

Rev. Ranna Cossit Letter Book: 1785-1789

(MIC-L FC LFP .C6R3L4)

Detailed Content Description

Page	Date/Place	Author	Summary
1-2	29 April 1785/Hutton Garden	William Morice	By charter, Society must stop employing missionaries in US, but will give encouragement and support to remove; Mr. Dibble will explain further. Sir John Johnson indicates you want to move, due to seniority, there is nothing available in New Brunswick but the Society has recommended you to government for appointment in Cape Breton; shows salary and provisions could expect from Society and government. If you approve, go to Cape Breton and let governor know of the appointment by Society with consent of government, therefor entitled to government pay
2-4	18 Nov. 1785/Boston	Cossit	To Morice; Visited and informed governor of Nova Scotia of my appointment as minister for the island; he agreed to assist as he could – house and church; comments on the state of Sydney - no place to hold service nor houses for citizens to keep warm this winter; propose leave of absence till next spring to return to Claremont and family, and to be of some service to many church people, such as assisting some who want to remove to British territories “in order to exculpate themselves from being accessory to the many bloody and inhuman Cruelties perpetuated against the King and upon his good subjects”; respecting Society’s land – believe Society should give me a deed of their right of land in Claremont for the trouble taken to preserve their lands; though I really want to go to Cape Breton, believe it more detrimental to lose the lands than I would be of service by going to Cape Breton; anticipates New Hampshire and Vermont joining Canada and families consequently “instantly” removing to there; will return to Cape Breton by the middle of May next; hope to hear soon how much the Society will contribute to defraying my expenses; have wife and 6 small children, the oldest 9 last August; and hopes he receives up to 50 pounds per year as previously suggested and if so hopes to know how much.

5	6 June 1786/Sydney	Cossit	To Morice; Arrived today; wrote from Halifax 26 th last month – drew bill for 10 pounds on the treasurer in favour of Mr. Charles Giddle, and about my officiating to my parishioners in New Hampshire free of charge – pitied them as they have no Society minister, and too poor to be able to move within British Kingdom; bills drawn 177, 1783 – named William Symond, Daniel Warner, Col. John Peters, Calvert Clapham Esq; not heard from you since 29 April 1785.
6-7	1 Dec. 1785	Morice	Received your letter from Halifax; entitled to an annual allowance of 100 pounds per year and 50 pounds from the Society possibly for four years; salaries vary with the situations of missions to better support new settlements more in need; Parliament has agreed to 500 pounds for church and hope government will allot for glebe; look forward to hearing from you.
7	27 Feb. 1786; rec'd 26 Oct. 1786	Morice	Received your letter from Boston; Society thinks you should have stayed at Cape Breton; protested bill, 1777 – treasurer knows nothing about; governor to inform you as to how you will receive your salary from government, think you are to draw on the agent of the colony; look forward to hearing from you.
8	12 Nov. 1786/Sydney Island	Cossit	To Morice; 26 Oct. received your letter dated 27 Feb.; few Anglican possessions or loyalists; hired Mr. Lovel as chaplain to garrison last winter; shows numbers - baptisms for Lovel, and baptism, burial, and marriages for Cosset plus communion possibilities; inhabitants – most French and Irish-born catholics, both of which are storekeepers and fishermen, and some “Indians”; Mr. Phealon, their priest - native of Ireland, “appears to be as great a Bigot as his Followers”, presented by letter of advice from the governor and herein attached.
9	2 [?] 1786/Halifax	James Kavanagh	To Gov. Des Barres; Rev. Mr. Phealon, clergyman of Church of Rome – provides flattering recommendation.
9-11	No Date/Place	Cossit	To Morice; Describes “discontent, envy and malice” by some against the governor to the detriment of the settlement and religion; just wants to live peaceably; papists have chapel at Arichat on Isle Madam; governor had gotten most of the timber for parsonage partly built, 50 x 21’, but storm blew it down; heard Parliament will not agree to 500 pounds till building is completed; school master, Edward Pate – recommendation of for salaried

			position with Society, has catholic children learning our catechism; requests tracts and books.
11-13	18 Aug. 1787/Sydney	Cossit	To Morice; Details of money owed him relating to a protested bill in favour of Daniel Warner, asks his consideration; hopes with arrival soon of new governor "Mc Cormick" of Cape Breton parties now formed here may subside and religion prevail on their fall; heard about possibility of Bishopric in Nova Scotia and that Dr. Warren, Bishop of Bangor, in his sermon, stated the personal characteristics required (shown herein); believe Rev. Samuel Peters, due to his zealousness, would be a great candidate.
14	29 Sept. 1787/Sydney	Cossit	To Morice; Baptisms, burials, communicants, marriages – numbers shown; drew bill on Society's treasurer in favour of Rev. Samuel Parker; Gov. "Maramack" shortly expected and hope he has instructions concerning church and parsonage at Sydney now that Parliament has voted money; working on building house to be finished next spring and then hope to turn it for a parsonage if agreed by Society and governor; family not here yet as no good accommodation, shall get them this fall or next spring; Gov. Des Barres sails for London in a few days and expects to see you.
15	6 June 1788/Sydney	Cossit	To Morice; Arrived with family 29 May; yesterday moved into my house built at my expence, but with encouragement from Des Barres hope to turn it into parsonage with money voted on by Parliament. [Letter has been crossed out and left unfinished.]
15-16	6 June 1788	Cossit	To Morice; Arrived 29 May, not sooner as no abode earlier; met Lt. Gov. Macarmick, requested money agreed by Parliament – church and parsonage; would like money for house I built as means for it to be a parsonage, this money now in Mr. Siller's hands as agent for this island; governor referred me to you for your agreement to such first then he would give me a bill on Mr. Shiller for the value of house. P.S. Have not heard from you since 17 July 1786; governor says will erect church soon; not even ¼ of the people can meet for worship at one time; they are very poor but willing to assist in erection.
17-19	29 Sept. 1788/Sydney	Cossit	To Morice; Few professors here of the Church of England; reiterates previously stated information about inhabitants – French, Irish (written above), they have another priest, a relation of Phealon's, they both make

			<p>their followers very “bigoted”; about 170 families at Arichat; provides tabulated data on families from various places – heads of family, and number of men, women, children and servants (example for Sydney – 65 men, 41 women, 76 children, and 17 male and 10 women servants); shows numbers for communicants, baptisms, marriages, burials this half year; no convenient place to assemble, governor laid part of foundation stones for church, intends to do more next year; contentious political scene, describes – mentions Misters Lovel and Cuyler (secretaries to governor), governors Des Barres and Maramick, Mr. Mathews (attorney general); also comments on prominent members of the community and their attendance at church, including Mr. Gibbons (chief justice) and Mr. Tait (provost marshal); hoped for peace with new governor but not to be – contentions on island the “bane to religion and society” and has “retarded” settlement; both parties have thrown their complaints to Lord Dorchester; governor has disconnected his association with Mr. Lovel; drew a bill from Society treasurer for Capt. John Wilson’s salary.</p>
19-20	10 Nov. 1788/Sydney	Cossit	<p>To Morice; Concerns the hiring and recommendations for Hiram Payne as school master on the island with salary; written many times, look forward to hearing back.</p>
20-21	21 Nov. 1788/Sydney	Cossit	<p>To Morice; Received letter from Bishop of Nova Scotia, asks me to forward papers on his appointment to you; hope this appointment brings happiness to inhabitants and that they “show forth thankfully” their love and regard which “daughter colonies owe their mother state”; included copy of my letter of 29 Sept. last.</p>
21-22	29 March 1789/Sydney	Cossit	<p>To Morice; Since letter of 29 Sept, numbers for baptisms, burials, marriages and communicants; request prayer books and religious tracts especially on the duty of coming to holy communion, on the sin of drunkenness and against Baptist doctrines, and of strict observance to Lord’s Prayer; drew bill in favour of Capt. John Wilson; include separate receipt by John Wilson which states - received two letters directed to Morice from Cossit – first with bill and the second will deliver to Halifax.</p>
23-24	25 May 1789/Sydney	Cossit	<p>To Morice; Herein enclosed copy of my letter 29 March; introduce David Taitt, provost marshal of the island and church warden – highly knowledgeable of the island and highly respected, has experienced</p>

			persecution from the authors of the contentions here but can depend he's truthful, request you hear from him; these people are no friend to church nor morality; they have tried to injure me in the eyes of Governor Macarmick as they have done to others; refers Morice to Taitt as a man who has knowledge pertaining to a church being erected, reiterates personal reasons this is expedient; "How advantageous this island is capable of being made to Great Britain and how it may be settled."
24-25	27 Feb. 1789/Gower Street	Morice	Sent letter Dec. indicating Society's compliance with your request concerning house to be converted into a parsonage; response to your second request concerning appointment and salary for Hiram Payne – too educated to teach poor kids to read and write and learn rudiments of religions, which is the design of Society's schools; his abilities are better employed in a school of a superior kind. Question - what have you done with library at Haverhill, should have brought it with you?
25-26	24 June 1789/Sydney	Cossit	Received letter of 27 Feb 1789; have not received your letter of Dec, please send a copy; brought the library from Haverhill with me to Sydney.