

Letters from Ireland: found by William Joseph Keenan on 5/1/2002 in a folder kept by his father, William Michael Keenan. The original documents were transcribed and edited by William Joseph Keenan, Mary Margaret Keenan and Sue Ann Keenan in February, 2003.

Seventh Letter

Date: 5/19/1910

From: Michael J. Brett, Number 23 Parliament St., Kilkenny

To: William Crolly Keenan

Notes: This is a letter written by a friend who lives in Kilkenny, the area where Mary Britt, his wife, lived as a girl.

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Dear William,

You must excuse me for not writing to you before this time. I hope you and Mary (Mary Britt Keenan) and family are all well. I was surprised to hear you were going back to Chicago again. Mary must have forgot how to make the double band (a dressmaking or medical bandage reference). I was in hospital myself for 5 weeks with a very bad cold on the chest.

I wrote a letter previously, you must not get it. I hope you got the Kilkenny People (local paper). I sent it when I came out of the hospital. All the old neighbours are dead.

Mrs. Lanigan and Mick and all her children but four and Ned Hackett are gone. There is not a sign of a Brennan or Lanigan in Black Mill now. Mr. and Mrs. Brennan are living in Kilkenny with large house property.

I hope this letter will find you. I am going to ask you if Father Keenan is in Ireland? There is a Father Keenan in Newbridge, County Kildare, who belongs to the Dominican order.

I am sincerely sorry for not writing, as I was not away or in fact not working.

Yet, Mrs. Brett is the best friend I have in the world. I suppose the bit of money is a thing of the past. I have no more to relate, wishing you and all, the best of luck.