



Nelson Township, is a suburb of Hamilton

From Fittleton to Ontario

The following is a copy of a letter sent to his father, in respect of his state in America, by Thomas Kent who emigrated from Fittleton in November 1835.

Dear Father.

This comes with our kind love to you, hoping to find you all well, as it leaves us at present; we are landed safe and well pleased with the country; we had a very long passage, and was 9 weeks on the sea; I was not sick myself but Eliza was 3 weeks; Richard and James were very well. I have ten dollars per month, and my board, and a house to live in; Eliza can earn one dollar per week for plotting; I have my wages by cash; I mean to stop a twelvemonth here. I shall then go 160 miles farther on to buy land: can buy 100 acres for 25 dollars. I am 600 miles from Quebec, the same distance from New York. Wheat is one dollar and a quarter per bushel. Spirits is very cheap. Beef and Mutton 2d per lb; dried bacon 5d per lb. Linen about the same price as in England, flannel very dear.

Give our love to all our brothers and sisters. Give our love to Eliza's father and mother, brothers and sisters; tell them she is very happy; tell them we shall be happy to see them in this plentiful country. We want for nothing here. I shall be happy to see my father, brothers and sisters if you come - come by New York; we was three weeks coming from Quebec to Hambleton; if we had come by New York we should come in 5 or 6 days.

William Munday is one mile from us; we drinks tea together every Sunday. We are 42 miles from Niagara. Tell any one that want to come, not to delay the time: when you come bring some riphooks; you come as soon as you can: please let me know when you are coming.

A Tradesman can do well here: a carpenter has one dollar per day, and board; a blacksmith's wages is very high. A shoemaker can earn from 6 to 8 shillings per day and a labouring man's regular wages is £30 per year and his board.

When this comes please to let Eliza's mother see the letter. Tell William Munday's father and mother that they are all well, and well pleased with the country; tell them William is going to send in about a month. You direct to I, Thos Kent, Middle Road, township of Nelson near the head of Lecontreal, North America. Upper Canada.

Please give my best respects to Mr T Bates for the kindness; and likewise all the gentlemen of Fittleton parish.

I have no more to say at present, so here remains,

Your beloved Son

Thomas Kent

This is my own hand writing - Thos Kent, October 2nd 1836

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 1 December 1836

OPC Notes

Since Thomas mentions Mr. Bates and the gentlemen of the parish of Fittleton and that the date of this letter is 1836, it is possible that Thomas and his family were amongst the party of 14 paupers who were given assisted passage by the parish to Upper Canada between 1835-1837 as published in tables from the Poor Law Commissioners Annual Reports for the period. William Munday, also mentioned in the letter, may have been another of those assisted.

A marriage took place on 13 October at Netheravon of Thomas Kent of Fittleton and Eliza Carter of Netheravon - Could this be the Thomas Kent and Eliza named in this letter?