

Mosa [Twsp, Ontario, Canada]
31st of August, 1854

Mr. Gardner

Dear Sir:

Your letter dated March the 27th came duly to hand with the melancholy news of your beloved son Robert's death. We all sympathize with you and his bereaved mother. But it was the Lord's will to take His own and it is hoped that you and his mother will say as Job did, 'The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.'

We have bereavements here as well as you have there.

Our much respected and beloved brother Dougal went to the lake in hopes of improving his health. At Chicago, May 16th, A. D. 1854, he ate his supper. About ten o'clock he took with severe cramps and at one o'clock the next morning, gave up his spirit to Him who gave it. Alexander McColl from Mosa along with other friends conveyed his corpse in a hearse to his grave and interred the remains with all decency.

On Friday, June 30th, our dearly beloved mother arose at daybreak, walked out of the door, came in, sat on a chair, called twice to Neil, fainted and fell to the floor. Immediately he came to her assistance and lifted her into bed. She complained of her head and asked for a drink of water. Neil got it and sent immediately for us and sister Sarah and the nearby neighbors. A doctor was summoned who arrived without delay. He bled her. The blood ran freely but he gave very little hopes of her recovery. About 6 o'clock Saturday morning, July 1, A. D. 1854, be it forever recorded in our memories, our dearly beloved mother breathed her last. The next day, the Sabbath, with sobriety and heart break her remains were buried in the cemetery opposite the Scotch Free Church, Mosa Townline, in the presence of a great concourse of respectable relatives, friends and neighbors.

We now have the Great Western Railway from the Falls of Niagara with single track to Windsor, a distance of two hundred twenty-nine miles. It steams past Hamilton, through London, Sobo, Carrador, Ekfrid, Mosa, etc. The cars commenced running last January. The average number of passengers since that time—nearly one thousand per day. How hard it was to believe when you left here that such concourses of people would be popping through the woods of Ekfrid and Mosa at the rapid rate of forty to fifty miles per hour.

How grand it will be and what pleasure we will have flying about in our wagons and buggies. What a contrast to when you were here dragged through the mud with oxen and muddy sleighs.

*Farewell to muddy roads,
Farewell to stages,
Farewell to saucy drivers,
Of the past ages.*

As for John McKellar we have received no word of, or about him since he left. But his wife and family are well and doing well.

The Lord be forever praised. We are blessed with three sons—Neil, Donald and Duncan and one daughter Flora. Our beloved brothers here are still single. Neil has a good house on his place. Both he

and John board with us since mother's death. Both of them together with sister Sarah (Mrs. McKellar) send their kind compliments to you and sister Margaret and family, and to William and sister Janet and her family.

*Loving sisters, we are sorry
That you are far away from Mosa,
But this world will soon be over;
Have your treasures in Jehovah.*

We would be sorry, very sorry indeed to hurt your feelings or those of any other near and dear relative who believes he is a true follower of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, even though the foolish men of this wicked world blame him for being under delusion. But you have made bold to say, or did you say that Mormonism is truth from God and will prevail although all earth and hell should oppose it? You say, 'He has declared it and is able to do what He undertakes.' All Christians agree that God is able to do what He undertakes. But to say that Mormonism is truth from God is absurd to all that hold to the sacred writings that Christ and his Apostles left to the world. Because the word Mormon or Mormonism is not to be found in the Old or New Testament, etc., etc. Oh, what delusion is on earth! So let us pray that if we are right the Lord may keep us right and if we are not right—the Lord will make us right and keep us right.

As we have come to a conclusion, please accept our respects as follows:

*Love from our hearts to Baldy Mor
And to his household top and toe.
O Lord of Lords in love look down
And do not on the Mormons frown.
Convert them to your holy ways
And may the Lord have all the praise.
By Duncan and Mary Livingston.*

P. S. If you do respect this letter or rather them that have sent it, we hope you will be so kind as to receipt it at your earliest convenience and by so doing you will confer a great favor.

D. and M. L.

Note: source of the above letter written by Duncan Livingston, of Mosa Township, Ontario, Canada, to Archibald Gardner, his brother-in-law living in Utah, U.S., is the book *Life of Archibald Gardner, Utah Pioneer of 1847*, written by Delila Gardner Hughes, copyright October 1939, published by The 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