

Mosa [Twsp, Ontario, Canada]  
16th of April, 1851

*Mother enjoys very good health. John and Neil are well. Dougal is a great deal better. He is at work pretty much every day. John McKellar's family is now enjoying good health. His wife was very ill but has recovered.*

*You wanted us to sell out here and join you. We have a good place and no chance of disposing of our property to advantage. By the way, there is a railroad to pass within three miles of us which will increase the value of our holdings. It is called the Great Western and will run from Hamilton to Windsor and is supposed to be completed in two years. It was commenced last December.*

*I should like you to let me know who it is that sells the land there, the cost per acre, and what chance to pay, or if the land is a free grant to settlers. Tell us more particularly about the country. Then if we are satisfied we will expect to pay you a visit, one and all of us.*

*Tell us how you take care of your milk. What crops did you raise last summer, wheat, corn, rye, peas, buckwheat, oats, potatoes? And what was your average yield per acre? Was the season as dry as usual? How long will it take to water an acre of land? How do you do it? What sort of machine have you for the purpose? How often do you have to irrigate during the season? I suppose you have to leave vacant strips in time of sowing, to give the water a chance to reach the grain.*

*You will please write per receipt of this letter and let me know how long it takes to get to Utah, the best road to come on and the distance and difficulties to be encountered. How much do you think it would cost a family of eight or nine to make the trip? We have heard great talk of people dying for want of water, etc., crossing the sandy plains. Let us know if that be true.*

*I have always heard it said that the handsomest feathers were on birds that were far away. Fact is, I believe you make the feathers rather too handsome but I expect you will be coming after your money which I believe is still laying in Port Sarnia for you. If you do, you will certainly pay us a visit and we can discuss matters then more definitely.*

*John McKellar started for California in November, 1849. We have heard nothing from him as yet. We did hear that he was at your place. So if you saw him or know anything about him you will let us know in your first letter.*

*Mr. Branam has spent double the cost of your old grist mill in repairing it and the dam. Recently he put the mill in first class order, two run of stones. He can grind from fifteen to twenty bushel per hour. The dam he filled up with clay out of the bank opposite the mill. He has done nothing with the saw mill since you left. He is going to get it in shipshape this coming summer.*

*All of your friends join me with kind compliments to one and all of you.*

*Your affectionate Brother,*

*Duncan Livingston*

Archibald Gardner Family Genealogical Association and by Alpine Publishing Co, West Jordan, Utah. A copy of the book is available at the Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah and is available on line from the FamilySearch.org web site at [https://dcms.lds.org/view/action/ieViewer.do?dps\\_pid=IE951356&dps\\_dvs=1354400498791~448&dps\\_pid=IE951356&change\\_lng=en](https://dcms.lds.org/view/action/ieViewer.do?dps_pid=IE951356&dps_dvs=1354400498791~448&dps_pid=IE951356&change_lng=en)