

General Delivery P.O.
Brooklyn N.Y.
Feb 14 1903

My Dear Brother Tom.

I received your first letter I ever reced from you although I have written to you before but you always had Martha answer them; now you have given me quite a job to tell you my history for 30 years (supposing I give you 24 years as long as I have been in this country. in the first place I am an Engraver I got a job to come to where I left England to come to Meriden Conn. where my family is at the present time and never even out of it, when first I came out trade was pretty good. I worked off and on in the trade but Trade got bad in our line and then we had a Panic which crippled me entirely I had a nice house nearly paid for when they foreclosed on me I had 1200 dollars more to pay on it but had no friends to help me out so I lost it all. I was selling Welbach Lights for a long time I put up thousands of them then the Jews got hold of it and cut the prices so there was nothing in it, then I went to Philadelphia to the Keystone Watch Case Co. I worked there untill I was nearly blind I was there 1 1/2 years went back home doing most anything for an honest living I was on the road for an instalment house selling all kinds of household goods, Trainers Curtains, Clocks, Rugs, silverware, &c travelled all over Connecticut with a Mason and two men with me but there was nothing in that. I worked in Rhaway N.J. for a short time. then I went to Vermont for a short time then back home worked at a mill and places near home then I struck a job in Rochester N.Y. if I had known one of my nephews was in Toronto I could have gone to see him for \$1.25 I stayed in Rochester 8 months it was so bad for so much Rheumatism I was away from my Family 8 months I left there last May got a job in Brooklyn in a mail order business engraving flags it was a good job for a short while but now it is getting played out there are 8 of us and we have been on short time for several months, so what I shall do next the Lord only knows Engraving is very quiet and as you say we are all getting old, I only wish I had gone to Victoria when I got most of my things packed up after Martha paid us a visit I should have been out of this business I am sure there is more chance out there than there is in the New England States. I am so pleased to hear all the boys are doing well. that is more than I can say, I have got a Family of four two boys and two girls Francis the oldest was born in Eng she is married and got 2 girls 12 & 10 Donald is nearly 21 but got no trade did not like school for which he is sorry now Grace is 16 at home and Walter 13 going to school and likes it he is small and delicate one of twin the other twin a girl died, and Claria Maria my Wife is not strong she is suffering with Rheumatism has been for 3 months

2- you see I have been away from home more or less for
4 years and it really takes all I earn and more to keep two
homes going it is impossible to take them around with me
we are never certain how long our job will last if I only could
get into some business of my own my sight is not very good
I had a job offered the other day to go to St Louis Mo. but I was
afraid to take it for several reasons in the first place it was a long
way from home to leave the family another reason was I was
taken in the business 3 Sundays ago at night with Congestion
of the Brain which caused me to have a Paralytic Shock I lost
^{the use of} both legs they called the Ambulance and took me to the
Hospital I stayed there until I could walk a little then
I took the Car home to my room I was sick home all last
week but I am glad to say that this last few days I am feeling
better, so you see what it is to be away from home where
no one knows you am 100 miles away from home I am
ready to move from Meriden anytime anything turns
up I think my folks are really sick of it I cannot say
we have had any luck there this last 24 years I am no
better off than when I came, now I think I have given
you a good history of my life in America as you say I have
had lots of ups and downs but I think more downs than
ups. Now you want to know about the rest of the family
Well I sent a book of Views to Frank that is the only one I
knew the address of I had not heard from him for about
8 years so I got a letter I had asked him for the addresses

of the others so he sent me Donalds & Maria's
 I sent a Postal to each of them Maria I had not heard
 from for 23 years I also got a letter from her wanting
 to know all about myself and Family and also how
 old I am, she also asked me if I ever heard from Tom.
 Donald I have not heard from and Frank did not know
 anything about George & Alf is it not a shame such
 loving brothers, well I must tell you about Frank he has
~~had~~ his troubles he is a Councilman in Scarborough in the
 Real Estate Business but says things are quiet, well he tells
 me his wife has been in a Private Asylum for 2 years her
 brain became affected he does not think she will ever get over
 it, she was such a nice woman he says it nearly killed him
 Well Maria she also has her Troubles. They have retired from
 business they lost one Daughter 22 years old, one is married
 and 5 Children her husband happened in an Accident don't
 think he will get better and so they are living with them
 Maria has got Rheumatism, & Asnah also a Catarrack on
 her Eye which she thinks will blind her. Donald has got
 a good job in the Excise he has worked himself up so
 Frank says of course I don't know anything about Geo
 or Alf, a funny thing I had just answered both letters
 the day before I got yours so of course I will tell them all
 I know about you in the next. now I will give you

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the address of them all so you can correspond
Frank. Fletcher 102 Westborough. Scarborough, Eng.
Donald. Fletcher, 9 Esplanade West, Sunderland, Eng
Maria Fletcher, Oxford Villa Boston Spa, Yorkshire, Eng
My home Address is Chas. W. Fletcher Meriden Conn.

But the Brooklyn will find me when I go they will forward to me
Oh you wanted to know my age it is 54 last 13th of Jan I think
or Feb. I wrote to ask Maria's her and mine are both on the same
day. now about yours. Sons 56. Frank 58. Alf I think 60. Yours must
either be 62 or 64 there is a jump of two years somewhere I think it is
between you and Alf let me know will you then Geo must be 66
Maria 68. so you see there are not any of us Spring Chickens.
You did not mention anything about Martha how is she
I am living with some Glasgow people called Givin. Ask
the boys to send me some of their Photos if they have any
I have got a friend in Buffalo working in the Piano or Organ
Factory he is a Polisher his name is Immie from Meriden
working at Chases & Co I also am acquainted with them
now I think I have told you all. if there is any business
opportunities let me know or if you can suggest something
I have been the only support in my family and I tell you
it is pretty hard work. I am worrying a great deal things
are not panning out as they ought and this will be a quiet year
Presidential Election. Now write me a long letter and give my love to all
hoping you are all in good health from your loving brother Charlie