

# 1795 letter from James Mackison, Kilbryde to George Washington

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### To GEORGE WASHINGTON FROM JAMES MACKISON, 16 FEBRUARY 1795

**From James Mackison**

Milln of Killbryde [Scotland]  
16th Febr'y 1795

Honorable Sir

I beg to be excused for the rashness of attempting to trouble your Lordship with the following request but your Lordship may be assured that nothing but necessity could have made me so bold therefore with a humble confidence on the humane character which you possess and for which you are admired by all ranks in Europe and also when I view and am made to admire the impartial justice that triumphs in that quarter of the world wherein you dwell I am led to hope that you'll not be offended at an anxious desire I have of knowing the fate of a friend—The friend for whom I am so deeply concerned is in relation to me my brother in law whose name is John Abercromie he was born in Throsk Parish of St Ninians and County of Stirling to trade a joiner he sailed for America from Greenock on the 11th of July 1774—he took up his residence in Menallan Township York County and province of Pennsylvania from which we received some letters The last dated from said place March the 2d 1786 with an account of his intending to leave that place next Spring and to go to (Forepit) with orders to direct our letters to the Rev. Mr Clark Minister Pits Craig congregation to which place and according to the above directions we have sent a good number of letters without receiving any answer which makes me to suspect that he is either dead or removed from that place<sup>1</sup>—He has an aged mother which as well as I is greatly surprised and trembles for the fate of her dear son on the account that she can have no information of him—And I am now almost led to despair of receiving any information of him and after thousands of thoughts revolving in my mind I came to this resolution at last of applying to your Lordship altho' I am persuaded it is a bold and daring one and had it not been for hearing and viewing the many virtues that adorneth your character and bespeaketh you an equal friend to poor and rich I would not have presumed to ask the following favour which is (if you think it possible to be got) to make enquiry whither the above be dead or alive—I also desire it as a favour of you [( )]that so soon as you receive any information of the above) that you'll be so good as write me the particulars altho I am Sorry to put you to (*mutilated*)ch trouble yet with a humble confidence on you humanity I leave the above to your consideration—hoping that you'll pardon my rashness and all that in this may seem imprudent and be assured that altho' this has come from a weak mind yet from an honest heart which wishes and will if God grants life and health taste the fruits of freedom an liberty wich abounds in the states of America mean while. I Remain Your Respectful And most obed. Servt

James Mackison

And if you write direct James Mackison Milln of Killbryde Care of the Rev. Mr Robert Stirling Minister of the gospel Dunblane By Stirling North Brittan.<sup>2</sup>

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Washington Papers

TITLE  
To George Washington from James Mackison, 16 February 1795

AUTHOR  
Mackison, James

RECIPIENT  
Washington, George

DATE  
16 February 1795

**Reference**

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**ALS, DLC:GW.**

- <sup>1</sup>. "Forepit" and "Pits Craig" may have been misreadings for Fort Pitt and Pittsburgh. A John Abercromby appears in the 1790 Allegheny County census, and John Clark (1718–1797) was an early minister in the Redstone Presbytery, serving as pastor for the Lebanon and Bethel congregations near Peters Creek ([McLachlan, \*Princetonians\*](#), 1:266–68).
- <sup>2</sup>. Robert Stirling (1765–1817) of the Church of Scotland was educated at the University of Glasgow. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Dunblane in 1788 and ordained for Dunblane and Kilbride in 1791.

No response to this letter has been identified.

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No response to this letter has been identified.

<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/05-17-02-0357>

<https://www.loc.gov/manuscripts/?q=mackison>

The screenshot shows the Library of Congress search results for 'mackison' in the Manuscripts/Mixed Material collection. The page features a search bar at the top with the query 'mackison' and a dropdown menu set to 'Manuscripts/Mixed Material'. Below the search bar, the breadcrumb path is 'Library of Congress > Manuscripts/Mixed Material > Search'. The main heading is 'FORMAT Manuscript/Mixed Material'. There are two links: 'Search Manuscripts/Mixed Material' and 'Collections with Manuscripts/Mixed Material'. The results section shows 'Results: 1-3 of 3' and 'Refined by:' with filters for 'Original Format: Manuscript/Mixed Material', 'Available Online', and 'Look Inside: George Washington Papers, S...'. On the left, a 'Refine your results' sidebar lists various filters: 'Available Online' (3), 'All Items' (3), 'Original Format' (Manuscript/Mixed Material, 3), 'Online Format' (Image, 3), 'Date' (1700 to 1799, 3), 'Location' (United States, 3), 'Part of' (George Washington Papers: Series 4, General Correspondence, 1697 to 1799, 3; George Washington Papers, 3; Manuscript Division, 3), and 'Subject' (Manuscripts, 3). The main content area is titled 'Search Manuscripts/Mixed Material' and shows three search results in a gallery view. Each result includes a thumbnail image of a handwritten document and a caption: 'Image 1 of George Washington Papers, Series 4, General Correspondence: James MacKison to George Washington, February ...', 'Image 2 of George Washington Papers, Series 4, General Correspondence: James MacKison to George Washington, February ...', and 'Image 3 of George Washington Papers, Series 4, General Correspondence: James MacKison to George Washington, February ...'. The page also includes 'View' and 'Gallery' options, a 'Go' button, and a 'Sort By' dropdown.

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### Noted 2016

"James MacKison to George Washington, February 16, 1795", "", "106/1100", "1157.gif", "1157", "1157", "", "1157.jpg"

"James MacKison to George Washington, February 16, 1795", "", "106/1100", "1158.gif", "1158", "1158", "", "1158.jpg"

"James MacKison to George Washington, February 16, 1795", "", "106/1100", "1159.gif", "1159", "1159", "", "1159.jpg"

<http://frontiers.loc.gov/mss/mgw/mgw4/gwpage106.data>

### **My supplementary note**

1795 James Mackison, Miln of Killbryde, parish of Dunblane, Perthshire  
His brother in law, John Abercrombie, born in Throsk, parish of St Ninians, Stirlingshire

This is presumably the James Mackieson in Dunblane who married Catherine Abercrombie in St. Ninians in 1777

30/11/1777 MACKIESON, JAMES (Old Parish Registers Marriages 488/ 50 336 St Ninians)

1777.  
Nov.

30 James Mackieson in Dunblane & Cath. Abercrombie in this

The baptisms of seven children are recorded in the Dunblane parish register that name James Mackison at Miln of Kilbryde as the father. (Unfortunately, the mother's name is not given in the baptismal records during this period). It would be a reasonable assumption that Catherine Abercrombie is his wife and the mother of these children.

*1778 John  
1781 Beatrice  
1783 William  
1787 Helen  
1789 James  
1792 Colin  
1794 George*

The George Mackison baptised in Dunblane in 1794 is probably the George who married in in Dunblane in 1814: -

*1814 George Mackieson in this parish and Mary Jack in the parish of Muthill.*