

Herberton
N. Queensland
1st Nov 1895

Dear Father & Mother, Brother & Sister

As usual, I have to seek your forgiveness for not writing to you ere this. Not that I have forgotten you as you are just as fresh in our memory as ever. Pleased to see by your welcome letter that ye were all well, also to hear of Thos trip home as I can imagine the pleasure it gave you to see him once more. I only wish I was as near to you as he is. I should spend Xmas with you if God spared one but must only live in the hope of seeing you some day. I can almost fancy that Mother and Father are here with me since we got this picture from China it is so large and so lifelike, I almost think you are looking at us. My picture measures 3ft 7in x 2ft 10 inches and is beautifully painted. I only wish you could have seen your picture on Xmas eve last, you would not think you were forgotten by those who are far away as it was neatly done up with ferns and flowers and amongst them the woodbine. When I last heard from some ten months since he was enjoying good health. I can hear nothing of uncle since he went to Tasmania. I will write John shortly and also intend writing to Thos before Xmas. Dear Father and Mother, you will find enclosed a P. office £5. 0. 0. order payable at Tuam as a little Xmas box, hoping you will all have a happy Xmas and a merry one. We are all well, thanks to God and join in wishing you all the compliments of the season and conclude with fondest love from us all and remain your affectionate son.

P McHugh

(xxxxxx) kisses from John and May for Grandfather, Grandmother and all their little cousins (xxxxxx) hoping to hear from them.