

Envelope:
To William Keys
Coolaness Irvinestown County
Fermanagh Ireland

Marmora
October the 9th 1834

My Dear, I take this favourable opportunity of writing these few lines to you to let you know that we are all in a good state of health at present thanks be to God for all his mercies to us unworthy sinners hoping these lines will find you in the same state of health as this..... as in at present. Dear Brother letting you know that I received your kind letter of the 24th...on the 6th of August which gave me much pleasure to hear of you being all well, Dear Brother, I had a middling large family of children when I parted you and I have not many of them with me now. Isabella was married the 20th of March 1832 to her cousin from Pettigo and lives on a lot of land in Marmora within two miles of us that she purchased. Anne was married on the 10th of May 1833 to a man of the name of Hugh Jones from beside Colonel Creaton , in the county Fermanagh and have two lots of land in Marmora and a lot up near York. He lives uncommonly well. It is on one of his places we live near this three years back. Hugh was married on the 15th of June 1833 to a woman the name of Graham from Creevy near Balishanon and he is living on a lot of land 36 miles from me. A place called New Township of Tyendinaga. Government have purchased it from the Indians last year. They have not got it surveyed yet and it is all taken up and titled already and they do not know what the purchase will be yet. It is within 15 miles of Bellville which is our nearest place of market. Dolly was married on the 18th of February 1834 to a man named Andrew Gauly from the County Fermanagh near Roslea and Clones. He have a lot of land which he lives on in the township of Marmora about 6 miles from me and he lives very well too. John bought 50 acres of land last year from my son-in-law Hugh Jones in Marmora and there was a good house on it and some clearance. He is within about one half mile of me living at present. These four of my children I can go and stop a space of time with each and return home the same day to my own place. But Dear Brother I am going on a lot of wild land now & I have a house raised on it and some chopping done on it at present. It is along side of my son John's place. We expect to chop 5 acres this winter and crop it near spring. Dear Brother, my son Hugh wanted his mother and me to go to live to him and his mother would not go so far from her daughters. I would have been very fond of going on account of it being near Bellville and the lands so very good it is allowed to be as good land as in the providence of Upper Canada. Hugh have chopped and cleared 15 acres and have it all under fall wheat this fall within one year. He is doing uncommonly well. I was down awhile this summer helping him to log off the timber and burn them and I put up pot ash works for him. Dear Brother I have only the want of market . We have many profits here. Dear Brother, last march I went out to the woods and I made with the assistance of many. I made three hundred pounds

weight of sugar in about two weeks and a barrel of vinegar and keg of molasses or treacle called there and we can make pot ashes and soap of the timber after that so we have only the want of market. We could live here purty well Only to work hard summer and winter. In winter we must be out chopping when the snow will be four or five feet deep and there will be icicles hanging to our whiskers but we eat and drink well. Good beef and pork three times each day and potatoes, bread and butter and tea. But dear brother, we have no money here. The best farmer in the country must when he is going out a journey, he must take wheat tic or oats or some such commodity to bear his expense in the towns traveling. We will not see one shilling in the course of a year. The trade and t.... and give orders from one to another for any dealings in place of money. Dear brother Catherine lived eighty miles from me since she come to America last spring. She came to Bellville and is hired there since she have 5s. per week . All the time since she's come to America she is a good a servant as in all America and uncommonly wise. She is now thirty six miles from me now. Mary lives always with me...Dear brother, I can raise potatoes plenty to support us and fat six hogs and feed six or eight stone pigs each year and wheat and peas and keep as many cows or young cattle as I please to keep without any cost of paying for land or grasing. Better grased than they would be in the Generals deer park. I had a year old calf bulled this summer. So that a young man or young woman can live very well here if they be industrious and behave themselves. I think my god that there could not be said black was the eye in any of my childrens heads since they came to America. Dear brother it was your prayers that. But you need not fear that Dear brother we had a very fine wheat crop this year. There was but an indifferent crop of potatoes on account of summer frost and a very dry harvest. There was in many places a great deal of damage done by the drooth. The severe heat of the weather catched fire and burned many houses and fence and destroyed the lands very much. I had a very fine potato crop this year and I have them raised since the last of September. I have three hundred bushels of potatoes and each bushel contain four stone weight. Wheat I see at from 4s. to 6s. per bushel, Potatoes 2.. per bushel. Tic 2s.6 per bushel. Peas 2. Per bushel. Beef 4 C. per lb. Mutton the same. Pork are sold from ten to fourteen dollars per barrel, which carry two hundred pounds of pork. Dear brother, we have an election going on at present in Bellville and the Methodist is striving to put in Methodist members to strive to take the clergy

lands from the High Church of England Ministers which I fear they will and pull down our church. It is thought it will raise a rebellion here.

The ministers here have every seventh lot of land through all Canada which is a very great deal for them but they have passed an act in Parliament and Government sends them what they think sufficient. Dear brother you will be kind enough to let my friends and old neighbours know that we are all well at present and sends our love to them. Hugh Keys and sister Isabella and family to William Armstrong Tubbes and family to my old friend Robert Keys and family to John McMulhin and family and James McMulhin and family to William Keys of the hollow and family to long Francis McMulhin and family and I am sorrygods will to have been otherwise and I send my love to all enquiring friends or neighbours. Dear brother John and Isabella sends their love to you and Mary and children in the most affectionate manner and requests you to let widow Odonal know that she are well and Bessey Donel and her husband William Ingster is well and have a son born. They live in a quarter mile of me. Dear brother I forgot when I named my childrens marriages to let you know have children Bell have two one daughter and a son. We have the daughter. She was 6 months old. Hughes wife have a son and call him John Dick. Anne have one daughter. Dear brother you will when you write you will let me know who was the bearer of the last letter you sent me it had been opened it was greatly reduced. You will let black Jack know we never heard anything of Tommy only Hugh. Seen a boy was over in the ship with and he started for New York and likewise Catherine Allen we never heard any thing of her since we parted. her at a place called the Cascades. She lived with a sergants wife between Montreal and Prescut and let widow Allan knowwe were on our journey from Montreal to Prescut we met with a William Keys from Lough Miltown and he ordered us to stop awhile to refresh us and wrote a line or so for Cit Allen to let him know the name of the township so that when he would stop he would write to us and he never wrote or sent any word since. Dear brother, when you write you will let me know how Widow Odonel and children is and Thomas Maxwell and family is. Billy Graham from Pettigo and family went last year to the.....York a place called Rochester. Dear brother when you write you will let me know the particulars of that county in general. William received a letter from Hugh Keys of Drumbulkin dated the 23rd of May on the 6th of October which surprises me much it was relayed so long after yours. So I conclude with my love and blessing.

Royal and Mary Keys

When you write as direct as before.