

# The Scowcroft Diaries (1772-1910)\*

## James Bolton Letter from New York, 1833

*Copy of a letter sent by **James Bolton** of West Farms, New York, to his brother, **Edmund Bolton**, Nab Fold Farm, Harwood.*

Mr. **Edmund Bolton**, Nab Fold,  
Care of **Mrs. Lomax**,  
Sign of Three Crowns,  
Deansgate, Bolton-le-Moors,  
Lancashire

West Farms, Weschester, New York, October 29<sup>th</sup>., 1833.

Dear Brother and Sister,

I saw yours to **George Pickring** of 2nd. September and we was sorry to hear of your poor state of health, but glad to hear that you was recovering. We are all liable to sickness and misfortunes, which I am now one of the unlucky, which I will now relate. On the 10th., inst. I went into the Bleachworks after breakfast. I saw a strap that turned one of the mangles put on wrong. The wheel was running. I put off the strap to put it right, the shaft caught my clothes and took me round. I think 7 or 8 times before the wheel could be stopped. It broke one thigh a little above the knee and fractured in another place above the other knee was put out and fractured in the joint. So now I am confined to my bed and shall be for some time. It seems to astonish people I was not killed on the spot. I am now doing as well as can be expected. **George** (son of **Edmund**)<sup>1</sup> has been sick but is got well. He will write you particulars. We are all in good health at present. Your **Edmund** was at **George Pickering**'s I think about three months since. I believe he stopt two nights, he did not come to see us. I do not know whether he is in New York or not. **James Greenhalgh**'s wife and child and **Robert Kirkman**'s wife and children arrived at New York on the 22nd. inst., all well, had a rather rough passage of 35 days. **James Bolton** — brother **John**'s son — brought in a letter from **William Lee**, Old Fell, of some mowing intelligence performed by brother **Robert** and some others in Brookfold Great Meadow and Tanners Meadow, which was read amongst us to our great satisfaction. Respecting the business, it is something as usual.

\*Visit [www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca) (Research / Scowcroft Diaries) to learn more about the Scowcroft Diaries and to access the Amalgamated Indexes and other materials.

Our printing concern was a poor business last year. I expect it is doing a little better this year. We are dyeing about one thousand pieces per week and finishing about eighteen hundred per week. We do some for other dyers. I have bought a small lot of land close by for building on, as we was very much short of houses for the hands and I am building four, which happens to be a bad time on account of my misfortune but my son **Thomas** attends to them. You can tell my brother **Robert** that his children are doing pretty well. **Joshua** is very steady and saving a little money. Also, brother **John**'s children are doing pretty well. Since writing the above I have read a letter from brother **John**'s wife and am happy to learn that they are all well and doing well. I will write to her at some future time as I have nothing particular at present but our best wishes to them all. I have the sorrowful news of **Peter Lee**'s son. Misfortunes come unlooked for. We have had no word from brother for some time past. I shall be glad to hear from you at all times. I have nothing more at present. Give my respects to brother and sister and all enquiring friends and receive the same yourselves with the rest of the family from your distant brother and sister.

**James and Catherine Bolton.**

N.B. Let us make ourselves as comfortable as we can in all our situations. Its easy to make troubles when they might be avoided. Our time is but short here.

*Copied from the above letter by **Edwin Scowcroft**, October 2nd., 1904.*

*The original letter in the possession of **Joseph Kirkman**, Nab Fold Farm, Harwood, Grandson of **Edmund Bolton**.*

*AWC. Spelling is largely as per copy. <sup>1</sup> Added by Edwin Scowcroft*