

Spring Creek Ovens
August 14th 1853 Diggins

My Dear Hannah, I wrote to you on the 10 July, Saent at that time the prosceeds of 15 oz Gold dust Which Will amount to nearly 70 when it ariveas which I hope will come Seafe to hand. I Saent it through Misters Gebb & Bright & Co, Leverpoole, Misters Stephen Wiggins and Son, St. John, NB or their agent. Thought it the Seafeist way to Saend it to you. I Saent instructions to theam to pay it oveal to you on your own appleycation which you will Se in My letor of the 10 July. (In the margin) Write to me as Seune as you get this.

The Browns got a letor from the Fathear which states you have moved to Fredericton. I hope it is four the best and if you Can due (do with?) a Small Seafe Bank thear lat me know and I will Saend you mouny aneff to pute

(Page 2) you Squeeze through if you Can mak a bank pay. I hav now abought two hundred pound on hand beSeids what I Saent to you Run no more risk thean you Can help.

All thought a man can get a large Seome of mouny in a Shourt time; it is not without the hardest of Woard. I neveur Woark so hard in all my life as I have Seanes I come to the Diggins and those that knew me in NB would think I had some small knowledge of it befoure I left. Thank God I have the best of health. Hope in a yeare or two to be able to return home with aneff to keep me the remandeur of my life without woarking as hard as I hav here to for I bebound you what I get now I will keep.

(Page 3) Ask what eveal mouny you may Wount to Carry on any Seafe bank. You Can have it at Wonce.

The Climmot here is butifull. This is the last Wintear mounth. We have had a good deal of Wet through Winter but vary mild. It is geting now quite dry. The Diggins will last to all apearances for the twenty years to come & I mene to hav a puty good pile befour I Come home if my health keepe as good as it has ben. Seanes I arived

thear is nothing to hindred any one here to make a good pile in a Shourt time if he has a mind to Sich (stick?) to woark.

Three out of the nomber came out in the Brig is dead, a young Man by the name of Troot, [one] Back of the long reach, and By the Name of Anroull valley paurr. (parish) of St John

(Page 4) All the Rest are well. The two Browns & Davis are in the best of health & so is Hazen & Scoullar

Give my love to all my Children. I need not tell you that I would like to Se you all. Nothing would afourd me moure plasure thean to Se you all well agan. It was for that I left you all, for a time Croust the Blue Wave, 16 thousand miles. Some of my kind frnds [are] pleased to Sa I was Cruale in liveng my family poure-drouns. Thaey think that I have no felings but I Can tell thaem that I have a Husband felings, a Fathear felings and a manly feling which promp me on to get rad of the feteurs of poveurty that has bond me and my family down so long. With the help of God in a year or two We Shall be able to pute them undear our feet.

Yours un ted

James Sutherland

To Hannah Orcutt Sutherland

In this copy sentence and paragraph divisions have been added. Spelling has also been changed when a word spelled as he did has taken on a different meaning today. Examples are his 'four' meaning 'for', 'cane' meaning 'can', 'now' for 'no' and 'beast for best'.

Spelling was largely phonetic before dictionaries were common and before schooling beyond the early grades was available to all.

That being so, the extra vowels in this letter seem to convey the sounds of Scotland that were brought to America by the Scottish soldiers. The language back then must have been similar to that of Robert Burns, who began pouring forth what he called "aye rowth o' rhyme" in the late 1700s. Recall "Auld Lang Syne" (Old Long Since), "Scots Wha Hae" (Scots Who Have), and verses like "O wad some Power the giftie gie us, To see oursels as other see us!" By the mid-1800s the language had changed but the accent and lilt were still there.