

[Note: Ralph Grey (1628-76) was a Newcastle merchant and Alderman, as was his father, also Ralph, before him. He married Margaret Bateman in Newcastle in the mid 1650s. She was the sister of Agnes Bateman who married James Briggs, with whom Ralph Grey was in business as lead miners. Briggs and the Batemans appear to have originated in the Kendal area. It would appear from his letters that Grey also kept a grocery business in Newcastle. His eldest son Ralph (1658-99) followed him into business.]

**22 Nov 1673 Ralph Grey to William Hester**

Newc November the 22 1673

Mr Haster

Hon Sir In my last letter which was yesterday I sent yow a bill of exchange upon George Potts since which Mr Moses Tring hath ben with me and I have paid hime forty five pounds and have heare incossed [inclosed?] sent yow his bill for ye value upon Mr George Potts; yr Maisters [shipmasters] have now <by land> from Scarbrough having lost his anchors and cables and could not bring the <ess...> away til he had this money to defray his charges about him and the other thurty pounds. Mr <Sayboale> and I understand he will want sixty pounds more yet besides coales and leed ores soe I have paid all this 75£ out in ready moneys, soe praye order me to receve same monys heare of to me that are in debted to you of our Neighbours; your last sope proves exceeding bad, we writt for best and best second two or 3 months agoe but we have heard nothing form you though you writt you would shipp it next weeke after, heare is Mr Wm Pye Mstr of ye shipp Paul whome Mr Potts writt me should aprise himself to me but he pretends he hath an order to Ralph Johnson and so loads with hyme that not further but that I am Yours to comand  
Ralph Grey

Given Mr Platt out of the same.

**29 Nov 1673 Ralph Grey to William Peacock**

Newcastel November the 29th 73

Mr Wm Peacocke

Yrs of the 29th No came to saife to hand; to my coussin Briggs who presents his servis to you; I perceve by your <good> intentions as for 100 or 200 pcs of small leed; the truth is we have not sold any under 11£ 6 S or 11£ 10S the fother Mr Blackett; did profer 11£ 6S for all we had I have prevayled with my cousene Briggs that you shal have one or 2 hundred pcs to in coridge you to deale with us and a coresspondentes; my coussein

Briggs would have your moneys returned heare; if ther be any concerns that I can serve you heare or any freind of yours comand your humble servent  
Ralph Grey

**29 Nov 1673 Ralph Grey to Edward Hodgson**

Newcastl November the 29th 73

Sir I make bold to truoble you with this inclosed bill of exchange for forty £ upon Mr John Groanes merchant; wch pray receive by my acct; and if you find an oppertunity remit it heare if not I shall in quire heare of some; and be pleasted to writ me two lynes of the accoptants and paymente if there be any concerns I can serve you or any freind of yours comande your frendes and servente  
Ra Grey

**29 Nov 1673 Ralph Grey**

Newcastel November 29th 73

Right Honble

After my services ; this at present is to aqiante you I have ordered mr John Goude master of the Good Hope of Soule to pay y[ou?] my acct thirty £ and mr John Hill master of the John of Hull will pay over his stocke being <100 L> at least; We heare that Mr John Thorpe in wch we had our pepor cownes and Raysings is taken by the Dutch privatr and suncke for ther is noo nowes of him and mr James Shrive; if lost I must intreat the same quantytys of goods on some other shipe; and that you will usse me kinely to helpe up the losse not further but that I am  
yo hono most humble servant  
Ra Grey

**29 Nov 1673 Ralph Grey to William Watling**

Newc No 29 1673

Mr Wm Waitling

Sir this at present is to aquant yew that Mr Hayward hath orded his wife and Mr Landham topay you 60 £ per my acct; wch pray you Recd your last prunes I recd the best ones right; but the midell sort wanted 2 <.> in every dozen and proved very bad of what we ussually had from yew; soe we hoap you will make abatement Not further but that I am y s Ra Grey

**29 Nov 1673 Ralph Grey**

Newc November th 29 1673

Sir

yours of the 15 currant came saife to hand I haveing beine sicke of the goute ever since the receipt of yours; I trated by my man wth Mr Hill and Mr Cawood and other M[asters] about the caridge of lead; but cannot prevale coals soe grate a price; they will not undr double the raight and thare is noe such incuridgemente; I sould 2 parcles of lead this weeke for 11£ 5S and some dearer; I the perceave the Turkey fleet is not sayled soe I hope yew have yoused of our leed to a good acct; when we find a conveniency we shall draw 100 £ or 20£ according to yor ordr and then to send us acct how its disposed of with the ballance; hear is noe newes hear but two great fleats of ships wch ar making all haste they can up; the priviteres hath taken James Shrive John Thorpe in whome I had goods my lord ships for me wth sundry others wanting wch the fleet can give noe acct of: Lead ore found at 6£ per Fo this noe further but that I am

Y S Ra Grey

**2 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey to George Potts**

Newcastle December 2nd 1673

Mr Pott

Sr yours of the 27 came to saife hand wheare in I perceive Mr Hester hath presented yew with the two bill of : I have chased my fittr ; to see that all sayles have a good loading of coles all <bring> the like; It cannot be that coles can be soe good as in sumer ; when they are new led and dry; but they shall have as good coles as the river can afard and att marktett prise; considering the time of the year; I shall inquire for Mr Olsen when he arrives at this port ; And according to yor order change bills for the value upon yew We heare by a Cappn that thare is the Hollands men of warr upon our cost [coast] that thar must be a very strong convoy thar will be no sturing for the shippes pray you send hus pease; Assure yor selfe if thar be anay concernes hear I can sarve yew or anny freind of yors command yor humble servant Ra Grey

**2 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey**

Newcastle December th 2d 1673

Honorable Sir

Yours of the 25 came to saife hand giving ann acct of the recit of the box of oar; and thoughts of it since which I trated with the gentamen employed by the grovers heare; who hath agreed to dd [deliver] 6 tunns heare in the spring which is all redy above grownd to have it well washed and drist Oare at 6 £ pr fo to be paid at the waying of the said ore; and lykewise they to be bound and you for to be free; if you have accason for a 100 pcs to have it the same raite; pray writ me your thoughts whether it will not

be convenient to have some artikells drawn orr nott as to the performance; I hear that the Bar[one]t Ratliffe <Lodging>is at <Riehnand> house he lives private his lady is in this c[ount]ry; this proclamation against romants may work some what < of him > he being the grettest we have in this country I have intreted a frind to write to H Whartons steward to see if he can procure 5 or 6 <Fs> pottes oare at 6£ or rather than fail 6£ 10. We hear there is hollands men of warr upon our costs [coasts] soe that the ships is like to winter hear with out a strong convoye be sent to beat them at the co[a]st; The M[aster]s will not take in nether lead nor [struck out: 'coles'] oare but at excessive raitts of proflet 18 d per pease for 2000 ps I thought for to have sent Mr Wigfall but could not prefaill at any rait; lead sold hear for from 11L to 11L 9S 6D per fother this not fother

I am Yo &c

Ra Grey

**5 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey**

Newcastle December th 5th 1673

Hon Sir

I have not heard that Mr Richardson hath paid your freind for my sones borde; wch troubles mee I have order him to char[ge] a bill upon Mr Richardson for his board and other nescessarys and to pay what money he is indebted wth thanks; so cleare for his ½ year pray bestow two lynes of as me ; to inform me how he imporves in his lerning Wholy comiting him to your care this what is needfull

Ra Grey

**5 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey**

Ne[wcastle] ditto 5 1673

Right Honble

Yours of 26 No[vember] came to saife hand; and according to your ordr I shall pay your bill to Mr Charles Cotterill for 50£ If load coles wth me shall have the best and cheapr for yor sake; In my last I gave you ann acct ; I orderd Mr Gould to pay your 30£ and Mr Jo.n Hill 100 £ and I have ordered Mr Walter Barnard of graves end to pay your 20£ upon bond dew the 4 Jan Next ; Mr Atkinson is in Burlington pear [pier?] soe we shall not nead the same goods we thought he had bene lost Pray send =02 Bar[rels] of rasons new and one barrel of currants this not forther I am yo.r servant Ra Grey

**9 Dec 1673 John Wescombe to Ralph Grey**

Desembr 9 1673

Sir

I have not bene honrd with anny of yors alonge tyme; and now are oblided to till yew we shall never have a more favarable tyme them at present for getting sattisfackson of the Judge of the admralty of towne; the damaidg and intrest of the butter: wee <obtaine > at <yours>; all we desire att courte in favor of yor <lynes> Mr Morgen ordrd me to advise yew of it; and to ordr the arrist wch yew had sent to <bondicks> to be putt into the hands of Mr Wm Banger of paris to persue the <bissines>; he being the fitte name in France; Mr Morgen desirs yor answer and in what I may serve yew

Yor most humble sarvant John Wescombe

**12 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey**

Newc December th 12 1673

Right Hon<ble>

This at present is to intreat yew; to find me per first <dyzon> of mace two duzon of nutmegs one duzon of cloves one duzon of sinnemonds and send them per the first oppertunity; if shippes be not ready send one duzon of nutmegs per land this what needfull from yo Humble sarvant Ra Grey

**12 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey**

Newc December 12 1673

S

This at present is to aquant yew ; that i rec[eved] a letter from Mrs <Landfam> who writ mee she could not find yew; that she had beene at severall times of the White Lyon in Southwick; but could hear of noe such I am afrade it is an excuse; wch if it be I shall goe on wth my sute against hur and put hur In more charges; therfour I leave hur with out excuses pray doe me the faver as to send your man to hur to demand it Not further Y

H Sarvant

RA Grey

**19 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey to unknown Grey**

Newcastle Desembr the 19 1673

Cousson Grey

This at present is to aquant you; that I have Rcd your bill of exchange for 60£ of Mr Samuell London; I have sent you hear a bill of Exchg of tenn pounds wch pray Rec[eiv]e per my acct; I perceive per George that yor cusson Allon is for buying a shipp; I shall venture a loading of coles with him wich wth charges will amount to 1/16

part; I hope the flett is wth you — this; all frinds is hear well and desire to be remembered to you this what needfull from your lo freinde Ra Grey

**19 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey**

Newc[astle]Desember th 19 1673

Hond Sir

yours of the 14th current came to saife hand wth the enclosed; wch I showed our consell; who would be satisfied in the grant ; In what kings raine and buy whome granted to Millar and Quaretis; and whether a grant from the king or a lease as Bowes pretends granted by his anchestors; we had much adoe <whend.l> a tryell last assizes for 10 yrs rent paid yew and your predissesers; I hope yow will secure hus if the sute goe against hus; and be at the cha [rge]s of the tryall; in the courts of Durham; for he hath from tyme to tyme sealed leases of ejectments and pretends he will maik hus acct for the meane profitt I perceive by our counsell his clame is under Lynley and Starkey by a grant the 4th of King James [ie.1607] to Sr Henry Lynley and John Starkey gent of Kent; wth sundry other lordships granted and they to Maidelin Bowes; The landes his in wch the mindes [mines] Lyis ;

Pray give hus full instrikons and that you will secure hus from <Mr> Bowes and your rent shall be paid you; and we shall treat wth yow for a new lease; the minds [mines] hath proved soe bad that thay have not paid charges this tryal how ever we would venter [venture] a little more in making anew tryall provided we may be secured; the Lady Vane hath also sealed a lease of ejectment but what their title is I know not; there hath likewise be a jury for the king upon the bounds of the forrest and thay have the grase wthin the bound[ar]y of that forrest it was by order of the Duke of Newcastle who with the Earll of Ogle is bow bearer to his Majsty When your hoy comes for coles shall use him very kindly for your saik or any freind of yours wth the best coles and wth the chepest; Pray bestow 2 or 3 lynes upon mee and <pretend> to keep up our harts for these great persons think for to rune hus downe; and my <porely> hart doth failfearing they shall be forsed to pay thure rent over againe that wth my humble sarvis

I rest yrs &c Ra Grey.

**19 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey**

Newc[astle]Desember th 19 1673

Right Honble

This at present is to acquaint yor honor that Mr Atkinson is come but sunke wth in the harbor that as good as lost; that is wine saved and some hopps but <denised> but are good ar loss; soe I intreat yew as per <former> to ship me the same parsell excepting prunes for I can by [buy] them hear for 12s and for peper I hope you will use me kindly

Mr Cotterall yr frend is not come but was blowen of as I was informed but I hop will be in this night I hope Mr Gould hath pd his 80 £ John Hill hath <stokt> pray tell him his oncle hath presented his bill for 40 £ he gave me for Hill doe pray lett him pay his owne stok; Mr Waltr Barnards 28£ or what he can carry if it be not to much trble that yow will ordr anny of yor men to recve the mony; I could ordr yew up mony of M[asters] of shipp and <...> hear of <yor cosson> noe more at present but that I am yo &c Ra Grey

**20 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey to John Grey**

[Note: A John Grey was a contemporaneous member of the Newcastle Company of Merchant Adventurers but appears from this not have been closely related to Ralph]

Decmbr 20th 1673

Mr Jn Grey

Sir yors per last post I have reas[eved] and heare in closed sent yew up the bills that the Maisters is oweing Mark Moore of <Hasting> twenty pounds Richard Watters fower pounds, John Watters tenn pounds John Felloewes eight pounds and John Mabb nyne pounds in all fifty one pounds wch they are oweing as per their bills will apeare, in my last I sent yew a bill of tenn pounds upon Mr Wm Dawkes and likewise gave yew an acct that I would venter 1/16 of a shipp a long wth yor cousen Mr Jno Allen and when yew rest this <m.o> please to remit downe as yor conveniense will serve for begging yor excuse for this trouble wth my love to yo and yors I remaine yr assured long ffrende R Grey

**20 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey to William Peacock**

Newc Desembr 20th 73

Mr Peacocke

Sr yors of the 13 currant came to saife hand wheare in yew take <notce of outs..>, of 200 pcs of leed at 11£ per Fo wch if 5s cheppr then we have but as to brake the custom of the towne thought yew gave extrayordnary we shall not doe it; if you please to have 2 or 3 C pcs at 11£ per fother of 21 c wights; I have bene trubelled wth the gout this 6 weakes; soe that I cannot goe abroad to waite of M[aisters] of shipp but if yow ordr Mr Wetwange who is employed in others concernes he may have the lead upon demand; as for cloves and nutmegs they are founde as cheape hear in towne; If there be anny thing hear I can sarve yew in or anny frends of yrs in coles or lead or frighting a shipp for yew when I have got shot of my gout command Yr Sarvant R G

20 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey

Newc Desembr the 20 1673

Sir

yrs of the 9th currant came to saife hand; and according to yor ordr hath pd yor bill for 20 pounds <cha[rge]d> of me by Mr frosts ordrd by lettr to Mr Leanard but noe <Adorsment [endorsement?]>; I would not scruple being yor bill I will essure yew I had never thought of dealing wth anny other person for that small pittence we trade in but I found that I could by as cheape if not chepr from our nyighbors who had the same parsel from yew then yew sent me them from London; and our traid being small; it maid it the leser; pray send me an acct against the ordr of febr and use me kindly for I intend to cleare of that day; being in traity wth a partnear who will maik the shopp his all ; and if you use me kindly shall have our custome; this what neadfull Ra Grey

20 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey to Randolph Richardson

Newc Desmbr the 20: 73

Mr Richardson

Yrs of the 9 currant came to saife hand wth the inclosed accts; for wch I thanke yew as allsoe my coussin Brigs; <.e with> 2 or 3000 pcs of lead <... yow> if thare wear anny incoradgment; but fright [freight] is great coles being soe hye wth yew; and lead by yor dealing; soe that for present must forbear I thanke yew for yor care in sending my sones lettr forward I had answered yors er this but that I am lambe of the goute; yew may please to ordr downe the ballance of the acct wth yr convenienccey; my cousen Briggs and I am indebted to you for your panes and trouble this wich need furder from yr humble servant Ra Grey

I wonder I heare not one word from my sonne this 3/mo and m[othe]r[?] 5/mo

20 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey

Newcastle December th 20th 73

Sir

yors of the 9th curant to hand, and according to yor order hath pd yor bills for 30£ charged of me by Mr Lewest Frosts order by letter to mr Leamonds but none indorcement I wold not scruple being yor bill; I will assure you I had never thought of dealing with any other person for a small pittence we trade in; but I found that I could by as cheape if not cheap from our nighbours who had the same parcells from yew sent - them from London; and our traide being small; it made it the lesser; pray send me an acct against the 2nd of Febre and usse me kindly for I intend to cleare of with all that



day; Being in treaty with a partner who will make the shope his all and if you usse us kindly shall have our custome; this what needfull from yrs to comand Ra Grey

**20 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey**

Newcastle Decbr th 20th 73

Sir

yours of the 9th curent came in due time I had answeerd or this but that I have been sick pray if you can remitt us the balleince of the acct betwixt the 2 of february it being a reckoning day I perseive by yours that lead falls of price there being noo incouridgeement; the trade heir is driven by the Hambrough[er]s Ostend[ers] Sweeds and others; who clear for Hambrough or Breame and gow for Amsterdam and Rotterdam and clear consederable by coals lead and butter , and if you have any courespondence that way we would willingly joyne. in Mr Spencers days I couresponded wth Mr Frances <Dison> and I <peercve> he is other wise ingaged, lead gives a good rate on the other <pde [produce]> Alderman Blackett hath sent 6000pcs he clears for Hambrough but they goe elsewhere, if there be any concernes that i can serve you or any frinds of yours in coale lead or butter  
RA Grey

**20 Dec 1673 Thompson to John Wescombe**

Dessa 20th 1673

Mr Wescombe

I have recd yor currant telling me tis fitt tyme to prosicut the maine <leue..> of the Butter ton and fortion to paris; but if nether Mr Morgen nor yew can remebr it I cannot forgett taht thare is 2000£ due to me of Mr Morgens part of the monys expounded in sute and untill I have it ether from him or yew; I shall not part wth any thing; I have already beene sufficiently abused both by Mr Morgen and yew about it; and now <that we> make proper <returne> you have to yor proporcion ; yew know by Mr Arundailes and Mr <Cornetry> Mr Ward yew never to pay ? of all costs I gave yew the acct: over and againe before I came from <bondes> when yew have <. for recd yr ps> ; what is disporsed yew may expect from me all the satisackon I can see no more  
Yors E  
Tompson

[In LH border on the side]

I doe very well remembr the partickeller some but yew have my acct ther is 2000£ or <1700> yew over charge

**20 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey**

[Note: A 'pinke' was the local name given to the versatile North Sea trading vessel based on the Dutch 'fluyt' & very popular with Tyneside shipbuilders, master mariners and merchants]

Newc Desembr 23 1673

Sir

Yours of the 20th currant wth the inclosed saife to hand for wch and oure great care in our concerns wch are very much <ingaided> to you; I have sent the inclosed forward to Mr Wigfall my frend in London to deliver the letters and to receve the accts from Mr Humphrey Wharton; Since my last Mr Robert Cooke wife is dead they say with greafe; for when she came for to risk into business; she found herself not in a condition to pay above ? part that she loaned me; Mr Blacket hath a shipp arived out of france about the <pick> of his ould pinke; She is loaden with small wines; Wch is sould for 36S per -- and upwards brandy for 36 or 37 and new prunes 12S 6d per sent? when I receve a letter from Mr Worton shall give you an acct. this what Needfull.

R grey

**23 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey to Daniel Wigfall**

Ditto 23 1673

Mr Wigfall and Mr Howard

This at present is to intreat your fayvor from you as to dd the inclosed to Mr Wharton at the 3 yellow Bales in London and what charge you are at plese to Acct pray rec an acct of hym how our concerns stands in france; I being about ¼ part concerned in the butter tunnes; and I perceve we loosis it for want of looking after it; Great quantitys of lead is shypt on these forarne shipp. this not farther

I am your ob Ra Grey

**23 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey to William Hester**

Desembr 23 1673

Mr Hester

Sir this at present is to intreat yew to send me one last of ordinary <soope> ; the last yew sent me proved very bad; that 3 firken is good for nothing; pray lett this be better and ½ last of the best soap; and if yew can conveniently ship them in Mr Sandersons Mr Robert Sharp or anay I am concerned in; If not I refer to yr care; the other being shipt in them will save me the fright this not fother yrs Ra Grey

**30 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey to John Cawood**

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Newcastel December the 30th

Mr John Cawaid

Yos of the 27th curant came to saife hand; and accorde to yor order I have shipt you in yr frind shipe of Gainsbrough 6 Firken of glasse of fourtens mr frances younge m[aste]r hath taken care of them and set them by them selves wth much to doe I prevailed wth mr <Arekeld> to let me have them for 9s the firken; pray remember me to mr Tomes Greane who arrived with you from Vergina; I hope he is delivered eare thise redyy to come away; pray writ me how yr Frinds vintaidge proves how wine is sold a tun wth your brandy and proves and prise of leed wth you and the prise of yr french goods if there be any things hare wher in I can serve yew Command yor Frind to command Ra Grey

**30 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey**

Newcastle December the 30th 73

Right Honble

yors of the 4th curent for wch i thank you care in shiping the goods; I shall fowllow yor advice as to the pepper when redy I have this morning the shipt is wighed; and hath sent <dd> I am afraide much goods is embeazeld I have caryd yor bill of fity pounds to mr Cotterell; I receved a letter from Mr Hill who will pay yew his stooke over; and John Gould 20£ and mr Wallter Baynared <20£> 4 poud he is oweng upon bond; this what needfull Yr humble servent Ra Grey

**30 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey to George Potts**

Newcastel Decembe the 30 73

Mr Gorge Potts

yor health wshed I have this post sent two bills inclosted mr John Grey one for forty 5 pounds from mr Wil Adford and fr 40£ from mr Gorge sayles mr alford is loaded ready and hath colwes willl give content: and Mr Mosses Dring is a loadeing who I shall take care one; mr George Sayles shipe is not done as yet yor ffrind Ra Grey

**30 Dec 1673 Ralph Grey to unknown Grey**

Newcastel Decbr the 30

Cosen Grey

I have sent you heare in clost thees bills of exchange schard uppon Mr George Potts <twere times streat sale maker for 80£ five £ the Gorge sayles 40£ and Will Alfort 41?£

paye <do> at 3 dayes sig[ht] pray you recive and get a bill of Caten Chuttonsons charge  
uppon Mr <Ison> in ye Custemhous or upon Mr Rogers or upon who you can yr  
loving cossen Ra Grey

**3 Jan 1674    Ralph Grey to Daniel Wigfall**

Newcastel Jan ye 3 73

Mr Wigfall

Yo[urs] of ye [lost] of December wch ye mel< >d acct and bill of exchange Came to hand  
I have placed ye bill to yo[ur] acct Currint; y[our] bill ondossed [endorsed] of Mr  
Roddom is accepted and wi[ll]bep[ai]d at day; if y[ou] can get bills for ye remainder  
pray returne ye monnys, I thanke you for yo[ur] paines in delivering my letters to Mr  
Wharton; I cannot prevale, wth any m[aster]s shippes to take in Lead; Coles giving soe  
great a prise at London; sundry ships heare is intened for Hollend; ye privateers hath  
taken a sswead loaden with wines for Scotland; and Caryed him to sealund; Capt  
Wetwange is come out of Scotland with ye Fleat and I beleve this Cole fleat Sayle of  
munday for London; under his Convoy when your freinds at Midlbrough or  
Amsterdam fines an opportuntye in freghting a shipe with Leead and Coles or other  
goods we shall come with you in it I hope leed will risse wth you we hearing yt there is  
great hopes of peeace wch god grant this wt needfull from y[our]s to Comand  
I wish yow a good new years Ra: Grey

**3 Jan 1674    Ralph Grey to unknown Grey**

Newcastle Janury ye 3d 73

Loving Cossen

yo[urs] of ye 30 of Dcember with ye inclosed bill of exchange Came to safe hand; for  
wch and also your faver I doe render yow hartye thinks; pray ye chargs yow are out in  
Carth hire or other Charges pray place to my acct wch shall be payde payd with  
thankes

My wife presents her servise to yow; and intreats yow to buy hir 1 tun of ordnarye  
vinicar and to send it y first shippes or any of our Twones [townes?] men yt I am  
concernd in wil so fright; Capt Wetwang came out of Scotland Last Night; and one  
Monday morning this fleett intends forward to Sea: und[er] the Capt Convey I hope  
the other bills for the 29£ will be pd by dew tyme wth Mr Geo <Potts> bill for 85 <s> I  
sent yow inclosed last post.,

P[ar]don this trouble I put yow tow: wishing yow a good New year

Ra : Grey

**3 Jan 1674    Ralph Grey to William Peacock**

Ditto 3d 1673

Mr Peacocke

Yours of the 29 xnber Came to saife hand and in dew tyme; wch I had answered erre this but that I have not sene Mr Robt Wetwange I shall del[iver] him the Lead upon demand, Its of the <ryesing> hard hear thar being great hopes of pease wch god grant; my cozon Briggs hath bene sundry tymes seking hime; if yow agree with anny shipps for the fut[ure], I shall furnish thim wth as good Coles and as good Chepe as anny, We Intrete yow retorne yo[ur] monnys downe hear for this 200 pcs for retorne is scarce; Mr Hugh Mason: Ald[er]man Webb a[nd] my Lord Mayor who will furnish yow wth bills upon thare Custom<ers> with thanks I hear the duch Cap[tain]s are very Churlish; and Carrys all hamburg[er]s as pryse for Holland pretending thare tyme of pese is out

Thay hath takon goeing for Scotland Loadon with wines; Capt Weatwang arryed hear last night wth the Scots fleet, and of Monday moreing Intends for Sea. Thus not futher but that I am Ra : Grey

**6 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to unknown Grey**

Newcastle Jen 6 1673

Cousson Grey

This at present is to aquant yow that Mr Clarke hat pd bill of exchange I make bould to truble yow further to Intresst yow to Re<ceive?> of Mr Potts Inclosed bill for 30 <s> Cha<rge> bing Moses Dringer and on[e] bill for 6:15:6 per Mr Wm Alford, the flett are saild under convoy of Capt Wetwang. No more at present but this from your loveing Cousson

Ra : Grey

**9 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to unknown Grey**

New[castle] Jen[y] th 9 1673

Cousson Grey

Yo[urs] of the 3d Curant Came to saife hand: Wherein I perceive yow Rec[eived] the bills Cha[rge]d upon Mr Potts; and that yow wear wth hym and that he would not Under Write; in my Last I sent yow a bill Inclosed for 30 <s> charged by Mr Mossis Dringer and one bill for 6:15:6 p Mr Wm Alford; I doe wounder he doth doth [sic] not except the bill; being In amang all Ready moneys pd hear: wch at this tyme of the year is Scarce with Cole owners

Incase he refuse to pay I must intrete yow to Repaire to my freind Sr Wm Hocker now Lord Mayor of London; who will advise yow what is best to be done, and if accas[ion] be we will ceasse of the Coles for his Use and Areast the M[aste]rs for the

overplus but this yow may keepe to yourselfe; and act accordingly as you find his dealing for I heard hear that he was a very rich man and had great Intrist in Shipping for his Custome did Straten myselfe; he hat one great flybote hear repairing wch will cost 200 pounds at Least – I have furnished hym wth monys but now shall stope and stay the shype for wt monys I have <> Mr Geo Sayle wch on[e] of these bills is for 40 [pounds] ; for the West Cuntry bills I hope you will Re[ceive] in due tyme; pray writ per next post whether he will pay the monys or not; for then I will writ to Mr Lord Mayor and Sr Thomas Bladworth to assist yow; excuse this great truble: from Your frende Ra : Grey

**9 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to Matthew Shepherd**

New[castle] Jen[y] th 9 1673

Mr Shephard

This at present is to Intreat yow to Ship me per the first Ships three <H?> of Malt three boxes of browne Candy; and loafe sug[a]r one <H?> Let them be moast Small loaffs; and I shall take Care to Order you up moneys : pray if M[aste]r Thorpe or M[aste]r Sand[er]son be not come away Ship it in Ether of them and if they have anny moneys to Spare pray Receive it other wise I shall ord[er] Mr John Martine or Others to pay it

Ra : Grey

**9 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to George Potts**

New[castle] Jen[y] the 9 1673

Mr Geo Potts

This apresent Is to Aquant yow that Mr Mossis Dringer and Mr Wm Alford Is Sayld and I hope will be wth yow er long; Last post I Rec.d a Letter from my Cousson Mr John Grey who writt me he was wth yow; Wth the bills of Echange Wch you would not Under Write nor Except; but did appoint hyme to Come Eight days after: you would give hyme an Answer: Wch I Wond[e]r at for all most redy moneys I pd: I could have had twelve pens per pound to have fornished others hear, I hope per next to hear that yow have pd that money and without yo[ur] Speciall ord[er] shall furnish Sayles with noe more moneys: pray writ me the reason why you owne not the bills: for I wd not exceed yo[ur] ord[er] wch I must stand by; Write me two lynes In answar Next post Not farther but that I am yo[urs]

Ra : Grey

**9 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to William Hester**

New[castle] Jen[y] the 9 1673

Mr Hester

This at present is to Intreat yow to Shipp In Mr <Ne.> Sanderson Mr Thorpe or who you Can best for Ship I have p[ar]t of if save Fr[e]ight ; if not I refer to yow to Shipe In whom yow plisse halfe a Last of ordenary Soape 1/2 Last of Best BS Soape and 1/2 Last of BB Soape, I have not hear from yow of late, pray Lett this make amends for Last per John Bee wch we Lost 2 or 3 firkens : Lett me hear two Lynes from yow of Shiping and I shall ord[er] yow up yor money Not fother but that I am yo[urs] Ra Grey

**16 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey**

New Castle Jen 16th 1673

Right Honble

This at present is for Cover of this Inclosed bill of Exch[ange] from Mr Charles Cotterall who by stres[s] of Wedd[er] is drevn Into Berwick; the bill is for 10 <£> But I paid but 5 <£> and I perceive he Recd noe more ; Except he Intend to Cha 5 <£> more I doe not understand hys meaning: yo[ur] fine Currant proves not good ; I hope Earr this the Mr <> hath pd the moneys ordered; this not furth[er] but that I am yo[ur] most Humble Sarvant

Ra Grey

**16 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey**

Newc Jen th 16 1673

Sr

Yo[urs] of the 10 Curant Came to Saife hand; Wth the Inclosed bill of Exch[ange] Came to hand wth Mr George Arey promises payment this day wch I question not We sell Lead from A 11 £ 5 s to 11 £ 10 s to Duch men: I have prevailed with my Cussen Briggs you shall have 200 or 300 piggs at 11£ per fother It being for yo[ur] owne acct; pray prevail wth some M[aste]r to taikett in hear Capt Weatwang hath taken a privattear of Eight gones [guns] and 70ty men Who had taken Clarkes Ship of 21 gones Keeles and others are Wanting this not Forther then I am yo[urs]

Ra Grey

**17 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to William Peacock**

Newcastle Janu ye 17 73

Mr Wm Peacocke

Yo[urs] of ye 13th Curant wth ye inclosed bill of exchange fo[r] twenty pounds Came to saife hand wch he promes to pay at day; I desired him to let know if there weere any Convenency of Shiping he would let me know; that I Might get of ye haviest

Leed; to save wt we can in Coustome; he tells me there is noe Sweeds and yt you will not adventure in a Ostender; they being price [?prize] to ye ffrench; I shall observe yo[ur] order in it; or wt else yo[ur] Concernes I should be glad to hear of a peac; yt we may have then in Coridgement to adventure thus not futher but yt I am Y[our] Most Humble servent to Co[mmand]

Ralph ; Grey

**17 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to George Potts**

Newcastel Jan 17 73

Mr George Potts

Yours of the 11th Courant Came to safe hand; & assure yourselfe Mr Sales shall want noe furtherance that lies in My power I have bee[n] Lying tormented wth the gout that I Canot Looke after my busnes I orderred my Man to goe from Shope to Shope if any had accation for Moneys I would passt my bills I did intreat Mr Sayles the Like who sath he hath beene but Cannot procure any I have ordered my frinde haveing about five hundred pounds London to returne mee; to repara to Capt Huson or my Lord maire uppon his Customs Ald[er]man Webb, Mr Ma<> Shappard or Mr Mason I did never know ret<> [?returns] scarcer heare this 20ty yeares <for> John : Grey I did order hime only to receive the moneys of you and get bills of these persone at 14 dayes; with Trouble I put upon hime; he is not aqu[ai]ntd with bills soe the better to be excused; the Cole trade soe bad and moneys lying out of my hand or else we should trouble none; the late Colerse is much disspersed, some in Schotland Berweike and all ports Capt Zvetwang tooke a privateere last weeke with 8 guuns and 70thty men She had taken Mr Clarke a Shipe of 21 Keales and was in hand with Mr Sam Greeane who was reprevved; the Saturday a great fly bote was Losst of Sunderland whearin Capt How was Conser[n]ed the ½ part heare hath been bad weather: God send a good agreement betweene king and parlement. I thank you for your private newes god send better; and a fine peace not else further but that I am Yours to Command  
Ralph Grey

**19 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to Randolph Richardson**

Newcastle Janu ye 19 73

Mr Richisson

This at present is to acquaint yow yt my Cossen Briggs and I have examened yo[ur] acct and found it right and intende to Shipe som Led per ye first Shipes we Can get to take then [sic] in Coles geves Soe great a prise they wellnot be p[er]swaded to doe us ye Courtessy though we would advance ye price; we intreate yow for yo[ur] paines and trouble in selling ou[r] Leed you wold bestow five pounds in a pesce of



plate and place to our acct; we have not latily hear from you as to the price of Leed;  
Last fleet of Colers is much dispersed; Som for Scotland Berwicke Capten : Wetwange  
last we[ek?] tooke a Capp[ture?] of 8 gunns and sixty men; She had taken Mr Clarkes of  
21 keeles & had taken Sam:Green

If Capt Wetwange Come to there reprove if any newes of peace pray writ not  
further but yt we are Yo[ur] Humble servant

Ra Grey Ro Briggs

**20 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey**

NewC[astle] Jan 20th 1673

Sr

Yors of the 15 Curant with the Inclosed bill of of Exchange for £85 17:6d of Mr  
Henshawe would not Except the bill for to pay at the day; pretending longer tyme  
granted, Soe was forced to grant hym a weake Longer or Returne the bill; I am glad  
that Lead ryseth with you: We can gett noe M[ast]er for to take In anny hear for  
London; In my Last I writ you I had prevailed wth my Cosson Briggs to Lett you have  
2 or 300 peses of Lead at £xii per fother pray [s]end some M[ast]er for to Call for them; I  
thanks yow for yor newes; pray god send hus a pease; after all these <overtorns and  
..ings these ports afeard was News but bad weder else> No more a[t] present  
Ra Gre[y]

**20 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to unknown Grey**

[Note: A fitter on Tyneside bought and arranged shipping of coal from the coalowners]

Newc[astle] Jan th 20 1673

Lo[ving] Cousson

yors of the 15th Curante with the Inclosed bill of exchange for <£114> came to saife  
hand upon Mr Peater Marchall who hath paid the one ½ and will pay the other next  
weeke as he promisseth, for great Care and trouble I send you many thanks as alsoe  
for yor private advise; Mr Sailes hath ship of Mr Potts Repairing which will Cost = £115  
besides she will take In above 20 Keels of Coles soe I intreat hym for to Retorne monys  
downe; I hope by [the time] this Come to hand you will be makeing Ready for your  
voadgs [voyages]; I am now turned my owne fitter; and will take Care at your Arivall;  
for I thinke a mans business Is best done by hymself Noe more a[t] present but that I  
am your Lo[ving] Cuson

Ra Grey

**23 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to Matthew Shepherd**

NewC[astle] Jan 23 1673

Mr Shepheard

Yors of the 3d Curant Came to saife hand and in dew tyme; since which I have ordered Mr John Burfit of <soal> to pay you twenty pounds and if he come to this port to pay forty pounds and Mr Partis of Newcastle to pay you £20 I shall order you more mony up; heare hath bene A sad Losse of shippes hear to the Norward of this barr: Mr Anto: Whats Mr Johnson Hen: Kirkhous Tho Simpson Mr Hutton Forman Little: of Newc[astle] besides Sundry other Strangers; and others wee hear not of at present this not forward but that I am yours to Comand  
Ra Grey

**23 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to William Hester**

[Note: According to Wikipedia, 'neat soap' is the soap precipitated from the boiled-up mixture of ingredients by adding salt.]

NewC[astle] Jan 23th 1673

Mr Hester

Yors I Recd: This at present is to aqua[i]nt you with the sad loss this towne hath sustend by the Last Storme; my sope is lost buy Cha Johnson; w[hi]ch if you had shipt According as you writ In October had bene saife hear but that Adds to my other great Losses; pray send 6 Barr[els] of the best Neat Sope per Abraham Dixson or some other good ships; I Lost Last year £1400 in [l]osses of ships but this year We know not all Losses for this storme thare is Lost: <9.> townes ships besids strangers Not further but that I am Your Humble Servant  
Ra: Grey

**23 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to Randolph Richardson**

ditto 23th 1673

Mr Richardson

Yors of the 17 Curant came to saife hand with a Bill of Exchang of £75 4s w[hi]ch my Brother Ellison hath Excepted; hear is a sad lose to this towne; Last year I Lost £1400 but this year I know not but this towne is undon; I meane shipowners; ther is lost that we hear of Mr Kirkhous Tho Simpson Anto Whit Mr Hutton Forman and Furman and 4 or 5 other besids all strangers Not further but that I am yours  
Ra Grey

**23 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to unknown Grey**

NewC[astle] Jan 23th 1673

Cosson Grey

This at present is to acquaint yow with the sad loss we have suffered to our ships Mr Whits Mr Johnson Mr Kirkhous Mr Simpson Mr Hutton Mr Forman Mr Little Mr Reahead Geo Bett Wm Wilkinson Mr Shrives Mr Albaney and the Nathen Robt Thorpe feared of fifteene but 3 saife Thes are Townes Ships besids others w[hi]ch I have Not the Names of; I had A letter from Mr Potts that he would send you downe the £36 this Not further but that I am Yours

Ra Grey

**23 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to William Watling**

ditto 23th 1673

Mr Watling

Pray Send per Mr Dixson or some of our NewC[astle] Shipps 12 Dozen of your best pans and 6 dozen at 6s:10 per [dozen]; hear is a great Loss of ships No more at present I am Yours

Ra Grey

**23 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to George Potts**

ditto 23 1673

Mr Geo Potts

Sr Yors of 17 Came to saife hand: being seke of the gootes [gout] that I Cannot goe about but I entreted Mr Sailes to Lock [sic] about and he tould me he had prevailed for £100 I giveing my bill upon you; W[hi]ch I promised I would but I heard nothing of them this morning w[hi]ch I wonder of; I shall doe my Endeaver to assist hym but trade is soe dead and monys soe scarce with hus especally at this tyme of year; French Sells well good graves Wine at 36 pounds per <Hs> and 6 month tyme they buy othear if the Wine be good there is noe <Kur but it will of> hear is a great Loss of ships I Lost Last year £1400 but I am fraid of this Not further but that I am Yours

R G

**24 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to George Potts**

NewCastle Jan 24th 73/4

Mr George Pott

Last post I writ you I heard nothing of Mr Georg Sayles; who this day was with me; and aquanted me he expected one hundred pounds at last but now he Can furneish hime but with thirty pounds which I have passed my bill of exchange of you at sight

according to Mr Sayles desire; which pray honor with acceptance and payment; the bill is payable to Mr Jerrad Stockell or his order; A man of Law[.] moneys is soe scarce heare that those that have it will not part with it without advance; soe that my advice is to get bills there and send downe for I beleive he will have occasion for one hundred and fifty pounds before all things be Cleared; heare is Lost to the noroward [northward?] of this barr twenty Sayle of Shippes that we heare of besides those that are foundered; pray god send us peace that shippes may not be forced a winter trade, this not further for present but that I am Yours  
Ralph Grey

**27 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to Timothy Asdell**

NewC[astle] Jan 27th 1673

Mr Tymothy Asdell  
Yors of the 22th Curant came to saife hand with the Inclosed bill of Exchang of Mr Petter Marchell Came to saife hand, for the value Recd of Mr Geo: Potts; I hope Ere this he hath p[ai]d the bill of £6:15s:6d cha[r]ged buy Mr Alford; I much desire your Aquates and if I truble you with rec[eiving] moneys of Masters of shippes and paying It, Retorning: per bills of Exch[an]ge with per Cent: Noe more At present but that I am yor Humble Servant  
R Grey

**27 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to Charles Fairweather**

[Note: Cold Harbour was an area of the City of London close to Cannon Street station. There is still a Sugar Loaf Pub in the area:  
<https://www.nicholsonspubs.co.uk/restaurants/london/thesugarloafcannonstreet>  
but the present building is C19. The pub's website notes that there used to be many sugar refiners in the area.]

NewC[astle] Jan 27 1673

Mr Fairweather  
I am glad to hear of your saife arival We have Lost <20th> of our best NewC[astle] shippes wh[ere]in I am deaply concerned that within the 14/mo I have loss 30 Sayle of ships; god send his peace that you may Lye up In winter, and run noe such hazard and thare Is 30 Strangers Lost with the NewC[astle] men It was a strong ruin those shippes that was <.....> though they had but bene but at Scarbrough I have Recd Geo: Pesead accs Whear I found you debtor £15 per bill which pray you pay Mr Shephead or Order at Sugarloaf in Could harbor pray make up 30 pounds and take thare bills upon me which shall be pay[d] you hear wth thanks No more at Present  
R Grey

**27 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to Matthew Shepherd**

ditto the 27 1673

Mr Shipheard

In my last I gave you an acct w[ha]t Mr Burford would pay and Mr Parker who I hope will not fall [fail?] ther Ingaidment; and this Inclosed to Mr Chas Fairweather, w[hi]ch pray sealle before your delivery you will hear of hym at Billigate he Is now unlading his shypp; I hope he will [have] twenty pounds; for the futer [future] give me but tymly notes I will order you up your money thus Not further I am yours

Ra Grey

**29 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to Embaucke**

NewC[astle]; jan 29th 73

Mr <Embaucke>

I recd yours but I doe not remember anythinge of w[ha]t you mentean; you <...> as much formerly; I have examind & find noe such thing if there be receipts as you pretend produce them[.] not further but that I am Your frend

Ra: Grey

**30 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey**

[Note: Michael Blackett wrote to Mr Tempest Raine in the 1670s and Tempest Raine was a witness to James Briggs' will of 1668. (see elsewhere in Dukesfield documents).]

NewC[astle] Jan 30th 1673

Honerd Sir

Yors of the 17 Curante came to saife hand with the Inclosed to Mr Baites; w[hi]ch was carfull <d..d>; and this post I will give you ann acct of Tempus Rayne; I wish I may be servisable to you or yours If you Hon[ou]r mee with your Comands in this plase; yor Noat of my sonns Charge I Read; and find you have Wronge yorselpe for you make yor selfe Debtor £5:5s:11d and there Is but In your hands: £3: 5s: 11d w[hi]ch place to Acct I Rejoice to hear frome soe good a hand; that Wm Grey Will prove a good boy; he shall Want no InCorigment; I have 2 others I wish wear with you; when your more Serious bussines will permit bestow one Lyne upon Yor most Humble Servant

R Grey

**30 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to William Grey**

ditto 30 Ja 1673

Sonne Wm

Since my last I Recd yors and one with A Noat of Cha[rge]: which I approve of; from Mr Leads who I am Ingaged to for his great care of you; <ply [apply?] your backe> for its the best portion I can give you; and you shall want Noe Incorgment; I hope you will find the Advantage of the yeares In <pracct..ts>; All frends hear are well save only yor Cusson Roger who Is very Weeke; they Reminded themselves to you. Yor mother gives you her Kiss and <So> doth you Loving father

R Grey

**30 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey to William Peacock**

NewC[astle] Jan the 30 1673

Mr Peacoke

Yors of the 27 Curant came to saife hand, where In I perceive you have bene Inquiring after Returnes but finde not to according to exsptation w[hi]ch Is aprised to us; our pay day being Next Weeke; and we sould it Cheepe upon that Acct; Lead is sould hear this day at £12 per fo[ther]; I was with Mr Isaackson but he could not suply; heare Is great quantityes sould hear w[hi]ch is shipp of for Amsterdam Rotterdam & Hambrough [Hamburg] I wonder you ship not yours Nor order what shipp to be with the first; the Weigh Master is troubled that [it] Lyes soe Longe in the Waye House; thus not further but that I perceive Lead will be £14 per fother Your Humble Sarvant

Ra Grey

**30 Jan 1674 Ralph Grey**

[Note: Robert Ellison, merchant, was named as an executor in James Briggs' will of 1668, and later married Briggs' widow Agnes.]

NewC[astle] Jan 30th 1673

Sr

Yors of the 27 came to saife hand this day with the Inclosed Bill of Exchange for £145 06s on Mr Robt Ellison who hath promisd payment at day; w[hi]ch I Question Not; Mr Shaw hath paid the Eighty 5 pounds Seven shill[ings] 6d: but I hear nothing of making of It up £100; I wish you would order the shiping of yor Lead as sowne [soon] as possobly you Cann: I beleve It may be shipt for 1s:6d per pig; thare is great Quantity bought up this day to be shipt For over[seas] that it is Return to £12 per fo[ther]: & stops thare; I was profered £12 for 1000 p[ie]ce[s] but I would sell noe more till I hear further; I perceive ther is great quantitys shipt for Hull, I thanke you for your severall carefull concerns: hear Is noe Newes hear but Losse of Ships and men of the scotesh co[a]st

Yor News of the backe of your Letter was Exesptable [expectable]; and after our great Losis we may have opportunity of recovering: I wish Mr Pettet could make A speady End of Our Concrans [concerns] In France; for delays are dangerous as Affares Stand now: I hope Next will bring the olive branch of pice [peace] On a fare way to it thus. Not further but that I am yours

R Grey

**10 Feb 1674 Ralph Grey to George Potts**

Newcastle February the 10th (73/4)

Mr George Potts

Yourse of the 5th Cuorant Recd, I perceive by Mr Sails it will be 3 weeks before he can be ready therefore my advice is have him load oversea coals for there is none of these shipps can goe, for there coals are not for the market & coals gives a good value at hambrought [Hamburg] & soe doth Lead or any port beyond seas for the east, & he may head safe home or the Marchents of Hamb[urg] will fr[e]ight him home, there is noe incorridgement for London, Capt Whit who lost one of the best ships this Town had hath bough Mr Churches ship & is for Hamb[urg] I sent Capt Alford your letter, but hear nothing from him, Mr Sails is for taking 150<£> up of Mr Bedford, & he tells me he hath writt you fully of it, I thank you for your News this w[ha]t needfull from Your Servant

Ra: Grey

**10 Feb 1674 Ralph Grey**

NewC[astle] Februry the 10th (73)

Sr

Yours of the 5th came safe to hand with the inclosed bill of exchange on Mr Joseph Hudleston at 16 days sight he will not underwrite the bill nor accept it, he shewed my man a letter that his Friend would returne the monyes which if perform'd he would pay, otherwise not, as for the lead we provided for you, if you have noe occasion shall free you of your bargaine, for there is noe demand of Lead, since the 31th of January everyone provided themselves I have treated with Masters but none will take under <2>s 6d per pigg which is dear considering the rate of coals at London all wait in expectation of peace, & then trade will revive not further but that I am Yours  
Ralph Grey

**13 Feb 1674 Ralph Grey**

Newc[astle] February 13 73

Right Honerble

This at present for one ho[gshead] Suger at 30 shill[ings] and one suger at £3 per <tn> or thareabouts. hear is such Quantitys of pryas [?prize] Suger come out of Scotland and bought Cheepe that if they be Not prove good of that price shall Lose by them; I hope Mr Hill hath p[ai]d over his stocke and Mr Gould what he Cann but £20 I expect. hear is dead tymes of trade Capt Weatwang and the fleat are saild This what needfull  
Ra Grey

**13 Feb 1674 Ralph Grey**

ditto 13th

Noble Capt

Yor brother Capt Joseph is saifly arrivd at this porte and acording to his order hath sent hyme Abord 13 Chalder of Coles hear is aboundance of Ice in the rever that I had much adoe to gett them aboard: Capt Weatyange and the fleat are saild and I hope with you erre this: Capt Joseph I hope saife to <m...> and then shall write once more  
R Grey

**13 Feb 1674 Ralph Grey**

NewC[astle] Feb the 13 1673

Sir

This at Present is cheifly for cover of the Inclosed w[hi]ch pray seale up and d[elivere]d: I hope Mr Cha: Fairweather hat[h] erre this p[ai]d your £30 and Mr Partis will not fail to pay £20 pray send one downe to Billingsgaite to Inquire for the M[ast]ers & to speak with them thus not further but that I am Yours  
Ra: Grey

**13 Feb 1674 Ralph Grey to John Burford**

Ditto the 13th 73

Mr John Burford

I hope this will finde you at London fail not to pay to Mr Mathew Sheapherd or order thirty pounds I shall deliver you bond and bill for fifteen & discounting the four chaldron of Coals with the profiitt of your shipp I shall pay the remainder to whom you send the bill with. If you come not again for these parts pray write what cours you intend to stear, this not further but that I am your friend  
Ralph Grey



**13 Feb 1674 Ralph Grey to William Peacock**

ditto the 13th (73)

Mr William Peacocke

Yours of the 7 currant came to safe hand with a Dane or Sweed for Amsterdam but here is none I can hear of at present, I shall make a dilligent Inquiry Lead sold hear at £12 per fother hid[e]s was here at 2s but rise to 2s 6d & bought up that they aske 3s, if you have a mind to deal that way that you think to make profit I shall imploy a bucher or 2 of my acquaintance will prove the best & cheapest therefore pray write your thoughts, the greatest profit that is got here as Hollands trade is by <barley> your great <blaky more> that will brew a hodg[shead] for a need; Mr Mallabar hath the Cheife trade & serves both Irland and Scotland, he sells now at 22d per £ <Thers> pound flax snout tow 3 head hemp, & god send peace shall send you further account this what needfull from your friend

Ralph Grey

**13 Feb 1674 Ralph Grey**

Newc[astle] Feb the 13 1673

Capt

Since the writing of this yor Brother hath beene with me; and p[ai]d the Keel dues he sa[ye]th the Coles Is good but small I[t] could not be helped for the Keeles could not gett up further then the Teame and Shores, they are as good as the season affords except we could have got them from Stella leed by wagons

Yor Ra Grey

**13 Feb 1674 Ralph Grey to John Allen**

Newc[astle] Feb the 13 1673

Mr John Allen

Yours of the 3d feb with the inclosed bill of exchange for £13 8s 9d came to hand and had erre this write you ansswer but that Mr Slinger was out of towne, I hope we shall have the first fleets hear next <wk> thare being some of thare foreruners Come to the barr; I shall be glad to Se you hear; and pray bringe yor bill of saile with Along with you[,] This wishing you a bone voadge

Your Loveing freinde Ra Grey

**19 Feb 1674 Ralph Grey**

[Note: undated but in sequence between 13th and 19th Feb.]

Sir

Yors of the 10th Curant came to safe hand I thank you for yor good newes; last post about 9 oclock at Night came Mr Nathaniel Orde from his corespondent: to pay £11 12s 6d to make up Mr Shaws bill one hundred pounds; and so have a bill of Exch[an]ge of you wh[ic]h accordingly I did, Next post I shall give you an Acct whether Mr Hudlston will exept the bill for 60 pounds he Exp[ec]ts Letters this post; you hear Lead is resen with hus to £12 5s , thar was sould for £12 but since they hear it is 25 or 26 In Holland thay geusing our buying that £12 is the height <...>  
RG

**19 Feb 1674 Ralph Grey**

February the 19th (73)

Capt

your Brother Joseph & I dranck your health the 14[th] since which I have not seen him in my last I writ that he had 2 boats of coals q[uan]tity 13 Chalder, he p[ai]d all charges only the coals w[hi]ch he ordered me to place to your account which £4: 11s at 7s per Chalder these are sold now for 8s which £4 11s with £2:16s my man p[ai]d Mr Christ: Shadforth about the Charges of the Cable which some I shall order a friend to call for it, this what needful from  
yours Ra Grey

**20 Feb 1674 Ralph Grey**

Newc feb the 20 1673/4

Sir

Yors of the 14 came to hand: I have bene wth Mr Sherwood bought the : 6 Tunns of Oare; to gett brought In per first: wch he promised to write to his freind to Neclect No oportunity I desired hym for to make it 20 tunns bout he would not pretending he Can have £7 per <H [probably cwt]> I have prevaled with hym to write to his freind to Lett you have 6H more at the same price: and for 8 Hs more he shall: at market price I desire to knowe whether to send it in Caske w[hi]ch you know is chargeable or to lay it on the bottom of the shippe: mak a balkhead and lay a saile over it & another under it – Ready lead are risen hear from £11 to 12:10s per fo[ther] I sould Mr Wigfall som 200 pieces at 11 per fo[ther]: Whartons steward I writ to who answered me he would not sell under £7s per <H> and now he will make make Noe price: I hear Bart: Ratcliffs Oare might have bene bought for baite of [to?] thirty shill[ing]s per binge; and now I hear Sr Wm Blackitt and he is agreed at 3<5s 36s> per binge; This towne had a great losse of Shipping with <12/mo 51> saile of thare best ships This not further bout that I am your

Ra Grey

**20 Feb 1674 Ralph Grey to George Potts**

newc[astle] feb the 20 1673/4

Mr Potts

Sr This at present is to aquaite you that Mr Dye Hath bene wth mee; I have sent hyme one <Keel> downe and the rest he shall have and w[ha]t moneys he wants to clear and pay the Keelemens dewes Mr Sailes was wth mee and brought Mr Bedford wth who had £150: ready : but I advised hyme not to charge till he hath a letter from you this post In answer to his about the saile of the ships; if he can £700: for hur she will be well sould; for she is still bout an ould shipe; or Whether you will have hur Load with Coles and sent for the other side Pray write whether we have peace or warr with france; for we are thinking of sending a shippe for Brandy it beinge for £34 and is cheape in france; Not further but that I am Your Humble Servant

Ra: Grey

Mr Neathrope sends great Quantity of brandy heare

**21 Feb 1674 Ralph Grey**

NewC[astle] Feb the 21 73/4

Lo Cooson

Mr Geo: Potts yours of the 17 Came In deue tyme wth the Inclosed to Mr Sayles wch was d[elivere]d hyme; and he hath write you An Inswer wth an inclosed acct of the Cha[r]ges he hath bene at & must be out of making hur ready; You saith thay will not give one shill[ing] more but six hund[red] pounds, I did advise to have posted her up In the exc[hange] and the Grave wch he acquainted them wth; but they protested if she wear posted they would not give the price they had bid for Mr Sayles though better not to <slips this appointmt> I am desired to meat them one monday w[hi]ch I shall doe I perseve they will not advance the price; this wett wether doth hinder Mr dye for loading heare sad stormes of winde I am afraid we hear of Lose of the London flette this what further

R Grey

**24 Feb 1674 Ralph Grey**

[Note: Sir Thomas Bloodworth (1620-1682) was a London merchant, Lord Mayor during the Great Fire of 1666]

NewC[astle] Febr the 24 1673/4

Sr

Yours of 17th Curant; Mr Hudleston at Last hath p[ai]d the bill of £60 as for your 200 peics of Lead its Long since weaghead [weighed] of and La[i]d aside its goad to Shipe of for thare [is a] Cha[rge] for Lying in the Weaghouse; I was Speaking to Mr Wm Sanderson to take it in but he will bait [abate] Nothing of 12d per pigg; I nevr Knew Les given when Coles was at £14 per xx; Write for I may have an answer before he Be ready he Intends bak for London and Loads Cloth for the East Contry; for Lead Oare thare is none to be sould; what was I bought for Sir Thos Blodworth which ws 6Hs and 6Hs more, I hope he will Lett hus have at the same price; w[hi]ch Is 6£ per H I have since p.fred [proferred] Mr Whartons Steward £7 per H but he will not; Mr Whorton is now at London you buy it of hym bettir then I can buy it hear; as Lead is reasing to £12 10s per fo[ther]: heare Oare likewis hath ries; Coles heare are Ressen to 8s per Cha[lder] besides 12d Couston & 3d townes dewes & 13s 4d for eight Cha[ders] Keelehyer, w[hi]ch eight Cha[lder] at London will make out 14 Ch[alder] I have knowne some Lake Ind rye make 15 & 16 Ch hear are sondry shippes hear Lost & Jo: Allen of London Run downe at see No more present

I am Yours Ra Grey

My Cossen Briggs Expects bills for the 200 pcs p first

#### **24 Feb 1674 Ralph Grey to George Potts**

Newc[astle] feby the 24 1673/4

Mr Geo Potts

Yours of the 17 courent before me; I was wth Mr Barnes and Mr Tayler Geo: Sayles Coustomer for the shipe: who will not advance anything above Six Hundred Pounds: and you may maike hur a fre shipe; wch I was against; Geo. Sayles came after to me & tould me that they will give you 6 hundred pounds and fre[e] you of that trouble w[hi]ch would coust you £20 at least; he saith hur riging is bad and when comes to London should have a new suit of sayles; Soe I Left it to hym he understanding the Condition of the shipe; and w[ha]t he don I have not heard; This morning Mr Moses dring Charged a bill from Scarb [Scarborough?] for £5 mr Hixson wch I have p[ai]d; he writes he given you an acct heare if lost of shipes; but I hear Alford gott to London.

Noe more at present

Yours Ra Grey

#### **2 Mar 1674 Ralph Grey to George Potts**

Newc[astle] March the 2d 1673/4

Geo Potts

Yours of the 24 and 26 cme this day to hande the wayes are soe bad thare not pasable: I beleave Mr Sayles hath given you a full acct of the sayle of the Shipe; and I perceive buy him; a particular of the Cha[rges] & dispursements; I percive they intind Geo: Sayles M[aste]r of her to send her for hambrough [Hamburg] with Coles & Lead; & Cloth for the Vergenis: Coles is at A great price: that they will Cleare the ½ shippe Mr Dye was wth me & told me he had Re[ceive]d order from you to Lead with Ra Johnson and that I should take a Keale of Coles againe and was very tush: I percive he is not Load[ed] as yett I have sent to speake with hym and to show hym yor acct but he comes not; I am sure I have best Coles for over sea & as good as my nybors for that cost[.] I sent downe to Sheales to wait of your Brothers Johnes com out of Zealand; I shall speke wth hym and if there be annything I can sarve hym for, he may comand mee; hear is fare winds for hym; if you Intend Mr Dye for france Lead is a good Com[modit]y better then Coles; you may by it hear for £13: 5s per fother maybe £13 as the traid is: but for that you may Inquire & for Kerseys[.] I am glad to hear Mr Aldford saife in humber this no fu[rther]

Yours Ra Grey

**3 Mar 1674 Ralph Grey to William Webb**

[Note: A William Webb, Grocer, was an alderman in London in 1662]

Newc[astle] March the 3d 73/4

Alderman Webb

Yors wth the Inclosed acct I Rec[eive]d w[hi]ch I shall examin & order you up your moneys that dew upon it; for there is some mistakes In the bills of parcells: and when that is rektified I shall Paye: If you will use me as nighbour for our small trade we must have it good; I shall take care you shall have better payment for futer: Not further for present but that I am

Your freind & servant  
Ra Grey

**6 Mar 1674 Ralph Grey to William Peacock**

Newc[astle] March 6 1673/4

Mr Peacoke

Yours of the 29 feb with the inclosed bill of 130 pounds wch said some Alder[man] Webb writs me he will sende downe bills to Render heare w[hi]ch I shall place to Acct[.] there noe ships given over for holland: buy reason of bad weather, the rever being allmost frozon over, when open shall observe your order in shiping your Lead and send you an acct, I perceive you Inten[d] over, If thare be anything I can sarve you in hear Comand me and advance me as to trade. Wth you this what needful for present from your Servant

Ra Grey

**6 Mar 1674 Ralph Grey to George Potts**

[Note: 'Rider' is a ship-building term for extra timbers added internally to strengthen the ship.]

Newc[astle] March the 6: 73

Mr Geo Pott

Yours of the 28 Rec[eive]d: Mr Dye hath beene wth me and I did acquaint hym your order: to Load over sea Coles for france; w[hi]ch he knowes I have Cole berne the best in towne; w[hi]ch he shall be Load wth or anny other you consign; I hear nothing of your Brother Johnes as yett; I was with Mr Sayles who tells me the £120 will hardly pay the workmen & doe that w[hi]ch he is bound to doe to the shipe and to gett her rigged; wth other particulars to doe whatt needfull to the shipp; w[hi]ch he sath he hath given you an acct of; I furnish Mr Dye wth some cash to pay his carpenters to doe whatt needfull to the shipe, he sath she is soe Leakey he dare hardly venture over; he tould me he would put some Riders in to heur wch I advisd him aganst till he [hath] your order for the first voage will be <ath any 3> I do not hear of anny shipe Intends from this port for france; you may per Next order Mr Barnes to pay mee what monys you thanke Mr Dye your Brother Johnes or anny other shipe you send Hear for Oversea Coles; or the Cost will stande In nead of If Mr Barnes had p[ai]d me the moneys hear I had have sent you bill to Rec it at London; this what Neadfull for the present

Ra: Grey

**6 Mar 1674 Ralph Grey to William Webb**

Newc[astle] March the 6 1673/4

Alderman Webb

Yours of the 28 feb came to saife hand wher in I percive Mr Peacoke p[ai]d £130 per my acct I thanke you for your proklamacion and the good Newes of peace: I have sent you hear our acct out of <shoope [shop?]> wch pray peruse, my man makes the Ballance £5: 16s: 11d dew to you this what neadfull from your Humble Servant

Ra Grey

**10 Mar 1674 Ralph Grey to Daniel Wigfall**

Newc[astle] March the 10 1673

Mr Wigfald

Sir Yours of the 3d March wth the Inclosed bill of Exch[ange] for £100 of Mr Roddam w[hi]ch was accepted and will be paid at day; I had much adoe to prevaile wth my

Cossen Briggs to Lett you have 200 p[ei]ce[s] of [lead]; it being sould at that tyme for £11 10s & £11: 5s I have beene wth Mr Wm Sanderson; who will take in it; but he wil bait [abate] nothing of 12d per pigge If he goe for London, he waits for a Letter this poast from the East Land Company, Whether he shall come up and Load Cloth or goe from here wth Coles, heare is continued frosts this 6 weakes that thare is hardly b[o]ats Can passe[.] this Not further but that I am Y[our] Humble Sarvant  
Ra Grey

**10 Mar 1674 Ralph Grey to William Webb**

Newc[astle] March 10 73/4

Alder[man] Webb

Yours of the 5 Curant Came to hand with the Inclosed Bill to Mr Robt Rodham for £60 and Mr Blaydon for £40 ; w[hi]ch I shall give Mr Peackoke createt [?credit] for; In my Last I sent you our acct wch pray perusse; we have a very Keane frost heare This not further but that I am your saryant  
Ra Grey

**10 Mar 1674 Ralph Grey to Perryman**

Newc[astle] March the 10 1673

Capt[ain] Periman

Yours Inclosed I sent to your Brother wch he Re[ceive]d and was In towne but I did not see hym; being wth the Comissiner: you take Note of the 13 Cha[lder] of Coles the Capt had; and If i writ in my Letter as you mention in yours its a mistake In me for it was £2: 16: 8; Mr Shadforth had for the Drake; the ballance of the acct comes to £7 7s; I thanke you for your good News, If thare be anything I can serve you In or any freind of yours, Comand me. I percive we have peac wth france w[hi]ch will cause a better traid; hear is a great frost[.] Noe more at present but that I am your Humble Sarvant  
Ra Grey

**10 Mar 1674 Ralph Grey to Thomas Bludworth**

[Note: Lord Widdrington was William Widdrington, 2nd Baron Widdrington (1631-1675) of Stella Hall, Blaydon. Sir Thomas Bludworth (1620-1682) was a London merchant, Lord Mayor during the Great Fire of 1666. Sir William Wilde (1611-1679) was a Judge in London. Judge Ellis may be Sir William Ellys (1607-1680), at that time also a London Judge.]

Newc[astle] March the 10 1673

Sr Tho Blodworth

Yors of the 1 Curant came to hand: Lead for present heare are all bought up for £12:10s and some for £13. I beleave after this first shiping it may fall; and then If you please I shall treat with Mr[s] Baccon, you bought sundry parsells of hur husband; Mr Nealthrope hath had hur Le[a]d Latly; If you have a mind I shall treat wth hur for a parcel first tyme she comes to towne; my Cossin Briggs sould Mr Wigfald 200 p[iece]s; at £11 per fo[ther] I think it be about £12:10 per fo[ther] after this first shiping for thay ships for all ports but I have not heard of such a Quantitytye ships for Danske – Great Quantitytys of Lead use to come downe out of Poeland to that poart; to sarve holland; as for the Lead Oare the wather is soe unseable that I am afraid it will be May before they can [bring] it Inn; they brings the oare In In small baggs; but thay they will not part with them; but your Cheaper Way is per Caske wch the Seller Never fownde but the biger; the Caske Is Tared and the Oare put In. When the Gentleman Comes to town shall doe my utmost to sarve you according to your order Bless be to god for this peace for there was Noe port in England sufferd more than this; my servis to my Lord Widdrington when you see hym; thay have lost thare oportunity thay might have had Coles for 7s and now thay are like to Rise to 10s per chalder and men are unwilling to part wth all; My servis to Sir Wm Wilde Littleton and Judge Ellis; we remember your good health in a glass of Canary; Lay your Comands upon me Gr[e]at <salor> of ships frozen up. Noe more at present

I am your Servant

Ra Grey

### **13 Mar 1674 Ralph Grey to George Potts**

[Note: In a previous letter of 6 Mar 1674, Ralph Grey describes Coleburn coal as ‘the best in town’. This apparently came from above Teams, after which point the river was apparently frozen. In the 1650s Grey had a share in the Stella Grand lease, the stiaths for which lay upstream of Blaydon and well above Teams, and this might have been the source he referred to.]

Newc[astle] Mrch the 13 1673

Mr Geo Potts

Sir This at present is to aquant you that Mr Dye is gone downe to sayle being Load[ed]; he could not stay for Cole bornes Coles the Tynes being frozen above that the Keeles Could not gett up; but he Lead [?loaded] on wth Teme and Towns Shaore both good Coles, he saith his ship is Leakey; that he dar not venture for france; pray retorne a Certificate for my fitter I bound for hym in the Custome House; and the bond 40s for Every Chal[de]r of coles I have sent you hear Inclosed his accts under his hand; the bill being 46 pounds w[hi]ch I shall Rec of Mr Barnes; and give Mr Dyes Bill of Exchang I hear nothing of your Brother; but ther is a fleet of ships before the barr and he may be Amonge them; but of it more per nixt post; not further for present but that I am your Humble Servant

Ra Grey



**15 Mar 1674 Ralph Grey to George Potts**

[Note: This letter and the following letter are in a different hand to other letters in the letterbook, possibly because (as he mentions in this letter) his man is out of town. As described in a previous letter of Ralph Grey, dated 13 March 1673, Mr Dye had been unable to load his ship with Coleburn coal as the keels cannot ship it down the river, the Tyne being frozen. Instead he has loaded with coals from collieries lower on the Tyne and departed to London without waiting for a thaw.]

Newcastell March the 15th 73

Mr Gorge Pott:

Sir your of the 10th Currant came in due tyme; in my Last I sent youe Mr Dyes acct of [h]is Coles and Cash; the ballance forty sex pounds and Mr Drings Bill of five pounds I had sent you but that my man is out of towne: but the next shall send it; I have according to your order, rec'd of Mr Ambrose Barnes fifty one pounds for w[hi]ch I have drawne myselve bill of exchange of you; at 3 dayes sight; I am sorry Mr Dye should deale soe w[hi]ch was to draw a bill payable to Mr Johnson; I am sure he needs not for I never denied him monys; nor Coles but would have persuaded him to have staid for better for oversea merc[hanting] declaring he would deliver at London; his ship being Leake[y] he hath as good a bulks of Coles the time of yeare Could afford being frost and snow, I am sure you have them for 7s per chalder; when I sold the same Coles at <sevetye> to Fitters for 8s and now at 8s:6d; soe if there be any ships you are concerend in I shall use them kindly for your sake if consined to me: god be thanked your brother John is safly arrived wth you; and that <france> is tiring they are but slow heare; we Cannot get past 5s to dd [deliver] Coles at Riga and bring hemp and flax for order Coles are likely to risse to nin Shill[ings] per Chalder if new leed and Lead heare £13 per Fother qt 21cwt per Fother; I was discoursing wth some M[ast]ers this day about your shipe w[hi]ch Mr Sayles was late M[ast]er of who told mee; that the upper part was new worke, lower part was old that when she came to worke in a fresh gaile or storm Gorge Sayles will have his hat full with hir; if he be m[aster]r; of her to serve Mr Barnes; if you give hime noe better preferment if there be anything I can serve you in as to your Concerns Comands:

Ralph Grey

**16 Mar 1674 Ralph Grey to Daniel Wigfall**

[Note: It is undated, but from its position in the letter book must be from 15th, 16th or 17th March 1674. 'Nuleed' is coal newly delivered from the pit.]

Mr Wigfall

this his at present is to intreat the favor from you as to pay to my coussin Ms Cathrine Briggs w<sup>h</sup>t monys she hath occasion for to discharge her Scholdeing [schooling?] and other necsaryes w<sup>h</sup>i]ch I hope will not eccede one hundred p[eices] of Lead accounts to shall remitt w<sup>th</sup> thanke. my Coussin is at hackny Scole but you will heare of hir at Mr Sayrs at the the golden Lyon in Aldergate Streat; my coussin Briggs b[e]ing sicke and weake desirs his sisters Company; there is soe much Ice in the River that ther is noe stiring for bots or shipes; next weake I intend to know mr Sandersons possitive ausurne [answer] and if he will not take in your Leed[,] Shipe it in some other good shipe; Leed is £13 per Fother Coles 8s and nuleed 9s chaldler this w<sup>h</sup>a]t for present I rest

Ra: Grey

**17 Mar 1674 Ralph Grey to William Peacock**

[Note: William Leck's vessel, the Owner's Love, is mentioned in several of Michael Blackett's letter eg. 8 Feb 1676 to Anthony Allaire. 10 stivers was approximately a shilling. It seems Grey was unsuccessful in hiding his lead amongst other freight to avoid customs dues]

Newc[astle] March the 17 1673/4

Mr Wm Peacoke

Sir This at present is to aquant you; that I have in the owners Love of Newc[astle] Wm Leaike m[aste]r the 200 p[ie]ces of Lead: you bought of Cossin Briggs and Leike the M[ast]er is to have 10 <sdivers> A piece fraite; I am to meat the M[ast]er this morning to sine a bill of Loading; wch I shall w<sup>th</sup> the acct of Cha[r]ges send you per next; after <cleared> thay <seized> of the Lead and maed me macke A poast Entrye; or Else I had come well of but Mr Ives a wicked youth Light of it by Chance; my Cosson Briggs is very weake that I thinke he cannot last many days over; If thare be anny Consernes I can serve Come

RG

**17 Mar 1674 Ralph Grey to John Allen**

[Note: Mr Allen's 'sad loss' referred to in this letter (for which Ralph Grey is denying any financial liability) was probably the loss of, or damage to, Allen's ship referred to in Ralph Grey's letter of 24 Feb 1674]

Newc[astle] March the 17th 1673

Mr John Allen

I am sorry or your sad losse; as for the 13 pounds eight shill[ings] 9d it is Ready[,] Charge when you Will but for the other you meantion In your Letter I am Not free: for your unkle and I was discarsing of it; that I was noe way Concerned till the ship Came In heare to take In hur Loading of Coles wch I was willing to venture alonge w<sup>th</sup> you

as I writ your unckle up to London; and If you come here shall venture two Loading to doe you a Curtissie; but when I mett wth your unckle I shall speake wth hime; and If you thinke I shall Contribute any thnge to your sad losse though not Concerned I Will; this not further for present but that I am

Your R Grey

**21 Mar 1674 Ralph Grey to William Peacock**

[Note: The will of Roger Briggs, Grey's cousin, was proved in 1674: Durham Probate Registry 1/1674/B18. Half his lead mines in Teesdale Forest & Grasse groves to sister Katherine, his executrix, & other half to brother Robert & sister Margaret. Half of his unexpired lease of Hawdonfield/Setlingstone lead mine to sister Katherine, & other half to Robert & Margaret. Katherine & Robt/Margaret also to share in equal measure in his 1/24 of Stella Grand Lease colliery & also Red Lead Mill. Uncle Ralph Grey, uncle Matthew Matfin & cousin Henry Bland to be supervisors of the will. Codicil of 19th March gave £20 to mother Mrs Agnes Ellison & husband Robert, £5 to grandmother Mrs Eliz Garthwaite, £20 each to uncle Ra Grey & wife Margaret (also given his black mare), £15 to Wm Grey, son of Ralph, £5 to James, son of Ralph, yellow mare to 'loveing cozen' Ralph, son of Ralph, & 'grisled mare' to Richard son of Ralph, & various other bequests of tokens & to charity. Uncle Ralph Grey had 6 servants.]

Newc[astle] March 31 73/4

Mr Peackoke

Sr Yours of the 24 Curant Recd; wherin you take Notice of 200 p[iece]s shipt In Wm Leake, you thinke 10 st[ive]rs per pigg to dear; he promises you should pay noe more then others; he hath a great quantity In; he is sayled and have Left my Letter: I have sent you Inclosd your acct and thare Rest deue to you upon Bill £56 12s w[hi]ch pray writ If you will have Lead shipt for it; at prices curant wch is £13 per fo[ther] or as you plese to order: the death of my Co[ousin] Briggs & the sicknes of my wife maed be neclectt [?made me neglect] to send you your acct till now; Noe more at present  
Ra Grey

**3 Apr 1674 Ralph Grey to Daniel Wigfall**

[Note: The Providence is later mentioned in later letters, e.g. John Blackett to Ralph Hall – 11 Jun 1709]

Newc[astle] Aprill the 3d 1674

Mr Wigfald

Yours of the 28th mrch came in due tyme; for w[hi]ch and your great care and paines and advice to my Cos[sin] Briggs I send you many thanks; and this poast I have write hur the death of hur mother; I Recd a letter Last post from hur; she Intre[a]ts you to pay

Mr Sayers what moneys she have had of hime and then she will have the Lesse to Read; for I perceve she is not good at telling of money; I beseech you Lett her want for noe Money, and I shall order it up wth many thanks; I have treted wth 20 masters [of ships] and canot prevail with anny of them to take In the Lead at 12d per piece, I have sent for Mr W Carr who I have 1/8 p[ar]t of Master of the providence; I shall fall out with hym if he deny me; most ships hath taken fr[e]ight for beyond seas; excepting Casters who thinke it A troble: and stand at 1:6 per pigg; Lead now falls of price: heare to £12:10s per fother and Little vent hear; 2s:8d & 3s Benes Otes 2s:6d Barlay 3s:2d Rye 4s Bush[el] Wheat <3s> thare are sundry ships being fr[e]ighted Intends to come laden from Danks with Corne; not further but that I am Your Humble Servant  
Ra Grey

**3 Apr 1674 Ralph Grey**

Newc[astle] Aprill the 3d 1674

Ho[noured] Sir

Yours of the 28 March came to hand ; wch I have shewed to my partners: and persuaded them that we should pay you the rent; provided you will secure us aganst Bowes; and Mr Mathews comes up to London now shall pay it; the money lying redy thare and take In our bonds; Bowes Vaine and Sanderson seales leasses of Ejectmente; but Consell is Cleare of oppnon that the Right is in Bowes and that he may Call hus in question for all the rent; he having maid hys yearly demands and Sealed leasses, his pattint take daite the 3d of King james; to Lynley and Starkey; and Sr Hen Vanes to the Kings Trusteys for <prince Hen's> the 10 King James and confirmed the 3d King Charles; we shall desire as you write you will secure hus against Bowes title; for thare will be a tryall Next Assi[z]es; and lett hus know how to intrus Counsell the daite of your pattent and your tittle that we may timely defend ourselves pry lett me hear from you; how to manage this Business and you will very much ingaidge  
Your Humble Sarvant  
Ra Grey

**7 Apr 1674 Ralph Grey**

Newc[astle] Aprill the 07 1674

Right Honble

This at present is to aquante you that Last parcell of sugar you sent me q[uan]ti[t]y 3 <cwt> weight is <is bath browne>; and must you send it at 58s per <cwt> and i was profered for 50s as good[:] I hope you will maike an abatemnt; Mr Hills Affirms the £100 is paid w[hi]ch pray writ mee I have Allowed hym the £60 and for the £40 Mr Burford he saith hath paid it. I hope Mr Goulds bill of £20 is paid w[hi]ch he assures

me of; write the price of goods and as to these Concernes this what needfull from Your  
Lordships hum[ble] Sarvant  
R Grey

**7 Apr 1674 Ralph Grey to William Webb**

Newc[astle] Aprill the 7th 1674

Alder[man]:Webb

I gave Mr Wm Peacoke Credit in his acct for the £130 he p[ai]d you; I had Eare this writ  
you as to youer acct but that the death of my Cossin Briggs and his mother prevented  
me: pray If you will abait me noe more send me down A reelease in full of all Accts  
that I may then begin anew againe wth you. performing your promis to use me as well  
as Your Nighors I have Intreated wth a partner to Manadge the traid for I have  
Concerns that hynder me this whats needfull

Your Humble Servant

Ra Grey

**7 Apr 1674 Ralph Grey to Randolph Richardson**

[Note: Roger Briggs' inventory does not survive amongst the probate papers at  
Durham]

Newc[astle] Aprill 7th 74

Mr Richerson

Sir Yours of the 2d curant came to hand for w[hi]ch I thanke you and for your advice of  
Hopps I had writ to you Erre this but the death of My Cossin Briggs prevented mee; I  
gave you Creditt upon the Lead Acct for £153 w[hi]ch is the ballance of our acct <In  
shoope> w[hi]ch pray send me A recait In full; and then that I may upon recit of that  
send send for a parcell upon the New Acct; pray be plesed to draw the Lead Acct  
Anew; and put the sume in this Last; that I may give it In your other trustese Now  
when we are to give It In an Inventory to the Court; Lead hear is wth £13 per fother;  
Coles very scarce that ships must lye till thay be Load[ed] thay are Resin [risen] to 9s  
per chalder Noe More [at] present

R Grey

**11 Apr 1674 Ralph Grey to Hayward**

New[castle] Aprill the 11 1674

Mr Hayward,

Yrs of the 4th Aprill came to saife hand whearin you desired to be informed in the  
coale traide. Coles is sould for nine shill[ing]s wch last wint[e]r was bought for 6s; but

those that follow the traide make there p[ro]visions in the winter from the ii of No; till the 2d of febr; for then the colyers is nessessitated but is there now ; the charge is as followeth; for coles is nine shill per chald[ron] & eight chald will maike out 15 chald at London; [coustom] one shill per chald & towne dewty 3d per chald & kele dewty one shill per chald, lightidge 2d per chald and fright 20 [d] per chald heare; wch I have bene <concernd> have maid out two for one at Coleburne and others as the goodness of the coles; the best way is to fright ships there to load <hear..> to wch I refer you; but for present thar is none will take frights hear; [change of handwriting from this point] I have ships there to loade heare; to wch I prefer you; but for present there is none will take frait heare. I have shipet in the Prudence of Newcastl Mr Edwarde Carre; 200 ps of lead £9-5s-11d per your perticulirs I shall send you; I pray honner me so much as to furnish my cossen Mrs Catherine Briggs wt money she hath occation for; and wt is above the balance shall be paide thrwith maiy then be ether upon bill here or I shall order you it up with my servts. Your humble servant , Ralph Grey.

**11 Apr 1674 Ralph Grey**

Newcastle Aprill the 11th 1674

Sr.

Yours of the 4th curante came to safge hande where in I pceve Mr Harissons bill of exchang will not be pd wthout you have the bond; wch I have sent you heare inclosed; his bond for fifty seaven £; and bill for tre pounds wich pray received & place it to acct; and let me received a line or two in answeare of the receipt; and for goods I shall order when I heare of the receipt of this; I am troubled they should put us to this trouble for money pd heare; but shalbe wisse for futer this wt is needfl from Ra; Grey

**17 Apr 1674 Ralph Grey to William Webb**

Aprill the 17 : 1674

Alderman Webb,

Yours of the 11th came to hand with your discharge in full od acct if you w[ou]ld take care to send me good goods and as cheap as any for we have but a retale trade and one p[ar]cel of bad goods wld losse our custom which is not easily recovred. These things considred you shall have my custome: My Lord Maior hath used me kindly since I dealt with him praye send me per the first 1 <H> of the best damaske pruns [prunes], 1 barrol of the finest currins [currants], 6 <...> of your best figys [figs], 1 firken of suger fine b....

This what needful from yours Ra: Grey

**17 Apr 1674 Ralph Grey to Matthew Shepherd**

Ditto

Mr Shipheard

Sr This is to intreat you for to send me per the first <half> of fine broune suger about 44s per cwt. 1 barrel of fine powder suger at 3£, 1 barell purged suger about 36s per cwt I hope you have recd Mr Harresons bond for £57 and his bill for £3 which praye advise me of the rec[eip]t of them . not else but that I am yours Ra: Grey

**17 Apr 1674 Ralph Grey to George Potts**

Newcastle: Aprill the 17 1674

Mr George Potts

Yours of the 11th curante came to saife hand, whare you writ of your Br[other] Sam <Janses> coming out of Zealande. I have sent to Shields to inquire for hime when he comes in, Mr Bengemen Doncasters <comdin> who I intend to lead with Colebourne coles next weake as fast a they can be ledd for thare is no cole of the staiths that some must lye this 3 weaks befor they <obload> but the wind is out of way lying northeast this eight days that thay lose not time & that take care he should be loaden with the best coles for france and when Mr William Dyeceyns shall take care of him Coren [corn] is much risen of price wheat <7>s per last Rye 6 shillings eight pence otes 2s6d I heare that corne is cheap in france and same in some intend <informe> for this porte which if they cume leave to loadfall it will be in thare way considerable, but this I leave to your consideracon Lead givs 13. this what neadfull from yours Ra: Grey

**17 Apr 1674 Ralph Grey to William Peacock**

Ditto

Mr William Peacoke

Yours of the 7th Aprill recd wherein you take notice of my not mentioning Mr <Jobs> going for Amsterdam which was omitted your <positive> order was to shipe it for Amsterdam if I had acted contrarey to your ordering I hope your <Lead> is sould er this to a good price when your bill of £50 cums shall paye it . you question the [pression] which never was questioned befor

I have recd of Mr Thomas Cotesworth £100 p Anum for shiping of Lead and returns for Lead bought there of our partners Corne riseth apace Rye 6s6d wheat <7>s and barley <..> oats 2s6d I parceve corne is cheape in france this with my sarvis I rest yours

Ra Grey

Lead[sels] here for £13 per fother and £13 5s yours RG

**17 Apr 1674 Ralph Grey to Randolph Richardson**

ditto

Mr Randolph Richardson,

Praye send me p the first one bag of your fine hops <pack Br...> wee have but a retale <..ad> if we <...> lose our Custom its hard for to bring it again. Lead here is £13 p fother Corne ryseth wheat at 7s6d p last Rye 6s barley 4s oats 2s6d this whats needful from your  
Ra Grey

**1 May 1674 Ralph Grey to Daniel Wigfall**

May the 1st : 1674

Mr Wigfald.

Yrs of the 16 Aprl came to hand wch I had Answd Erre this but that my occasions called me out of towne; I hope the providence is saifly Arived wth the Lead; She hath bene out in these Laite stormes where in sundry was lost; I have sent you the acct Inclosed and a bill of Exchange of Mr Geo Potts the <Grett Sayle> maker for £28=10s wch pray Recv and furnish my Cossen Briggs with what money she wants and I shall Ether ord[e]r it up; or Charge a bill upon mee and it shall be paid wth thanks; pray rem[em]ber me to her I have not tyme to writt this post; Lead hear 13£ p[er] foth[er] but Little sayle; <wt> wheat 7s per Bush[el] Reed wheat 6s per Bush Rye 5s 8d per Barlay 4s per Bu: Otes 3s or 2s 6d as of goodness; Coles 9s per Cha[l]dron] We have such grett Raine that we cane gett No Coles; that some ships hath Lyen f[oth] three Lodings wch hath not formerly been knowne Our wheat is very bad upon the ground – I writ In my former Letter that Mr Carr was to have 12d per ps fright Not farther,  
Ra Grey

**1 May 1674 Ralph Grey to George Potts**

Newc[astle] May the first 1674

Mr Geo Pott.

Sr This at p[re]sent is to acco[m]pany on Benj Doncaster acct for Coles and moneys to £28=10s Coles Is very scarce now; that some hath waited 1 mo[nth] for thare Loading; heare is such great Raine that wee can gett noe Coles Lead; for Mr Dye he Loads at Setton Pear wth Sr Ra Delavals; we hear nothing of yo[ur] Brother as yet; hear hath bene sore wether to the Norward 3 shipps Lost; I have sent Mr Doncasters Bill of Exchange to Mr Wigfald and Mr Staward Mc[...] In London; wch pray pay; all sorte of grane rissith hear: wheat 7s Reed 6s 6d Rye 5s 6d: Barly 4s Not forther.  
Ra Grey



**1 May 1674 Ralph Grey to William Hester**

Newcastle May the 1 1674

Mr Hester.

Sr Mr John Hill hath beene out this last storme and hath lost some of his Ancker and Cables, hath lost a quant[it]ye of Coles over bord, lost his bouthe and is Come in heare; I thought it safe to get his brother Hen: Hill to <joine> with him in a New bond that this bill of exchange for ane £150 <..> should be p[ai]d fourth of June wch I send you heare inclosed; upon Mr Wm Nutt<..> Merchant in London; wchpray get it exepeted; I thought it better to give a little longer tyme; to have his brothers ingainedment who sath he brought tallow for you and is well aquainted; if they bring Sr Wm Hockers bills of sixty pounds is to be allowed of or else I shall pay Mr Henrey Hill as is a rivell heare; I have pd Mr Wm Sanderson your bills of exchange for twenty foure pounds. I hope you will not fail to send the sope we ordered per the first if it be not already sent for we are in want: and I am unwillinge to buy of John Ary if I can helpet. This wt needful from Ra: Grey

**8 May 1674 Ralph Grey to William Webb**

[Note: recipient unclear, but mention of 'Alderman' suggests Webb, with whom Grey had a correspondence]

Newc[astle] May the 8 1674

Alderman

Yours of the 23d Ap wth the goods shipd In the Lyly John Collam M[aste]r Came to hand I desire you now ship 2 Bar[rel]ls Rason <..> one 5 ft bar[re]l of <malligor> and 2 dusson of yr best Nutmegs and the price of goods – R Grey

**8 May 1674 Ralph Grey to George Potts**

Newc[astle] May the 8th 74

Mr Geo Pott

My Last was the first May wth Mr Doncasters acct; of Coles Cash wch I hope is Saife wth yow; since wch I Recd yours of the 2d wth the Inclosed to Mr Wm Dye; wch is sent forward; whear he is <wth> Sr Ra Delavale I am afraid he will h[ardly] have water Anough to Come out againe loading for there is barely soe much water as she drawes Coles is very scarce heare by reason of the great Raines. Some riy come out of Holland wch sels I heare for 5s6d per Bush thay pay but 2s6d per Last Costome. This what neadfull Ra Grey

**9 May 1674 Ralph Grey**

Newcastle May 9th 1674

Sr Yrs of the 5th Instant; where in I pceive Mr Potts could not pay the bills till this day, I sent Mr Potts his acct under his hand, therfor he need not pretend want of advice I thanke you for your great Care in goeing to Mr Sayers to inquire after my Cossen Briggs; and that you would furnish Hir wth wt she hath accation for: I have sent you here inclosed a bill of exch: for twenty pounds at three days sight upon Mr Benj Barnes; I have sold A peeel of Lead here this day for £13 per fother - heare is sundry shippes come in here wth corne from beyond seas pay to crowne per last 5s Rey per bush: and English 5s per buss : Beanes 3s [blotted] and Berley : 3s6d Malt : 3s4d Otes 2s6d Wheat Read 6s and whiht 4s per bus, whiht pees 5s per bush.  
Ra: Grey

**16 May 1674 Ralph Grey**

Newcastle May the 16th 1674

Sr,

Yours of the 9th current came to hand; as I have beene sundry times wth the p[ar]ty concerned as to the Leed oare; who hath written divers letters: about it but the wayes are soe bad by reason of the great raynes that he could not prov[ide] any caridge; but hath promised this next weake to be in towne and to give an acct in w[ha]t time we may relye of it; & w[ha]t quantytye. wth the next shall give an acct of the wayes hath bene soe bad that we have bene forced to pay double raytes for leeding of coles to supplye the M[aste]rs of shippes & they are risen from 7s to 10s per chaldron and we give it in caridge; they could have bough[t] oates for [12d] per busshle & now they pay <3s> per bush, Reye 5s6d per bush. Whaet 7s6d Barley 4s6d per bush: Beanes 3s4d per bush: heare is sum shippes come out of france Hamb[urg] and Holland that sell for 5s6d & pay half crowne per last custome and will turne to a good acct. Leed sold heare for £13 per fother & bought up for france & for the East; some for [Holland] they p[ro]cure bus[hel] 26s and 24s wch makes but small return. I pary [sic] God send us peace. I like not the Hollend[er]s pride in not strikeing according to the artickeles thus not further but that I am your frend Ra. Grey

**22 May 1674 Ralph Grey to John Cawood**

Newcastle May the 22 1674

Mr Cawood,

Yours of the 16 curant came to saife hand wth a bill upon John Hunter of North Sheeles for £2 14s I sent my man downe wth the bill; but he perceived he wanted advice and

would not pay; yesternight he came and p[ai]d the money; if he had don at first had saved my mans charge; I have sent you here inclosed Mr <Arkhays> Rest for the glasse; the six pines was for carreing to the water side; and for the other <Cha> I am very much more in debt; as to your Kindnesses to my sonn I pray Remember me to your Brother and tell hym that coles is ressen hear to Tenn shill per Chald; If John and Henry Hill be at hull pray tell them from me they doe not Inform me wth <Misry> ; for Mr Hester writes me there frend Mr Nutt will not except thare Bill of Exchange for £152 soe that I musdt putt thare bond in suit; write me whether thay be wth you; or what part thare are <part> for; if doe not hear thare arg<ed> at London Rye 5s per Bush Beanes 3s4d barlay 4 Oates 3 Malt 3s wheat 7s Bush Lead £13 per fother; French wines fallen to 24 <s Hs> prownes 12s Not farther but <...>  
Ra:Grey

**22 May 1674 Ralph Grey to Daniel Wigfall**

Newcastle May the 22 1674

Mr Wigfald,

For yours of the 16 p[re]sent for wch and your Care in seing my cossen Briggs and guiving her advice I thanke you; I perceive Mr Potts hath pd hys Bill and the other £20 will be paid this day I have made bould to trouble you wth another Bill upon Mr Potts for £22 2s 4d, and what paid will be dispurste farther for my cousson' who I hope will sett forward on Monday next of wch pray advise me. leed keeps up at price £13 per fother I sould 40 fother for this morning; Rye 5s wheat 7s8d otes 3s Benes 3:4d Barlay 4s Malt 3s white pease 5s grey pease 3s.  
Not farther but that I am .... R. Grey

**22 May 1674 Ralph Grey to George Potts**

Newcastle May 22 '74

Mr Geo Potts

I have this day clered a bill of exchange of you for £22:02:4d at sight payable to Mr Danl. Wigfald wth Wm Dyes acct who I hope is wth you err this come to hand. Coles is very scarce hear; ships being forsed to lye for them, but we gave Mr Dye what disspch could be.

Lead £13 per fother. No more at psent.

R Grey

**30 May 1674 Ralph Grey to Daniel Wigfall**

Newcastle May the 30th 1674

Mr Wigfald

of the 21th currant came to hand where I see you payd my cousin Mrs Cath Briggs one hundred & thirty po[und]s wich I have given you credit for, I thanke you for your respects to hir; as for the fire stones for the Glasse furnace, I have bespoaken them & given coppayes of your Notte; soe I tell them those that will usse me best shall have my moneys; I hope wthin dayes to give you an acct of the concerne; as for your kelp I p.sume its sould heare last P[ar]cill of 30s [per] ths I shall make a further inquirye; I pray let one of your servents pay unto Mr James Halsale or Mr Jo: Mathew at Mr Wandalls woollen draper at the naked boy in flets streat the sume of forty pounds for half yeares rent dew the 25th of Mearch the Michiellmus Rent I ordered Mr Emerson who tells me he <p[re]dicits> in full for the Rent of our Leed Mienes in forrest of Teassdale; Corne kepes its price Beanes 4s per bush[ell]: Grey Pees 4s4d Oats 3s Rye 5s6d wheat 7s Bearly 4s Malt 3s; Leead £13 per fother Coles 10s per Chald. This not further but that I am : Ra Grey

### 30 May 1674 Ralph Grey to William Hester

[Note: undated, but the letter follows on the same page from the previous one of 30 May]

Mr Hester,

I have writ sundry Letters to hull as to Mr Hills concernes; & they writ me that all is p[ai]d or noe fath in Israell; I shall be glad to here the like from you; of wich pray advice mee that you be not disappointed of the Moneys wich I intend you will let me know per first how ours stands.

R Grey

### 16 Jun 1674 Ralph Grey to William Webb

Newcastle Jun the 16 1674

Aldm Webb for 1 <firk> of the best damisk pruns and one <sakk> of suger about 28s per <cent>

Ra Grey

### 16 Jun 1674 Ralph Grey to William Hester

Ditto

Mr Haster to put him in mind to send by the ferst opportunity the remainder of the soape which was written for befor, which is ½ last of ord soape and 1/2 last of Best second not else.

Ra Grey

**4 Aug 1674 Ralph Grey**

Newcastle August 4: 1674

Sr

Yours of the 30th came to hand, I was out of towne of which my man gave you an acct, as for your fire stons they having a hard bargaine pretend they can geat none to work the great stons, I do threaten them that I will sue them for damaidges, they having broake day with mee, I have sent you here inclosed a bill of Sr Thomas Bludworth for thirty pounds and shud order that you use the remainder, I had shipt you upon a pcell of Leat but can geat noe M[aste]rs of ships to take it in att the ould raytes we get some for £12 : 10 or 15 and but small vent, I hope it will Risse with you the east india ships sarvid This not further but that I am  
Your humble servante Ra Grey

ditto

Sr Att thre dayes sight of this my sole [bill] of exchange paye unto Mr Daniell Wigfall or Ptner the sume of thirty pounds for Like value read heare make good payment and place it to the acct of your Humble servant Ralph Grey  
For the worshipf[u]l Sr Thomas Bludworth [...] in London

**4 Aug 1674 Ralph Grey to Thomas Bludworth**

Ditto

Sr

Thes at present is to acquaint you that the eight<y> tonne of Lead Oare I contracted formerly for is come in, which I had shipe of firstly but the M[aste]rs stands much upon thare points as to the price, I have pd Mr Shirwood in pt of the said oare thirty pounds of which I have drawne a bill of you at thre days sight, Mr Wigfall we have so great raynes this summer and the horses being starved last winter that we have no caridge till now, and now is bad wether come agayne that I am afraid of a bad harvest. Lead here £12-10s or £13 per fother This what neadfull from your Humble sarvant Ra Grey

**21 Aug 1674 Ralph Grey**

Augt 21 (74)

Worthy Sr

Yours of the 15th came to hand noting the rect of the £30 bill pd Sr Thos Bludworth I have my man about the stons I shall use my endeavor in hasting him I have been in the

west this 10 days: I hope to see him tomorrow I cannot prevail with Masters to take in Lead at 12d per ps it is now sold here for £12:10s or £13 per fother & <doslins> giving about 26<tii> in Holland I hope yours will prove the best market iron hoops at a stand This what needful from Your humble servant Ralph Grey

**27 Aug 1674 Ralph Grey to Mossam**

Ditto the 27 1674

Sr

Thes is chiefly for cover of the inclosed from Sr John Lawson who ordred me to charge two hundred pounds upon you, which I have done one hundred pounds to Mr John Cooke for the value of Mt Pybus the other of Mr [blank space left] for the value recd of Mr Thomas Sherwood

I question not the honouring of the bills upon Sr Johns account, praye advice me per next post that I may give acct to Sr John Lawson and in so doing you will ingaidge your humble servant Ra Grey

August the 24 1674

Mr Mossam

In your last to me you writ that you would not returne me the two hundred pounds I desire it might be paid att Newcastle I have sight of an oppertunity now to have it returned by Alderman Grey of Newcastle I desire you would paye two hundred pounds in account and this shall be your discharge I am your faithfull friend John Lawson

**28 Aug 1674 Ralph Grey to Thomas Bludworth**

[Note: assumed to be to Bludworth given earlier correspondence about buying lead ore]

Newcastle Aug 28 : 74

Sr

I should erre this hath answered yours but that I have bene in west overland; Mr Barnes of London hath promised to take 10 Tunn of your oarsin; he stands upon 20s per <H> p[ro]fitt; I could not p[re]vaile with Mr Sharp nore enny of your costers to tacke oare or Lead at 20s pr <Hs> pretending it spoules thare coles and will be at the bottom of thare ship; Lead heare is sould for £12:15s. I treated with M[istre]ss Bacon and proffered £12:10s for a persell but she would not take itt; the reason lead riseth hear is the badness of the wayes that they cannot gett it brought in : we have not had 4 faer days sence the 14 of July; the most of the hay is rotten and I am afraid the corne is laid that it will never risse but rot: We have tempestis weather Beenes are sould hear 4s

ore 4s6d and are like to rise Mr Robt Barnes m[aste]r of the Darthmath of London hath bene with me and p[ro]missed to take the oare of munday next  
This what neadfull from Ra Grey

**28 Aug 1674 Ralph Grey**

Aug th 28 1674

Sr

This at present is to aquainte I have beene with Mr Chipsis the stone man who is like to prove a knafe; for I did bargin with his wife and did give her a note of particulars for <them> now she p[re]tends she was mistaken for he <orderd> for one furnis; and thare is stones for 2 and he will not get dd [deliver] the stones <undr> £14 for I doe intend to sue hym for the bargin if yow thinke fitt, the stones are <...>; I have bene inquireing and cannott gett a ship to take them in tho I p[ro]fired them 20s per <H> [cwt?] fr[e]ight; If anny ship come to this part ingaidg them to take in the stones and bargin with them thare fee when thay <...> them hear thay will nott meadle with them; I intreated Mr Robt Barnes to take in Sr Tho Blutworths lead oare att 20s per <H>. Lead hear sould for <£10:10s and £10 15: we have very bad weather. No more at present  
Ra Grey

**29 Aug 1674 Ralph Grey**

Aug th 29 1674

Sr

Yours of the 25th August came to saife hand. I have accepted your bill of Mr Thomas Hatton for thirty pounds which shd be paid at dayse <w under> I heare nothing from you of the payment of Mr Hills money to you for last I had from him was the money was pd , he would bringe the bill <a bid to me in pound> I <presume> that justice wood and severall owners hath <been> with you about Landhams bill of exch[ange], if you have given a receipt in p[ar]t of the bond which I gave yow account of, they have bene without any pretende and what they have signifies little, for if the common <law> will not, which they pretend I am sure the Chancerey will, if it had been a case of reference I should have preferred it to Judge <Wood> and Sr Thomas Blutworth but I do not understand <that> they have wronged me of my 1/16 pt of the shipe under pretence which I shall trye in time whether Landham passed away befor our bill of sayle not; I have nothing but Mr Haywards word for it. Such pretences will make the shippes shall lye for none will trust which: God willing I shall prove at court, at our next meeting and then <same may lye> this not further but that I am yours Ra Grey.

**29 Aug 1674 Ralph Grey to William Webb**

ditto

Aldrm Wedd

I much wonder why I cannot have the goods I writ for as other men have; I writ for Reson of both sorts and you writ me that you would shipe them but have not, you have sent me a <...> of <pruns> that is not fit for sale they are so bad, our neaghbours have gate sum here that is better worth 1s6 per Cnt then ours is worth 8s so unless you abate of the price we cannot sell them and if we do not sell them we must be forsed to send them back agane, praye send per first opportunity the rasen for we shall <never> want of them This whats neadfull from your friend Ra: Grey

**2 Sep 1674 Ralph Grey**

Ditto the 22 1674

Sr

I had answered yours longe er this but that I cannot prevail with any M[aste]rs that will be concerned in <them> to <trouble> in thes stones for the fire harths I have bid twenty shill[ings] per <H> but it will not do and its unreessoneble, I praye if you can prevale in with sum M[aste]r of <S Lye> thare to take them in <heare> there is two founaces for wich the Quarry will baite nothing of nine pounds and if his wife had not made a foolish bargaen which he would not stand too, he would not hath taken fourteen pounds. Lead is all bought up heare and sent for france Nought else but that I am yours Ra Grey

**4 Sep 1674 Ralph Grey to Randolph Richardson**

September the 4: 1674

To Mr Randolph Richardson for 1 Bagg of the best new English hops not else but that I am yours Ra: Grey

**12 Sep 1674 Ralph Grey to William Hooker**

Newcastle Septem the 12 1674

Thes at present ar to aquaint you that I have writ you a bill of fifty pounds and five shill charged upon Mr George Potts which I hope will be current payment, this whats needful from Yours Ra:Grey



**12 Sep 1674 Ralph Grey to Thomas Bludworth**

[Note: assumed to be to Bludworth given earlier correspondence about buying lead ore]

ditto

After my service presented, I hope erre this Mr Barnes is arrived with your Lead Oare [quantity] 34 Casks, <Nett> 161 10 11 as per your inclosed notte of pticulars, the M[aste]r and I did agre with 20s pr his fraite , but he repented at taking in of the ore except I would give 30s he would not take it in, I tould him I had writ the agreement and could give no more he must put him selfe in your curtessye, as the rest cums in shall shipe it, we have but bad harvist wethere, Lead they <bye upe> for France and give £12:15s per fother and aquit rest before next weake it will be £13: this whats neadfull from Sr yours Ra: Grey

**12 Sep 1674 Ralph Grey to Matthew Shepherd**

ditto

Thes are to acquaint you that I have sent you a bill of sixty five pounds charged upon Mr George Potts which I hope will be ackcepted not else at present. Yours Ra: Grey

**19 Sep 1674 Ralph Grey**

Ditto the 19 1674

Sr

Yours of the 16 come to hand with the inclosed bill of exchange for tharty pounds and five pounds for the <coles> which bill of £35 is accepted and I question but will be paid at day, I have ordred our men that if the merchants will not give 8d per for our flax to retaile it out at that rait and to keepe a pticular acct for yow this wts neadfull from your Humble sarvent Ralph Grey

**26 Sep 1674 Ralph Grey**

Newcastle : September the 26: 1674

Mr Shipard

Thes are to desire you for to send me per the first opportunity one <...> of your best <Lo> sugar nott else at present but that I am yours to comand Ra: Grey

29 Sep 1674 Ralph Grey to William Peacock

Sept 29th 74

Mr Peacoke

I shall use my utmost indevor to get you at <Tunn> of Leed Oare; to your desire of sundery sort but soe late of the yeare that Caredge is laid of, I am afraid it will be the Spring before I can perform your desire I have writ [...] to one Groves about it, It wilbe deare 7£ per<tt> for Leed 13s per Fother butter 20s a <.a. L Firkin>; writ your order per first.

3 Oct 1674 Ralph Grey

[Note: The # or H or tt weight symbol sometimes clearly means H for Cwt but in this instance must clearly mean tons since 69 cwt 3 qtrs is just under the 80 ½ tts also mentioned]

Octobr the 3 (74)

Sir,

Yours of the 26 last I recd: where you take notice of the weight M[aste]rs mistake that the cask q[uan]tity but 160C[wt] :03qt: 11lb I have I have [sic] hear inclosed sent you his note of particulars, & he doeth affirm your 34 cask q[uan]tity 169 Cwt:3 qt:5 lb soe that I hope you did not much over pay the master when you pd for 80 ½ <tts> here is some 3 <tts> in the house I cannot gett it taken in though I profit greater fright, I proferd this day for Mr Wigfall 40s per <tt> & I canot gett any M[aste]r to take in some fier stones, I <thought> coals bing risen from six to twelve shillings per chalder that M[aste]rs would have served upon easier terms but we find the contrary. As for price of lead its bought up for Burdeaux & <Schotland> & they pay £13 per fother we have very bad harvist wether that I think corn will rise wth ius; rye if good 5s or 4s6d as in <you..ess> ots 2s6d per Bush wheat 7s <ower> ots & pease I fear will niver ripen our pease fills not beans 4s 6d per Bushell; I pray god remove his judgments of of famine & sword from us. This what needful Ra:Grey

	Cwt	Qt	lb
Bar[re]ls	34	qt	176 1 20 grose
Tare		6	2 15
Netto	169	3 05	8 Tu 9 C 3 qt 5lb

3 Oct 1674 Ralph Grey to Randolph Richardson

Newcastle October 3rd (74)

Mr Randolph Richardson

Yours of the 29th September came to safe hand in wth Mr Overinges, wch I have aquainted some of our Bretherin wth in answer, we are not concerned but it is <wth> Company of Bruers soe I must make my apeall to them & gett Mr Pibus & Mr Thos Matthews to interceid if I doe any good for your friend I am sorry we had the bad happ of our <hopps> for the wood washed in Tyne I think we must gett them dried however I doe thank for your care impounding them. I have been out of town or I had answered you ere this not further but I am yours  
Ra Grey

**9 Oct 1674 Ralph Grey to Merrall**

Newcastle October the 9 1674

Mr Merrad

Thes at present are to desere you for to send me pr the first opportunity 3 gro: of <pruns> best <whed sevan> Cords and 3 Gro at 22s pr Gro one Gro of <Walbat> 2 gro of <nags head> and 2 gro of your best large <Chrehamners> not else at present but that I am Yours to Comand  
Ra Grey

**12 Oct 1674 Ralph Grey to William Webb**

ditto the 12th 1674

Mr Webb

Thes at present is to desire you for to send me pr the first opportunity 2 duz of your best Cas Nuts, 12 lb of the best Clovs 6lb of the largist Mace and 12lb of the best synaman . not else at present but that I am Yours  
Ra Grey

**20 Oct 1674 Ralph Grey**

Newcastle October the 20: 1674

Sir

This at present is to acquaint you that I have shipt the fire stones in Mr William Dyes one of Mr George Peetts M[aste]rs he is to have 30s per tunne frait I would have pd hime heare but my man and he could not agree of the caridge for we would have pd him for 22 <tts> but he stands for 24 <tts> I gave his men ten shill to drinke which they deserved for one hat swong his <backe> and another <grazed> his thigh besides two or thre <taibreses> of the shipe broke he curseth mee and tells me if he had knowen the trouble and mischeife would not have taken the men though I would have geven hime

tenn pounds < p tts>. Lead 13£ pr Foth oare 7£ pr <tts> Corne reseth of price Rye 5s pr, wheat 7s Oates 2s4d prc bush

This what needful from your humble servant

Ra Grey

**27 Oct 1674 Ralph Grey to William Peacock**

October 27 (74)

Mr Wm Peacock

Yours of the 23rd came to safe hand I have treated with Mr Howard, at Grass to gett me a barrel of the sundry sorts of ore that is in this country, it had been in er now, but that they can gett noe oare from the groves here hath been such great rain since August last, our corn is destroyed upon the ground, & that which is saved, much of it is grown stainted. Mr Peter Watson hath 2 ships come in from Colebrough which is sold here for 5s6d per Bushel & ready vent. I am afraid it will be dearer, there is abundance of of [sic] corne that will niver be reaped. You ordered me to buy you 200 firkins of butter provided I could buy it at 20s pr firkin there was pd last week for a parcel 26s pr firkin & noe ship I could prevail to serve for 25 wher as your order is 25s and 30s my sonne Ralph is now there with a ship of 200 tts to lead brandy for myselfe and partner I thanke you hartily As to your advice to my sonne I do intend God willing to send him over next spring if we could get a shipe or two to carry from Colebrough stattine or any p[or]t in thes p[ar]ts I shall upon <netecd> take care to ordr over my 1/3 part or what you please I think all sort of grain will hould up price rye 5s wheat 7s malt 3s8d barley 3s white peese 6s8d ots 2s6d pr Bush for present noe lead in town be reason of bad weather but sold at 13£ per fother, & coles risen to 12s per Chald which was sold for six when you were here.

Yours Ra: Grey

**27 Oct 1674 Ralph Grey to William Webb**

October ditto the 27 in 1674

Alderman Webb

Thes are to desire you for to send me pr the first opportunity one <hh> of your purged <suger> at 28s p <cwt>. This whats needful from, Sir, your servant

Ra: Grey

**30 Oct 1674 Ralph Grey**

[Note: recipient not stated but Willett's letter of 20 November, a copy of which was taken by Grey's clerk appears to be in answer to this, via an un-named intermediary]

ditto the 30.1674

Sir

I have shipt in Mr Wm Dye M[aste]r of the paull London one of Mr Potts M[aste]rs 12 caskes of oare qt 58:02:4 <tare> 2:0:27 C. I have sent you here inclosed Mr Thomas Shearwood acct for the whole of the ballance being seventy one pounds one shill one penny per next must give him a bill for the ball[ance] of the account <.....> thirty pounds deducted <.ome> is now sould for £17 p <..> but I tould Mr Sherwood he must make upe his bargan for twenty tun nixt sumer for we can expect no more til next spring The ways are so very bad the great raynes hath destroyed all the corne in this countray that it is most shot and <.....> the raine falling in to the stacks before covering that the most of it will be given to the swine and the o[a]ts leadeth in thare yeards the corne prove so bad they cannot geat to sarve them for seed. Rye 5s and 5s6d wheat 7s : ots 2s6d and barley 3s6d per bush. If you have any correspondent at <roan> [Rouen?] that will give an account of the price thare of corne and coles we might frait a shipe out and <I ..> Sr Wm Blakett had 30 sayle last yeare. I want a correspondent there Sr Wm sould lead chepe at 5 <loven> but he maid it up in his returns lead all bought up here at 13£ a fother to have returns in corne coles risen to 12s per chald and like to be derer if the Holandars send a fleat here with convoy to lead coles I heare no sayle is gone for Scotland.

This what needful from your humble servant

Ra: Grey

### 3 Nov 1674 Ralph Grey to Merrall

November the 3: 1674

Mr Merreall

I have here inclosed sent you a bill of 12£ charged upon Mr Barnes payable at 3 days sight which I hope at days will be paid, praye when it is pd let me know that I may place it to your account this whats needfull from sr your loving friend

Ra: Grey

### 13 Nov 1674 Ralph Grey

Newcastle November the 13th (74)

Sir

Yours of the 2 currant came to safe hand wherein I perceiv you recd the inclosed account of Mr Tho. Sherwoods in which acct you take exceptions against the porters of 15s & 2d which is realy due after weight for portinge to the boat, for the weighing the weight M[aste]r pay besides other duties which is not placed to the marchants account. the acct stands thus

Cwt qt lb	£ s d
To lead ore dew as per acct <12> 0 20 at 6<.> pr tts	67 17 05
To caske qt 46 at 1s 2d per caske	02 13 04
To nails as per note	00 05 06
To porter dues as per note	00 15 02
To crainidge as per note I paid since last acct	00 07 08
To whiry down with their drinks	00 18 00
To postige for letters with factorige	00 15 00
Their is due	73 12 01
Deducting pd per Mr Wigfalls	30 00 00
	43 12 01

Which sd some of 43£:12s I have given Mr Tho. Sherwood a bill of exchange of you who to my knowledge if would have forfeited his promise to me might have had 7£10s per fother & I know Sir Wm Bleckit had more of Mr Wm. Peacock of Amsterdam then 7£ 15s p tts. Mr Sherwood fals of from the bargain for what lead I was to have this year, but there is but <15 tts> & 20lb lead by the reason of the weather being very bad, that ore could not be led in he now stands for 8£ per tts & Mr Swinburn & Mrs Bacon hath sold at same rate to Mr Wm Peacocke lead id hear bought upp for Amsterdam at 13£ per fothe, they <bring> their return here for rye which they sell for 4s9d & 5s per bushel they pay 2s6d per last custome last year it was under the rate but the comisioners gave order to be favourable to the merchants, the <parts> for about 40 myles round about us have had a very bad harvest and most corn is not serviceable I am of that opinion it will hardly fall this year. Wheat 7s or 7s6d per bushel rye from 4s6d to 5s per bushel. I thank you for your writing to your friend Mr Willit to be informed of the price at Rone if good to be done shall venter what p[ar]t you please coles is risen hear to 12s per chal: all shippis are free to cary their cole to Amsterdam & Rotterdam tho being risen from 11s <p. hood> to 25s but is thought now at 30 they write of 30 sayle of Holland[er]s that are coming wth 2 convoys to lode coles if they com they must stay till they be wrought & led their 100 sayl gone for Schotland must lye this winter. I cant prevail wth any of our m[aste]rs to goe for London the price being lower than in Holland or elsewhere.  
Ra: Grey

14 Nov 1674 Ralph Grey

Newcastle: November the 14: 1674

Sir

Yours of the 27th october came to hand and acording to your order I have pd Mr Robert Sutton thirty pounds & do verry much wonder that Hills should so <deal> with me as not to have pd that moneys which I lye out . I hope his brother Henry <Come ng from Bordeaux Lodon with our brandy and wine will nott <fail> to <pap> as they write, I must intreat you to Arrest hime if he not proffer mony with your <oar>

agreement, in a[n]swer to yours of the 10th currant I shall intreat you to take the paines as to meet Mr Thomas Mathew <my frend> who loges at the kings head in greys in lane and acquaint him with the <merittes> of the cause who will advise the best I shall writ to him about the same next post which I hope will find him at London this not further but that I am your loving freand

Ra: Grey

**14 Nov 1674 Ralph Grey**

ditto

Honored friend,

yours of the 3rd currant came to hand wherein I preve you recd the acount of the <stons> and fraitt and I hope Mr Wm Pye hath d[elivere]d them to your friends, or now to content he ingaged he would take a speciall care of them, and lead at 13£ per fother and bought up to send for Holland to bring home returns in rye wheat and oats wich continues at the price in my last here is sundry ships arrived out of holand, here is expected both out of the east and france yeat I think rye will stop up these next we having a very bad harvist for forty miles around, lead ore is resen from six pounds to seven pounds ten shill[ings] and much desired Coles to 12s per Cha and if the Hollanders cum with a hundred sale of ships with two convoys they will be at 15s per Cha and must ly till candelmis day not further but that I am yours to comand

Ra: Grey

**20 Nov 1674 Edward Willet**

[Note: recipient not stated, but presumably Ralph Grey's intermediary]

Douer the 20th Novembr 1674

I have your honorable of the 2/11 th curr that is come the same daye that my mother arived heare she hath acquainted me of the kindnesse shee hath had the honnor to receve of your trust deserves more thanks than can possibly bee expressed Ittt is my mothers owne expresson butt God willing she and I shall not lett slipp any good accasion to give all the more we can of our gratitude to your favors, In answer to what you desier to know about corne I shall advise you that none is suferd to be shipped out att any port of Low Brittany & att haven de grace [Le Havre] or there aboute, itt is impossible to shippe out any corne because there is there such great quantities of poore people tha apreheands famine that if they should perceive any ship take in corne they would come as they have done seaeverall times by such troops of men and woomen that they would rather kil shipp mastr and marinners then to suffer them to load any corne, but we can heare at this place shipe out any quantity without hinderrance in payeing the custome dutys, and therefore if you have some designe to order for any

quantity of corne from this cuntry yow mast think to have from this place, I have ended recd some ships loaden with coles from Newcastle that I have sent back to that place with the load of Rye and is now about 3 or 4 months agoe butt corne was 30s per cno cheaper then it is now and I judge itt is also much resen in England so am not out of hopes, but yew may find some Incouredgmt to doe some thing in that trade and therefore to give yow all necessary advise yow shall know that wheat the best sorte houlds heare att 55 to 60 crownes is now according to the goodnis I meane the verry best and rye: the very best & purest at 43 and 45C crownes per mow first <pery> tho charges heare aboard (as by experience I find) is 10 11/W per mow of wheat & d 11/w per mow of rye , I supose you well know the deferance of our measure with yours, if not you may know tht our mow of the best wheat doth weigh of our <vicounty> weight near upon 3400 which is 34 £ per bushell of which you may consider for if you find incouridgement as I hope you will you will doe well to loose noe time to give the necesary ordrs, for hast your orders to newcastle is fright a good ship of 100 tunn or more which may be had at such rate wt the coles tht it shall bring hear will near upon gett <1d> fright of the <Toun> to carry it to what port you shall desire which I think is the best way for shippes are scarce heare they will have forty five shillings fright for every mow of corn wch as you see is considerable the price of Newcastle cole is hear at present at 420tt per 100 barrells wch is 6 challdr is all charges hear amounts to 132 per 100 barrells beside the fright by which you may see what good may be done on wt trade, as for lead the price tht you noate therr would be mony sooner lost then anything gotton, it holds now but at 108 £ pr tt noe demand which is what I have to enlarge soe hoping for your answer for the honour of your comands I humbly crave leave and remain yours in perfect good health <he> durst not yet undertake to write to you <.> son <.> French  
Edward Willit

[added to side:] Memorad that 60 Mue makes 48 last at Newcastle

### 21 Nov 1674 Ralph Grey to William Peacock

Newcastle: November the 21: 1674

Mr Peacock

Yours of the 20th currant came to hand since my since my [sic] last, here is arrived thre ships with rye from Colebrough two <Newchen Jalland> and Tho. Richison with rye from Roterdam two with <gould> rye from Riga and ½ <dozon> with ots which is sould to the meal makers for 2s 11d per bush[ell] : here is <sundrey> ships cumd with french rye and that its falen to 4s8d per bush and the best danske 5s the badnis of the wether doth hinder the countrey for coming in I perceve rye is with you at <12 og C> and att Hambrough 7 or C here is not at present one shipe that intends for Amstardam or otherwise should have sent your <160> ferkens of butter which at present may be bought at 22s per firken but there being opportunitys of [rising] shall <....> there is



sundry ships cuming here to lode coles for your port they are sould for 12s per chald lead £13 per fother, you have ordred Mr Shipherd of hambrough to consine to me 80 last p your account when <plese god> she arive shall use my utmost endeavours to serve you in the sales praye writ me how all rules with you This whats neadfull from your sarvant Ra: Grey

**21 Nov 1674 Ralph Grey**

Newcastle: November the 21 (74)

Sir

Yours of the 17th instant wth the inclosed came to safe hand for which & all other favors I send you many thanks as for the inclosed I find little incouridgement all things considered other <than> lead or coles but if god bless me I shall fright a ship in spring wth lead coles & <kerseys>, We have some ships going for Rotterdam wth souldiers who gives 25<s> per lead but the great incouridgement is 28<s> p <Cpll> which is about your London chalder [for] coles, all the lead in towne is bought up at 13£ per fother they have a great fleet come out of the east [which] have made corn fall from 128 <pqC> to 100 <pqC> as we are informed by our intelligencers, pray when you write to Mr Willit present my service to him, I shall trouble him with some coles & lead in the spring; here is great supplies of corn expected from Holland it faling their, & coles giving a great price above duple what usuall will make them adventure, which otherwise they would not. I admire coles should be soe cheap at London at 25 <ty>it is the worst market I know of & if it were not for our ships in Holand that our M[aste]rs did buy & hoped to have made free your city had been in great want of some I am concerned in would not have used the trade but perforce, I thank you for honouring my bill wth acceptance & payment, I did fine noe error in the acct, but what was realy just & due, or else I had not sent it I have here inclosed sent you Mr Willitts letter wherein I perceive your sons at Rouen, my sonn is at Bourduax should have come overland to have wayted of your son, but I hope he is come away with a ship of brandy of 300 <tts> for this port, rye sold here at 19£ 10s per last to the merchant, wheat at 14s & 1d per boll oats 2s4d per bushell if good beans 3s9d per bushell other grayn proportionable I think it will hardly fall of price corn proving generally faulty that they cannot for present make use of any, it riseth in the west  
This what needful from yours Ralph Grey

**22 Jan 1675 Ralph Grey**

Newc[astle] Jan the 22 1674

Sr

Yours of the 16 Jan came to hand I perceive by it [your] [booke] you find in debetor in your booke £42:3s which I thought Mr [Hill] had pd forty pounds which which [sic]

<C> he writ <thereof> If he have not pd that order it up, he did asure me he left soe much in the wood mongers hand to pay you, I shall writ him about it for allowed him <10>£ upon acct and for the remainder I hope youn will abaite for the loss I had in <T>horp and <athery> that then we may begin anew not further but that I am  
Yours Ra: Grey

**2 Feb 1675 Ralph Grey to Merrall**

Newc[astle] Feb the 2nd 1674

To Mr Merreall for [6] Rims of<cap> paper <6s per> and of 2lb 6 Bundals of 1lb: 6 Bundall of half lb not other but that I ame yours Ra:Grey

**2 Feb 1675 Ralph Grey to Matthew Shepherd**

ditto

To Mr Sheapard for two butts of the best [Mosall] p Ra:Grey

**2 Feb 1675 Ralph Grey to Watkins**

ditto

To Mr Wathing to send per the first opportunity <8> dozen of the best Round pins not other at present but that I am  
Yours Ra:Grey

**16 Feb 1675 Ralph Grey to Matthew Shepherd**

ditto the 16: 1674

Mr Sheapard  
Sr Yours I recd with the inclosed acct of the goods recd and the monyes pd, which I have prased and finding it right acordingto your letters, shall god willing order your use the remainder of your monyes by the first opportunity, when pd pray advise me that I may place it to acct  
This whats neadfull from, Sr yours to command  
Ra:Grey

**20 Feb 1675 Ralph Grey to Randolph Richardson**

Feb the 20 1674

To Mr Randolph Richardson to send per the first opportunity one <....> of <.....>  
hops this what needfull from  
yours Ra:Grey

**27 Feb 1675 Ralph Grey to William Webb**

Feb the 27: 1674

To Mr Webb to send per the first opportunity one <hhd> of purged suger about 26s or  
27s per <Cnt> and 12lb synamon, 6 Barll figgs not other at present  
p Ra: Grey

**13 Mar 1675 Ralph Grey**

March the 13 1674

Sr

yours of the 9th March I recd for which I thanke you : I p[e]rc[ei]ve your friend have  
sent me 12 botles of canary for which I thank him, returnes is very scarce heare I wish  
you had charged the ball[ance] of the acct per Rob.<Thorp> or if William Sanderson  
come downe or who you plese your bill shall thankfully be pd, Lead heare 13£per  
fother, coles 12s per Chall, Rye 5s2d per bush[ell]. Beanes 4s9d per bush[ell] : oats from  
1s6d to 4s the best: <Holland> my sonne is now at Burdeau and my Nephew at Rouen I  
desire you to let me know how the <eselr> is that I may order affairs for exch <.ll be>  
high its better there: Lead at 29£: this at present for wt I can serve you or any friend of  
yours command  
Your most Humbell servant Ra: Grey

**13 Mar 1675 Ralph Grey**

ditto

Sr

I p[e]rc[e]ve by my fitter that he recd the £10:15s which by mistake he hath ordered in  
to Mr Sandersons have this post the writ as to that concerns, he informes mec that he  
did acquaint Mr Sanderson with it 14 dayes since when he was there and did not  
questione the payment this whats needfull from  
yours Ra. Grey

**27 Mar 1675 Ralph Grey to William Webb**

March the 27 1675

Alderman Webb

To send per the first opportunity one <...> of the best fine currint one small bar[e]ll of rice one bar[e]ll of Brimston: one Box of <flat> indigo :

Not else but that I am

Yours : Ra Grey

**1 May 1675 Ralph Grey to William Webb**

Newc[astle] : May the 1st : 1675

To Alderman Web :

to send per the first oportunity 7 bar]re]ll of Ra:[sins?] one <hhd> of <figs>: at 28s per <cent> one <hhd> at : 50s per [cent] not else at present but that I am :

Yours to command Ra: Grey

**1 May 1675 Ralph Grey to Watkins**

ditto

To Mr Watkins to send per the first opportunity 6 doz of the best small 12 doz of the best Large 6 duzen at 4s:10d 12 doz at : 5s:10d 6 doz at : 6s:6d not else but that I am

Yours to command Ra: Grey

**1 May 1675 Ralph Grey to Thomas Lemon**

[Note: recipient not named, but probably Thomas Lemon – see account following 22 May, 1675. A last was a shipping measure equivalent to 80 bushels.]

May the first 1675

Yours of the 26 per post & of the 27 per Mr Porter came to hand I have according to your order recd of Mr Porter 1 ½ last of rye which I was not bid above 16£ per last their being soe much East Contry corn come in this week corn which they sell at 17£ per last soe have lofted yours & shall dispose of it to the best advantage a[s] for your 2 hoggheads of Brandy I had your M[aste]r to see them filld up which wanted 2 ½ gall[on]s Mr Rain doth profer 3s3d per Gall I doe not fear to gett 3s4d : if not 3s6d if you send them noe worse than these as for your Rosin they bought your black of 10s & offer for this 9s soe I expect your order as to that particular, I intreated wth Mr Swain about the canvis but when I examend your M[aste]r declared there was none aboard,

except it be very good he will not exceed 20d or 21d per yard on Monday the 3rd I intend to enter him that he shall lose no time & lode him wth the best Colburn coles & ship 50 pcs of small lead & use my intrest as to your custume as for your lead you shall pay noe more but 12£ 10s per fother soe sell none under 13£ & Sr Wm Bleckitt at 13£:5s but we must not lose our customers I asure you we will not lose any opportunity to serve you wth lead or coles at the cheapest rate my service to Mr Edward Mason, I had writt but I thought he was gone but I suppose you will [write] to him Coleburne & Lemington cole sold for 10s & Grandlease for 9s to 8s6d this what needful from yours R.G.

**4 May 1675 Ralph Grey to Thomas Lemon**

[Note: recipient not named, but see letter of 1 May]

Newc[astle] May the 4 1675

Sr

my last was of the first instant to which I referr you since which I sould your Rye for sexten pounds per Last your Brandy for thre shill four pence per gall the best none gives but 3s6d per gall your Rousin for nine shill per Cnt there being of the same sort sould for same price, of mounday morning Mr Porter sent me home the canvis which his men found out I have sould it to Mr Swaine for nine pence halfpenny per yard it proving bad in the middle or <shd> have gote a better price you mention that it should hould out 568 yards in yours but my meassureing of it I find 578 yards which helpe the price somewhat I have entered the ship he is loading coles and the lead is ready the Master intends two foth[er]s per his owne account this what neadfull from  
Your humble servant Ra: Grey

**4 May 1675 Ralph Grey**

ditto

Sr

yours I recd and hath accepted your bill to Mr Frast, I could have wished you had ordered some freind of yours to have taken a loading of coles for we have a bad trade Coles fallen from 12s5d to 8s6d per chaldr that makes out cares of money and a dead trade <howsoever> shall paye you praye send on Bage of <chaped> fine hops and at cheapest rate I had another meeting with the brewers and at last prevaled to refer it <wholly> to Mr Mathews for I hope M[aste]r exerting will cum well <oft> Mr Mathews went yeasterdaye for London so praye <....> of him at his chambers : not else but that I am  
Yours Ra: Grey

**14 May 1675 Ralph Grey**

ditto the 14 : 1675

Sr

This may serve to acquaint you that Mr James <Border> saled the 9 instant I have here inclosed sent you the Accompt of his coals and lead which you may send to your correspondent Bath. A fothr of lead upon his owne accompt which he <pro....> to acquaint you with and <....> to se it pd in my last I acquaint[ed] you with the sale of your <Rosall> and your brandy and two <ba[rre]ls> of <Crenish> Rye is fall[en] here to 15£ per Last Beans 3s : wheat 6s per bush Barley 3s6d oats as in goodnes from 1s6d to 2s per bush <....> 4s per bush Coals is faled from 9s6d to 8s per chall lead £12:10s per foth: Brandy 3s4d <None> 3s6d per <.... Granscors> 36 per <Ctane>. this what neadfull from your servant

Ra. Grey

**15 May 1675 Ralph Grey to William Hester**

Newcastle : Maye the 15 : 1675

Mr Haster

Yours of the 11 currant came to hand wherin I pceve you find the ball[ance] of the accompt to be fifty four pound <twelve> shill[ings] I was in good hop[e]s that Mr Harry Hill had pd youe the sixty pounds which was due last October he having writ me since you were heare that he had pd the mony I shall writ him this post and if I find a saling shall put his bond in suit and returne you up the mony by the first for he hath dealt verely unworthily <.... ...> and if he be with you I shall send the bond per first post which praye advise me : My servis to Sr <Wytham Brengz> and <tol.es> me Mr Mathews advise as to that concerne not else but that I am yours to command  
Ra Grey

**21 May 1675 Arthur Grey**

[Note: Arthur Grey, son of Robert Grey of Wark, Northumberland, was apprenticed to Ralph Grey in 1668]

ditto the 21 : 1675

Sr

My Mast[er] being out of towne : Mr younge having drawne of the brandy and measured it finding it should c[o]nt[ain] 58 Gall[ons] 3 quarts per <hhd> whears you mension in your letter that they should cnt 63 Gall p <hhd> since I have had the gager to gage them and [...] [...] cnt no more but what the gall <p. ...> makes & complains that it is a kind of a mixt brandy and and [sic] hath a great deal of brimston in it and likewise that it is mixt with water he promised to paye the moneys upon demand and

finding it prove so bad will not paye it but expects an abaitence thereof praye writ my mast[er] your ord[er]s as to that consarne Rye at 3s2d per bush Coast corne : best [Renish] at 4s6d per bush not else at present bu that I am for my Master Ra Grey Esq  
Yours to command  
Arthur Grey

**22 May 1675 Ralph Grey to Matthew Shepherd**

May the 22 : 1675

To Mr Shepard to send per first opportunity 1 <hhd> sugar at 44s 1 <hhd> at 62s per first not other  
Yours Ra Grey

**6 Jun 1675 Ralph Grey to William Hester**

Newcastle Jun the 6 : 1675

Mr Heath:  
Thes at present are to desire you to send me per the first opportunity 6 Bar[re]ll of your best Neat Soape and ½ Last of your best ord[inary] soape praye let there be as many halfe fir[kines] as you can spare. Not else but that I am  
Yours Ra.Grey

**8 Jun 1675 Arthur Grey to Thomas Lemon**

ditto the 8 : 1675

Mr Lemon  
Sr in my Masters absence last weake I sent your accompt and prasing the book since I found a mistake. I gave you an account in p[ar]t of a Last and a halfe of Rye sould at fourteen pound the Last which in our booke is plast and sould at sextenpound per Last the error being carried on in the accompt will macke the ball[ance] but one pound seventeen still Sr your wine yeasterdaye came to safe hand and we have had severall <ventamors> tasting of it and thares never one of them that holds at £30 per <Tune [tun]> for it. Beans resen to 3s8d per bush. Oats at 2s2d as in good <riy> not else at present but that I am for my Master Ra. Grey Esq  
Yours to command  
Arthur Grey

Mr Thomas Leman is dbtr	£ s d
To 34 chall of coals 9s6d per chall	16:03:00
To keel dues	01:19:01
To Custome of 34 chall at 8s per chall	13:12:00
To Custome of 3 fother of Lead	03:00:00
To entrys and post entrys for lead and coals	00:03:04
To the bill of store	00:00:06
Cocket and <lights>	01:04:02
Coals that were left out	00:03:04
Touns house duty for cols and lead	00:17:10
Pd the M[aste]r his portage for lead and coals	00:18:00
Pd for car[ry]ing the lead aborde	00:03:00
To 50 p[iece]s lead qt 57:3:21 at 12s10d per foth	34:10:04 1/2
To cash pd to laborars for the Rye	00:04:00
Pd the laborars for the canvas	00:00:08
Pd the <mellers> for the Rye	00:01:03
Pd the Laborars for the Rosall	00:01:00
2½ Gall brandy to fill up the <....>	00:10:00
	73:12:04 1/2
per the other side Recd	71:15:04
Resting to ball[ance] the accompt	01:17:00 1/2

Mr Thomas Lemon per cash rcd	
To 1 1/2 last of Rye recd and seald at £16 the last	24:00:00
To two bags of Canvis recd and sould at 9 1/2d the yard containing 578 yards	22:17:07
To the 12 cakes of Rosall Recd at 11:2:11 at 9s per Cnt	05:04:05
To the two hodg[heads] of Brandy Recd conta[ing] 118 gall and sould at 13s4d per gall	19:13:04
	71:15:04

[A separate loose leaf copy of this account is found elsewhere in the volume, showing the following slight additions to the above, suggesting that Arthur had not included all relevant itemised expenditure, not least the merchants 2% commission on every item:]

To the porter for the lead	00:03:00
To the mettors for the rye [1d more ie.:]	00:01:04
Pd the porters for the Brandy	00:01:00
For crainidge	00:00:08
To Toll for the wine & Brandy canvis & Rofall & Rye	00:04:00



To my provision 2 per cent	02:18:06
[Revised total:]	76:18:10

**8 Jun 1675 Ralph Grey to John Cawood**

June the 8 : 1675

Mr John Cawood

Yours of the 1st June came to hand <with> the inclosed bill upon <Hen> Arkley I p[er]ceve the <glase> is redy but canot geat a shipe to send it as Mr Arkley is gone to <Whitby> and so for Hull and from there to Norige. Beans here at 3s8d per bush. Oats at 2s: not else but that I am

Yours: Ra. Grey

**12 Jun 1675 Ralph Grey to Thomas Lemon**

ditto the 12: 1675

Mr Lemon

Thes may sarve to aquaint you that I have put your wine to saile and can be biden no mor for it but £30 per Tun if you be plesed for to despose of it at that rate you may aquaint me per the first opportunity and it shall be performed by Sr

Yours to command

Ra: Grey

**15 Jun 1675 Ralph Grey to William Hester**

[Note: This letter relates to the bond that follows, of which the English part has been transcribed here. Henry Hill is named master of the ship Conquest of Hull, of Kingston upon Hull, in the latin section.]

June the 15 1675

Mr Hestr

Sr yours of the 10 current came yo hand wherein I p[er]ceve you did serve of Henry Hill and since hat bene with your man and promiseth he will paye the monyes <und..y..pe> the bond which I have sent you heare inclosed it was due the 21 october. Let him paye consideracon for the time which the other of his brothers wanted with charges of Arrest and intrest till he entred the bond praye writ the receipt of it I thanke you for your care in sending the soape we are faling to retaile againe <Hey> Hills destrayed me in the trayed not paying the monye according to expectation This what neadfull from yours to command

Ra; Grey

The condition of this obligation is such that if the above bounden Henry Hill his heires executors Adm[inistrato]rs or assignes, or any of them doe well and truly content and pay or cause to paid unto the above named Ralph Grey his x x certaine Attorney Executors Admins or assignes the summe of sixty pounds of good and lawfull money of England at or befor the one and twentieth daye of October next ensewing the date of these presents which said summe is borrowed and taken upp for the use of the ship above bounden and the owners thereof without fraud or guile that then this obligation to be void or else to stand in force.

Henry Hill

[witnessed]

Jo. Emerson

Jo Pickells

**15 Jun 1675 Ralph Grey to Thomas Lemon**

June the 15 : 1675

Mr Thomas Lemon

Yours of the 28 and the 5th came to hand wth your wines per Mr <Trackett> I prceve you thinke your brandy sould too cheap I p[ro]test I did my utmost yeat Mr Jas Younge complains of it and hath not as yeat pd for it, pure <nayce> brandy at that time was sould at 3s6d per Gall which they acc[ou]nt 8d per gall better and for the Gage it was no mor nor what my man writ; for your wines I was bid 30£ per tun for it all which I would not take of Mr <Lynnell> Blagdon and Most hath tasted is one that hath bid for <2 brls> of the Clarett and one of white £32 but <then ..> leaves the renish and one hog of Clarit which is changed and will be fit for <carriage> for funerals, my Brother Ellison hath twenty tuns of wine consigned to him by Mr Poppell of burdeaux of the 2nd vinteadg which is extraordinary wines and he proferes for thirty six pounds per tun your Renish will not give so much as your whit if you has sent your <Rossell> wch younge would have given the auld price Lead at present £12 10s per fother and coals 8s per Chald Rye danske 4s and English 3s 3s6d or 3s4d Beans 3s8d oats two shill if good Barley 3s per bushl

This what needfull from Yours to command

Ra: Grey

**19 Jun 1675 Ralph Grey to William Webb**

ditto the 19 : 1675

To Aldrman Webb

to send per the first opportunity one Barll of sugere fine blue and <thre> large Barll of ord[inary] Currin about 28s percent and to advise me of the price of goods nopt else at present but that I am  
yours Ra:Grey

**16 Jul 1675 Ralph Grey to Merrall**

July the 16 : 1675

Mr Merall

Thes at present are to desire you to send me per the first opportunity 6 Rems of Case paper 6 Bundals of two pound 6 Bundals of pound 6 Bundals of <...> 6 Rems of your best cut paper at 6s6d per Reme not else but that I am  
Yours Ra Grey

**17 Jul 1675 Ralph Grey to Thomas Partis**

Newcastle July the 17 : 1675

Mr Partis

Yours of the 14th came to hand for which I thanke you, I prceve you have refered on <qrter> for your self and and [sic] me which I accept of but I had rather had a great[e]r concerne with you then that if you come not for <these pts> must order my concerns in <sunder> other vessels of which I shall give you a futher accompt I could have wisht them in your hand. Jo: Riggs and mine 150£ I refer that to further consideracon which is all choice goods for that port mind your certificat for both our saiftyes for what over plus of the Voadge [voyage] pay to Mr Thomas Firman of London, Merchant and in so doing you will ingaedge  
Your assured friend  
Ra: Grey

**28 Jul 1675 Ralph Grey to Thomas Lemon**

ditto 28th 75

Mr Lemond

Sir This at present is to acquaint you that I have sold your Claritt and white at 30£ per tun to Mr Hubboock postmaster of Durham but I am afraid that it will be martinmas day er it be pd, if it had been good wine had gone <currently> if ther was 2 Hogs[heads] of it good & could have sold it for 36£ & other 2 Hoggs fitt for nothing but viniger, your Sherand wine none would buy it, soe have sold Mr Woodraw 7 gall for his maids funeral & Sr Fran: And[er]son 10 Gall if he like it or others I would gladly

have it of, when ever you send wine or brandy it must be good or else will not sell here  
brandy from 3s2d to 3s 3 per Gall as in goodness: Lead from £12:6s to £12 10s per fother  
I have loden Mr porter on your accompt if their be any concerne wherein I may serve  
you in these parts command

Your servant

Ra: Grey

**19 Aug 1675 Ralph Grey to Joshua Pannell**

Newc[astle] August the 19: 1675

Mr Panall

Though unaquainted I salute you, and upon Mr Richardson and the present Master  
recomidations have consined you five h[ogs]h[eads]ds of tobacco the Numbers and  
weight you have as in the Margin, hoping that you will dispose of them to the best  
advantage and at price curant & to the returns be in spring stufe as pound flax or the  
<....> not else at present but that I am Sir Yours to Comand

Ra: Grey

[note in the left margin:]

T:G No

18 qt 408

3 qt 414

17 qt 366

26 qt 398

5 qt 498

<> 5 2144

**28 Aug 1675 Ralph Grey to Thomas Lemon**

Ditto ye 28: 1675

Mr Lemon

Sir yours I recd and acording to your desire here per Mr Youngs and Mr Cros sent yaw  
50 p[iece]s of Lead the w[e]ight yow have in yawr accompt, as for yaur wine I have  
only disposed of 5 h[ogs]hea]ds at £32 per Tune and have as yet but recd the one halfe  
of the moneyes and doth not know when I shall rec[ei]ve the rest and without trusting I  
would not have got it ofe, as for your renish it is not as yeat sould you writ that it  
should hauld eighty Gall[ons] which cannot be for those Casks is never said to be mor  
then twenty Gall[ons], when sould shall give yew a parfit accountpt what it haulds not  
else at present but that I am Sir Yours to comand.

Ra. Grey

[Account on leaf facing letter:]

1675 Mr Thomas Lemon his accompt dbr      £   s   d

July 27

To 35 Chald coles per Tho: Porter pr his  
Recait of Mr Lemon's use                              14:00:00

August the 16

To 50 ps lead qt 65:3:14 at 12£10s p ft              39:04:06 3/4

To coperidge for the wine                              00:03:00

To portidge & crainidge for the wine              00:03:04

To portidge & wherry hire for the lead              00:07:00

55:14:04 3/4

<.> to ball[ance] the first accompt              01:17:=

55:14:10 3/4

P Contra Credit

By 6 h[ogs]h[ead]s of wine Recd wherof 5  
of them is sour at £32 per tune as yeat

but halfe money Recd being                              20:00:00

To ball[ance] this accompt                              35:13:04 3/4

55:13:04 3/4

For cash Resting per the former accompt              01:17:00

[struck out below:]

His acct credit

By 4 Hodgs Claritt wine and one of whit  
sold at £32 p tunn

40:00:00

By 1 cask of Renish wine recd cont 72 gall

Sold at £32 pr Tune                              09:04:06

49: 4: 6

To ball[ance] this accompt                              8: 5:11 1/4

57:10: 5 1/4

**18 Sep 1675 Ralph Grey to Robert Thorpe**

September the 18th 1675

To Mr Robert Thorp To pay unto Mr Rand: Richardson the Ball[ance] of his accompt  
which is £29:2s:10d not else

**18 Sep 1675 Ralph Grey to William Sanderson**

ditto

To Mr Wm Sanderson to pay unto Mr Wigfall & Mr Hayward the Ball[ance] of my Accompt & to Mr Matt Shipperd £20 not else from Ra: Grey

**18 Sep 1675 Ralph Grey to Matthew Shepherd**

ditto

To Mr Mathew Shiperd call on Mr Wm Sanderson to pay him £20, not else from Ra: Grey

**21 Sep 1675 Ralph Grey to William Hester**

ditto 21th (75)

To Mr Wm Hester to send 6 Bar[rel] of B:S sope & 6 Bar[rel] of ord[inary] sope not else from Ra: Grey

**21 Sep 1675 Ralph Grey to Matthew Shepherd**

ditto

To Mr Shiperd to shipp us aboard of Robt Thorp 1 hog[shea]d of sugar about 62s percent 1 hog[shea]d sugar at 50s or 52s percentt 1 hog[shea]d at 42 percent 1 hodg[shead] Lofe sugar not else at present from Ra: Grey

**21 Sep 1675 Ralph Grey to William Webb**

ditto

To Alderman Webb to ship us aboard of Robt Thorp 1 Bar[rel] Ra.Solis 1 Bar[rel] Mall Ra: 1 Bar[rel] Anitseeds & 1 hodg[shead] Br:Suger at 28s percent not else from Ra Grey

**15 Oct 1675 Ralph Grey to Ralph Grey**

Newcastle: october. the: 15: 1675

Sonne Ralph:

Yours of the 7th Currant Came to hand, my last was with Mr James Liddell who sayled ten dayes agoe with whome I sent yew 15 <dunder> 3 pare of stokings 38 Cottons on[e] p[iece] of stufe qt 38 yeards and 300 p[ieces] of Lead qt 395c 1q 15lb which praye in first place present my humble service to Mr Tradell and desire him to reimburse the ball[ance] of Last accoumpt and what yew have recd of him as to your expences and send returns in brandy, we intend Mr Whiert, I refered to yowr owne discretion whether to Come home this winter or next spring for I have great want of you at home your Mother give yow her blessing not further  
Your Loving Father  
Ra. Grey

**19 Nov 1675 Ralph Grey**

[Note: Recipient was probably in Rouen. Sir Thomas Bloodworth was a London merchant, famous for his failure to control the Great Fire. Described by Pepys as 'a silly man, I think'.]

November the 19th 75

Honord Sir

Yours of the 25 of October recd for which I thank you & for your advice of the price of Cole and lead I have agreed with Mr Jno Dobson to goe in Spring I intreat your further advice what the Charges there Come to upon every per of Coles and w[ha]t the Custome & Charges of lead per tt for my better government. I cannot prevail with him to goe higher than New Haven [probably Le Havre] and shall according to your order consigne them to <Mr Jn a Cognomen> to follow your order my Coz Tho: Briggs is arrived safe at this port for your Care in sending him with your Brother to <Deipe> to imbarck in one of the Kings Yaughts & to Consigne to Sr Tho: Bloodworth my worthy Friend I am very much ingaged to you I doe very much blame him that he did not account with you, for what monyes you are in disburse for him that it may be made you good with Thanks his answer was to me that he intended to return per the first ships but business hath interveind the contrary that he canot now in hast pray advise me per the first what you have disburst for him that I may take Care per first to return you I have discounted with Rich: Davie for his Coles & beeswax which pray give Tho Briggs acct Cridit for & when you find a fitt oportunyty dispose of the Tobacco which I refer to you pray send my Cuson Briggs his Trunk & <Beding> per the first for this port if any come here before Jno Dobson not else from Ra: Grey

**20 Nov 1675 Ralph Grey to Ralph Grey**

Newcastle November the 20th 75

Sonn Ralph

I rec[eive]d a Letter the 11th Current From Mr <Byron> per Mr Tradills order wherein I perceive Lead is Fallen to 29 <.y> & Brandy to 80 the H[ogs]head there will be loss by the Brandy & noe profit by the Lead, present my service to Mr Traddill & acquaint him I have shipt aboard of the Loves Increase of Newcastle Thomas White Master 300 p[iece]s lead qt 386c:1q 14lb which Charges amounts to £240: 08s: 06d which will ship more wine then I have subscribed being ¼ part will amount to 15 tts if Brandy fall considerably ship more Brandy & less wine to help of this dear Brandy, for Cottons and Stockings & other goods to suply you to pay of your Creditt for your diet & other expences, your mother would have you to fill the Cases of Bottles with the best wines to drink with your friends the Mate hath the Key of them, your Mother hath sent you one Rundlett of ale at 21 gall[ons] which I hope will come safe to hand write what advance your exch[ange] produceth profitt between here & London, if exch[ange] be high it is more profit to order moneys to London, I shall write more at large by the ship which I hope will sail within 12 days what wine you ship let it be Choyse Graves Claritt your mother desires you to send her 3 Boxes of prunellas, some dried pears with walnuts & Chesnutts if James Liddell be not Come away, if he be by another oportunity there being sundry ships for this Port, all freinds is well here & desire to be remembered to you especially your Brother your mother Gives you her Blessing & soe doth your Loving Father.

Ra: Grey

write w[ha]t you make of the Cottons if profit your Grandfather will buy then at <best> hand as alsoe stockings & price of Butter your mother will send you 10 firkins for a tryall

## **22 Nov 1675 Ralph Grey to Tradell**

Newcastle November the 22th 1675

Monseur Tradill

For service to you presented I intreat your Care of my sonn that he improve his time; you & he desires to stay that he may gett such insight into Trade, that he manig it when he comes into Inglang. If he doe not improve in bookekeepingg by seeing your acts; if their be any good keiper there that doth wach I would have improve himself to keep him Imploied in any Concern, which will keep him out of Idleness and bad company I have shipt aboard of the Loves Increase Mr Thos White M[as]ter 300 pcs of lead at 386c.1.14 which Cost her with Charges £240:8s:6d which ship more wine then I have subscribed for ¼ pt of the ship which will amount to 15 tts if their be need the Master hath 5tts spare, if Brandy fall of price considerable pray ship the overplus in brandy to help of this dear Brandy, for at 80 Cr[owns?] per H[ogs]head their will be loss & lead fallen to 29 <tye> noe Incoridge in price I reffer all to your manigement pray write me your Correspondent that if their be advantage by exchange monyes may doe better then goods this what to that concerns what you ship in wines let it be Choyse Grands



Claritt though you pay the dearer for it, for if Choyse wine it will keep that wee gett  
our price between the new & the old not further but that I am  
your humble servant Ra: Gray

**22 Nov 1675 Ralph Grey to John Cawood**

[Note: undated but in sequence between letters of 22nd and 29th November]

Mr John Cawood I have sold yore Tobaccos to <Mr> Burdeaux (at 5<d> per s/ll) send  
your <pacqerts> your ceartifacate that he may have <alloacacion> in your Custome,  
Yors R.G.

**27 Nov 1675 Ralph Grey to William Webb**

NewCastle November the :27:1675

To Alderman Webb

To send per Mr Antho: White one case of the best Case pepper one dozen of the best  
case nuts on[e] case of Currant about 28s per Cwt two barell of: the best New Rasons  
solus not else but that I am yours: Ra. Grey

**29 Nov 1675 Ralph Grey to John Cawood**

NewC Novembr the 29th (75)

Mr Cawood

Yours of the 19th recd & since hath been with Mr Arkley & shewed him yours he will  
sell more under 11s I have alsoe been with Mr Midleton & he will let you have it soe he  
expects reddy money, I have profered your Tobacco to severall but they doe not like it,  
nor the price, I shall receive the <bill> of Mr Arkley, pray order the mony for the Glass  
the first oportunity I shall send the Glass per first your friend

Ra:Grey

**30 Nov 1675 Ralph Grey to William Peacock**

ditto the 30th

Mr Wm Peacock

Yours of the 22 of October came to hand which found me in a <gread could> & since I  
have been tormented with the gout this day I recd a letter from Christ. Rudd who mails  
me he will send me a sample of a skin as he did Mr Carr last year, & all that was of that  
sise was at 12s per doz & all that is larger 13s & 13s 6d per doz & will not send them

except I will Ingage to pay him those rates I shall write him your order which I shall observe yours as to weight 20 22 & 12s: 11s & 11s 6d per doz as for Butter it riseth of price it is worth 15 & 15s 6d per firkin if it fall I shall observe your order & buy a parcell of Lead £12 per fother Coles 9s per Chalder if I can buy a parcell of Butter shall write to Mr James Peckering & Mr Lionell Meyer Merchants in London it will be 2/m before any ship make way for your Port  
yours Ra: Grey

**7 Dec 1675 Ralph Grey to William Hester**

[Note: The handwriting of this letter almost indecipherable]

Newc December the 7 : 75

To Mr <Hester>

to send first opportunity <2 Last> of the best <Croune and halfe a last> of the best second soap and to <make an abaitment for the lost 8s:5d:> soap he sent having eight halfe <firkins in it that pr..all second Croune> not else at present and that I am  
yours Ra. Grey

**30 Dec 1675 Ralph Grey to Robert Thorowgood**

[Note: Recipient not stated, but appears to be the same correspondent as the Mr Thorowgood of the letter dated 18 Jan 1676]

NewCastle December the 30th (75)

Sr, Yours of the 24th Came to safe hand wherein you demand £40 of Samuell Holman who pretends to return it From Holland & Mr Woodravs Answer w[hi]ch you suppose will satisfie which Answer I never had but his promise to pay for my p[ar]t & what he owed when he came to Linn which that he seems he denyes which I can prove, I thank you for your Trouble your Brother Thomas is now over with his Grandfather when he comes home I shall acquaint him with what you write, as to the payment of any monyes & for your presence you mention in your Letter I doe not understand, except you look upon us as not faithfull to our trust imposed on us for he recd no benefitt by the death of his Bro. Roger which was left him by his father, with the consideration since his death he ought to have with the <writs> my Cousen Rec[eive]d of his, that Mr Bland doth account their will be above Eleven hundred pounds due to him, the trustees of his Father will not see him wronged, he intends per first shippes for holland & will meet with a disapoyntment as to his affairs, & the settlement thereof Jno Port hath promised to take in 100 ps of Lead & 2<tt> of Potter Ore which I have writ for to Jno. Swinburn for, Ra: Milburn tells me sundry of your debtors are dead, & he is afraid may prove desperate but as you say well it is not my Concern this from James Emerson tells

me that Mr Woodrow is owing £30 on your acc[ou]nt over & above the £200 of mine he wants mony for carrying on the works here being a dead[time] of trade  
your friend  
Ra: Grey

**18 Jan 1676 Ralph Grey to Robert Thorowgood**

[Note: No year given, but from the position in the letter book it is written in early 1676. Woodrow is mention in Margaret Grey's deposition of 1 Jun 1680 (in Dukesfield documents) as having given a bond of £190. The ink is very smeared in the first half of the letter, making transcription difficult.]

Mr Robt Thorowgood

Jan 18th

Sir

Yours of the 13th Came to hand wherein I perceive <wts> between Woodrow & self your stand in it is the <part> of shipes & debt is I shal by your order send the bill of sayle your brother is not come home; as for the disapointment he should have bought Kerseys Mr Forkchin & Mr Bland meet him & <stocking> with his grandfather in <wensedale> that is the disapoyntment your Bro: meets with which you desire to to be informed of & for your monyes when you gett it in it is at your disposall for Tho. desired his & the younger Childerin that which is in good hands may stand per their acc[ou]nt w[ha]t you allott them, Mr Bland doth account soe much as not due to him but of that our meeting will satisfie each party you write that I should discharge my conscience at to your mony I niver recd any, but my wife & cousin did ac[coun]t all between them & what hath ac[coun]ted will give account at meeting I shipt you in Mr Purt Ship 100 p[iece]s Lead qt 130c:0qt:07lb at £11 15s per fother I doe place the lead to my wifes account as per your order at parting as for Oare I expect it in Every day all friends are well yours Ra: Grey

**26 Feb 1676 Ralph Grey to Tradell**

[Note: recipient not stated, but this is clearly the letter referred to in the next letter of 29 Feb 1676 to Mr Tradell]

Feby 26th 1675/6

Sir

Yours of 20th with the inclosed came to safe hand I should have answered but that I have been out of Toone I shall examane them & place them to account my request was to you that you would sell my lead Cottons & Stockings off at price current & send returns per Mr White for to lye to <another> Fair will be inconvenient & noe shipping till next vintage, soe pray sell of the goods rather then draw bills for here is such a dead

trade that their is noe returns for London I ordered my sonn Ralph to come home per Mr White but I dout [not] the letter came too late, pray lett him take the next convenience of Shipping for I have want of him here, if I Thought Goods would not have sould I would have ordered for noe returns the <are very> dead here, pray write per first, that I may order my business accordinly , & furnish my sonn with what he <kacks [has?]> accation for this wh[a]t needfull

Ra: Grey

**29 Feb 1676 Ralph Grey to Tradell**

Newcastle febr 29th:1675

Mr Tradill

my last of the 26th Curant wherein I desired you if you had not drawne not to draw, by reason of the Inconveniency of geting moneys to London <& mee> which yor bill of exch[ange] was presented & accepted for 2100 Crownes at two <Usance> which I shall take care to performe at day, w[hic]h s[ai]d bill is transmitted to Sr Laurence <Hebrestye>; I have prevailed with a favore to <want> to him his money shal be <ready> & that he would let me know if he transmit it over to any other; heare is a dead trade for Brandy & wine both In yor accts there is 109 <Lywe..> prepared wrong as per that acct which pray verify & place to acct, I want for my Sonne Ralph to Come <in Whyt> but I Heare nothing from him pray send home per first Convenient ship Yours to Comande

Ra: Grey

**3 Mar 1676 Ralph Grey to William Peacock**

Newc March 3d 1675/6

Mr Wm Peacocke

Yors of the 28th february Came to hand for which I thanke you & for yor kindnese to my cousin Thos. Bridgys he <mR.dy> over this summer & <will wait> upon you at yor housse on the <last was> per Mr Tho: Richisson for Rotterdam I have ordered him to leave the Skins with Mr Jos Pannell to be sent you your 4 dozen of Calfe Skins they are a prohibited comoditye <had may adoe> to send them , since which I have recd five dozen wereof have paid hime <3s .for> Mr J Keates hath sent fifty Kersseys per yor acct which if the Customs housse will permit shall shipe them in Mr Tho Whigt who I have ordered my Concerne for <them> to receive & disspose to the best advantage I have sent you the bills of Lading for thirty eight peices brandye <three tunns> of <Graves> Clarett, which we hope for a better markt for with you than we have heare we have not broake bulke soe know not whether they will let <the> karsseys or not The brandye cost 76 per C H[ogs]head & the 3 tt of wine 35 Crowne I have packt the Calfe Skins in with the Kersseys Yor &c RG

**7 Mar 1676 Ralph Grey to William Peacock**

[Note: The port book records the 'Loves Increase' of Newcastle, Master Thomas White, Newcastle on 3rd March, carrying 50 kerseys to Rotterdam for Ralph Grey. There is no mention of leather. TNA E190/196/6]

Newc March 7th (1675/6)

Mr Wm Peacock

My last the 3d of this Instant per post with the bills of Lading for 38 p[ieces] of Brandy & 3 tunns of Claritt & <Cou..de> Tradells account for the same. they cost the <Frieght> I have p[ai]d here Comes to 11:17:2¼ which pray add to the proceed for your government, the wind is out of the way that he hath lain 8 dayes for a fair wind, I have shiped your fifty Kerseys & your lether in them a prohibited Com[modit]y which hath passed Newc[astle] & I hope will Shields what Kerseys or cloth comes to my hand upon your acc[ount] will shipp it of first shipp; I hope brandy will sell better with you than here & wine alsoe; the <rist> of the lading is consined to Mr Wrevelehen I doe not question your care for return at this time of the year, your hollands of all prices use to sell well provided it be well bought in & a master that expert in <stealing> of custome whale bone <they like duty> if it pay duty shall not make sterling mony pray advise the price of Brandy & Grave Claritt with you my sonn Living with Mr Tradell might ship some for your port, the price of Virginia Tobacco with you This what needfull from Ra: Grey

send the price of <3 headed> Hemp <2 headed> Hemp pound flax best & Tow & of dry <spices>

**25 Mar 1676 Ralph Grey to William Peacock**

March the 25th (1676)

Mr Wm Peacoke

Sr Yours of the 23 of March came to safe hand I hope Mr Joseph Panell hath sent you your Skins, sent per Thos Richdson who d[elivere]d them to Mr Fitts your Friend. I have ordered Mr Rudd to send with Skins he can gett for you[.] here is now Three & halph doz of Skins which with fifty Kerseys shall ship next week for Rotterdam & a <serge> Mr Kral ordered consigne them to Mr Fitts per your acct. I hope you <received> your Kerseys & Lether in the wine ship, w[hi]ch Mr Van Verlaan gave an acct of <heragnwall>, & that they could not find you or else the ship had been <b.erd> my goods being upermost which I beleive is a pretence pray dispose of my goods at price currant & send me returns in dollars Gold or exchange which you find will be to the best advantage if you had sent me a Currant could have ordered returns in dry <spices> if we can but save the exchange or Lose by monyes or other goods Tho:

Richison will sail next week if any more Kerseys come in shall ship them with the former, write the price of Verginia Tobacco with you for I intend to Consigne my Conserns to you, Joseph Panell sold me some at Rotterdam last year did turn to a good acct I hope if you send our ships home will turn to a better acct with you after the hollidays shall send the man according to your order to buy what Skins he can for you, my Cousin Briggs will stay till if Tobacco Shippes arrive, when you have disposed of your Kerseys send the Ropes & Canvis back which will serve again for they cost dear hear, this what needfull from

Ra: Grey

**30 Mar 1676 Ralph Grey to William Peacock**

Newcastle March the 30: 1676

Mr Wm. Peacoke

Sr my last to you was the 25 Instant per post wherin I gave you an account of Thom: Richardsons sailing for Amstardam, but since I here he hath taken a fr[e]ight for Hambor so have sent you the two packs by one John: Salmon Master of the Friends Adventure of Whitby, the packs being packt before that the skins came had not the oppertunity of sending of them but shall per the first ship send them with what cumms more not else but present but that I am

yours to Command

Ra. Grey

**1 Apr 1676 Ralph Grey to William Peacock**

April the 1st 1676

Mr Wm: Peacocke

yours of the 31st March came to hand wherein I perceive you receivd the 38 p Brandy <well condeconed> the <Palrit ..> the viniger that you have sould twenty three pc of them and per nixt you will give me an account of the sayle of the rest, I praye Remet moneys to your Corespondent in London and I shall charge bills from Hence upon the acct I <reend> for here is a dead trade for goods, and fishers are fitting against the next month for thare trade, I thank you for your Carrant shall order <our> shippes when god sends them from the west indyes for your port in my last I writ you I would ship your fifty peses Kerseys in Mr Thomas Richardson another ship hath rune hence on land and disabled him for his voadge they are now shipt aboard of Mr John Salmond of Whitby the freind adventure fifty Kerseys I was out of towne or else I should have ordered them to Pittes your corespondent there, for Thomas White <.end.> that he should oppen the packs and damnify the goods I am sorry he should be so undescretee , what Kerseys or skins come shall take the best care to ship them of per first shippes, I shall writ Mr Rudd yaur order as to the better dressing of the skins, if we could

contrive here of your Herring <Caskes> for this port would turne to a good accoant  
here is a great quantity wanted here, but our fishermen hath not the art of salting and  
packing <Tell> your fishers this port lyes well for it and we might have partners  
sufficent this what needfull from your humble servant  
Ra. Grey

**21 Apr 1676 Ralph Grey to William Peacock**

Mr Peacocke

Apr:21th:

To order the moneys for London & sell Claratt at price Curante & to send the Skins per  
T: Comins

I have writ to Mr Rudd & Mr Keat who is at London but what Cloth shall ship per first

**29 Apr 1676 Ralph Grey to William Peacock**

NewCastle Aprill the 29th1676

Mr Wm Peacocke

yours of 28th curent came to hand but noe accts as you mention in your Letter, I  
perceive you have remitted £347 2s to Mr James Pickering & Mr Lionel Robinson  
<merchant> in London, I have Assigned over the s[ai]d bills to be p[ai]d to Mr Tho  
<Fermon mercer> in London I hope per the next to have your acct & the ballance  
returnd to Mr Pickering or Mr Robinson who I have writt to this post, as to the Fishing  
trade if we <a Cooping> goe as that will our <ptners> with us we must have 2 small  
pinks one to goe <..> & another to come <north> hearings we are of that opinion that  
the Easteran seas will be best as to the Sweed or Dane for they write that give for new  
fresh hering 4 stivers per peice & the latter part of the year to this port, the next I intend  
to writ to Norridge & give you a furthr acct as to the Fishing Trade there is liberty  
Granted & noe duty imposed upon it hear, I perceive Mr Keats Last 50 Kerseys sent to  
Rotterdam you recd since Mr Keat hath sent noe more neither had I a Letter from him,  
my Cousen Briggs Cannot come to holland till he ended his accts with his brother and  
sister and <save> his estate which they have in there hands, he intends to board with  
you and learn book keeping and do you any service on your pack Chamber and when  
he hath Learned the Languish [language] he'll take your advice as to put himselfe into  
a way of trade this whats needfull from:

your servant Ra Gray

I writ to Mr Rudd but have had no answer

**29 Apr 1676 Ralph Grey to James Pickering**

[Note: Recipient not stated but was presumably the person to whom Peacock sent his bill of exchange as noted in the letter to Peacock of the same date]

Ditto

Sr

I recd a letter From Mr Wm: Peacocke Junior where he hath ordered into your hands three hundred and forty seven pounds two shill which said sume I have assigned to Mr Thomas firman to receive per the accoumpt of Mr Lanclot Moore for the Like value here Receivd; praye if Mr Wm Peacock send more bills assigne them to Mr Thomas Firman and in so doing you will very much oblige

your humble servant

Ra. Grey

**29 Apr 1676 Ralph Grey to James Pickering**

April the: 29: 1676

Sr

yours of the 25 Curant Came to saife hand, for which I thank you, wherin I rec[eived]d an accoumpt of £347 12s 3d Mr Peacock remittd which: last post I desired you to asigne it over to Mr Tho: Firman For the accoumpt of Mr Lancelott Moore, and this post I have assigned Mr Mr John Blanks of Wappen for the £160 For the Like value Recd of Henry: Miborne Last sume returned I have given Mr Peacock Credite per the ball[ance], if there be any Concerns I can serve you in as to Lead Coals or the Northerne Concerns, Lead £11:10s per Fother at 21 w[e]ight Coals 7s per Chalder and 8 Chalder maks out 14 & 15 Cha> at London if any Northeren goods be for your ports Comand  
your servant Ra. Grey

**5 May 1676 Ralph Grey to William Peacock**

May the: 5: 1676

Mr Will: Peacock

yours of the First Currant with the inclosed accoumpt came to safe hand for which thanks when the other moneys comes in as to the Ballance praye Returne for London I se[e] freinch wines will not do at your port: if the Vinicar be not sould send 24 for this port; my wife sent for it for her owne use, For the Leakidge of the Brandy its well its noe worse, he going from port to port, Mr Rudd hath sent <its now> to ship eight dozen of skins whereof there 1÷ doz of them at 14d per doz which he writs is according to your order I shall ship them per First ship For Amsterdam I have nothing from Mr Keates I recd a letter from Mr James: Pickering - Leonard Robinson of the bills remitted and accepted which First I Asingned Mr Firman and other £160 Mr John: Blankes per nixt I hope to here from you att Norwich: this whats neadfull from  
your Freiland Ra: Grey



**5 May 1676 Ralph Grey to Joshua Pannell**

ditto

Mr Josh: Pannell

yours of the 29 April per Mr John Vaughan with the inclosed acct came to hand I shall make a bad accoumpt of the sweet sented hogshead, it would have given more <.> send the Returns if there be in <twofould twine>, I have shypt in Mr Vaughan 150 pcs Lead markd R:G: which praye despose to best Advantidge at prices Currant and send the Returns in dolars for I se[e] nothing here that monyes is mad[e] on if this do turne to any accoumpt shall send more I sould 150 ps to Mr Mallabar which is shipt in the same ship he p[ai]d £11:10s per Fother. not else but that from  
yours Ra. Grey

**2 Jun 1676 Ralph Grey to William Peacock**

Newcastle: June: the: 2d: 1676

Mr Peacock

This att present are to acquaint you that I have per Thomas: Shafto M[aste]r of the Batchelors Love of Newcastle ship you 13 dozen skin which makes in all 22÷ doz and Likewise I have per him sent your accoumpt of what have be[e]n disbursed For Carseys and skins since the First. Mr Rudd desires to know if you be willing to contene in giving him his price For skins that is 12s per doz small and 14s doz Large and he will take care to furnish you with what he can this whats neadfull at present from your Freiland  
Ra. Grey

**10 Jun 1676 Ralph Grey to Thomas Partis**

[Note: Mention of tobaccos suggests the recipient ws Thomas Partis, tobacconist of Newcastle in the 1670s and 1680s. Stralsund is on Hanseatic town on the Baltic coast of Germany]

ditto 10

Mr Partis

Yours of the 6 curent recd with an acct of your arrival in Brothers Letter to dover,& now your own to London, I perceive you intend to <unliver> you find you find [sic] the markt at London much Better than the Merchnts here you write not the price as it now rules, the last I had from holland was 7 Stivers, if the leaf be large & good my advice to you is to goe over, if you intend to buy a ship you may safe 1/3 part & be as good for your Trade if you goe to Norway you may save ½ in ½ in what it will

cost you in England & gett her made free for £100 this I leave to your serious thoughts as affairs rules now double your price for Tobacco if you goe not yourself pray order myne to Mr Wm Peacock Jun[ior] Merchant in Amsterdam & to Mr Joseph Panell in Roterdam , what your are in disburse for the concern of 52 Hodgheads I shall order you uppe we lost last year above 3d per lb I made of other Tobacco I sent to Panell at Roterdam you have left 7 or 8 hodgeheads behind you to <send with your dr. alson> 9 Ho[gshea]ds upon my acct & <4> per your <d.> in all 13 Hodg[ead]s.

I am sory you brought any goods home it had been better to sell them to loss than here you have taken care of my Coz Briggs alias Thorogood concern I perceive by your Brother you come down here & then we shall take your accts & consult about your Shipp which as above will be best in the King of Denmarks dominions or Stralsound their is Cheape ships but of that now at our meeting

RG

**10 Jun 1676 Ralph Grey to Stephen Jackson**

ditto

Mr Steph Jackson

I recd a letter from Mr Geo: Johnson dated Hambrough the 28 of May in which he gives me acct that he hath remitted into your hands £200 & next day but remitted the Ballance, bestow 2 lines of me to lett me know what usance & how your Exchange rules in soe doing you will ingage

R: G

my respects to Mr Juson when he arrives at your port

**16 Jun 1676 Ralph Grey to Thomas Partis**

[Note: 'Rionell Robinson' referred to in this letter is mentioned in previous letters of Ralph Grey, but with the forename given as Lionel or Leonard]

Newcastle June the 16th 1676

Mr Partis

My last was of the 10 currant wherein my advice for you was to goe either to Amsterdam or Rotterdam if you goe not yourself pray send mine if to Amsterdam to Mr Wm Peacoke Junior Merchant his correspondant in London is Mr James Pickering & Mr Rionell Robinson who will assist you in shipping, for Rotterdam consign it to Mr Joseph Pannell it is now worth 7 Stivers & w[ill] save 1 ½ per[cent]t Custome I am sory of your great damage as to that I would have you stand upon the Custome & Law of England if your Merchants be Cross, I would pay them for their Tobacco as it cost in the Contry with six percent soe long as the[y] have been out of purse the owners had better take for the 2d per[cent]t custome saved will bring you & the owners of without

loss, their saving that costome will save a great deall damidge then really there is by one halfe I know by experience , you must be carefull for we see by your Eys, & take advice, as to your damidge we have had a long sute depending with Mr Taylor & Mr Barns about <Rayer Keas> damidge & we have Cost them upon prefering to take the goods abaiting the frate paying as it cost in the Contry & allow intrist for their mony this is a president for you to walk by; as for your ship I beleive if you Came down here with her you will reach £600 as Jno Watson Carpinter sayth if she be not much wormeaten ships sell well here. the same dementions will Cost £200 more then formerly; pray send me down a breviat of your acct in tow or 3 lines, that I may take my measures accordingly. this what needfull From  
Ra: Grey

**19 Jul 1676 Ralph Grey to Joshua Pannell**

Newcastle July the: 19 1676

Mr Joshaua: Pannell

Sr this is to Accompany twenty doz of whit Calve skins 13 doz cost 14s per doz and 7 doz at 12s per doz which with charges of coustome and other petty Charges cums to £15 1s 1d for Returns pray send two doz Nutmegg one doz Mace on[e] doz Clovs and the ball[ance] of ye Lead accoumpt with this in Mussleine [muslin?] whalebonne or <..effyny> for I Lost 4d per dolar this whats neadfull from your servant  
Ra: Grey

Lead for present turns to no accoumpt will you writ if it risse

**22 Jul 1676 Ralph Grey to Merrall**

ditto the 22: 1676

Mr Merrall

Thes att present are to acquaint you that your bill of twelve pounds payable to Mr <Clegett> is payd and per last to your accoumpt pray send per First oppertunity 6 Rims [reams] of your best cut paper at 6s 6d per Rim 6 Rims of large paper: 6 Rims of £2 6 Bundals of £2 and six of quarter not else at present but that I am  
yours to command  
Ra: Grey

**5 Aug 1676 Ralph Grey to Randolph Richardson**

August the 5: 1676

To Mr Richardson be send per first opportunity an end of the best English hops

yours Ra: Grey

**5 Aug 1676 Ralph Grey to William Hester**

ditto

Mr Hester

yours I rec'd in advice of soap sent which is needful now, being you have delayed so long in sending of it considering how long it is since I writ to you for soape, you may emagen that our fare would be pa[i]d of befor that it could cume to hand which should have ben the chefe time of disposing of it, so pray order it sum other way, for I know not how to <vend> it being so long withoyt I shall give it <house rounge> while such time as you dispose of it not else at present but that I am  
yours Ra Grey

**8 Aug 1676 Ralph Grey to Robert Thorowgood**

Newcastle: August the: 8: 1676

Mr Robert: Thorowgood

yours: of the first curant came to hand I hope <erre> this yow have found Mr Partis and recd an accoumpt of him as to your owne Concerne, he is Like to prove a knave as to mine he writs me that hath brought home per your acoumpt and mine sixty five hogsheads of tobacco and now he pretends you are Left in the Countrey. he confessed to Mr William <Argly> of Newcastle that he had brought in his ship 44 hogsheads of tobacco for my owne prof[it] accoumpt besids yours and Lance Lowthers <adventer>, which was mixt with Piggs goods per his owne letter att £3:6s per hog: cums to £214: 10s exc[luding] that which he pretends was to come in the: golden Lyon I ordered him to pay one hundred pounds and he present M[aste]r the ships <stock> pr 1/16 p[ar]t which he denyes to pay, and sath there will not be so much due to me, I want my 1/8 p[ar]t profit of two west india voadges and £240 pounds <Agle> advanced by: the: owners, I must intreat you to call him to accoumpt or geat him arrested att my suite for the: tobacco and profit of ship, he writs he sould the tobacco to Mr Wm: Barrett and <Cold>: Stevenson at 5d per <lb> which was you know without my order. pray take the manidgment of this upon you, this <Asises> Mr Bowes had a tryall against me for the : £100 which was found for him I was forced to pay him it with Charges Mr Baccon hath allowed me his p[ar]t I hop you will order Mr Beard to alow the same, John Swinburne Edward Robson with: Mr Baccon was yesterday in towne I will asure yoe I was not burnt outd but tould Swinburne and Robson they could not geat such <estates> faire delings they: stood upon ther vindication I tould them you would imploy others: they say the: <gras> wd hardley bere Changes I intend to <take> in my way as I go into Westmorland and at my returne, I hope you order Tempus Raine to seke your Brother: Thomas his acoumpt and the ninty four pounds which is a grat <Triall> to my wife

**15 Sep 1676 Ralph Grey to Joshua Pannell**

September the 15th 1676

Mr Joshua Pannell

Yours of the 25th August Came to safe hand with the Inclosed acct of 150 pcs of Lead at 24<.> p[ai]d I find noe incuridgement to send any more I think their is 7 hundred p[ie]ce[s] hear & at Bladon but must think of some other Ports, Lether Gives but 9 per doz: as per your acct I have sent you per the Bearer Mr Tho: Burdus 20 Doz: of Calf Skins which pray put of at price Currant & what dew upon acct send me fine Hemp Cambrick Sharlyn Cloth good & thick for our own use 1 Duz: Nuttmeggs & whalebone if noe incuridgement from Bourdeux must send the lead to you if you think it will reach 24 ly per tt this what needfull From  
R: G

**16 Sep 1676 Ralph Grey to William Webb**

NewC: Sep: the: 16: 1676

to Mr Webb to send per first two barrell: of the best Raisons two barrell of the best Currins [currants] one case of pepper not else but that I am  
Yours Ra: Grey

**16 Sep 1676 Ralph Grey to William Hester**

September 16th

To Mr Wm Hester for ½ last B: B: sope per Robt Thorp on first oportunity & to abate of the price of the last he sent per R.G.

**19 Sep 1676 Ralph Grey to Tradell**

Ditto the 19th

Mouns[ieu]r Tradill

This at present is to acquaint you that we have one Thomas Willis For Bourdeux & he will be 120 t[ons]. I intend to shipp in him tomorow 300p[ie]ce[s] of Lead which pray sell of & send me returns I have taken only 20 t[ons] certain I load him outward with Coals which put of at best advantage what the Ball[ance] of the acct is you may load more for my acct, for he will have 10 t[ons] to spare, for returns I would have Choyse graves Claritt which for winter, & whits for Summer drinking I must have them Choyse though I pay the dearer I expect every day to hear of my son Ralphs arrivall in England

whom I long to see having had the fever since my last to him & you the Coals will be  
Choyse good this what needfull From yours  
Ra: Grey

**4 Oct 1676 Ralph Grey to Tradell**

NewC: october the 4th 1676

Monsieur Tradell

This is to Accompany Mr Thomas Willes M[aster] of the Mary of NewC in whom I  
have shipt 300 p[iece]s of lead at 374t:2qt:14lb, our weight which sell of at price Currant  
likewise his Loading of Coals which is upon my sole Acct. I hope they will come to a  
good markt if they escape the privateers the Master is to lye with the shipp 20 lawfull  
working days I have subscribed for 25 tts which pray lett be of the best graves Claritt  
fifteen tt & ten tt of the best white wine let them be Choyse though I pay the dearer for  
them, if you gett present vent for lead & Coals I Question not but will produce more I  
promesd you should you should shipp the ball[ance]: of the Acct. he will want six tts of  
his loading send 3 ps of Prun's one doz pounds of Prunellas some dried pears one  
Bagg of Walnutts & one of Chestnutts & the Ball[ance] in wines I long to hear from you  
what is become of my son Ralph his Mother is in fear for him. this what needfull from  
your Servnt  
Ra: Grey

**14 Oct 1676 Ralph Grey to Alexander Morratt**

ditto 14

To Mr Alexander Morratt to send per Mr Robt Thorp or first oportunity 6 grose of the  
best seald Swan Curds & 1 grose of the best & largest royall oke  
per Ra: Grey

**14 Oct 1676 Ralph Grey to William Hester**

ditto

To Mr William Hester to know whether he would send the 6 barr[els] of B.B. Sope writt  
for & alsoe to send by Robt Thorp 6 Barr[els] of B.S. sope or per first oportunity  
per Ra: Grey

**21 Oct 1676 Ralph Grey to Randolph Richardson**

October the 21st (1676)

Worthy Friend

Yours of the 17th Came to hand for which I thank for your Kindness to my sonne, for my Eldest sonne Mr Rudston writs me he is up in the Cuntry buying some quantyities of wine for Mons[ieu]r Tradell who saith he shall goe with him to Rotterdam since I fr[e]ighted the <Cheife> of Mr Wills from heare that I hope he will streight home for Wm I hope he hath gott a M[aste]r ere this pray per first send 2 Baggs of your best hopps, Mr Wilkinson is oweing me £14 overp[ai]d of the last Bills, which receive or give him a bill of me for thirty pounds & I shall discount with him lead at present at £10 5s per fother but little vent, Fish is dearer here I refused 56s per <c> I hope Coles will rise of price that our ships may have a trade this winter there are Cheape here 7s per Chalder all Coles is at Steaths none at pitts, that if they lye in as intended I hope we shall have a good trade next year  
yours Ra: Grey

for Mr Ra: Richisson

**21 Oct 1676 Ralph Grey to William Watling**

ditto

To Mr William Watling to send per Mr Robt Thorp or first oportunity 12 doz of the best wins 6 doz: of best small whits 6 doz about 6s 6d & six doz at 6s per doz. from  
Ra: Grey

**24 Oct 1676 Ralph Grey to Tradell**

October 24th (1676)

Monsieur Tradell

Yours of the 19th recd wherin I perceive you recd myne of the 19th of Sept Since which I writt per Shipp & per post October the 4th I desire you Shipp me 15 tunns Graves Claritt & 10 tunns of the best white I refer the shipping to you who doth understand much better than doe, for Ralph must have the selling of it you will send the better to incuridge him in the trade for I intend to turn that & lead trade to him, I profess all to you I question not but you will doe for Ralph as for yourself. I desire some dryd pears Prunellas walnutts & Chestnutts with ½ doz bottles of Frontinak for Ralph to drink with friends that come to see him they must be well bottled the ½ of the last broak or the seamen or the Custom house men did abuse me in it. I recd a letter from Mr Wills from the Cows in the Isle of Wight I question not but he is arrived ere this he writt he could have a good price price for his Coals their, but I ordered this post not to break bulk without he could gett better than 32 [crowns] which I question not but they will give, for they have nor can expect no supply in hast I am sory lead is soe low with you

my friend & sold hath a Considerable quantity would have sent if any Incoridgment but 28 ½ is no incoridging price I thank you for all your kindness to my sonne i hope he is by this in England I doe intend to send a younger which shall stay as long as you please this what needfull from

Ra: Grey

**24 Oct 1676 Ralph Grey to Thomas Wills**

ditto

Mr Tho: Wills

Yours of the 15th recd I am sorry you did meet with soe bad wether as to be putt into the Isle of Wight, if the wind hange out of the w[est] it is not amiss if you dispose of 20 Chaler & gett a Certifcate to the Custome house for 30 by that upon your return we may gett the Custome allowd you are to blame not to write the price of Coles at the Isle of Wight & measure, that we may take our mesures accordingly for they are at 32 Crowns at Bourduax and without they give a better price with you proceed of your voyag pray let Mr W Knights give me an account of the price of Coles & the measure how it holds out with ours & the charges at the Cows & what returns whether Clay or what Else for this Markitt, all friends are well

your friend

Ra. Grey

**24 Oct 1676 Ralph Grey to John Blanks**

October the 24th (1676)

Mr Jno. Blanks

I hope that Mr Hen: Milbourn hath formerly writt about my sonne Ralph coming from France to you last post I recd a letter from Monsr Tradell & another from himself that he intends aboard of Mr Jno. Rudston within 2 days who is to goe for Rotterdam but will sett Ralph ashore in the downs pray lett him want for nothing, let him make a plain winter Jute to come down for his Country suits will not be for this Coold air I would have him spend a month in seeing the City & his Aquaintances I have hearin sent a letter inclosed this from your Servant

Ra: Grey

**3 Nov 1676 Ralph Grey to Matthew Shepherd**

November the 3th 1676

To Matt: Shiperd



Sir I have inclosed sent you a bill drawn upon Mr Christianus Gardner Marchant at the orange Tree at Billingsgate for £42: 02s: 09d which is the Ballance of your acct, at 20 days sight I hope it will be paid at day whe[n] paid pray write with the price of Sugars this what needfull  
From your Freind  
Ra: Grey

**14 Nov 1676 Ralph Grey to William Webb**

ditto 14

To Alderman Webb to send per first opportunity 2 Bar new Rai solis one 5 <..wine> Barr new Malligo 1 Bar: <Currens> at 30s per cent: ½ tun wine vinigar ½ tun of <Middlesort> of viniger at £9 per tun, £12 of Best L;Simmon this what needfull From  
Ra: Grey

**17 Nov 1676 Ralph Grey to Matthew Shepherd**

November the 17th (1676)

To Mr Mathew Shiperd  
to send per first shipps one hodgs[head] Lofe Suger most part small loaves [loafs] one hodgs[head] of best pouter [powder] Suger about 58s percent & one Hodgs[head] of purgd Suger about 48s or 42s percent This what needfull from your friend Ra: Grey

**25 Nov 1676 Ralph Grey to Daniel Darvill**

ditto the 25th 1676

To Mr Daniell Darvill  
to send per first shipps 1 hodgs[head] of Lofe Suger most small Lofes one hodgs[head] of Best pouter [powder] about 58s percent & one Hodgs[head] of purged Suger about 40s or 42s percent this what needfull from your friend  
Ra: Grey

**27 Jan 1677 Margaret Grey to Thomas Lemon**

[Note: Ralph Grey (senior) died on December 5th 1676. His letter book continued in use by his widow, Margaret Grey]

january the 27th 1676/7

To Mr Tho: Lemmon to acquaint him that I have drawn a Bill on him for £12: 8s: 9d which is the Ball[ance] of his account payable to Mr Henry Spurn Master of the [left blank]  
this from Margaret Grey

**3 Apr 1677 Margaret Grey to Randolph Richardson**

April the 3: 77

Mr Richardson

Yours: the 29th of March with the Inclosed came safe to hand, I thanke your for your trouble my son & I puts you to, I am Glad Mr Blanks hath payd William the Sixty pounds I see his bill and shall honour it with due payment now I will returne moneys into your hand for the foreine bill which is payable two monthes after you Accept it, here Inclosed I send you a Letter to Mr Richard Tye who promis'd mee to pay £40 or £50 for mee at London hee sayled Last Weeke, & I Hope may be with you shortly whom you will finde at Billingsgate and in due time shall finde some others if will pay you the Rest, pardon the Trouble herein & in so doeing I Rest  
Marg: Grey

Mr Tye

Pay to Mr Randall Richardson for my Acct fifty pounds and take his bill upon mee for the summe you pay him and I will repay it here with thanks, not fearing but you will doe it I Rest Your Friend  
Marg: Grey  
Newcast: Aprill the 3: 77/

**3 Apr 1677 Margaret Grey to William Webb**

NewC Aprill the 3rd 1677

Alderman Webb

Yours recd & have accepted your bill of £50 which shall be paid when due, yours of the 20th of Febr with your acct which I have examined you write of a parcell xber the 25th (1674) £13 16s 06d whereof whereof we have noe such parcell in our book, which pray advise me of with the particulars & by whom sent, & another parcell of may the 5 (1675) you write it at £33: 03: 08, in our book but 27:13:06 as to the rist of the acct I finde it indiferent right pray be pleasd to examine it again & write me the particulars of these 2 parcells when I have any occation for any goods I shall make use of you before any other man but trading is soe very dead that here is very little sale for any sort of Comod[ities] this what needfull from yours to serve you  
Margt Grey

**10 Apr 1677 Margaret Grey to Randolph Richardson**

ditto the 10th

Mr Randolph: Richardson,  
Sr my last of the 3rd Instant I hope you have recd & that Mr Tye is arrived before this who I hope will pay you £40 or £50 here is also Mr Harteby Mr Henry Milburns order will pay you £50 you will find him at Billingsgate I hope he will be with you shortly, pray when the bill comes due doe not fail to pay it I had a bill the last year that was returnd, which when drawn again was much advanced; pray write me the price of small lead & Coles This what needfull from  
Margt Grey

**21 Apr 1677 Margaret Grey to William Webb**

[Note: a kitt is a small barrel used for fish etc]

Ditto 21st 1677

To Alderman Webb  
to send per First opportunity 2 Bar[rels] Ra:solis & one Hodgs[head] Sugar about 44s percent & to acquaint him that I have sent him a kitt of Salmon in the Tryall of Ipswish  
Mr Benjamen Keyley Master  
From Margt Grey

**21 Apr 1677 Margaret Grey to Randolph Richardson**

ditto

To Mr Randolph Richardson  
To Call upon Mr Robt Perry Master of the Gee: of London. for to pay him £50 if Mr Harte Faild beca[u]se he lay sick here & that I have sent him a kitt of salmon in Tryall of Ipswich Mr Benjamen Keyley Master this from  
Margt Grey

**4 May 1677 Margaret Grey to John Grey**

May the 4th (1677)

Mr Jno Grey  
Sir being disapoynted by a Naiybor who promesd to pay me £50 at London but since hath taken a Fright: I desire you theirfore to pay unto Mr Randolph or order the sume of Fifty pounds I I Shall thankfull repay it you here I have writ to him to call on you for

it not else but My service to you and your wife not questioning but that you will pay it  
for her who is you friend & servant

Margt grey

**19 May 1677 Margaret Grey to Randolph Richardson**

Ditto the 19th

To Mr Rand. Richardson to call upon Mr Jno. Grey or his wife for £15 this whats  
needfull from

Margt Grey

**19 May 1677 Margaret Grey to William Hester**

[Note: no date- assume same as previous]

To Mr Wm Hester

To call upon Mr Jno Grey or his wife for to pay him £35 This from

Margt Grey

**19 May 1677 Margaret Grey to Susan Grey**

[Note: no date- assume same as previous]

To Mrs Susan Grey

To pay unto Mr Randolph Richardson £15 & to Mr Wm Hester 35 according to her  
husbands order From

Margt Grey

**12 Jul 1677 Margaret Grey to Thomas Partis**

NewC[astle] July the 12th 1677

Mr Partis

Sir I understand per your Brother of your arrivall which I am glad to hear of & that you  
have some Tobacco for me upon partnership betwixt my husband & you, & that you  
have the ball[ance] of the acct for the goods was formerly in Tho: Green, you write to  
your brother as if Mr Thorowgood were concernd in those goods, which I can assure  
you to the contrary for the goods were all my husbands except some few knives to the  
vallew of about 40s, Theirfore I would have you to be carefull how you deliver any  
Tobacco to Mr Thorowgood for I shall my acct I woud have you to write me word what

quantity you have for me of both acct's with the price of Tobacco at London & then I shall give you further orders this what's needfull from your friend  
Margt Grey

**1 Sep 1677 Ralph Grey to Daniel Wigfall**

[Note: Ralph Grey junior must be the author, following his father's death]

Septembr the 1st 1677

Mr Daniell Wigfal & Mr Joseph Hayward

Sirs According to your order I have shipt for you aboard the Exchange of Scarbrough Mr John Robison 100 ps of lead, as under written I have agreed with him for 9d per ps, the price of lead is augmented, I desire you to return the mony per first convenience  
This what needfull  
from your friend  
Ra Grey

	£	s	d
To 100 ps lead qt 126: 3: 21 at 10 £ per fo	60	09	
To porters charge		06	
To boat hire	10	4	
To custome house waiter		01	
	61	06	4

**30 Oct 1677 Ralph Grey**

Octobr the 30th 1677

Sir

yours of the 23 currant recd wherein I percieve tht Mr Tho Wills and Mr Robt Rand is safly arived God be thanked for it I would have to send me noe wind at all by Thomas Will <nor nout> to Lien for when I writt for Tho Wills I did not know of Robt Rands going for Burdeaux but I would have you to send me 15 tun by Mr Rand and none by the other for wine gives but a small service here and pays a great custome soe that their is but a very small profit to be gott by it but hope it will mend for the mony tht it comes to I would have you draw a bill upon Mr Randolph Richardson marchnt in London, it is the same man tht paid your last bill I pray you acquaint Mr <Peyronin> tht by the first ship I shall send him a couple of bills presnt my service to Mr Van Dyck that if he come to England I shall be very glad to see him  
Yours Ralph Grey

**1 Dec 1677 Margaret Grey to John Grey**

To Mr Jno Grey to desire him to pay £100 to Mr Randolph Richardson order from Margt Grey

**15 Feb 1678 Margaret Grey to Joshua Pannell**

To Mr Joshua Pannell to desire him to pay to Mr Joshua Lincoln of Rotterdam the 417 <Gldr> 8 <stivers> which he recd of Mr Wm Peacocke for the like value which I have recd here of Mr Henry Milbourn, & to Take care that the whole bond be got changed before he come for England from Margt Grey

Febry the 15 1677

**15 Feb 1678 Margaret Grey to Joseph Lincoln**

To Mr Joseph Lincoln to desire him to return the money which he recd of Mr Pannell upon the account pf Mr Hen Milbourn, in long square whale bone & fine muslin either to London or hither, by the first ships  
From Margt Grey

**6 Mar 1678 Margaret Grey to Joseph Lincoln**

March the 6th 77

To ditto to pay 417 Gild 8 st to Mr Tho: Shaftoe if he hath bought goods for it to send them by Mr Shaftoe if not to send the said money in Dollars  
From Margt Grey

**22 Mar 1678 Margaret Grey to Robert Cawood**

March the 22nd 1677

To Mr Robt Cawood  
That I have drawne a bill upon him payable to Mr George Dickinson for eleven pounds for the like vallew recd here of Mr Henry Milbourn  
from Margt Grey

**26 Mar 1678 Margaret Grey to Randolph Richardson**

ditto the 26th 1678

To Mr Randolph Richardson

Sir

I have inclosed sent you a bill for the payment of Mr Tradills Bill, & what is over to buy a peece of plait with & present it with my service to your good lady I desire you to send the first o[pp]ortunity one small end of fine English hops & I shall returne you mony for them from

Margt Grey

The bill is for £36 10s 00d payable to you upon my acct / upon Mr Jno Blanks

**12 Apr 1678 Margaret Grey to Randolph Richardson**

Apill the 12th 1678

To ditto that I have sent you a bill of £3:10s= upon Mr Andrew Richee M[as]ter of the White Fox payable at sight

MG

**12 Jul 1678 Margaret Grey to William Watling**

July the 12 1678

Mr Wm Watling

Sir I have sent you a bill upon Mr Ralph Harrope from Mr Hen: Milbourn for eleven pounds Two shill[ings] & sixpence which is in full of all accts pray when p[ai]d write with a rec[ei]pt in full of all accts. This from

Margt Grey

**27 Jul 1678 Margaret Grey to William Grey**

July the 27th 1678

To Mr Wm Grey to accompany a bill of Twelve pounds ten shillings upon Mr Jno Blanks from Mr Henry Milbourn payable to Mr Wm Grey on order at sight from Margt Grey

**30 Aug 1678 Margaret Grey to Robert Jackson**

Aug 30 78

To Mr Robt Jackson

that I have drawn upon him two fifty pound Bills to bee payd to Mr Lancelott Moore on his order at Eight dayes sight upon Mr: Geo: Johnsons. Acct: in p[aymen]t for 200 p[er]cent of Leed shipt aboard of him by - - -

Margt: Grey

**7 Feb 1679    Margaret Grey to Randolph Richardson**

Febry the 7th (78/9)

To Mr Randolph Richardson

That I have sent you a bill of £10: 18s: 6d & that I have drawn a bill upon you for £10 to pay to Mr Nelson the 18s: 6d is the ball[ance] of his acct This from yours

Margaret Grey