

Mackay 1906 Hugh Mackay Letter

The following is the text of a letter from Hugh Sutherland Mackay (1831-1913) to his sister Jane and her husband John McKay, dated 8 December, 1906 from Woodstock:

"Your very kind, welcome, and interesting letter dated 6th of last month we have duly received and very much enjoyed though sadness creeps over me in its perusal. I did not know that your brother James is dead - never heard of it. Is he long dead? I am very glad that our Earltown and neighbouring friends and acquaintances are nearly all settled or settling in the Dominion. I infer from your letter that Duncan Campbell's widow is still living - must be very old. Our relations are all over the Dominion from Nova Scotia to the Yukon - as evidence of morals? and loyalty too? The widow of Murdoch Campbell brother of John Campbell who was married to your mother's sister died in Woodstock a few weeks ago. She was the second child of Kenneth MacKay, Wheel Wright, who learned his trade with Alex. Mackay (Sandy Bhratan). Mrs. Campbell was 87 or 88 years of age. The whole family of 13 is now dead except my wife who is the 10th child. Her husband, Mr. Campbell died over 25 years ago. His two sisters Mrs. Mackay and McLeod are also dead. Murdoch's grandson stalwart young man of 25 years was killed in a collision with a runaway train a few weeks ago. The runaway train ran without an Engine on a long downgrade, which became very rapid at this collision. Also Kenneth Campbell was to have full charge of a train himself as Engineer in October last. His father, John Peter Campbell is in Toronto, a carpenter. Rev. John M. Campbell Ph.D. is a learned minister and author and Mrs. Henry and Cassie A. Campbell are the four living children of Mr. and Mrs. Campbell. Marion and Kenneth are dead. A grandson of the above said Mrs. McLeod the Rev. Kenneth McLeod [sic] is a settled Minister in the new Province of Alberta and his brother, John McLeod M.D. is an M.P.P. in the same province. It may interest especially you Jane to say what has become of the family of Peter Mackay father's cousin late in Zorra. His sons Alex, Hugh M.D., Donald, James, and John are all dead. His daughters Kate, Mrs. Gillespie, Anne, Betsy, and Mary are all living. Donald's son, John a Railway Engineer was killed a few months ago in a collision. The only living son of Peter Mackay is the Rev. Robert Peter Mackay; DD is Foreign Mission Secretary of our Church in the Dominion and by Appointment of the last General Assembly chosen to visit all the Foreign Missionaries and work of our church and Report. He is now at or near India. He is an able Minister. Our son John and wife are visiting us from Dawson City in the Yukon. He visited my brother Peter near Los Angeles in California and also his wife's brother in Houston, Texas - a long, long trip. They both enjoyed their trip. We are all now in fair health. Today and yesterday we have had zero weather and not much snow. Our Minister and Pastor is 50 years a Minister. He resigns the Pastorate. His successor is chosen already before Dr. McMillan's time is up. His Assistant, McCochrane got two calls while with us as assistant. ... Kindest Regards, H.S. Mackay."