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[To Mr. ANDREW WALKER, Mason, Town and County of SHELKIRK,
Scotland ~]

Mount Morris Sept

14th—1840

Dear

Friends I take my pen in my hand to write to you to let you know that we received your letter on the 11 Sept and we was verry happy to hear that you was all well when it left you and we hope this will find you all well as it leaves us our patience was entirley exhausted before we received the letter we called at the post office almost every day for about three weeks before we received it sometimes Margaret would say I think thel no hae gotten the letter Tommy wel hae to write anohar and at other times she would say I ken well enough they have gotten our letter its just their carelessness I ken frae have and they will never hea but if they have gotten our letter and not written all this time we will give themd in our next letter we have both enjoyed good health since we came here the summer has not been near so warm as we expected it would be their was sometimes two or three days together pretty warm and then perhaps we would not have a warm day for a week or perhaps two weeks we had only four hot days in the month of August and they calculate on August being the warmest month in the year it is verry pleasant wether just now neither too hot nor too cold they call it the Indian summer now their is generally two months in the fall and two months in the spring of the finest weather that could be desired their is scarcely any alteration in the price of provisions since I wrote last flour is half a Dollar per Barrel higher and Beef and mutton is one cent per pound cheaper their has been a good crop here this season it is supposed that provisions will be as cheap the incoming year as they are now I wrought only three weeks at the canal I have been working all summer by the Job for a Gentleman from New York that has bought a farm lately within a mile and a half of Mount Morris I have Done a great deal better than if I had been working by the Day I under Brushed 20 Acres of new Land the heavy timber was all cut before I had it taken by the Acre I am making a New Road just now I have been working at it these five weeks past I have plenty of work in view for the winter chopping wood or working at the canal but I expect to be working in a flour mill all winter the general wages for laberours working by the day is one pound four shillings per week British money masons wages is a Dollar and a half per Day the houses are mostly all wood here but their is a great deal of mason work going on at the canal just now building lacks and Bridges you need not be afraid for work their is plenty of work and well paid for it people will do nothing for nothing here folk that can turn their hand to anything is the gold for America it is sposed that wages will be considerably higher here next year it is getting on for the time that the Canal must be finished and they will have to make a push next season wages was never known to be below a Dollar a day at this place before this season for laberours the Canal was opened from within a mile of mount morris to rochester the first of this month so when you come you will have a water

passage all the way from Annan to within a mile of mount morris and we will be verry happy to see you all it takes L8 for each full grown passanger to bring them out here but L8 will do it verry well but before you come I will write you how to conduct yourselves on the way it requires people to keep a sharp look out that is coming to America their is a ...of vagabonds both at Liverpool and New York that makes it their whole business to impose upon emigrants if you dont keep a sharp look out they will pick the verry eyes out of your head we thought Liverpool was bad but we found New york ten times worse their is a good many people that has been here but a short time that has done verry well and I see others that has been in that has been in america for five and six years and has nothing but vrinning about from one place to another if they were poor when they came they keepp themselves poor it is a bad place for people that is given to Drink ardent spirits is so cheap Whiskey is 7 per quart Gin Kurn and Brandy is 9 per Bottle according to my estimation this is a far better place for a working man than Holland if a man is steady and industrious he will get a comfortable living here and some thing over and that is what he cannot get in scotland we have never heard any thing of William Symmgton and his friends since we left them at New york you may tell william Douglas that I did not see any of his friends. let us know in your letter if their has any letter come from Robt Chishom we have not heard any thing of him since we left him at albany we have a verry comfortable house we intend to remain in it all winter we once thought of removing a short distance where we could keep a cow but we thought it was too far advanced in the season we will remain where we are till the spring we are verry well situated for neighbours every one is kinder than another and they are all yankes their is only two scotch families in this neighbourhood besides us Marry be sure and take good care of Margrets likeness and bring it along with you when you come it will be a lhappy sight for us if we be spared to see you all here it lies all in him ho is the creater and preserver of our lives if we meet all again but though the deep between us rolls friendship shall invite our souls and in fancys wide domain oft shall we all meet again

Be so good as return a letter as soon as you receive this for we will be ever anxious to hear from you—
Dear Father i was verry sorry to hear that you was so much put about that morning that we came away but when it came to the test I found that it would have been impssible for me to have parted with you any other way but I hope that we are not parted for the last time yet but I have had no reason to regret parting with you yet for I am verry happy and Comfortable and more so since we received your letter and heard that you was all well give our kind respects to my Aunt Nanny and my uncle and tell her that I wish her to write a letter to us or else to write part of your letter father I expect you will write the next letter full Dear sister I am happy to hear that you have got over our parting in a great measure..you may easly think what my feelings might have

been by your going away to a foreign land and you among all your friends altho I am far from you I .. always remember you I have been sowing and their is never a time that I left my seam but I remember your words I will have to come to america and mend your old cloths I would like if you would send us word how little margaret is in the next letter give our kind Compliments to all andrew Browns family tell easy that the plainest dress that is made here is a Dollar give our best respects to Betty Bennet and tell her that I think whiles I hear her birring on her wheel at twelve oclock at nigt give our ..respects to Mrs angus I wish her much gay give our best respects to Thomas and Jean Anderson and we wish them much Joy I ad no more but Mary I hope to see you here yet smoking cheap Tobbacco on your black short pipe Dear Marry I am happy to hear that John and you and the children are all well John their is one great inducement for you to come to america their is no porrage here Marry and I Bake all our own bread the same as the Bakers do in selkirk and I make all my own soap out of the ashes of the wood that we burn I bid you all adue at this time I hope youll all remember us altho our face no more you see an intrest in your prayers we crave that we may meet beyond the grave I ad no more but Remains your affectionate sister

Margaret

Mount Morris June

Douglas
th7-1840
Dear

Friends I take this opportunity of writting to you to let you know that we are well at present hopping this will find you the same thanks be unto God for it we set sail from Liverpool the 16th Aprile and arrived at New york the 15th of May the ship Garrick that we had our passage taken in sailed two days before us and we got ashore at New york the same day that her passingers were put ashore they had the small pox in her and one Death we had no trouble in our ship but sea sickness Margaret and me were both sick about 16 Days we could eat nothing but potatoes we could neither take tea nor coffie but what grieved us worst of all we had to give away the butter ..neys and hoggies after we had kept them as long as we could for spoiling the water was that bad that we could not drink it I believe Margaret said fifty times that she would give all that she had for a Drink of Jean Hendersons milk their was two hundred and eighty passingers on board their was one hundred and sixty irish all the others were Scotch & English & Welch we had a minister of the united sesession on board a Mr Skinner from Glasgow we had sermon two sabbaths the weather was stormy the other sabbath that we could not stand on Deck we had some rough weather but no storms their was one night that their was thirty six feet broke off one of the masts it would be about 18 inches in Diamater where it was broke though their was some of the passingers thought that they were going to the bottom that night they sat up all night reading and singing psalms but the sailors said their was no danger they wanted eight sailors of the number that they should have had and

when the wind began to blow hard they could not take in the sails quick enough the Captain got some of the passingers to put on sailors cloths and pass for sailors when the Doctors came on board to inspect the crew and passingers at New york if he had not done that he would have been prosecuted for going to sea with so few sailors and so many lives at stake the Docter said that he never inspected such a rugged healthy looking lot of passingers in his life we came in to the quarantine ground at six oclock on Friday evening it is within seven miles of New york and passed the Docter that evening after we had passed the Docter the Captain told us that if we got all our Dirty cloths washed we would get ashore tomorrow then it was all hands to work men and women washing with cold water and the greater part of them with out soap in two hours the whole ship was clad from bow to stern where ever they could get a rope to hang them on their was a good deal of theiving going on that night I sat up all night watching and it was as much as I could to keep them together and me standing beside them at one oclock on saturday two scooners came alongside and took all the passingers and luggage to the custom house where it was inspected and then set us ashore at New york at seven oclock in the evening we put our luggage in stone house all night and slept in a Tavern and at five oclock on sunday evening we took the Steam boat up the Hudson River for Albany one 100 and 65 miles and from albany we took the canal to Rochester 200 and 70 miles and from Rochester we took the coach to mount morris 40 miles and sent our luggage up the Genese River in a boat we left william symington and his friends at New york they were going to stop for two or three Days we left Robt chisholm at albany nount morris is a small village on the Genesee River 40 miles above Rochester it is a beautiful Country all round about mostly wealthy farmers and the greater part of the land cleard unless what is kept for firinng began to work on the ..of..at....per week wages is lower this year the provisions are verry cheap Wheat is three shillings and six pence per bushel & it was three times that last year flour is all sold by the Barrel I bought a barrel of flour 14 stone weight for fifteen shillings and six pence & their is a second kind that we could have had half a Dollar cheaper Beef is 2 1/2 D per pound pork 4 D Butter 7 1/2 D tea 2 S a D Coffie 8 D sugar 5 D we can buy a good sheep for 10 S we have a house taken of one Mr Rome a scotchman from Ecchelfeahan he came here in the month of November last he rents a farm about a quarter of a mile from the village his wife and family came out in the same ship with us she had three small children and her mother with her we came all the way here together this is allowed to be a verry healthy country round about here I have felt it consderably warmer in scotland than I have felt it here yet but they say that it will be warmer in July and August we have been both in as good health as every we was since we since we got out of the shop their is a Canal making up the valley it passes close by the village I am working at it just now

i could have had work from farmers but I preferd working at the Canal because they work at the canal all winter we work about twelve hours a day but not so hard as I used to do in the old country fruit is very plenty here we can have as many apples as we like to pull they are growing all over the fields so I think between cheap flour and apples we need not want a dumpling if we have our health to eat it their is four places of worship in the village prysbeterian Episcopalian methodist & Baptists there is sermon in them all three times every sabbath and in some of them every night in the week but the ministers is no great hands they hire them by the year here and if they are not pleased with them they turn them off at the years end and gets another we have been twice at the prysbeterian church the minister is a verry sober preacher he read it all and we cannot hear one half of what her says but they consdier a first rate hand here there is no amt meal here they grow oats for the stores only the price of oats is generally 1S 3D per Bushel the price of potatoes is one shilling per Bushel Just now they all eat potatoes to breakfast here and fired pork they Bake all their own Bread their is no bakers shops here they generally take tea or coffie three times a Day and butcher meat at every meal the women here are good for nothing but baking and eating sweet....out of their heads before they be twenty years of age the men carrys in all the water kindls the fire in the morning and clears the wifes shoes before they go to work even servant maids does not clean their masters shoes the richest of farmers and shop keepers in the county clean their own shoes they are verry fond of scotch girls for servants when they can get them Margaret got ten or twelve offers to hire betwen New york and this place when we was comeing up the country Margaret likes america verry well she says she will not come back to Scotland again but she expects to see you all in America yet if we be all spared write to us as soon as you receive this Letter for we are verry curious to hear from you let us know all the ups and downs that has taken place since we left I forgot to put in the price of Tobbaco & Margaret has make me put it here to let Marry know how cheap it is it is 1S per pound give our best respects to all enquiring acquaintances I ad no more at present but
Remains your affectionate

friend

James Douglas

Mount Morris August th 22 1841

Dear

Friends I take this opportunity of writting to you to let you know that we received your letter on the 18th of June and was verry happy to hear that you was all well when it left you I am happy to inform you that we are all well at present thanks be unto god for it and we hope this letter will find you all the same when it reaches you we was verry sorry to hear that John and James Walker has been vissiled with so sad and sore bereavements sensible of the beneficent hand from which such visitations come we ought always to bow our head in patient submission and acnolodge the hand of the Lord in all his doings because his merciful visitaions though not joyous but greivous yield the peacable fruits of righteousness unto them that are exercised theirby. We have got a young son on the 12th fo July he is a fine thriving little fellow Margaret was not long in being stout after she was confined Mrs Byers the old lady of the family that came here with us was sick nurse they would not let us get any body else she came and stayed with us one week and she came back and forward another week every day to see how we was getting on. I am engaged with Mr Alyphant for a year from the first of May 1841. to the first of may 1842. We have had a verry dry summer their has been scarcely a shower to wet the ground since the month of may but it has been confined to this place twenty miles from here they have had rain regular all round their is a good crop of wheat in the country but the potatoes and indian corn is but a poar crop the drouth has burnt them up markets appear to be considerably higher this year flour is a Dollar and a half per Barrel higher just now than it was all last year. Wages is not so good this summerr for day labourers this has been a verry flourishing place for two or three years back and people has flocked to it from all quarters untill they have made it not so good for working people it was better for me that I happened to be engaged Labourers wages is about one pund per week British at this place their is another two scotch families to this place they came out this spring they come from the neighbourhood of Annan they appear to regret leaving home they have not found things as they expected they could not get work for a good while after they come and when they did get work it was the greatest tyrant in this place that employed them and they have left him and are idle for want of employment just now so they feel greatly discouraged they could get work on the Canal but they have always been accustomed to work upon a farm and farming is different here from what it is in Scotland it requires a person to be a year or two here before they be up at their ways of working Mr Romes family has moved a little farther away from us they have taken a larger farm it is about a mile and a half from us but we see them always on sundays when they come to church they are the only folk that we have kept up any corespondence with we have always lived verry friendly since we came here it was Mrs Romes mother that waited on Margaret when she was

confined you will see by a former letter they are the family that we came here with. This summer has been rather warmer than it was last summer but I have not had to work near so hard this summer as I did last the heat has been no apression to me Mr Alyphant has a scotchman for gardner this year he brought him from New York in the month of aprile so their is a good many scotch of us here now we was sorry to hear that Andrew Mercer & Fallow was lost coming to America their has been a great many losses at sea this year their was a Steam Boat Burnt on Lake Erie about a fortnight ago and one hundred and seventy lives lost Burnt and drowned she was within eight miles of the shore when she caught fire. they say the fire from the shore and another steam Boat set out to her assistance when they came up to her she was all in one blaze of fire they picked up thirty of the passingers and Crew that they found floating upon the water round the burning wreck thirty was all that was saved out of two hundred their was about forty Duch Families that had just come over and was on their way to Illinois to settle there they all perished their was painters in the boat and they set some turpintine bottes and stuff of that kind too near the boiler and the heat caused it to explode and the boat was new varnished so that the fire run over it as quick as gun powder. send us word if you have got your eye sight again as well as you had before. We was sorry to hear that Mr. Robertsons has been so unfortunate send us word how they are doing. We could cannot find Mr Bogie by the adress that you sent the name of the town must be mentioned John I expect you will write us part of the next letter send us all the particulars all the ups and downs that has taken place among folks that we was acquainted with and the marriages send us word how them that went to St Vin.. is doing i would like to know what they say about it send us...at william Symington and his friends are doing I have never wrote to them yet will know more about them than we do altho you are farther from them Good Night John Come Come Margaret what are you going to say to them it is past ten oclock it is time that we was in our beds Dear sister it is with great pleasure that I sit down to write to you altho I am far from you I often remember you altho we be far from our own friends we find friends in a foreign land i feel quite at home now but if it be the lords will I hope we will all meet again I expect Marry that you will be as good as your word you said that you would come to america if ever I had any Children you and Isabells Brown thought it wold be of no use in coming to America you would not get any sowing to do but you may come along now as quick as you like you will get it all for me you may tell Betty fallow that she came verry near with her calculations she was only fifteen months of the time.my babe wears nothing on his head it is not customary to wear any mutches(?) on babes here. the weather is so warm they are far healthier without them my boy never has a mutch on but when we go avisiting we have called him John for Jennys father and his uncle .I believe it was good for us that we was so verry sick when we

came across the sea for we have been verry healthy since if you saw James now you would not know him he is so lusty and redfaced his face is as red now as mine was when we came away I lost a little of mine but I am gaining it very fast again I have to write whatever she tells me orelse she is not pleased give our compliments to Aunt Nanny I ad no more but remains your affectionate

Son & Yours untill Death
J & M Douglas

[TO ANDREW WALKER, MASON IN TOWN & COUNTY OF SKEELKIRK, SCOTLAND]

Mount Morris May th 1st 1842

Dear

Friends it is with pleasure that I begin to write to you to let know that we are all well at present hopping this will find you all the same thanks be unto God for it we received your letter about the first of January and was happy to hear that you was all in good health when it left you and we hope this will find you all in good health when it reaches you. I hope that you will not think it hard of us for not writting sooner it was not through neglect nor lack of affection that we have been so long in writting to you we was not certain wheather we stayed here any longer than the first of may and we thought if we had moved away that we would have been gone before we could have had an answer back from you but I have made another engagement with Mr. Alyphant and we are going to stay here another year if we be spared we intended if we had left Mr. Alyphant to have gone where land was cheaper then it is here and bought a place for ourselves but we are pretty comfortable here and all enjoying good health which is one of the best of gods blessings in consideration of which we have great reason to be thankful and we could not see the propriety of makeing a change at this time we have a cow and an acre and a half of land and we fat a Hog for ourselves we grow melons and Cucumbers in abundance in our garden and every thing that is grown in hot Houses in scotland is all raised in the open ground here we have not given up hopes of seeing you again we expect that you will come and live with us when we get a place of our own and Marry will come along with you we would be verry happy to have you live the remainder of your days with us We intend to buy a farm of our own when we leave Mr. Alyphant if we be as fortunate as we have been and blest with as good health as we have been hitherto. Renting farms is verry common here a great many old Country men prefer renting farms rather than buying new wood land it takes about as much money to go on to a farm of ninty acres cleard land to rent it as it would take to buy a hundred acres of rough new Land their is three Scotchmen that rents farms not far from here and are all doing verry well. Mr. Alyphant has let all his land his farm hands was all payed off on the first of april he has a coachman a gardner and myself Engaged by the year and he hires labourers by the day as he wants them he intends to have his place improved before he farm any himself again we are makeing a new kitchen garden and laying out pleasure ground is our general employment for as plenty as wood is in America we have planted fifty hundred trees this spring all imported from England Scotland and France, we have had a verry open winter little snow and not much cold weather, we have had a favourable spring so far. markets are pretty reasonable flour is five Dollars and a half per Barrel of fourteen stone. we get fifteen cents per pound for butter and twelve for Eggs. the Temperance cause is progressing rapidly here. the Demon alcohol is almost Banished from the place their is not more than one but

of fifty but what is members of the Total abstinence Society they are converting the most of the Tavern into cold water houses. I read a story in a newspaper that happened not far from selkirk not much to the credit of the place twenty fishers assembled at tweed Bridge on purpose for to give the water Balifs a Beating and they fell in with Mcgrigon and the galashiels constable and almost killed them there was thirty inches of cuts in Mcgrigon and the Galashiels Constable was almost killed. send us a scetch of the affray perhaps I may have been acquainted with some of the fishers. Their is no news of any importance since I wrote last every thing is going on smoothly only sometimes they talk about fighting the British they say the way that they will shoot them off will be a caution their army differs considerably from the British army I have seen Generals keeping Taverns and groceries and going round Lecturing on temperance and I have often seen Colonels and Captains going round looking for a Days work with their hoe over their shoulder. Be so good as to send us all the particulars, tell us where John and you intends to work this summer fill up the sheetDear

Father it gives me great pleasure to hear that you and Marry lives so comfortable together and it gives me great pleasure to look forward to the time when you and i will live comfortable together i never intend to return to live in Scotland again this country is so much better for any person that has got to work i have no desire for any thing but the society of my Friends and i expect to enjoy it in America

Marry you said if it had been a girl you would have fulfilled your promise but i am sure when you come and see my boy you will be sorry that you did not fulfill your promise he is a verry stout boy of...he is almost walking alone he is a great trouble to keep just now if i set him in the room to be out of my way he is at the fire side again before i can turn myself round he creeps all over the house he has his neb in every thing he resembles his Father in the face but he is fair haird he has got nine teeth my work keepes me pretty busy as my boy too as the troublesomes of time to keep now i have had considerable sowing for ourselves i wash every tuesday and Churn every friday. give my kind compliments to Isabella Brown and aunt Nanny and my uncle. give my compliments to Mrs Tretip send word if they have got any word from their friends yet send us word how Mr Robertsons folk is give my compliments to Jane Henderson give my compliments to Ann Nilol and tell her that her present has stood the test well but i have broke it at last marry you will send us word how little margaret is i ad no more but i expect you over to drink tea with us ere long Dear Brother you wrote in your last letter that you was going to astralia i connot say any thing

against you for all was against us where we came to America and i
have never had any reason to regret it yet Mrs Walker you will
send my word how you are getting along and your children as i
have found out that children are pretty troblesome i as no more
at present But Remains your affectionate Son and Daughter

Till Death J & M Douglas

[To ANDREW WALKER, MASON, IN Town And County of Skelkirk,
Scotland]

Mount Morris Decbr th6-1842

Dear

Friends I take this opportunity of writting to you to let you know that we are all well at present hpping this will find you all the same thanks be unto god for it. we received your letter on the 27 of October and was verry happy to hear that you was all well when it left you. we are situated about the same as we was when I wrote last I have been working for Mr Alyphant ever since and I intend to work for him all winter if I be well we still live in the same house and we have all enjoyed good health since. our house is very conveniently situated I come home every day to dinner and I have a little curley headed boy to welcome me we live verry comfortable with not only the miseries of life in abundance but the luxeries of life also. provisions are verry cheap this fall beef is one cent and a half per pound take a whole quarter together. pork is selling for ten shillings a hundred weight fat hogs of fourteen weight can be bought for one pound sterling. three year old bullocks good beef fit for killing can be bought for eight Dollars.... Wheat is selling for two and sixpence per Bushel British money. oats at seven pence per bushel. Our scotch friends that have rented farms here are like to be all but ruined. labour is so high and farm produce so low it will be as much as they can do to make through Mr Aliphant is buying all the wheat that he can get and storeing it up. he bought four thousand Bushels of oats the other week for ten cents a bushel he is the only man that is curculating money about this place he has built a splendid house for the Episcopal Minister and another for the presbeterian Minister. the public works are all stopped and money is verry scarce and employment is looking to be scarce this winter but the generality of the yankees dont care much about working in winter any more than they can help. the winter has set in a month earlier this season than it has done these two by gone years we never use to have much storm before the twentieth of December but we have had hard frost and snow since the 20th of November this year and all work in the ground stopped we have had afine cool summer what the yankes call a cold wet season we have suffered no oppression from heat whatever Mr Rome has had the fever and Ague but he has got Better again. we have had a marriage in our scotch settlement they were sweethearts in Annandale for three years they met here by accident and got married in a week after he had wrote home to Scotland for a wife at the same time but by good luck she never answered his letter. A great may of the old country girls entertain the idea that the Ladies is verry scarce in America. they think they could get husbands imediatly if they were here. but they are verry much mistaken. the Ladies are as plenty in every place in America that I have been as ever I saw them in scotland. and Ladies they are indeed their is nothing more that I can remember that is worth writting. Land is getting cheaper on account of farm produce being so low. the temperance cause is still going ahed. every man that withholds his influence from the

cause of temperance is looked upon as an infidel it is so intimately connected with Christs kingdom. Their is a new bankrupt law passed lately in Congress and since that their has avout 24 people broken down in Mount Morris and taken the benefit of it A labouring man can break here as well as the extensivest Merchant if he can only get deep enough in debt. the law allows a man that breaks down to keep three hundred Dollars worth of propery. Let me know how William Symington is getting along in america. let me know where Robert Chishom is now. let me know what Adam Lirton is doing give my compliments to JHames Brunton of sekirk mills he promised to write to me i believe he has forgot i wish you would bring him in mind of it. I believe I must stop here Margaret says that she wants all the other side to give Marry a blowing up

Ashburn November th10

1834 1843 1844 [original of this letter is not included]

Dear Friends

I take my pen in my hand to write to you to let you know that we are well hopping this will find you all the same you will no doubt be surpised at being so long in hearing from us the reason is this we left mount morris in aprile and came to wisconsin. I did not receive an answer to my last letter from you before I left and I left word with a friend at mt morris to get my letter and forward it to me as soon as it arrived at the post office and we kept waiting and expecting a letter every week untill we got out of patience and I wrote to an acquaintance at mt morris and he informed me that the man that was to forward my letter left the place soon after we did. and we have received no letter from you these sixteen months past we left mt morris the 18th of aprile and landed at milwaukee in seven days we came all the way by water we came on the canal to Buffalo Got a steam Boat at buffalo went up Lake Erie out of Lake Erie into Lake St Clair out of Lake St Clair into Lake Huron out of Lake Huron into Lake michigan wisconsin is a beautiful Country the land is rich and productive and the county is well watered their is thousands and thousands of acres of Land can be bought here and no timber growing on it for ten shillings an acre I have bought one hundred and sixty acres about thirty miles from milwaukee it is first rate Land and a beautiful stream of water running through it and plenty of sugar maple to make sugar but if we are spared next spring we mean to go in to it our neighbours here last spring made from five to twelve hundred pounds of sugar each besides, barrells of molasses and vinegar and sold all the sugar that they did not want for their own use for ten cents a pound and molasses for six shillings a gallon one gallon of it is worth two of the trakel that you buy at Selkirk. their is a good many scotch people here their is ten scotch families all within a few miles of us we have two scotchmen for neighbours their land joins mine and we have two Englishmen on another side the others ar yankes I like the yankes better than either scotch or english for neighbours their is a saw mill within half a mile of my house I can draw my own wood to the saw mill and have it sawed and draw

back my boards and have any quantity of lumber that I want for building purposes I have got a yoke of oxen and two cows I have got in eight acres of wheat this fall it looks very well I raised about a hundred and forty bushels of potatoes and some corn last season I did not expect to raise any thing it was late in the spring before we got settled I had to get a house built after we came here but we have got pretty comfortably settled now and nothing to do but to raise a living of our land it is all paid for and every thing that we have got is paid for and I think this is a very healthy Country we have all enjoyed very good health since we came here and our children also John is Learning to read and little Andrew is walking alone two months ago John says his Grandfather is coming from Selkirk and he is going to bring him a house and his land lies on the side of a public road there is people passing and repassing every day our nearest neighbour is within three hundred yards of us on the opposite side of the road we don't want neighbours any nearer Margaret is so much of a Yankee now that she likes the Yankees better for neighbours than she does the Scotch I expect that you will write as soon as you receive this letter it is so long since we heard from you we must write oftener or we will get more out of acquaintance I would like if you would send me a newspaper sometimes get a large sheet and fill it close up and send us everything that you think will be interesting there must have been a great many ups and downs about Selkirk since we left it will soon be five years Margaret was saying the other evening that when she looked back and thought about Selkirk it appeared like a dream to her There was a great storm at Buffalo about the middle of October the water rose in the lake about fifteen feet in twenty minutes and threw the ships out of the harbour onto the streets went into cellars and low houses and knocked down houses and destroyed property to the amount of five hundred thousand dollars I did not hear how many lives were lost. When I wrote last we did not intend to come to Wisconsin until the month of September but we thought that it would be too late in the fall and perhaps the cold weather would set in before we got settled Mr Aliphant wanted me to stay with him he never dreamed that I had any thought of leaving him he told me when I was coming away that if I did not like the Country or if I did not find things according to my expectations to come back to him again I should have my place again just as I left it

Dear

Father I am wearying very much to hear from you I never longed so much to hear from you all as I do now since we left we have got a place of our own now and I enjoy it very much you all told me that I was foolish to leave home but I have never had any reason to regret leaving home yet we have attained the object that we left home for now by long perseverance and industry I have got 2 fine little boys John is growing a big strong fellow he is very fond of his father Andrew is the prettiest little boy that you ever saw he runs round and plays all day long John and him takes a great deal of comfort together Dear Sister send

me word how you and your little boy is give my best respects to
Isabella Brow and all my old acquaintances Dear Brother I hope
you and your family are well I would like verry much to see you
all and I expect I will if we be all spared I ad no more but
Remains affectionatley yours J M Douglas

To: Mr. Andrew Walker, Mason, Town + County of SELKIRK,
SCOTLAND

Mount Morris Novber the 4 1843

Dear Friends

I received your friendly letter of the 11th of april and was verry happy to hear that you was all well when it left you I hope this will find you the same when it reaches you when I received your last letter I concluded on accusing you with neglect for being so long in writing but now I have as much reason to accuse myself. but circumstances alter cases. we have got an addition to our family and we concluded on waiting to know what the result would be before we would write we have got another boy the 16th of last month. he is a fine stout little fellow we have named him Andrew after his Grandfather at Selkirk. Margaret was pretty sick but she got smart again in two weeks we had a scotch girl two weeks a sister to Mr Rome and we got along verry well Johnney is verry fond of his little brother he can talk like an old man he says his grandfather and aunt marry lives at Selkirk. I have concluded on going farther west next fall and buying land we would have gone this fall had it not been that margaret was going to be confined the fall is the first of september and move west then it will take about a week to go where I intend and then I will have plenty of time to buy and get settled before winter sets in I intend to go to Wisconsin it is said to be as healthy a Country as their is in america and the land is of the first quality it is straight west from here Just the same Latitude of Mount Morris we should go along with us I would be proud of your society I do not think that you would find the climate the least disagreeable I have not had an hours sickness since I came to America and margaret has enjoyed as good health as ever she did in scotland and better and our Children has never had any sickness. their is a good many people going from this place to wisconsin one scotch family has gone that came out in the same ship with us I had a talk latley with a scotchman that owns a farm in wisconsin he had been all over Canada before he went there and he says that a man can do better in wisconsin with five hundred Dollars than he could do in Canada with a thousand Dollars. times is greatly altered for the worse since I came to mount morris money is not near so plenty and a great many of the working people has not been employed more than half their time this last summer their has a great many moved away from the place for want of employment it is not easy for a man to save money here if he has not steady employment summer and winter the winter is long and if he has good wages in summer and idle three or four months in winter it makes it small wages for the year round I flatter myself that I have been pretty fortunate when I see how others are situated I have wrought for Mr Aliphant all the time since I came here and my wages has never been altered but for the better. the markets is about the same as they were last year every thing in the way of clothing can be bought as cheap at Mount Morris as at Selkirk with the exception of broad Cloth and cotton Cloths are cheaper give my compliments to all inquiring aqaintances and write soon as we are anxious to hear from you it is so long since we had a letter

John I was happy to hear that you and your family was all well and that you had got another son let it be our constant aim to bring them up in the fear of god for on the habits established in youth greatly depends their after life write soon or come and bring the news yourself I shall be verry happy to see you you have about enough of sons now for America daughters is an unprofitable stock here but sons is the reverse I ad no more your Affectionatly James Douglas

Dear sister I am happy to hear that you are well and your little boy it gives my great pleasure to hear that you have gone back to our old dwelling many a happy day we have all spent in it and many a good example we have had set before us and may we not forget in our old age what was set before us in our youth. give my respects to Jean Henderson and let me know when they had word from America let us know when you had word from my uncles folks in america and send us their Direction give my Compliments to Mrs Tetip and send me word how they are all give our respects to aunt Nanny I was happy to hear of Margarets marrriage and that they were all well give my respects to Jean Mitchellhill and let me know how many children she has got. Dear Marry I am happy to hear that you and your family are all well health is one of the greatest blessings that we can enjoy we ought to be preserved among our little ones altho we are far from oneanother I still remember my old friends and acquaintances I have given up all thoughts of ever seeing my nation and again I feel quite at home here now the country and every thing in it is quite familiar to me now I have no desire for any thing but the society of my friends Dear Isabella I was sorry to hear of the death of your worthy father nothing has struct me more since I left home than hearing of his death I felt so sorry for your Mother to hear that she was bereaved of her worthy companion but the lord knoweth what is best I hope you will be a great comfort to your mother you have always been beside her give my compliments to Jessie I am greatly indebted to her for so many send letters as she has wrote to me since I came to America I had the pleasure of hearing from Hellen Emond the first Selkirk body that I have heard from in america she is married to an Englishman the name of Jackson and she has a young Jackson I ad no more but remains yours Affectionatly till Death J & M Douglas