

Tamworth

April 12th 1881

My dear beloved Father and Mother, Brothers and Sister

I am happy to inform ye that after a prolonged passage of a hundred & six days during which time I enjoyed myself perfectly well, the weather during that time was all that could be desired and I enjoyed the best of health the whole time, not being indisposed for a single day. I arrived in Sydney on the 29th of March. I was in with John Higgins and was kindly welcomed. I came on to Tamworth on the day after and met with my brother John. I could not describe to ye how happy I felt but I felt a In fact, I felt overjoyed when John told me he had a letter from home and that ye all enjoyed a good Xmas for I assure ye I cried a full Christmas night when I thought of home & friends that were dear to me and having nothing remarkable only same as every other day and night I sincerely hope and trust that my Aunt Judy and family, Aunt Mary and family, Aunt Sally and family, Aunt Winny and family, Johnny Heneghan, Honour, Mary and Julia, Martin Curran & Mrs, James and Maria, and I also trust that young James is growing to be a big boy, Michael Flattery, mother and family, Henry and family and ... You will also give my sincere regards to all my enquiring friends and companions in about Milltown and not forgetting poor Pat ___ which I can never abandon thoughts of him. Goodbye for a while and believe me to be your affectionate son.

Pat McHugh

My dear Father & Mother, Brothers & fond Sister

Words of mine can't express to you the joy and pleasure I possessed when I met my brother Patrick ...
... better ourselves here and assist you than to be turning the sod in the miserable land of poverty as I may call it and one thing I was rejoiced at that yea got no hunger during the famine for I assure you I was frightened. There is one request I ask of you: to keep Thos at school for a couple of year and then I would advise you send him to a blacksmith. I know it will weaken your help but we shall pay for the labour you want to be done. With regards to Pat McHugh desiring to come out here, I would advise him to content himself at home for believe me ...

Transcribed by Margaret Marlow with some adjustment for punctuation, spelling and grammar.

11 May 2021.