

Rio, May 7th 1894 (this is Rio, Wisconsin)

Couzin Thomas,

I will now answer your very kind and to me very welcome letter, one received a few days ago. I would have written you sooner but I was waiting to get my sister Nancy's address to send to you. So when I got the first letter from you, I was two hundred miles from here up in the Northern part of the state but your letter was forwarded on to me. I was up there visiting some friends from the old country, old neighbours lived there beside us. I did not calculate to stay only about a week when I left but they would not let me away. I came back the 17th of March.

Now the reason I had to get her address was this. Her and her husband had moved to Salt Lake from Omaha, Nebraska and lived there a while and moved back to Nebraska again. And while I was gone they moved back to Salt Lake again. She has two girls married that lives there and one boy.

Well Tom, I cannot tell you how I felt when I read your letter. It was such a good, kind letter and I am sure I feel very grateful for your very kind and encouraging letter. To make you a visit there is nothing would give me greater pleasure than to see you and your wife and family and I am in hopes I will see you yet. But it is impossible for me to go this Summer. But probably I might get away next spring or this winter. I wish you would find out what the fare would be from there to Minneapolis Minnesota or what is the name of the road that is running there. Is it the Northern Pacific or not.

Give my kind respects to your wife and all your family. And you may say to them that it may be that they might see the wild Irishman yet. You see I am getting along in years Tom. I was sixty years old the 19th of December last. But there is no one would take me to be so old. I was born on the nineteenth of Dec. 1833 so you can count it yourself.

My sister Mary that died last June had four children, two boys and two girls. The two girls are married and live here. They done well. The two boys they are telegraph operators. They work for the Chicago Milwaukee and Saint Paul Railroad Co. There is neither of them married.

Now Tom I ramble round a good deal but a letter addressed to Rio for me will always find me no matter where I am.

I will now give you sister Nancy's address. It is 352 State St., Salt Lake City, Utah. For Nancy Wilson you see her husbands name is John Wilson. He is her second husband and the first one died. Well Tom I must close. I do not know if you can read this scribbling. But make out what you can and guess at the remainder.

With kind love to your wife and family and except the same yourself. I remain your Couzin,

John McKenna  
the wild Irishman

Citation

Copy of letter is in the possession of Elaine Allred in Smithfield, Utah.