

26.10.91

Waverley

Sydney, N. S. W.

My Dear Brother

By this time you must be getting impatient about an answer to your letter. I delayed the answer until the photos arrived by last mail and I must confess they surpassed all my expectations. If I meet either of you in the street I would never know you. I think you resemble father very much. 13 years makes a difference. You were only a child when I left & M McHugh is such a good looking fellow. I was very happy to hear you were still enjoying health and happiness which is the greatest treasure we can keep on this earth. Very sorry to hear of Father suffering from rheumatism and poor Mother. God bless them & prolong their life and happiness.

Really, I have neglected writing home this long time which I ought not to do knowing how happy she would be to hear from us all.

I wonder if ever I will ever see them again. It is my highest ambition to once more lay eyes on them both and the old spot.

I had a letter from Patt a few days since. He says he is well and Uncle Terence I have not heard from lately but I am told he is in Tasmania, a country commonly known at home as Van Diemen's Land about 600 miles from here. Mr Slattery, I believe is doing well and also P & Lizzie Martin; you asked what part of Ireland Mrs McHugh hails from. I may tell you she is from Co. Antrim. She is a few years my senior. I have no family of my own but this I can tell you I love and is loved by my stepchildren as well as if they were my own. You also wanted to know what my occupation was. Well, it is a lazy one I must confess. I have licensed vehicles in the streets. What is commonly known at home post cars for hire.

I am exceedingly thankful to Mrs McHugh and you also for your photos. I suppose you will be expecting mine in return. Well, my dear boy you know I am getting advanced in years now and old people do not care to have the phisog taken. But, however, I may take a fit some day and give you a surprise with my ugly face.

I must conclude with best wishes and fond love from your

Afect Brother J McHugh

& accept the same from

Mrs & family

God Bless you

to T McHugh

Transcribed by Pauline Connolly 21 March 2021 with some punctuation and spelling corrections.