

Letter to William Byers

Transcription

July the 9, 1890

Dear William, I take the pleasure of writing a few lines to you to let you know that I am in good health. Thanks be to God for the health. Hoping these few lines will find you and all the family in the same health.

Mr Tomy Morrow came here and give me all the portragra [photographs] that you sent me and he gave me great account about you all. Isabella and all. He says she looks well. When he came home, a younger son went off to America. His turn.

John is in good health. He is still in Warrington, fifteen miles from Liverpool. He thinks they won't send him out to India anymore. Maggie and Wright comes to see him and he gets leave to go to the hotel in the town for a day anytime.

I wrote a month ago to Robert. I got no letter from him since you wrote. If you could write to him, I wish you would, and put him in mind of what he ought to do. He has a boy here getting very big and stout – and a good play boy he is. I will write now again to him. If he answers them.

Maggie is doing well. Now she will come this summer to see me. They have a fine boy growing big and a good child [*looks like 'cholar', so might be 'scholar'*].

James Watson is well and poor. He has too much land on his hands. No one to labour it. Them men is the worst off here. Not paying. James is not writing to me now those times.

This is a very cold summer here. This year [is] very wet and always raining. Great frost in June that spoilt the low bottoms of potatoes and frost yet.

Dear William, I must conclude by sending you and all the family and Isabella and family my blessing and love to all.

No more at present from your affectionate father,

Robert Byers
Drumagoland

Notes from Cathryn Warren:

The Victorian (Australian) departure passenger lists show:

Mr T Morrow, aged 50, aboard the *Oceana*, departed March 1890 for London via Ports

There are two James Watson deceased in Cavan:

James Watson, aged 60, deceased between Jul-Sep 1904

James Watson, aged 62, deceased between Oct-Dec 1912

Robert Jnr's son is John James Byers, son of Robert Byers and Rachael McIlwaine. Rachael died in 1881. Robert Jnr emigrated to Australia in 1885 and then to the USA in 1895 leaving his son, John James, in Lisanyore presumably with the McIlwaines.

William and Isabella are Robert's children who emigrated to Australia.

John (also known as Jack) is also Robert's son. He died 6 months after this letter of pneumonia at Orford Barracks, Warrington, England. Rather poignantly John had already re-signed for another 12 years with the army at the time of this letter.