14th——1840

Mount Morris Sept

Dear

Friends I take my pen in my hand to write to you to let you know that we received your letter on the 11 Sept and we was very happy to hear that you was all well when it left you and we hope this will find you all well as it leaves us our patience was entirely exhausted before we received the letter we called at the post office almost every day for about three weeks before we received it sometimes. Margaret would say I think the no hae gotten the letter Tommy well hae to write another and at other times she would say I ken well enugh they have gotten our letter its just their carelessness I ken frae have and they will never hear but if they have gotten our letter and not written all this time we will give them in our next letter we have both enjoyed good health since we came here the summer has not been near so warm as we expected it would be their was sometimes two or three days together pretty warm and then perhaps we would not have a warm day for a week or perhaps two weeks we had only four hot days in the month of August and they calculate on August being the warmest month in the year it is very pleasant wether just now neither two hot nor two cold they call it the Indian summer now their is generally two months in the fall and two months in the spring of the finest weather that could be desired their is scarcely any alteration in the price of provisions since I wrote last flour is half a Dollar per Barrel higher and Beef and mutton is one cent per pound cheaper their has been a good crop here this season it is supposed that provisions will be as cheap the incoming year as they are now I wrought only three weeks at the canal I have been working all summer by the Job for a Gentleman from New York that has bought a farm lately within a mile and a half of Mount Morris I have Done a great deal better than if I had been working by the Day I under Brushed 20 Acres of new Land the heavy timber was all cut before I had it taken by the Acre I am making a New Road just now I have been working at it these five weeks past I have plenty of work in view for the winter chopping wood or working at the canal but I expect to be working in a flour mill all winter the general wages for labourers working by the day is one pound four shillings per week British money masons wages is a Dollar and a half per Day the houses are mostly all wood here but their is a great deal of mason work going on at the canal just now building lacks and Bridges you need not be afraid for work their is plenty of work and well paid for it people will do nothing for nothing here folk that can turn their hand to anything is the gold for America it is sposed that wages will be considerably higher here next year it is getting on for the time that the Canal must be finished and they will have to make a push next season wages was never known to be below a Dollar a day at this place before this season for labourers the Canal was opened from within a mile of mount morris to rochester the first of this month so when you come you will have a water
passage all the way from Annan to within a mile of mount morris and we will be very happy to see you all it takes L8 for each full grown passanger to bring them out here but L8 will do it very well but before you come I will write you how to conduct yourselves on the way it requires people to keep a sharp look out that is coming to America their is a ...of vagabonds both at Liverpool and New York that makes it their whole business to impose upon emigrants if you dont keep a sharp look out they will pick the verry eyes out of your head we thought Liverpool was bad but we found New york ten times worse their is a good many people that has been here but a short time that has done verry well and I see others that has been in that has been in america for five and six years and has nothing but grining about from one place to another if they were poor when they came they keep themselves poor it is a bad place for people that is given to Drink ardent spirits is so cheap Whiskey is 7 per quart Gin Kurn and Brandy is 9 per Bottle according to my estimation this is a far better place for a working man than Holland if a man is steady and industrious he will get a comfortable living here and some thing over and that is what he cannot get in scotland we have never heard any thing of William Symmington and his friends since we left them at New york you may tell william Douglas that I did not see any of his friends. let us know in your letter if their has any letter come from Robt Chishom we have not heard any thing of him since we left him at albany we have a verry comfortable house we intend to remain in it all winter we once thought of removing a short distance where we could keep a cow but we thought it was to far advanced in the season we will remain where we are till the spring we are verry well situated for neighours every one is kinder than another and they are all yankees their is only two scotch families in this neighbourhood besides us Marry be sure and take good care of Margrets likeness and bring it along with you when you come it will be a happy sight for us if we be spared to see you all here it lies all in him ho is the creator and preserver of our lives if we meet all again but though the deep between us rolls friendship shall invite our souls and in fancys wide domain oft shall we all meet again, Be so good as return a letter as soon as you receive this for we will be ever anxious to hear from you----------
Dear Father i was verry sorry to hear that you was so much put about that morning that we came away but when it came to the test I found that it would have been imposible for me to have parted with you any other way but I hope that we are not parted for the last time yet but I have had no reason to regret parting with you yet for I am verry happy and Comfortable and more so since we received your letter and heard that you was all well give our kind respects to my Aunt Nanny and my uncle and tell her that I wish her to write a letter to us or else to write part of your letter father I expect you will write the next letter full Dear sister I am happy to hear that you have got over our parting in a great measure..you may easily think what my feelings might have
been by your going away to a foreign land and you among all your friends altho I am far from you I .. always remember you I have been sowing and their is never a time that I left my seam but I remember your words I will have to come to america and mend your old cloths I would like if you would send us word how little margaret is in the next letter give our kind Compliments to all andrew Browns family tell easy that the plainest dress that is made here is a Dollar give our best respects to Betty Bennet and tell her that I think whiles I hear her birring on her wheel at twelve oclock at nigt give our ..respects to Mrs angus I wish her much gay give our best respects to Thomas and Jean Anderson and we wish them much Joy I ad no more but Mary I hope to see you here yet smoking cheap Tobbacco on your black short pipe Dear Marry I am happy to hear that John and you and the children are all well John their is one great inducement for you to come to america their is no porrage here Marry and I Bake all our own bread the same as the Bakers do in selkirk and I make all my own soap out of the ashes of the wood that we burn I bid you all adue at this time I hope youll all remember us altho our face no more you see an intrest in your prayers we crave that we may meet beyond the grave I ad no more but Remains your affectionate sister
Margaret
Mount Morris June
th7-1840

Dear
Friends I take this opportunity of writting to you to let you know that we are well at present hopping this will find you the same thanks be unto God for it we set sail from Liverpool the 16th Aprile and arrived at New york the 15th of May the shop Garrick that we had our passage taken in sailed two days before us and we got ashore at New york the same day that her passingers were put ashore they had the small pox in her and one Death we had no trouble in our ship but sea sickness Margaret and me were both sick about 16 Days we could eat nothing but potatoes we could neither take tea nor coffie but what grieved us worst of all we had to give away the butter ..neys and hoggies after we had kept them as long as we could for spoiling the water was that bad that we could not drink it I believe Margaret said fifty times that she would give all that she had for a Drink of Jean Hendersons milk their was two hundred and eighty passingers on board their was one hundred and sixty irish all the others were Scotch & Welch we had a minister of the united sseassion on board a Mr Skinner from Glasgow we had sermon two sabbaths the weather was stormy the other sabbath that we could not stand on Deck we had some rough weather but no storms their was one night that their was thirty six feet broke off one of the masts it would be about 18 inches in Diamater where it was broke though their was some of the passingers thought that they were going to the bottom that night they sat up all night reading and singing psalms but the sailors said their was no danger they wanted eight sailors of the number that they should have had and