkenswaard 19th September 1841

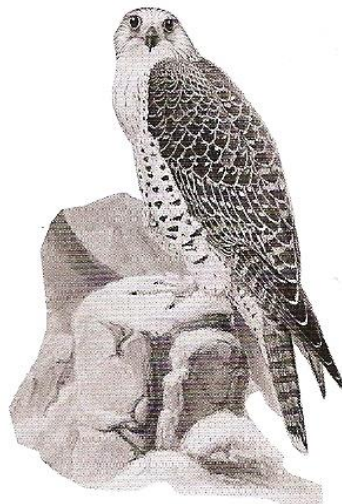
My dearest Sarah

I received your kind letter yesterday, and take the earliest opportunity of answering it. I am happy to say I continue mending, & hope in a short time to be quite restored again. I must consider that old people like my self do not recover so quick as young people. The Doctor was here on Friday the day after my Nephew Anthony left me, and said he found me much improved. I expect him again tomorrow or the day after & then will give you a further account. I was not a little pleased and surprised at the unexpected arrival of my Nephew Anthony who passed a couple of days with me, and appears to me to be a straight forward well meaning young man. One would little suppose that he was the father of a family of eight or nine children. He said he must come & see me again and that my Nephew Philip must pay me a visit next Spring when I shall be very happy to see him. If you dare brave the ocean and come over to see me I recommend you to come in the Spring & then, if I am well and able we may take a tour in Holland together where you may see flowers to your hearts content. I like the patern flannel you send very much and shall be much obliged if you send some either made up or not as you think best. I thank you also to send me a red Book or Court Calendar for things are so changed in England that I don't know Lords from Ladies without a directory.

James Bots and his companion arrived from Norway yesterday evening with four gerfalcons and five ger tiercals which will be no small acquisition to the falconers establishment at Loo. I have nothing more to say at present, but my best love and respects to you and all friends and believe me to remain ever your much obliged and loving Brother.



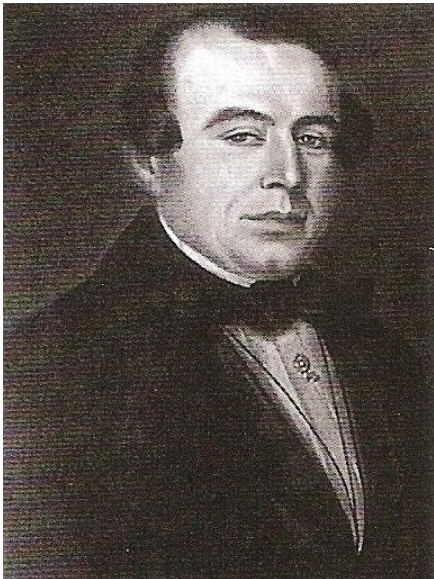
*PS John Van Best & his wife beg their best respects
I endeavoured to sign my name but I could not do it.*



Valkenswaard 26th September 1841

Madam

I have duly received your letter dated 20th September & before this reaches you I trust you will have received a letter dictated by Mr Hamond himself out of which, & by the return of Mr Anthony Hamond you will learn, that your beloved Brother is considerably better. The Doctor payed him a visit last Monday & also yesterday and said he found Mr Hamond quite well, and that, if it was not for his legs & arms, in which he has one thought and still suffer from cramps etc. He wants to be as well again as ever, as to his being able to write again the Doctor entertained little hopes. I shall now give you a little account how Mr Rich^d Hamond passes his time, he generally rises about seven or eight in the morning, breakfasts at nine and then takes the Bible and pray book and reads for a half hour or more. **Between ten and eleven the falconers come and pay their visits to him**, and about eleven takes a glass of grog hot gin and water with some ginger bread, after which he reads books & newspapers till two o'clock which is the hour of dinner, during which either my wife or my self constantly wait upon him and feed him for he is not able to handle the knife and fork.



Frank van den Heuvel

After dinner or about four o'clock, then comes, what Mr Hamond calls his Squadrons, namely old Frank van den Heuvel and some of the other falconers, to play at Domino's and talk which lasts till about seven in the evening at which time Mr Hamond takes his tea reads the prayers again, takes a glass of grog and about nine goes to bed.

Monday morning 9th October

The above I wrote on Sunday the 26 to be sealed & send of the following morning when I was suddenly taken ill. I am thank God getting better, but not able to write much, so I will only say that the old Esquire is quite well and has received your letter dated September 27th. Hoping this will find you well I remain ever your dutiful Servant.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John van Beldt". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right. The signature is written on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

Valkenswaard 10th October 1841

My dearest Sarah,

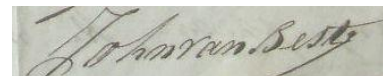
Your kind letter of the 27th September mentioning the safe return of my nephew Anthony reached me in due time. I am happy to say I am pretty well but can not take any bodily exercise and therefore must wish you to send the bath chair as soon as you can. I thank you also to send some flannel as we cannot procure such in the country. I rather have it not made up, as then I can use it as I think best, in the latter end of this month I expect my half yearly remittance from Fred^k Lane and as I am not able to sign my name as I ought to do I wish you to tell him to put John Van Best his name on the Bill instead of mine so that his signature will do. You talked of deferring your visit to me until after the equinoxial gales, in which I think you are very right, as then you will have an opportunity to see the different productions of this country. I am sorry that John Masters has left you and perhaps by this time he is of the same opinion. Do you think that I have been too long out of England as to forget the meaning of the word emmanuensis. I still think and believe that I understand the English language as well as all the Swaffam cholastics put together. My emmanuensis has been very unwell for the last fourthnight. I am happy he is getting better and desires his best respects. So now believe me with best respects and kind love to your self and all friends ever your much obliged and loving Brother.



Valkenswaard 1st November 1841

Madam

I am afraid you will think me very negligent for not writing soon, but as, thank God, Mr Hamond is still doing tolerably well, I thought I might defer a little longer, the more so, because I am not yet quite recovered my self. Although Mr Hamond is now in good Health, has a good appetite, and looks remarkably well in his features, he still suffers from rumatism and cramp particularly in his legs in consequence of which he is obliged constantly to sit or lay, he never however takes to the bed during the day and seems in spite of all, very cheerful, and to bear all very patiently. Last Saturday the Doctor payed him a visit, and although Mr Hamond had not, for the last fourthnight, taken any physic, he will again, according the Doctors advice to take some solace, if possible. His pains, which and his old complaint, the piles, is all he complains of. Mr Hamond has duly received your letter of the October, and tells me he will wait to answer it until the Bath chair arrives which I hope will be soon, as the weather is now very fine here so that it will be very useful for him to take the air in. **Mr Newcome** is again staying at this place and does a good deal of execution in shooting wild fowl, of which Mr Hamond's table is liberally supplied. He also pays his dayly visits to Mr Hamond, and generally keeps company with him for a couple of hours in the evening to play at Domino's which Mr Hamond enjoys very much. hoping he may still improve and if please God get a little better about his leggs. I remain Madam yours faithfully



Valkenswaard 2^d November 1841

My dearest Sarah,

Your two kind letters one dated 20 the other 28 of October reached me safe, for which I now return you my best thanks. I have delayed writing until the arrival of the Bath Chair which with the flannel and newspapers is now come safe to hand and I fully approve of it and hope and trust it will be both useful and agreeable to me. In my opinion it is a good piece of workmanship, to who I am to thank for it, you or Anthony I know not but in your next letter you may tell me the cost of it, perhaps you are not aware that there is a duty on flannel but wether or not, you packed it up so well that it escaped the vigilance of the excise man, although they had opened the box. The duty on the chair was twenty shillings and four pence, and the carriage up to Bois le Vue £3 2s 0d and from Bois le Vue to Valkenswaard 7 shilling making all together £3 9s 0d. I have duly received my half years interest from Fred^k Lane and he wishes me to send my Will to him which is still in the hands or under the care of a public notary at Eyndhoven but I have a copy which is worded the same, though the sums are not specified in it, and I can send this to you that you may enquire of a professional man wether it is properly drawn up, as I see no reason why it should gratify Fred Lane's curiosity. Suppose we defer all this about the Will until you pay me a visit and then we can settle all things according to you and my wishes.

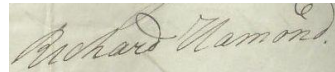
I am happy to say I am very well in Health but a great deal troubled with the rumatism & I hope by airing and exercising in the Bath Chair will relieve me. Hoping this will find you and all friends well to whom I beg my best respects and remain your much obliged & loving Brother.



Valkenswaard 29 December 1841

My dearest Sarah

I have received your kind letter of the 16th of this month on Xmas day for which I return you my very best thanks and also for the Coursing list which I have duly received. I am happy to say I am doing very well but the weather here has been so changeable & uncertain that I dare not venture to take any excursions on my bath chair. My Doctor has seen it and approved of it very much, and he ought to be a Judge as he makes all his visits which are neither few or short in a phaeton. **Mr Newcome** is going to leave us in the course of a week and I shall take that opportunity to send you a copy of my Will, which you may have examined whether it is correct. The original is still under Seal of a public notary at Eyndhoven of who I have an acknowledgement for it. The copy I send you is written by an English School master living fourteen miles from hence for my Will was first written in Dutch, and this man translates it. The sums are only specified in the original. I am very sorry to hear such a sad account of my nephew Elwes, but let us hope he will arrive at home safe & sound. You say Anthony has had a bad fall. I hope it will not turn out serious, it may have spoiled his good looks a little, but consider he is a married man, and he is not the only man in Norfolk who has had a fall in rabbit holes to wit your loving Brother Richard who had more than one. I have had some of the flannel made up both for waist coats & drawers and I like them very much. I did not think you could procure such materials at Swaffam. I now conclude with best respects and love to all friends ever your much obliged and loving brother.

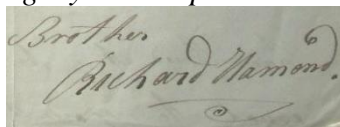


John Van Best & wife beg their best respects and they are both doing well

Valkenswaard 19th January 1842

My dearest Sarah

Your very kind Xmas present reached me safe and in most excellent order on Sunday last for which I return you my very best thanks as usual. I have sent a brace to Baron Van Tuyall at Heare who in return has sent me a white cock turkey, but in condition not to be compared with the one from you as there is none, in my opinion equal to the yankee breed. I am glad to hear my nephew Anthony is recovered from the effects of his fall and also that John Henry Elwes has got well from his illness and hope he will soon return home to give you an account of his Turkish travels. I have the receipt for curing Hams, and have read it, but we are not able to make them equal to yours, another year we mean to try a smaller breed of pigs. We have had a good deal of winter weather for the last month so that I have not been able to take an airing in my Coursing, but now as the thaw has begun I hope we shall have some milder weather that I may able to try. The Norfolk papers I receive regularly so hope you will continue to send them and the London papers in packages, one in three months. I read the little book about the Brandy and Salt, as a cure for rumatism and I have a good mind to try it, so thats by the blessing of God I may meet you in the Spring as fresh as a four year old and gallop through the Dutchman's flowers to his great consternation. I hope this will find you and all friends well to who I beg my best respects and remain your much obliged & loving brother.

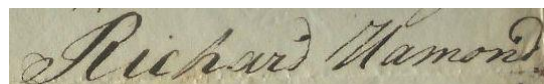
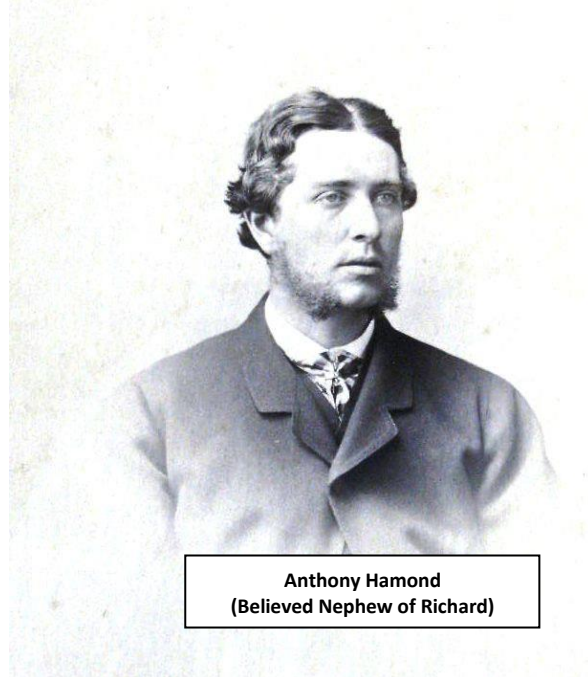


John Van Best & wife beg their best respect

Valkenswaard 22^d of May 1842

My dearest Sarah

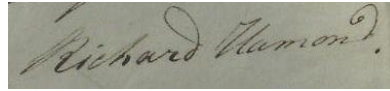
Your kind letter dated 16th May reached me yesterday and I have taken the earliest opportunity to answer it. With regard to the brandy & salt I must tell you, that, the little book you sent me prescribed to take it inwardly for such a complaint as mine, which I have accordingly done for the last two or 3 months, and if it has not done me any good or my rumatism it has kept my body open, which I believe is very necessary in my present situation, as I could not have done so without taking other medicines as I have not been able to take any exercise. I now however go out every day in my bath chair, weather permitting which I find very pleasant and good, and moreover as it enable me to enjoy my meals and sleep. I approve of the bath chair my self in every respect & other people who are Judges in those matters say it is a very complete piece of meccanism and I hope, as the weather is now getting fine you will shake off your winter complaints and come and be a Judge of it your self. I must tell you that John's wife is in the family way, and expects to be confined about the latter end of June and I hope that this business will all be over before you come, as all things here, are under her management. I hope my Nephew Anthony is recovered from the effects of his fall and tell him to bear in mind, that the Ox should not imitate the frog nor the frog the Ox like Esop's fables. I hope my nephew Philip is now quite well and able to go to the **Hawking at Loo** and pay me a visit all under one. It is very curious, at the very time that I received your letter saying that my nephew John Henry Elwes wrote from Mount Sinai that I was reading about the same place in the penny magazine, 1840 and 1841 which I wish you would be so kind as to send me, when you send in package of Newspapers. I am sorry you give such a bad account of poor Billy Coucher. If you and some friends would form some plan to assist him I would willingly join you on account of my long friendship with his father and family. I have now no more to say but my best love and respects to you and all friends and believe me to remain your obliged and loving Brother.



Valkenswaard Sunday the 26th June 1842

My dearest Sarah,

I have delayed writing to you in expectation of hearing from you but will now not delay any longer. I have not much news to say, but that John Van Best's wife has presented him with two little sons On Monday the 20th last and I am glad to say that the mother and children are all going on very well and I expect that all things will be in order against the time you propose coming. I thank you to give me notice of the time you think of arriving here, so that I may be on the look out, and perhaps meet you a little part of the way in my carriage you was so kind as to send me and in which I take my daily airings when the weather suits. **The falconers have had a good sport at Loo the party of old Frank and A. Mollen have taken upwards of ninety Herons and the other party of which James Bots is the head have taken about fifty. They are expected home in about a month.** I am happy to say I am doing well and that you and all friends, to who I beg my best respects may do the same is the sincere wish of your much obliged & loving Brother.



John Van Best and his wife desire their best respects

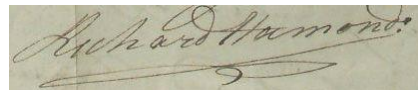


Adrian Mollen

Valkenswaard 12th November 1842

My dearest Sarah

I now sit down to answer three of your kind letters, which I deferred doing on account of being in daily expectation of the arrival of the easy chair, & which did not arrive until last Thursday the 10, everything was in it according to the list safe and sound, for which I return you my very best thanks. The box was not forwarded by Mr Smith but by an A.J. Preston of Rotterdam, and they were a fourthnight coming from that place to Valkenswaard. In the middle of October we had send a brace of Hares to Mr Smith to make him be on the look out, how the Box came in this Preston's hands I don't know, but I desire you in future always to direct them to the care of Mr Smith. I very much approve of the Easy Chair and air cushions, and I expect they will be a great comfort to me. The Macintosh of James fitted him well and have also given him the ointment and a pencil for which he is much obliged to you. Stephen returns his thanks for the book, and John and his wife also for the for get me not and the water proof articles. All things are perfectly well approved of. We shall not use any of the medicines until you give further directions, as by the blessing of God I continue much as usual and John is able very well now. In your letter of 22 September you mentioned that you intended to get a volume of Latham's works. If you approve of them I wish you would buy them for me. I don't know that I have any thing more to say at present so believe me with best love and respects to all friends ever your much obliged and loving brother.



John & his wife desire their best respects to Madam Hamond and also to Mrs West.

Valkenswaard 18th December 1842

Madam,

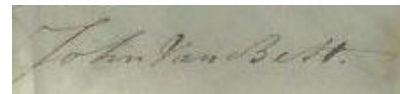
I am afraid you will think me very neglectful, for having so long deferred writing, but I assure you it takes me a good while to build an English letter and hope that you will therefore pardon my negligence. I will now in the first place inform you that the old Esquire is doing as well as can be expected and looks particularly healthy. He still however suffers from rumatism and although he has, according your directions, rubbed his hands now and then, that he might again get a little use of them, we find then, I am sorry to say, not to become any better. He will however still continue your advice. Agreeable to your wishes we burn Spermacity Candles in his room, and I have lately ordered some wax candles from Amsterdam in order to try which are the best and cheapest. The Dutch Gentleman whom I said to you was coming to shoot at this place, has been here, and I have asked him about the Notaries at the Hague, but he told me there were none that understand the English language except that two which the Baron of Heere named to you, namely (?) & Smolt. He however told me that he would prefer, Smolt as the cleverest and fairest dealer, he also promised me (when I told him that we should perhaps want one of them to come over here) his service, and that he would do all he can for me, such as making an agreement about the cost or any thing else, which in my opinion would be a good plan, for I am afraid, that if this, Mr Smolt was to come over here without making an agreement about the costs before hand, he might perhaps make a very long bill, for travelling expences.

Mr C. Newcome is again staying here, and pays his dayly visits to Mr Hamond. He seems very fond of **Hawking** and wild fowl shooting, of the latter he provided liberally for our kitching so that the bottle Jack is now used dayly for Mr Hamond prefers them cooked before the fire. I had a grate made with a tin reflector of which Mr Newcome approved although I had never soon one before.

I am happy to say my wife & children and my self are all doing very well, this being Sunday my wife wears her water proof apron in consequence of which she attracts particular notice from the villagers who call it not only useful but also beautiful, for my part I never had any thing more useful than my water proof stockings which are particularly good for me. They do not only keep me dry but also warm which sooths me very much, it is a curious fact that when I had them on the first time in going a fishing I caught a fine lot of fish amongst which a pike of upward of ten Netherlands pounds.

The protestant Clergyman who was at our house the other day, and his wife beg their kind respects to you, their youngest child had been very ill but is now again recovered. All other things at Valkenswaard are much after the old sort as when you was here, except that my Brothers wife the Daughter of old **Frank van den Heuvel** is not well and I am sorry to say the Doctor from Bergeijk whom you saw here gives a bad account of her. **The falconers all with James Bots got his old macintosh back again from Rotterdam.** The weather here has been very fine and dry during the Autum which was a great benefit for farmers. The articles you were so kind as to send, all answer their respective purposes, and for which I return you now my warmest thanks. With regard to the medicines I expect your further advice. Esquire Hamond is anxious to hear from you. He often speaks of your visit here, he has had a letter from Esquire Anthony saying all were well in England. I have little more to say now but my wifes kind respects with whom I join and remain ever your much obliged and obedient Servant.

My wife and I desire our kind love to Miss West



Valkenswaard 26 December 1842

My dearest Sarah

Yesterday evening I received your Christmas presents with all the things in you mentioned in your kind letter of 19th December and for which I now return you my best thanks. The two with the direction on them I have sent to my Clergyman who was not a little surprised in receiving them as a present from you and desired me to return his very kind thanks. I am sorry to say they were not in so good and fresh condition as I usually receive them, but I found out by a letter from Mr Smith of Rotterdam that the box has been delayed in London, it having been sent of by Wednesday last's steamer and not by that of the Saturday before as you informed me in your letter, so the fault now lays in England and not here. I should think the Pheasants got fly blown before they were packed, for there was a great many maggots in, whilst the turkey is in good condition. I don't say all this by way of finding faults but merely that you should know, in what condition I received them and perhaps find out what was the cause of it. I am happy to say we all go on pretty well here much after the old sort. **Newcome** has been staying here some time, but has now left us again in consequence of not finding plenty of wild fowl to shoot at. **The falconers are going on well with their Hawks, but poor old Frank is nearly done up by old age, he does not come and play at Domino's with me**

any more, but James Bots and brother etc. do so every evening. I spend two or three hours daily with that game and during the day read a good deal, for the weather does not suit me much to go out in my bath chair for fear of catching Cold., the easy chair suits me very much, I don't use it daily, but now and then when I feel more uneasy and it is then a great comfort to me. I have nothing more to say at present but hope this may find you and all friends well to whom I beg my best respects and remain every your much obliged and loving Brother.



John Van Best and his wife beg their best respects

Valkenswaard Sunday the 12th February 1843

My dearest Sarah,

I almost began to think that you had forgotten there was such a place as Valkenswaard, therefore believe I was not a little pleased, when I received your kind letter yesterday informing me of your good health. I am very pleased that Mr Smith has been so kind as to give you directions for the future of sending things and I suppose that the pheasants of my nephew Anthony were sent according to those directions, for they reached me from London in five days and they were in such good condition as I ever received them yet. They were packed in Hopps which in my opinion is preferable to char coal, the seals were all on the pheasants as usual and I don't believe any roguery has taken place with them in London, as you suspected.

*I am sorry you give such a bad account about our Nephew John Henry Elwes but I hope your next will say that he continues to improve in health and will ultimately quite recover. I hope Anthony has got quite well again, as for your self the more you rough it and bustle about the better you are. **Mr Newcome has been here some time ago but has left us again, and it is not likely that any of the falconers shall go over to England next spring so I shall not be able to send you any Scotch fir seed nor any oak plants.** I receive the Norfolk papers regularly and also that of 28 January last. Mrs Van Best likes the American apron very well and uses it when she has occasion, the bottle Jack is also pretty often in motion. My Clergyman and his wife who are very well desire their best respects. I am thanks to God better than I have been for the last ten months except my rumatism which still plagues me. I have a very good appetite and sleep better than I used to do. The weather here is now very fine and hope it is so in England for you appear to be heartily tired of the winter, and that this may find you and all friends well, is the sincere wish of your much obliged & loving Brother.*



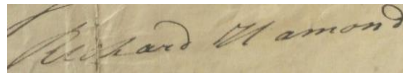
John & his wife beg their best respects to you, and to be remembered to Mrs West. The babies and other children are doing well.

Valkenswaard the 10th October 1843

My dearest Sarah

Your double letter of the 28 September & 2 October with a bill to the amount of 27 pounds, enclosed reached me safe on Sunday last and for which I now return you my very best thanks. I am sorry to learn that you had so rough a passage and that you were so sick, but hope and trust that you are now quite well again. When James went back for the silk hand kerchief, he found they were sold, and the woman was willing enough to procure some of the same sort from another shop but James could not wait on account of the train going off but he will now buy some at Eindhoven or Bois le Duc. I am thank God as well as usual and according to the old English fashion I had my stove lit today so I hope to take care not to catch cold. Mr Reyers and all his family are from home for some time to pay a visit to their relations. With regard to Latham's Books I think it the best way to procure the whole work at £12 and then you & I may call quits. James went to the Custom House for your cloak, and there was a cloak there, but as James could not give a minute description of it, he could not obtain it, so if you write to Custom House and give a proper description of it, most probably you can then obtain it.

The people at Valkenswaard whom you know are all well, and I almost for to say that John caught some fine fish to day, amongst the rest a pike of 10, and a perch of 3pounds. I have nothing more to say now, so I conclude with kind love and best wishes to you and all friends ever your much obliged & loving brother.



Valkenswaard 19th November 1843

My dearest Sarah,

It is rather a long time since I wrote to you last, but as I was expecting the coursing list and besides knowing that you owed me letter, I deferred until now, when I have the pleasure to inform you that I am thank God as well with regard to bodily health as ever I was, and although it is now in foggy November I almost daily take the air in my fish cart. I have yesterday received the Coursing list, and I am not sorry they had such a bad sport, as they have chosed to alter it to the first Monday in November, and they ought to know that the Hares do not lay out until they find them selves strong enough. **James Bots has been very ill the last few days but is now getting better. The other falconers are all well and almost have their full complement of Hawks.** The other people at Valkenswaard whom you know are much after the old sort. The Norfolk paper and London illustrated of fourth November arrived safe yesterday. I have seen in the paper that Mrs West is married, tell her I wish her good luck til she is tired of it. The weather here is very fine at present, but about the middle of October we had such heavy rains, that it made our little rivers swell to an unusual height, in consequence of which we had our eel nets set out, and caught upward of one hundred and sixty five Eels. We also have had plenty of game during the season particularly Woodcocks of which John killed five one day. I have nothing more to say now, so hoping this will find you & all friends well I remain your much obliged and loving Brother

The Clergyman and Madam who came home yesterday desire their best respects, and send me a little note the translation of which is as follows

Shortly after your departure I went to Deventer where I thought of finding an opportunity of writing to you in English – there in I have been disappointed – now come home, I hasten to testify my gratitude for your proved attention - I hope to do (Remainder is missing/torn)

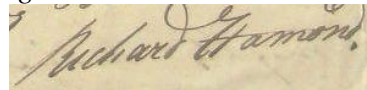


Valkenswaard 21 July 1844

My dearest Sarah,

I have received your letter dated second July on the eight following and now take up my pen to answer it. I am happy to say I am very well for an old man and almost dayly go out in my Bath chair, which affords me a great deal of pleasure & amusement I think. I make my Journeys much longer than when you was here, having been at Dommelen Mill and Vanbergen Mill in one day, there is not a place within a mile around of which I have not had a view. I am happy to find that you have been so well this last Spring and hope that you may continue so. With regard to your visiting me I thank that as you don't like to come before you have finished your mighty harvest. I am afraid that when you come you will be anxious to return before the equinoxial gales, as you do not seem very fond of the water frolick part of your Journey which would make your stay here but very short, I therefor give it as my oppinion that a visit in the Spring would be more suitable both to you and me.

Old Frank the falconer is going to visit his children in Staffordshire, and will return home by London in September next therefore if you can procure Lathams you have then a good opportunity of sending it. I shall inform you in my next when and where he will be in London. **The falconers are all returning from Loo where they have had good Sport. amongst the English visitors there was the Duke of Leeds and family, Mr Newcome and his brother besides others with whom neither you nor I are acquainted with I believe.** The Clergyman and his family are going on very well and beg their best respects with best wishes and respects to all friends I remain your much obliged and loving Brother.

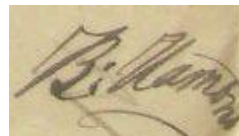


John & wife beg their best respects

Valkenswaard Tuesday the 20th of August 1844

My dearest Sarah

I have this afternoon received your letter for which I am much obliged to you. You seem to croak a good deal about the weather which has been very wet and windy also in this Country, and is even so at present, but hope that it will turn out a fine autumn that I may not be disappointed in the pleasure of seeing you, if the weather does not mend and you determine not to pay me visit, then best plan will be to send the things as usual to the care of Mr Smith at Rotterdam. **The old falconer whose name is Francis Van der Heuvel stays in Shropshire until the latter end of September and will then return home by London** so if you should alter your mind and want to send any thing by him you will have to name me the place in London where he is to call for it, that I may let him know. I have send message to the Clergyman to tell him not to make any preperations until I hear from you again. I have also spoken to **James Bots** whom I expect will be ready to meet you at any time you appoint. We have all the illustrated newspapers except the one of 7th January 1843, and that's what I mentioned in my last letter. I have had a letter of Fred Lane informing me of Mr Bagg's intention to pay in the money. I will ere long write to my Nephew Anthony about that and ask his advice. I am happy to say I continue to enjoy the blessing of Health and hope that this will find you doing the same so now conclude with best wishes to you and all friends. Your much obliged and loving Brother.

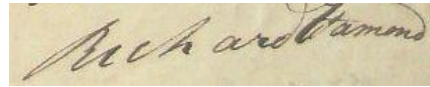


Valkenswaard 29th December 1844

My dearest Sarah,

I have the pleasure to inform you that the box containing your annual Xmas presents and your kind letter both reached me on the 26 its contents were all correct, and the turkey and pheasants fresh and good, for which I have to return you my very best thanks. I did send two to the Baroness Van Tuyll, and had a letter of thanks in which the missis Van Tuyll desired to be kindly remembered to you. Mr Reyers and Madam also send their compliments and thanks for the two pheasants they have received.

You are quite right to detain Latham's Books until you come and see me, as I have plenty to read again now. I continue to receive the illustrated and Norfolk papers regularly which afford me some very good amusement. The Coursing list also came safe to hand. Some four days back I received a letter from my Nephew Anthony, in which he promises to send me some pheasants so I think you better had given him proper directions how to send them, to the care of Mr Smith who seems to be a good manager, the water way being frozen up he did send them by diligence over Breda and Bois le Duc. Besides the pheasants you gave him we have also send him a brace of Hares about a fourthnight ago so I think he will continue to take some pains about our things. I am happy to say I continue to enjoy good Health and to have a good appetite to relish your substantial presents. In hopes that you and all friends do the same remain your much obliged and loving Brother.



Valkenswaard 12th of March 1845

My dear Sarah

After a long and anxious expectation to hear from you, I at last received your kind letter dated 3^d of March, I am much pleased, that you have taken so much care and trouble in my pecuniary concerns, and all I have to say on this topic, is, that I hope and trust you will be able to manage it so, that my income is not diminished. The London illustrated for the week ending the 22 February, and the Norfolk papers of the same week have not come to hand. The others I have always received regularly

Remainder of letter is missing.

Valkenswaard the 25th June 1845

My dearest Sarah,

After a long expectation of hearing from you I yesterday received your kind letter dated 19th June and I am truly happy to learn that you still continue to enjoy the Blessing of Health. Although I did not write still you are not out of my mind. You know very well I have not much to write about and that I do not make fine speeches to no purpose like some of your acquaintances. I am thankful to be able to say that I continue to be much as usual that is very well indeed, taking in to consideration my age and rhuematics, and that when wind and weather permitting I dayly go out in my Bath chair, and make longer tripps than I used to do. Sometimes even two miles distant from this place. We have had beautiful weather and got part of our hay up, but the grass and clover cropps are but very indifferent, being partly too old before the other is sufficiently grown, all other things however promise a very abundant harvest. About a week ago I have received from Fred^k Lane my half yearly remittance due, as he says, from Mr Hamond, in the form of a Bill on London to the amount of ninety six pounds seventeen shillings. He does not say any thing about the Bagges's money. Before this he always used to send my money the first week or there about in May and November but the whole of my yearly income is due, I believe about the end of October. I shall certainly be very happy to see you, and I suppose your harvest will be finished about the same time ours will. You will find things here much after the old sort, except some new railroads we got made to go on with my vehicle. Mr Reyers and Madam had the Ague, but I am happy to say are now pretty near recovered, the beg their best respects. John and his wife and children are also well and beg to be remembered to you. Your arrant Courier is at present at Loo but is expected here about 15 July. I have nothing more to say now, so hoping this will find you and all your friends in good Health. I remain your much obliged and loving Brother.



Valkenswaard 16th July 1845

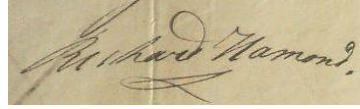
My dear Sarah,

I have yesterday received your kind letter dated 10th July, and also one directed to John van Best from Barclay & Co with a Bank post Bill of 89 pounds 18s & 9d to John van Best, not to my address as you say in your letter, but this is all the same enough that all came safe to hand. John has not acknowledged the receipt of it to the Bankers because I think it will be sufficient that you inform them that he has received it, which I trust you will after receiving this. You say so much about my money concerns that I do not comprehend all, but I have no doubt you have done all for the best. I shall keep your letter and we may have a glance over it when I shall have the pleasure of seeing you. There are no donkeys in our neighbourhood, those you saw when travelling with **James** was in Belgium between Ostend & Gent, we have however a horse here that **old Frank** has ridden 3 or four years and about as high as the one I had from England, which will suit you very well. It is a very quiet one and an easy walker therefore you better not forget your side saddle.

Mr & Madam Reyers are now in good health, will be happy to receive you and beg their best respects. Baroness and the ladies are at the Castle at present, at least **James** told me so just now and he learnt it from the Burgomaster of Leinde, which place belongs to the Baroness. I am happy to say that I continue very well with regard to bodily health, but I am rather troubled with deafness, do you think it would be any use to bring me a voice conductor. I

hope you will not forget Latham's Books of water fowl, and to bring me another air cushion a round one for my easy chair. I receive the illustrated and Norfolk papers regularly except the one of the week ending 14th June which you will be kind enough to bring also. **The falconers are now all returned, they had good Sport and have given good satisfaction,** my company of Domino players is now again at the full number even so that there are sometimes have hardly room enough to sit round my table.

Hoping this will find you and all friends well I remain with best respects to all every your much obliged & loving Brother



Jon & his wife beg their best respects

P S I also wish you would bring me some Court plaster

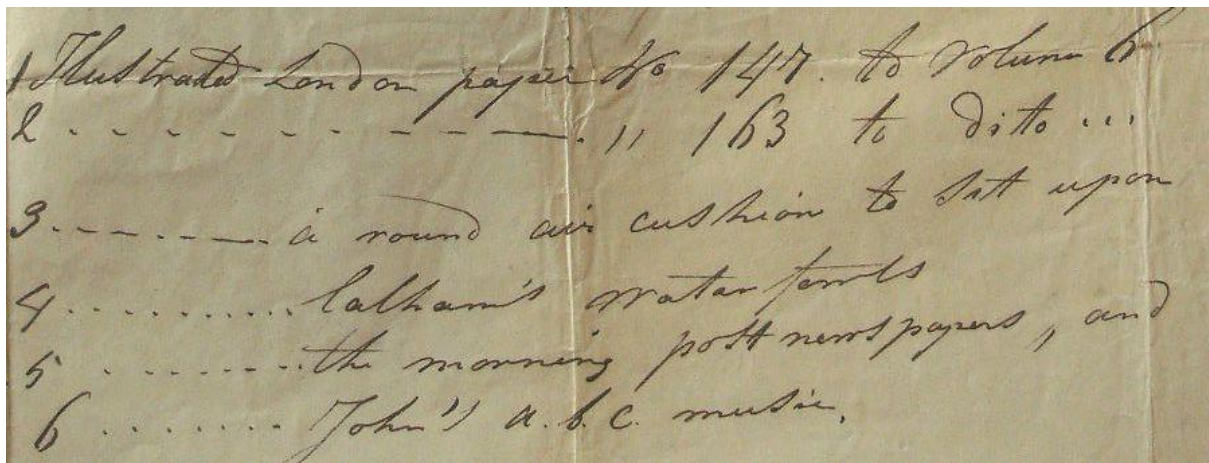
Valkenswaard 14th August 1845

My dearest Sarah

Your kind letter of fourth august reached me last Saturday, and I now take up my pen to give you an answer. I am sorry to hear you have been suffering of a bowel complaint, but I hope & trust that ere this you was again quite recovered. I continue, thank God, to enjoy the blessing of health, but my deafness, although not increasing is not getting better. You say the harvest will be late in England, and it will be here, for in ordinary Saisons, we reckon that about his time all the rye is taken in, but this year it not even cut at present, the weather has been very wet and stormy the last 3 months, and is so at this moment, but I hope now that it will give over, that the weather may be fine for you to come. I have received the morning posts, and I think by them, that the King of Holland was very much pleased with his visit to England. Our Queen of England seems to go and have travel on the Rhine, formerly, Kings & queens did not pay visits to one another, but did send armies to fight each against the other, in my opinion the present plan is the best and far the cheaper for the public at large. Up to this moment we have not yet procured a donkey, but hope & expect we shall against the time you come. In my last letter I think I only mentioned one Illustrated that was missing, but now find there are two, I think I better give a list at the end of this letter of what things I wish you to bring over. The Dutch newspapers give an alarming account of the potato cropps, which are attacked by what they call an Illness never heard of before, it begins to show itself by black spots on the leaves, and in one or two days after on the stalks and so increases until the whole looks black and begins to rot, there is not one single piece in this place that is not attacked by it, and in going through the fields, I find that they spread a very disagreeable smell about, the early potato's were attacked first and are already partly rotten. The consequence is that other articles of food are enormously raised in price, in Antwerpe, four days ago, rice was raised 40 percent and at Eyndhoven it was yesterday one penny higher per ½ netherland pound. I hope and trust however that all may turn out) to the best, and so hoping autumn may find uou and all friends will. I remain with kind respects to all, ever your much obliged & loving Brother.

PS John & Wife beg their best respects.





Swaffham Monday Sept 1 1845

My dearest Richard,

*It please God all is well. I propose going from Dover by Princefs Mary Steamer on Thursday Week the 11 to Ostende, in 4 hours & half, but which time the Steamer will leave Dover in the morning I am not able at present to say only that is always I think between 4 in the morning and 9. I wish to find **James Bots** at Ostende from whence I shall immediately proceed by Rail Road to Antwerp, sleep there as best I might - & by Coupe of Dilegece next morning to Tournout & then over the (?) (?) to Valkenswaard where I hope to find your in fine Health. I do not however think I can be with you till much late on Friday. Seeing **James Bots** had better be at Ostende on Wednesday night.*

This letter is obviously written by Sarah. The second part is unreadable. It has not been signed and appears never to have been posted.

Valkenswaard 1 October 1845

Madam,

According to your wishes I now have the pleasure to inform you, that your Brother continues to improve both in health and strength, even more than we could expect, it is now about nine o'clock in the evening and I asked him wither he had any thing to say to you, upon which he told me to say to you, that he is tolerably well, and that if mind & weather permit he intends to be out in the mackerel cart very soon. I think however it will be better to stay a day or two in doors yet, as he still coughs a little. He had a party of five to play at the Domino's game yesterday and to day, which he did seem to enjoy very much. He often times spoke of you today & yesterday and asked us I may say almost every hour, where is my Sister now, how far have they to go yet, and how is the weather etc.

I have not had an opportunity to send your package to the Barones van Tuyll but will do so by an express to morrow. Hoping that this will find you safely and well arrived at Swaffham and that I shall be able to give you a further good account of the state of your Brother's health in my next, I now remain with kind respects of us all your obedient Servant.

A small rectangular fragment of paper showing a handwritten signature in cursive, which appears to be "John van Bets".



Sarah Hamond

*4th October 1845
Valkenswaard Saturday morning 10 o'clock*

Madam

I am sorry not to be able to give a further good account of the state of your Brothers Health. He had not been to well during yesterday, although he played at Domino's as usual, and had a bad nights rest, after which he seemed not any better this morning about half past three o'clock, at which time I did send my Servant to the Doctor, whom wil come and see him this forenoon. At this moment he sleeps pretty sound and I earnestly hope that this may have a good effect, so that I may be able to give a better account to morrow.

I should wished to have waited until the Doctor had been here, but it is now time for the poste, so I will send this of, and give you an account of what he says to morrow.

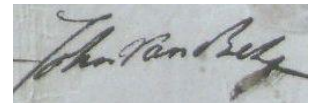
Your Brother is now up, and is thank God a little better, he is partaking of some tea and toast. To now remain with kind respect your most obedient Servant.

Valkenswaard Sunday morning ten o'clock, 5 October 1845

Madam,

Yesterday morning about eleven the Doctor gave his visit to Mr Hamond, and said that he found him to be weaker as when you was staying at Valkenswaard, that he could hardly feel his puls, and that he was subject to a little fever. He said however that there was no greater accumulation of slime on the chest than usual and that as long as he has strength to discharge there was no danger. The Doctor at the same time desired me to assure you, that he will do his utmost best for your Brother's good and that he wil dayly attend on him as circumstances required. During the remainder of yesterday after the Doctor's departure, your Brother has been tolerably calm and a little better, at intervals drank some barley water mixed with Rhine Wine and lemon Juice, and at dinner partook of some Jelly broth and part of a partridge. I am sorry to say that last night he was rather restless having been out of the bed about twenty times, but again at present he seems more at rest and a little better, it is now about 12 o'clock at noon and therefore to late for to days post. I could not finish it in consequence of being obliged to wait upon Mr Hamond during church time. I did send my Servant to the Doctor this morning with a note of the state of your Brothers illness, and desired him to come over to morrow morning on or before ten o'clock, to enable me before post time, to add such things as he will then say and think about your Brother which he has promised to do.

Monday morning 10 o'clock, the Doctor has just now been here, and finds the old Gentleman, again a little better. He says the stomach is a little in disorder. His tong being foul, and has rather a relaxation of the bowels; the Doctor also says that he not dangerously ill. Last night Mr Hamond was more at rest, than the night before, he was able yesterday to read, in the forenoon and evening in the Bible and prayer book as usual. I can say no more at present being time for post, but will write again the day after tomorrow, so now conclude with hopes for your Brother's recovery, Madam your obedient Servant



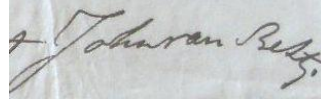
Valkenswaard Wednesday the 8th October 1845

Madam,

It is now eight o'clock in the morning and as the Doctor has promised to come and pay a visit to your Brother between nine & ten, I shall only have time, before the post sets out, to add what he says; so I now begin this to inform you that, thank God Mr Hamond is again by degrees getting a little better. He was more calm and slept middling well the two last nights, and was able yesterday to sit up part of the day to read and to partake of a little food. His bowels which were to much relaxed, and against which the Doctor did send some physic yesterday, are now better, so that the medicine has done the required effect, the fevers are also partly subdued, so that according to my thoughts we may nourish the hope, that he will again be restored to his usual state.

10 o'clock, the Doctor has just now been here. He also says that he finds your Brother a little better, but not so much as I thought he was, the Doctor now calls his illness a gastric fever which the foulness of his tongue and the derangement of his bowels indicate. He says there is no danger as yet, and hopes and trusts to be able by a good treatment to restore him. Your Brother is now sitting up, and knows that I am writing to you and desires his kind love to you.

The time for posting this is drawing very near, so I must conclude by begging our best respects and remaining in haste Madam your obedient Servant.

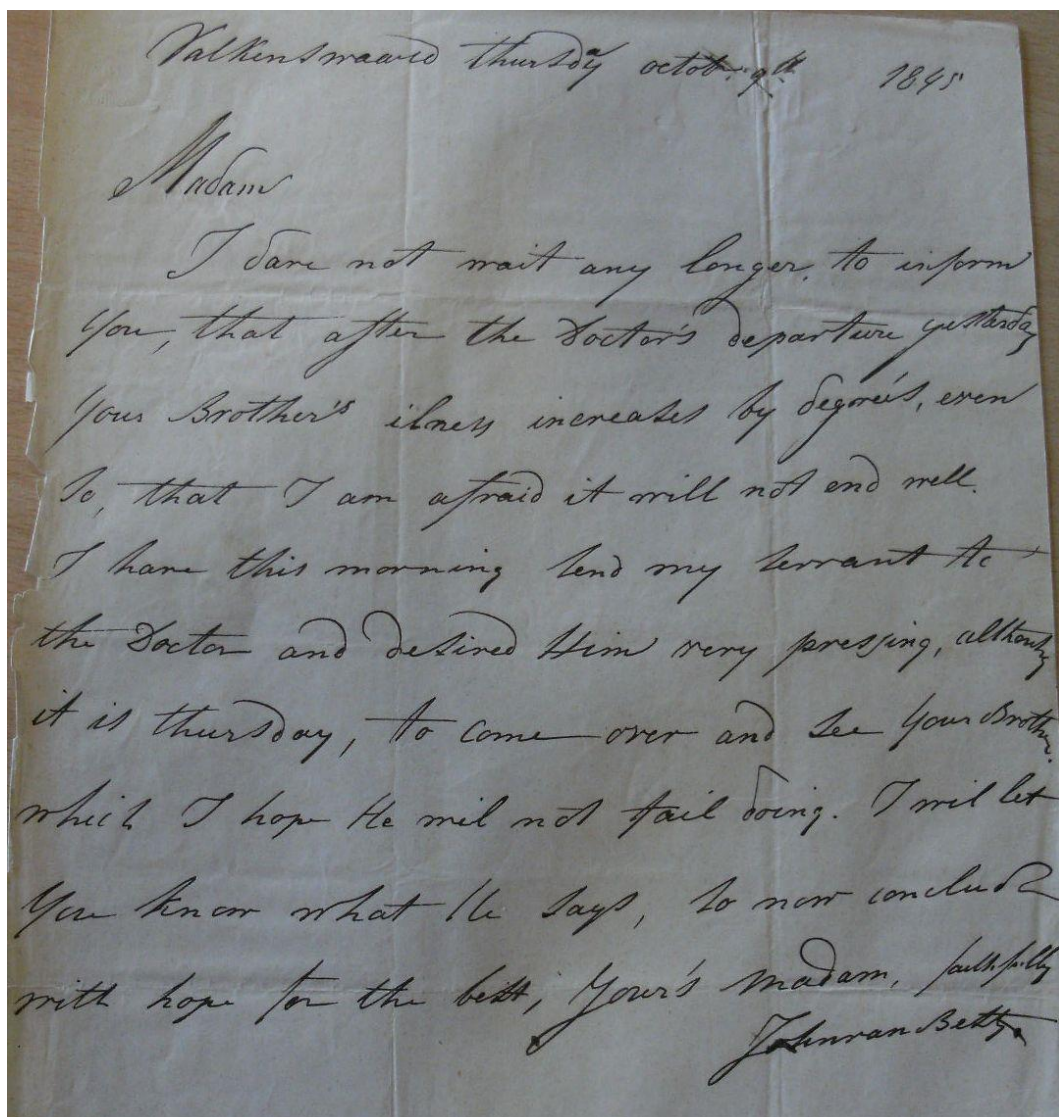


P.S. If Mr Hamond should continue to improve I shall then wait a few days before I write again, which I earnestly hope through the mercy of God may be the case.

Valkenswaard Thursday October 9th 1845

Madam,

I dare not wait any longer to inform you, that after the Doctors departure yesterday your Brothers illness increases by degrees, even so, that I am afraid it will not end well. I have this morning send my Servant to the Doctor and desired him very pressing, although it is Thursday, to come over and see your brother which I hope He wil not fail doing, I wil let you know what he says, so now conclude with hope for the best, Yours Madam, faithfully



Valkenswaard Thursday octob. 9th 1845

Madam

I dare not wait any longer, to inform you, that after the Doctor's departure yesterday your Brother's illness increases by degrees, even so, that I am afraid it will not end well. I have this morning send my servant to the Doctor and desired Him very pressing, although it is Thursday, to come over and see your brother which I hope He wil not fail doing. I wil let you know what He says, so now conclude with hope for the best, Yours Madam, faithfully

Johanna Betty

Richard Hamond passed away quietly the following day Friday 10th October 1845 at midday. He was 73 years old. He died surrounded by the family that had come to mean so much to him. The Van Best family made arrangements for his funeral which took place four days later in Valkenswaard. Many people attended his funeral which included the Mayor Michael Smulders and a speech was made by Mr Reyers which John van Best translated into English and sent to his sister Sarah.

Speech by the grave of R. Hamond Esq^r died 10th October 1845, buried 14th October

Often times we came at this place to perform the last mournful duty to the bodily remains of our dead; but never perhaps we assisted an interment under such singular circumstances as the present. The Spot of Land whereupon the now defunct did behold the first light of life, and that where in He finds this grave, are separated from each other by Seas – Inhabitants of England saluted Him by this coming in the world, Netherlanders solemnise this funeral.

Singular circumstances! For in vain our eye seeks amongst this numerous company a relation, who offers a tear or a moved heart to the memory of the departed – and a Sister, who yet so lately came hitherwards from far quarters out of regard to a Brother, now little thinks of the duty we have already fulfilled towards Him.

Singular circumstances! For, although no kin mourns by this grave, however the man is mourned and that does us good to our human sensation, however the man is bewailed by His interment; bewailed not only because he now ceases to do good with His earthly abundance but bewailed through affection of the heart; bewailed by some who felt a tender, almost filial attachment to Him; bewailed by many that might so long enjoy the evidence of his kind friendship.

Yes inhabitants of Valkenswaard! If we are not mistaken, then the man, whom as a stranger was amongst you for 25 years, partakes in a more or less degree in the regard of all of you; it would surely astonish us, if anyone was here present, to whom He ever wilfully gave reason to be discontent; it would astonish us even more if, on the contrary many of you, did not declare at this moment often time He did me good!

He than, to whose material remains we now perform the last duty of love, for which we say thanks to all of you for your honoured presence, He than, although He might perhaps not have excelled in shining virtues, in the circle in which He moved Him self, He was beneficial, because He spread prosperity around Him, prosperity coupled with happy contentment and where in He was short of – the judgement of that is not to us; but trusted to the Lord alone.

By us therefore the man's memory shall be blessed, and what we hope and trust, that all of you now certainly wish with us, that His Soul there, where no difference of Country or peoples language or religion exists, may have entered into eternal peace.

Fellow travellers to the grave! May the Lord of life and death teach us, who are yet alive; to count our days, that we may become a wise heart, and find us prepared, when the relentless fickle of death will also strike our perishable body's.

The Man's remains rest in peace! Let it be so

Valkenswaard 15th October 1845

Madam,

Although I should wish to be spared, to dwell again on the awful occurrence, I feel it my duty to take up my pen, and relate to you, as well as my cast down mind will permit me, some few things, respecting the interment of the dear remains of your poor Brother my Master.

Yesterday then, the fourteenth at ten o'clock in the morning, the funeral procession moved slowly on, to the churchyard, and although there were none of his relations, to shed a tear of affection by his last resting place, I assure you Madam, there were those that surrounded Him so long in this Country, that did so, yes, and there was the ever kind and amiable Mr Reyers whom made a funeral speech over the grave which caused such a sensation on us and many of them hear, that never shall be forgotten. He spoke for nearly half an hour and although in the presence of so large an assembly of people, the deepest silence prevailed all over. In the evening of Monday I led all my children in the room, to have a last look on His dear remains, I will not try to describe what I felt, on hearing them talk, whom used to go and wish Him always a good morning, and in which He took so much delight, it made my heart bleed. I shall not say any more now, but will write again after a little rest. So now remain with due regard Your faithful Servant in grief. John van Best

PS Yesterday I received the newspapers and while writing this your letter, alas

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with due regard Your faithful Servant
in grief. John van Best.
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and while writing this your letter, alas

Valkenswaard the 14th November 1845

Madam

I have yesterday received a note from Mr Van der Heyde informing me that the copy of the will after having been sent to the Hague and legalised by the English Ambassador, was again come to his hand. Where upon I repaired to Eindhoven immediately, the Notaire thought it better now to send it of to one of the executors himself, and for that purpose desired me to give him the direction to one of them, which I did, namely to Fred^k Lane at Lynn. He said he would write a note with it in French, and that he would put it on the post today, so that it will most probably arrive in England with this letter; he also desired me to inform you of all this. I don't know wether he wil desire Mr Lane to acknowledge its safe arrival, and I there for take the liberty of begging this from you.

I am sorry he could not let me have the original will to carry over to you, for although I am not well I would gladly have undertaken the journey, perhaps for some time from home would do me some good; I almost constantly have pain accompanied with heat, in my head, and then my feet and legs are cold. I have not had a good nights rest for some weeks, and the worst of all is, that I am rather low spirited; you have no idea Madam how sincerely I was attached to your poor Brother. There are so many things that come in my mind now the hints and good advice He so often gave me, His goodness towards me, and the many thousand hours that I had the pleasure of spending in His company that I even now feel the loss more than ever. I have no longer to go in His room in the morning and say what was to be done, and at night give an account of the performance of that day, and then wish Him a good night, all this is gone by. The only consolation is that it is the will of God almighty and that we may hope and trust that He now lives in a better land.

Mr Reyers and Madam are in good health, and desire their best respects, my wife and family and Stopher and Schoot are also well and beg to be remembered to you.

On Tuesday last I received the Illustrated and Norfolk papers, for which I return my best thanks, I feel much pleasure to experience, that you are so kind as still to think of me. I now conclude with hope that this will find you wel, and remain with true respect Madam, your most obedient Servant

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive script on aged, yellowish paper. The signature reads "John Van Bette" and is followed by a decorative flourish.

Valkenswaard 29th November 1845

Madam,

*After receiving your kind letter dated 20th November I went to Mr Van der Heyde, to enquire wether he had sent with the will, that copy which he had made two years ago, but he says that he had not made such himself, that that was copyed by me from a paper you brought from England, and that He, according to your wishes, mmrely figured on that as a witness. Perhaps it is going out of your mind, that you took one of the two with you to England, the one which is left here in my possession I can forward that to you if you wish it. It has always been my intention to have a tomb stone over your poor Brothers grave and this would have been done before this, but, as it is no Custom in this churchyard and as we hardly know to who the churchyard belongs either to church or the parish, I had some trouble in obtaining leave to do so, I consulted with Mr Reyers about it, and we agreed that I should apply to the parish authoritys, which I did, and they did send me to the Catholic priest, to whom for some reason or other I am no great friend, but somehow I spoke to him about it, but he gave me a rather avoiding answer, he said he could not tell me such at this moment, and so it has been delayed until I went to him again, and desired him to give me a positive answer, at the same time telling him that my poor master had down so much good to the poor of the parish, and that his friends in England were very desirious to have it done, and so I at last got leave to lay a flat tomb stone on the grave, with an inscription on it, such as you will now let me know and then I shall go to Bois le Duc and have one made. The same day that I received your letter Mr Reyers went to Deventer in Guelderland to pay a visit to His friends, and so I must delay sending you the funeral oration until he returns. Madam is thanful to you for your kind remembrance to her, and desires me to remember her kindly to you. I am still but very indifferently having almost continually the head ache and bad nights, should you wish me to come over to England, than I should like very much that Stopher might go with me, and in that case the kind Mr Reyers will take upon Him self to see dayly on the churchyard, that nothing disturbs the place, where the dear remains of your Brother lay. Some of us go there dayly and once a week we make the grave up again afresh. I have duly received the Illustrated and Norfolk papers which you was so kind as to send me, and will feel much obliged if you will continue to do so, but as two papers is rather expensive for me, I think one will do and I wont pay the Illustrated, as this now be bound to a book. If there is any thing here dear to you from your dear poor Brother which you wish to have, only let me know & I will then send it or bring it over to you, if you write to me to come over it will be necessary to give me a couple of weeks time for then the Notaire says I shall then want a procuration from my sister, and Schoot, to authorise me to receive the legacies, and this procuration must first be sent to the Hague and finalised like the will, and that will require sometime. Mr Reyers will return home in a fourthnight from this time. I forgot to say that I am happy to know that you are in good health and hope that you may continue to enjoy this blessing. My wife and children Stopher & Schoot are all well and beg their best respect, in doing the same. I remain
Madam
your most obedient Servant*

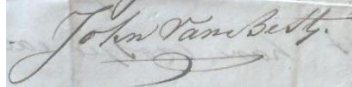


James tells me that on his return he enquired after the lace at Turnhout, and the people sais it was in but if he would give them time they would make a piece of the lace patern and of such a length as you would wish to have it, he has not ordered it, but wil do so if you wish it and let him know. I have heard from **A. Mollen** that he has today received a letter from the Duc of Leeds ordering him or James to be at Hockwold at **Mr Newcome's** on the 9th of decem^b next in order to see some **Icelander Hawks** there if it should happen that **James** is to go he will come and see you at Swaffham.

Valkenswaard the 9th December 1845

Madam,


I have duely received your letter dated second December, have made it into Dutch as wel I could, and took it to Mr Van der Heyde on Monday, but he not being home that day, I went again today, and show it him, but he gave me the same answer as before, of which I informed you in my last of 29th November. I suppose that our last letters must have crossed each other and so I at first thought of not writing until I had again heard from you; but upon second thoughts, and seeing you require me to answer your imideately, I now write this few line, the more so, because Mr Van der Heyde told me that he would write himself to Mr Fred Lane about it, which I hope wil settle the affair. Things are here much after the old sort except the great change, made through the melancholy occurrence of the 10th October, and of which my thoughts are filled a great deal yet in hopes that this will find you and your friends doing wel, I remain with due regard Madam, your humble and obedient Servant.



London 14th August 1846

Madam

I have this morning received your letter, with the Drawing of the Arms & Crest, and the Inscription enclosed. I certainly like the whole of it very much, and will be happy to receive the Inscription, written by a Schoolmaster, as soon as possible that there may be no further delay. The weather, luckily, kept fair until we got to Brandon, but it rained a good deal whilst we were on the rails, and at our arrival at London turned out fine again. – it is now about nine o'clock and the weather looks beautiful so that we will now follow your advice and go to walk in Regent Street and buy a pair of near sighted Spectacles for Stopher. I shal now say no more for our time is very precious here, so with many thanks for your very kind and generous hospitality I remain Madam your ever much obliged and obedient Servant.



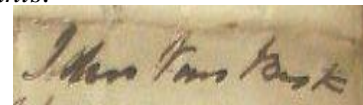
PS I have put the Norfolk paper in the post along with this.

Valkenswaard 8th September 1846

Madam

Your kind letter reached me on Sunday last, and according your wishes I went the same afternoon to the priests House, and told him you was so much grieved at his refusal to the placing of the iron palisading, and then I read to him that part of your letter which treated about that, but I am sorry to say I have not been able to manage it, he gives me undecided and groundless answers, such as, that it might be in the way in enlarging the Church and in consecrating the churchyard (what miserable evasions;) and then again that he is not master of it, and that it can not be permitted without asking the Bishop about it, upon which I said that he (the priest) would oblige me very much to ask leave of him and that I thought the Bishop would have no objection, if he (the priest) would at the same tell him about the money for the poor, but even to this he gave me no decided answer, and at last when I found I could do nothing with him, I asked him what answer I was to give to you about it, and then he said he was not master, and that was all. I am indeed very sorry that we have to deal with such unthankful and intolerant people, and I cannot help hating them for it. I shall be very happy when you come over, that we may then try what we can do, the Tomb will certainly be ready at the time I said in my last namely the 30th September. As the weather is now so fine, your coming a little sooner would perhaps suit you better; and I should be very happy if you could stay at Valkenswaard at my house or that of the kind Mr Reyers, but if you should prefer Eindhoven, there are at that place two pretty good Hotels the one called, Hof van Holland (the Court of Holland), and the other, de wilde man (the wild man) I have bought a piece of land on the north Westside of our churchyard directly against the wall of it, perhaps you would have no objection, to remove the dear remains of your poor beloved Brother to that, provided it was first made into a protestant churchyard, but of this we can plan and talk about when you are here, and which I hope will be soon; **James Bots** will be glad to be your Courier again but at the same time I offer to you my own Service, I shall do any thing for you with the greatest love, but in this do as you think best suits your self. I shall within a few days go again to Bois le Duc and carry to the Stone Cutter the Sealing you have now send me, if I understand you right, then the whole must be like the pencil drawing, only leaving out what is not in the Sealing wax. I mean those three heads of animals. Mr Reyers is not yet returned from His journey to Zeeland, and I have therefore not been able to obtain the measurement of a ring of his, but I think to what I can recollect of the size of his fingers, the largest of the two of your poor beloved Brother's will nearly, if not quite fit him. With regard to the money that I am to give to the poor, I have not yet given any, and mean to wait with that until you are here, I have payed the Notaire Mr Van der Heyde's Bill, which you talked of sending to you by post, but I think it will be better to keep it until you come.

P: Vder Schoot has taken out a licence to shoot in a District some 20 miles from here, where he formerly lived many years, and has yesterday left my house to go there. I now conclude with my and my wife's and Stopherd's kind respects to you, and remain every your much obliged and obedient Servant. My self and Stopher desire our best respects to Mrs West and her kind husband, not forgetting old Tabathe and your other servants.



YARMOUTH
SP 12
1846
NORFOLK

Via France.
Miss Hamond,
Sraffham
Norfolk
England.

WINDHOVE
10
9
FRANCO

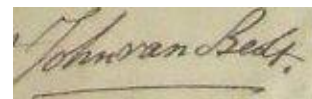
No post

19th Sept
Paid 1/6

Valkenswaard Sunday the 27th September 1846

Madam,

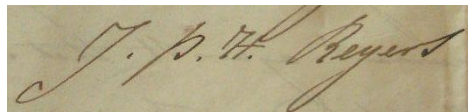
I found your kind letter, dated 21st September last night when I came home from Shooting, and I setted of for Heere Castle this morning to carry to Miss Van Tuyll, the letter that was enclosed. I had the honour of talking with the young ladies for some time about the affair regarding the Tomb and iron balasade, they said they would answer your letter in the middle of the week, and at the same time they advised me to go to our priest and desire him wether he would be so kind as to ask leave of the Bishop to erect the iron Balasade, which I did this afternoon, but he gave me nothing but avoiding answers; I asked him also wether he (the priest), would give me a letter to the Bishop to that purpose, and that I would go to him my self, upon which he gave me faintly to understand, that he would send his curate to the Deacon at Eindhoven and inquire into the matter, and for the rest I can learn nothing of him, at least nothing with fixed resolve. – I really wish very much that you would give me your consent to do what I am now going to propose, namely to consult with Mr Reyers about having a new protestant churchyard directly joining the old one, and then to lay the dear remains of your poor Brother on that, the protestants would be happy to have one, and would do the expense of having a wall round it, and I would most gladly give the land, but of this our people must not know anything, my poor beloved Master would lay even nearer to where my grand father poor John Daems was buried and we could lay the Tomb and erect the iron balasade just as we pleased, and the place would altogether be better secured against molestation. I don't know what the Baroness or Misses van Tuyll wil do, wether they will get leave or not, but even if they should in my opinion my plan must be the best. I hope and trust you will be so kind as to give me an immediate answer, after receiving this, for I shall feel uneasy until the affair is brought to a good end. – I have spoken to our carrier not to bring the Tomb Stone next Wednesday as was intended, and told him to tell the Stone Mason to keep it until I send him other orders. When I was at Bois le Duc last and brought to him the Sealing wax impression, the Tomb was nearly finished except the arms and crest, he said I might be sure it would be done before or on the last of this month, and that there would be no mistake now in forming the arms and crest according the Sealing wax impression.—I hope please God this may find you enjoying good health, my head ache is better and I have also dayly been out Shooting since 7th September. – Mr and Madam Reyers are well and family are well and so are the **falconers**. – Monday morning 28th September I wrote the above last night, and now must make haste for today's post that this may go on Wednesday's packet, and reach you next Friday, and I calculate that if you send your answer by the following Wednesday Yarmouth steamer, I may have it the Friday following, and so I now remain with best respects to you Madam, ever your most obedient Servant.



Valkenswaard 8th March 1847

Madam,


To get the affair to a speedy and wished for termination my advice is as follows:
To remove the corpse to another part of the churchyard – this is absolutely necessary because the church government remarks, that by any probable aggrandisement of the church, the grave stands in the way – this is the *raison why* it was thought necessary, to have it put down in the church registers, that the grave should be on an equal with all others, in order that it might be removed, when in the way.
Before we remove the corpse on such part of the churchyard, where it can never be of any inconvenience to the rebuilding of the church, to ask permission to place the Tomb and Balisading on the grave – without any annotation of the same in the registers whilst I am concerned that it shall never be removed –
If however any annotations in the registers must take place, one can reasonably ask no other than these – that the Tomb and Balisading shall remain on the Grave, so long as no powerful motives make it necessary to remove the same. –
But once more: no annotations at all I hold for best. To become owner of the Grave is not well possible – in the first place it is not at all certain, who is here the owner or highest disposer of the church yard, either the church government or the Civil government – this would first of all be a question or law suit of long duration.
Besides, when this was made out, than the offering for it as property must as all events be done to government, and that would again take up a long time and then the Coffin could no more be removed – which may yet safely be done – by this removing I shall be present in person, in order that this may be done worthily –
On the place where the Corpse now lays the Government can not command a right of property, because the church government can furnish a founded argument against that. – Heartily do I wish that you may agree in my proposition – if you prescribe new terms yet, then I fear after all what has happened, that the affair never shall come to an end. – In the manner as I have now proposed to you there is according to my oppinion security enough that the Tomb will remain there unhindered to perpetuity.
If you approve of my proposal, may I then, if you please, have a speedy answer, then I think I may trust that the affair will soon and according to wishes be completed.
With high esteem etc Signed

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "J. P. W. Beyers". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly aged paper.

Valkenswaard the 10th of March 1847

Madam,

I now write to say that I have duly received your kind letter dated 15th February last, with directions to me, to bring its contents regarding the Tomb and balisading before the Bishop, or to make the young priest do so; I therefore repaired to the parsons House and found both the old and young priest at Home, to whom I did read that part of your letter concerning the Tomb and asked whether they would be so kind as to bring your request before the Bishop, but they desired not to like that much, and said, I ought to have placed the Tomb etc according to the permission already given by the Bishop, and that it would have been safe enough to and never would have been removed, I more than once brought it to their mind that you wanted some security that it should never be removed, but they never gave me to understand that they would try to obtain such security. I next day went to the kind Mr Reyers, and informed Him of the whole, upon which he said he had always hoped, that the affair would come to a speedy conclusion, but seeing that this was not the case, he would now take the matter in his own hands and try what he can do; He has since brought to me a letter in Dutch, written and signed by himself which he says contains his advice and of which I enclose a copy made into English by me, and which I hope you will be able to understand. – I am happy to learn that you have been continually well this last winter and that you intend to honour us with a visit next Summer. – I am at present much plagued with my old complaint, namely eruption of the shivers, particularly on my hands, and which hinders me now from following my favourite sport of Snipe Shooting, my head too is not yet well, I hope however please God I may get better when the weather improves a little, which at present is very cold and frosty. – Mr & Madam Reyers and family are doing well and desire their best respects. – **the falconers, not forgetting your avant Corier James Bots, are all well, and will start for Loo about easter time.**—my wife and family and Stopher are all very well, and they beg to be kindly remembered to you. – I now conclude and with high regard I remain Madam, ever your much obliged and obedient Servant.



PS I beg to be remembered to the good Mr and Mrs Parsons as well as to Mr Grove and your other servants.

Valkenswaard 24th April 1847

Madam,

I am happy to be able to say that your wish is fulfilled.—the putting up of the Tomb and iron Balisading is permitted without any conditions or annotations of the same.

On Wednesday the 14th of this month, Mr Van Best had got made a grave of Bricks, on such part of the churchyard, where it can never be of any inconvenience by a possible rebuilding of the church. On Thursday the 15th early in the morning the Coffin of deceased has been taken up in my presence (the Coffin being yet very sound and strong with the distinct brass letters R H on it) and with a respectful management was deposited in the Stone Grave – after that the heavy Tomb Stone is laid over it, also yet in presence of myself, Mr Van Best and Christopher Mohr – the iron Balisading will also now soon be ready, and thus nothing will be wanting to your wishes. I add to this yet the assurance of my private convincement, that this

Tomb will at all times be respected, so well, yet even better, than any legal written declaration could give you security for the same.

Besides this my assurance our Burgomaster the head of the civil authority adds to this, his written promise to effect as much as depends on his influence that the Tomb shall never be hindered.

I should be happy Madam, if I could be witness this Summer, of your personal approval of the placed Tomb – but this shall not be. – My destination calls me to Brouwershaven a much larger community of our Country – and already in the latter end of May I think of leaving a home, which for many connexions never to be forgotten will always be dear to me.

I recommend you providence, and have the honour to call my self with due regard Madam your humble Servant

The undersigned, Burgomastre of Valkenswaard by this willingly gives the assurance, to do all of his side, for as much as depends of his influence that the Tomb of R Hamond ESQ' remains unhindered

Valkenswaard 15 April
1847

F. Smulders

Valkenswaard 25th April 1847

Madam,

I am very happy to be able to inform you that the painful bussines of reinterring the remains of your poor beloved Brother has now been done, and that too, in a manner which will set your mind quite at ease, and of which I shall now give you an account. Soon after that the kind Mr Reyers had got leave I managed to get the materials for the work all ready and on the 14th of this month I had the Grave (a complete Stone grave such as you expressed a wish to have in a former letter) all ready to receive the dear remains, and the Tomb Stone laid by the side of that grave, and so the next day the 15 of this month about four o'clock in the morning, Mr Reyers and my self and Stopher, the Bricklayer, my two Servants and two more of my people that constantly work for me, repaired to the churchyard and began the painful task. We soon ascertained that the coffin was yet very sound, and in about an hours time we were able to bear it out with six of us, by the handles of the coffin, in the same manner as it was put in there, and so carried it to the new Stone Grave, had the Tomb laid over it and closed, & before 7 o'clock all was finished and we left the Spot.

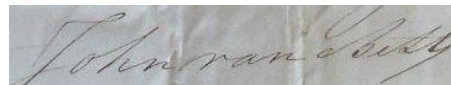
The brickwork of the grave is made so thick, that the Tomb lays well on it and that plenty of room is left outside for the Stone frame which must come round the Tomb to fix in the iron Balislading. I have been last Sunday to Bois le Duc to get this Stone frame made by the same person that has made the Tomb, and he assured me that he will have it ready on the 29 next so that we will have it home the last of this month – the iron Balislading will also be ready about that time.

*My thoughts best to get that made here, by the **Brother of James Bots who is a blacksmith**, that we may Superintend the work ourself. – When all is completed I will write again, and which I hope and trust will be soon. –*

I enclose a letter of Mr Reyers, on which you will learn that this good man is going to leave this place for a better and more profortable one for himself and family. The place is called Brouwershaven in the province of Zeeland. His parishoners will regret his departure, and indeed I do so my self for there is not a better man living in this place. –

***The falconers are gone to Loo some time ago according to our newspaper a great many of the English nobility will come over and see the Hawking there.** I know of no news here, except that provisions are rather scarce, that the weather continues very cold with a north east wind and frost at night and that we have a great many poor people, surely not good things this time of the year.*

I shall now conclude, and in hopes that you continue to enjoy good Health, I remain with best wishes, Madam your much obliged and humble Servant

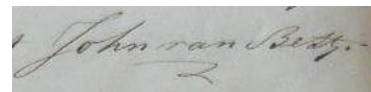


Mr & Madam Reyers desire their best respects to you.

Valkenswaard 19th May 1847

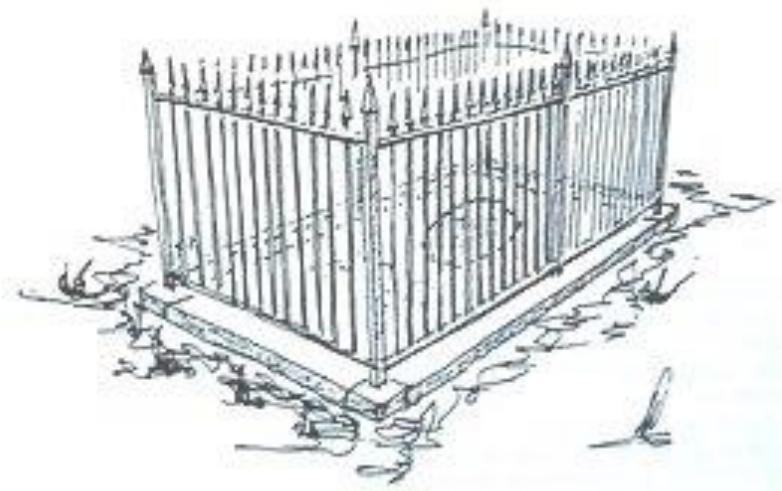
Madam,

I am very happy to be able, at last, to inform you that the whole business regarding the Tomb, the stone frame and iron Balasading, on the Grave of your poor beloved Brother, is completed, and that too, in a manner of which I flatter myself, you will give your approbation. It is altogether a good and substantial work, the Tomb weighs between fourteen and sixteen hundred pounds, the stone frame in which the iron railing is fixed about six hundred, and the iron five hundred and six pounds the whole resting on a properly made Grave of between Eleven and twelve hundred hard Bricks. – in my last in which I enclosed a letter of the good Mr Reyers, and a written promise of our Burgomaster, I think I said the iron Balisading would have been ready about the last April, but this the Blacksmith was not able to finish until the day before yesterday and yesterday I have been attending the placing of it around the Tomb, so I hope and trust you will soon begin to think of crossing the great waters to come and see it. – Some time ago I have given to Mr Reyers for the poor, two hundred florins, and of the 50£ that are to be given to the Catholic poor master, I have also given some and will now soon give the rest to them; the remainder of the money I think we may best regulate about when we shall have the pleasure of seeing you here. – I am, thank God, pretty well, and like Esq Anthony of West Acre High House have begun Brick baking, besides I have bought some twenty acres of our Common Heath, which I intend sowing with Scots fir, then one and the other giving employment to about sixteen fellows that would otherwise have not much to do; you must however not think that I am spending my money in a useless way, for I see some profits in it at the end. – We have had here the last three weeks most charming weather, vegetation is very rapid, and all our crops, particularly rye promises and abundant harvest. For the present it is a distressing time here but not so bad though as in Ireland and some parts of Belgium, Germany and France, for we have not yet heard of any riots or outrages in our Country. – I continue to receive the Illustrated London news regularly, for which I can only offer you my very best thanks. – Mr and Madam Reyers are in good Health and desire to be remembered to you, you already know that they are going to leave this place. – Stopher, my wife and family are all well and beg to be remembered to you and with my best respects, and sincere hopes that this may find you enjoying good health, I remain Madam, always your much obliged and humble Servant.



PS how is old Tabitha? I often think of her, as being one of the old Servants that lived at High House when my poor beloved Master lived there. – I beg you will remember me to Mrs Grove and your other Servants, not forgetting the very kind Mr and Mrs Parsons.

SACRED TO THE MEMORY
OF
RICHARD HAMOND ESQ^{re}
SON OF ANTHONY HAMOND ESQ^{re}
OF WESTACRE HIGH HOUSE IN THE
COUNTRY OF NORFOLK IN ENGLAND
AND AMELIA HIS FIRST WIFE
HE DEPARTED THIS LIFE ON THE 10th DAY OF
OCTOBER 1845
IN THE 73rd YEAR OF HIS AGE
AFTER A RESIDENCE OF 25 YEARS IN THIS
VILLAGE
THIS TABLET IS PLACED HERE
IN SISTERLY AFFECTION, BY
SARAH HAMOND, HIS ONLY REMAINING
SISTER
AND NEAREST SURVIVING RELATIVE



The grave of Richard Hamond is still present in The Churchyard today and is the oldest remaining gravestone present.

Following his death Richard Hamond left John Van Best the sum of 24,000 guilders (£2000.00) making him one of the wealthiest persons in Valkenswaard.

	g ^l	£
J. Van Best	24,000	2000
Anna Best	1200	100
Peter	2400	200
Mohr	2400	200
Vanderstraten	1200	100
Cater	1200	100
R. Hamond	1200	600
H. W. Coltho	3600	300
J. Lano	3600	300
		£3900.

REGISTER No. 1 1846 Folio.

An Account of the Personal Estate, and of Monies arising out of the Real Estate, of Richard Hamond of Valkenswaard in the Canton of Eindhoven in the Province of North Brabant in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, who died on the tenth day of October One Thousand Eight Hundred and forty five exhibited by Sarah Hamond of Swaffham in Norfolk the acting Executor the Executor or Administrator of the Deceased, or Trustee of the Real Estate, directed by the Will to be sold, &c., acting under the Will, or of Administration of the Estate of the Deceased, proved in, & granted by the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 13th day of March 1846

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.	Date of Sale, if Sold	No. 1.		No. 2.	
		Money received, & Property converted into Money	Value of Property not converted into Money	Money received, & Property converted into Money	Value of Property not converted into Money
Cash in the House.....	All the Cash in the House and effects of the deceased at Valkenswaard where he lived and died are by the Will given to John Van Best who has accepted the same agreeably to the laws of Holland.				
Cash at the Bankers.....					
Furniture, Plate, Linen, China, Books, Pictures, Wearing Apparel, Jewels, and Ornaments....					
Wine and other Liquors.....					
Horses and Carriages, Farming Stock, and Implements of Husbandry.....					
Stock in Trade.....					
Good Will, &c. of Trade or Business.....					
Leasehold Estates at.....					
Life Assurance Policies.....					
Rents due at the death of the deceased.....					
Mortgages and Interest at the death.....					
Bonds, Bills, Notes, and Interest due at the Death.....					
Book and other Debts.....					
Canal, Railway, and other Shares.....					
Ships or Shares of Ships.....					
Carried forward.....					

An Account of the Personal Estate, and of Monies arising out of the Real Estate, of Richard Hamond of Valkenswaard in Canton of Eindhoven in the Province of North Brabant in the Kingdom of the Netherlands who died on the tenth day of October One Thousand Eight Hundred and forty five exhibited by Sarah Hamond of Swaffham in Norfolk the acting Executor acting under the Will, of the deceased, proved in, Prerogative, Court of Canterbury on the 13th day of March 1846.

All the Cash in the House and effects of the deceased at Valkenswaard where the Testator lived and died are by the Will given to John Van Best who took possession of the same agreeably to the Laws of Holland

As a result of this fortune the Van Best family started, in 1865, a cigar factory. The cigar industry brought economic growth to Valkenswaard and many others followed suit. At its peak in around 1920 there were some 42 factories. The cigar industry flourished for a hundred years. During WWII the production of cigars almost came to a standstill and after the war tobacco was very short and not all factories could start up again. By 1956 factory after factory closed down including the Van Best factory. The Cigar industry in Valkenswaard continued to decline with the final cigar being produced in Valkenswaard in 2003.



Although Falconry and the Cigar Industry of Valkenswaard have now gone it will never be forgotten. The names of Richard Hamond and Jan Van Best will remain synonymous in relation to both Falconry and the Cigar Industry for without one the other would not have happened.

Today, nearly 200 years after the arrival of Richard Hamond in Valkenswaard the historical relationship of Hamond and Jan Van Best, Falconry and Cigars is preserved forever within the Falconry and Cigar Museum. It was originally known as The Cultural History Museum of Valkenswaard and opened on 25th January 1986. Over the years improvements have been made and the Cigar Museum was renewed, and an official opening was held by the former Minister of Home Affairs, Mr H. Wiegel. On the 22nd January 2009, following the renovation of the Falconry Museum a further official opening was held. Mrs G. Verburg, the Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food in her opening speech confirmed that Valkenswaard and falconry are inextricably linked and that should be cherished.

All of the above letters are published with the kind permission of the Norfolk Record Office where the originals are held. Catalogue reference No's. HMN 5/63/1-121 and HMN 4/62/1-23

With special thanks to J.W.M Van De Wall for allowing the use of the photographs from his book The Loo Falconry.

Researched and typed by Paul Beecroft 2009 – 2010 with the assistance of Peter Devers, David Horobin and Ben Mondelaers, The Falconry & Cigar Museum in Valkenswaard.



