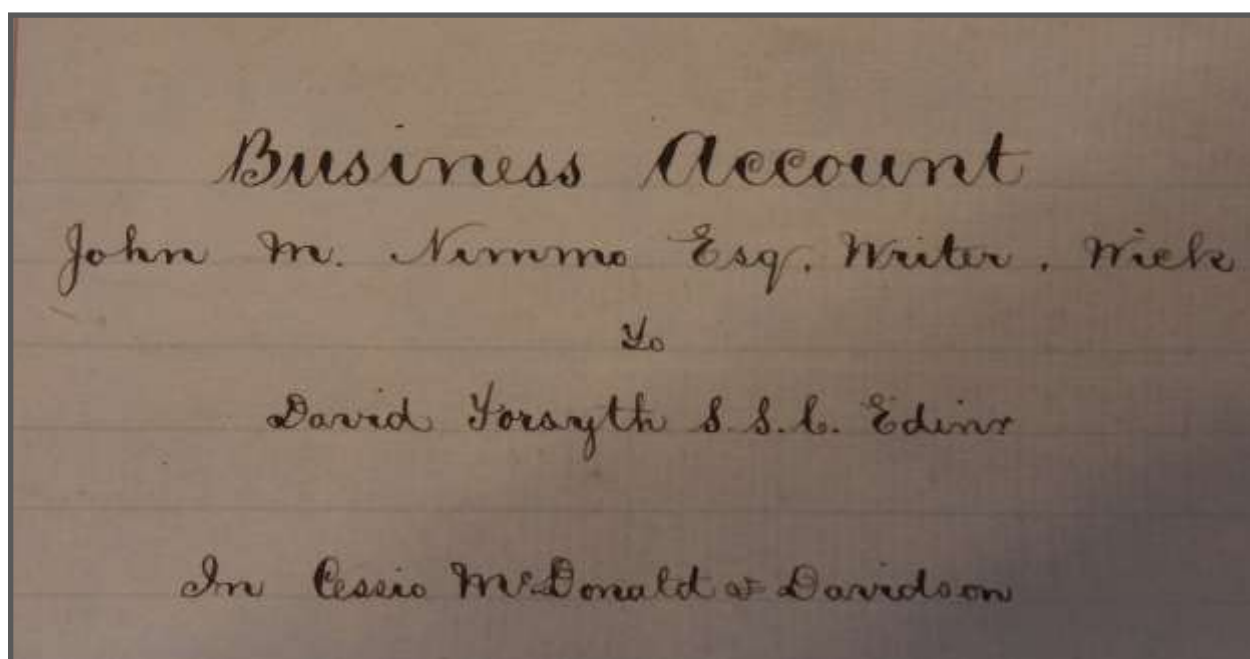


# Calligraphy Class 1

**PALAEOGRAPHY** - The study of Historical Handwriting, and reading old handwriting.

**CALLIGRAPHY** - The art of writing beautifully, includes pretty and decorative writing.

These are two subjects you will encounter often in Archives. These worksheets will help to give you a better understanding of the kinds of handwriting you will encounter in old documents, and how calligraphy can help you understand them.



This is an extract from C/P/566/67/3/11—a record of a Business Account by John M. Nimmo Esq. Writer, Wick to David Forsyth S.S.C. Edinburgh. It was written in 1867.

As you can see the handwriting is quite clear, with some flourishes on certain letters.

# Handwriting Examples from the Archive

At Lybster in a Special Meeting of the  
Latheron Parish Council held within the Councils  
Office there on Monday the twentieth day of April  
1896 to consider applications for allotments on  
the Farm of Upper Latheron

CC/7/5/1/13 Latheron Parochial Board Minute Book (1896)

21<sup>st</sup> November:- School re-opened today Stormy  
morning. Eleven children present.  
Percentage attendance for week ----- 91.6.

CC/5/3/7/3 Brabster School Log Book (1941)

My dear Miss [unclear]  
[unclear] much pleasure in [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

P566/72/21 Over-written Letter (1855)

Hempriggs Estates 1902  
Compensation to Tenants  
and  
Reduction of Rents on  
account of Damage done  
& Land taken  
by  
Lerik & Lybster St. Railway  
(Estimates)

P/SUTH/4/3  
Hempriggs Estate

To The Heirs of  
The Parish of Reay

P454/18 Statement of Effects of Malcolm

## Calligraphy Exercise

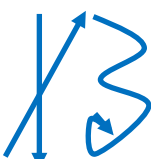
Could you read any of the writing from the examples? Write down below any words or letters you could pick out.

Calligraphy is useful in reading old documents from Archives because copying the letters or words make it easier to guess what they are supposed to be.

Take this example from P454/18. It may be difficult to read at first as the parts of the letters are not joined together. But if you look at it and try copying the shapes of the letters, it makes it easier to see what it's supposed to read.

 =  = To

Next, we are going to practice copying out letters to get used to forming the different shapes and extra flourishes used in the first example of the Business Account, C/P/566/67/3/11.

*Calligraphy Practice**Business Account**a*  *a a a a**B*  *B B B B**e*  *e e e e**l*  *l l l l**i*  *i i i i**n*  *n n n n**o*  *o o o o*

*Calligraphy Practice**Business Account*

Calligraphy practice for the letter 's'. The first 's' is shown with blue arrows indicating the stroke order: a downward curve followed by an upward curve. This is followed by four more 's' characters for tracing.



Calligraphy practice for the letter 't'. The first 't' is shown with blue arrows indicating the stroke order: a vertical line down followed by a horizontal line across. This is followed by four more 't' characters for tracing.



Calligraphy practice for the letter 'u'. The first 'u' is shown with blue arrows indicating the stroke order: a single continuous curve. This is followed by four more 'u' characters for tracing.

*Account**Account**Account**Business**Business**Business*

## Calligraphy Review

Now look back at the Handwriting Examples page, can you add any more words or letters to your list?

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Can you see how calligraphy can help with reading old documents? It's not as hard as it looks. Use the space below to practice some more, or write some words of your own using the letters you practiced with.

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