

240 Bourke St-
Darlinghurst-
Sydney
N-S-W

23-3-08

My Dear Mother Brother & sister

I suppose you are beginning
to think I am going to forget
you as I've done in the
past well I am going
to try & be more punctual
in the future with my letters
moreover when you say my
letters bring happiness to my
fond & loving mother I only
wish it was a fact and
that my letters would

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prolong her life than she
would receive one from me
Every week I am delighted to
hear she is as well as can be
Expected for her years also
that you are all enjoying health
& happiness which is the greatest
Blessing the Almighty Can Bestow
on this Earth may you all Continue
so well Michael & Hester I
never Considered myself an old
man until recently I will tell
you why I received a letter from
Thomas on new years day last.
It being ^{my} Birth day to so
you can Imagine what Joy
& happiness It conveyed to me

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when he told me that Henry &
son & your second daughter were
there with him then St. Leonard
on me that I must Be an old
man well I am going to let you
have a look at me on paper and
pass your opinion I only wish
Australia was as near to Ireland
as America I would see you all
By what Tho. tells me I must
Compliment you Both in the way
you have reared up your families
he says they are a Credit to you
Both of course Tom Godwin must
share in this & also your dear
wife Michael I've not had the
pleasure of knowing her Bro.

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Mr. asked me for my photo so
I could not refuse him any thing
that lay in my power I've sent
him one I am sending one to you &
mother the other one is for my
Dear sister Honor. I've asked my
2 nephews & niece to send me
cheers so I will live in hopes
Thos. Martin was on board here
in Sydney last time he tells
me that Bro. Park is well &
family he never writes to me I
am pleased to know his son
always writes to his Grand
mother I suppose his father
has not time enough at his
disposal

I deeply regret to hear of my
Cousin Mitt Burkes sad
Bereavement in the death of
his Boy Convey & with my
Sympathy & Condolence out
also to my Aunt Mary in
the loss of Aunts uncle Tom
Burkes may they rest in peace
I see Johny Martin & Aunt
Biddey has departed this life
also, may the almighty in
his Great Mercy Grant them
Everlasting peace
Lezzie Martin
wishes to be kindly remembered
to you all Martin Slattery
I hear is doing well

uncle Terry I have not
seen or heard from you
6 years. I am fairly well
in health at present. Thank
God I must conclude
with fond love & Best
wishes to you all

I remain your friend
& Aff. Son & Brother
John Joseph Hughes