

## 1843 HOGARTH LETTER

Transcribed by Denise Hogarth Bumford

What follows is the transcript of a letter written by Thomas Hogarth II (1814-1849), a Scottish immigrant living in NYC, to his brother-in-law, James Humphrey, and sister and mother in Ft. Wayne, IN. This letter was written six months after the birth of Thomas Hogarth III (1843-1906), great great grandfather.

Margaret, wife of letter writer, died two years later in 1845, and the letter writer died in 1849. We don't know where the orphaned Thomas and his sisters lived in 1850 but assume they were with Aunt Elizabeth H. O'Leary in NYC/Brooklyn. His sisters married in 1850 and '54. By 1860 he was in Ft. Wayne with Uncle James Humphrey, to whom the letter is addressed.

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*The 180-year-old letter is in good condition, with clear, consistent penmanship, some old world spelling, pretty much zero punctuation or paragraphing and precious little capitalization. I've transcribed it as well as I could make it out, adding punctuation and paragraphing where it makes sense to me. I sic'd a few old spellings at first, but subsequently ignored or corrected them for ease of reading. It contains news of family and friends back home being passed along from a friend or relative who has recently arrived in NY.*

New York

Sept. the 18th 1843

Dear Brother

I received your letter and was very happy to hear that you was all doing well and in a fair way of doing better with the young farmer. \* I wish you much joy and many happy days to see your offspring rise. I am happy to say that these few lines leaves us all well at present, thanks be to God for his goodness to us all. Hopping (sic) they will find you all enjoying (sic) the same. You must excuse me for not writing sooner. You said that I never write but when I get an addition to the family, but you can't say that for this time for we have nothing in views as yet. If all had been alive, we would have had five, plenty in number for Margaret and me. Now we have got 3 and as happy as we can be, and they are all running about and getts many a nock and clowet. *(bumps & bruises?)*

*\*possible reference to James & Jean Humphrey's son, Thomas, born 22 Aug 1843*

Now I am going to ask you how traid (sic) is with you for it is very dull hear (sic). Been all summer and no hopes of it gitting any better as yet, but still I am happy to say that I am better employed then a great many is. I never seed as many men going idle and I may say stoncutters is doing nothing. There was an advertisement in the papers some time ago for a thousand men to go on to Indiana, two dollars and eighteen shillings a day, and there has a great many left here to go and they have got a great hox plaid them. The man that employed

them is taken up, and I don't know what they will do with him. So when you write, please mention what kind of a job that canall is for masons.

(Erie & Wabash Canals completed by this date, so ?)

And Jean Stoddart (letter writer's niece in NY) has got married at last to Sam Waddle and is keeping in her father's house and the ould boy Reby is up the country and little todle tadle is up with all his contents and bought a little place and John and the auld boy is helping him to raise a house on it. And Lesley's two children is home to Scotland and Stean Haig has got married and set up for himself in Greenwich Street. And we had a letter from Edinburgh some time ago and they send their kind love to Mother and all of you. (Who is "they" in Edinburgh?)

Jessey\* has got married and is a widow. She was just eight months married till her husband died. He was a cooper by traid, and she still carries on the dress making as before.

(\*1851 Scotland census of questionable Brit Thomas Hogarth (1781), includes niece Jessie Hay in his household, also referenced in his will. HAVE TO FIGURE OUT THIS GUY)

And Jean, las, I have got some funny worde for thee and mother from Mellerstain. One of John Hay's sons from Fans has landed here and given me all the news about it. He is a blacksmith and wrought with William Dickson at Mellerstain before he left and it is all turned upside down. The ould lard is dead and James, his son, is dead also and the ould lady is gone to live at Green Walls (Greenlaw) and young Geordie has warend all the ould folk away and let the farm and only kept George Wilson and William Messer. They are up to the barns. The old lard left Jony Miller 6 pounds a year for life and he sometimes goes to see the little wife. She lives at the Sneep \*\*. Jony Tait has the Sneep farm and he is turned off too. And Tomes Miller is off. He has a cot house at the mill of the farmer and is thinking of coming out here.

Betty Brack is up to the end house of the row and her son has gone down to her house and James' wife is still in the same house and Tib Dickson keeps William's house and Jean Purvis is married on Mitchel, the school master, and Watty is dead and the wife is away to Crallen (Crailing) and David Wood was warend away and he could nether rest night nor day till he got stopt still again and he keeps a maden and Tom Miller went in one morning to get a pair of breekes and got David in the bed with the maden and from one to another it went to the lady. And she sent for Davey and tould him either to marry her or put her away. So David is always looking after a farm and sometimes after a tale so he is just the same. And Nancy Clark is out of the house and Jamey is turned off, but Jamey says poor man. He is coming home to go to the school a while. And Dun, the gardner, is off. Even the butler is off, and the coachman is off, and George Fairbarn is away.

Bob Purvis is dead, and Margaret and John has no young ones. She wears the britches. Andrew Lumsden and Jony Miller fiddles at all the bawls and William Messer s - t his breekes going home from one of the bawls.

I have given you as I got it. No more at present.

Best remains,

Your loving brother Thos. & Mrs. Hoggarth r e m m a t h e r. [\(don't know what to make of this\)](#)