

“Letter from Thomas L. Moffat to his sister, Marion”

December 1893

Weston, York County, Ontario

My dear sister, Marion:

I wish you the merriest of Christmases and apologize for being so long in writing. So many things have happened, I hardly know where to begin.

As you know, our stove manufacturing business has been doing extremely well. It was however, getting too costly to deliver our product. We needed to move the foundry closer to the major markets and so we began looking for a new location.

As it happens, after seeing our show at the Canadian National Exhibition a Mrs. Lyon of Weston bought one of our stoves. Shortly after, we received a letter saying the stove was not working. We immediately sent one of the boys to deal with the problem. As we suspected there was nothing wrong with the stove, it was just installed wrong. Mrs. Lyon was so impressed with our boy that she invited him to dinner and then introduced him to several leading businessmen from the town. You will never guess who were willing to be shareholders in our venture; none other than William Tyrrell, father of J.B. Tyrrell, who is a famous Canadian explorer and geologist and Frank Fleming, son of Sanford Fleming. (I vow that man deserves a knighthood for his invention of Standard Time.) As I write this letter, construction of the new foundry is finished and in full operation.

I ask you Marion, how could we not move to Weston, what with the tax free concessions the town was willing to give us, the fact that the area is served by the Grand Trunk and the CPR railroads and the generous private citizens willing to help pay for the building of our new factory?

It took us four days to move all of the household goods, patterns, tools and machinery but we are now happily in residence at Dennison Road. All indications show that the Weston citizens are open and inviting. I know for a fact that they were awaiting our arrival with anticipation, to the point where some were sorely upset when we were delayed. A few letters to the Weston Times, the local newspaper, have shown thus, although just as many have been written in reply defending our predicament.

We anticipate a long and happy (not to mention prosperous) association with the town and it's people. Elizabeth has already started to meet the ladies of the community and we have attended a number of services at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Apparently the minister has a number of comely daughters and now that our boys have reached a marriageable age she is imagining all kinds of possibilities.

Well, I have to go now, Marion. Elizabeth, Bessie and the boys send their regards.
As ever, your loving brother,

Thomas L. Moffat

If you are interested in hearing just how the Moffat family fared after their move to Weston, come to the June 2, 2004 Weston Historical Society meeting. Bob Moffat will be giving a talk on the "Moffats of Weston". Westminster United Church, 69 William Street, 7:30 p.m.

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