

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to George Sanders, August 14, 1911, with transcript

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THOMAS SANDERS. Sanders, George drawer b Copy of a letter-press copy of a letter written by ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL to George Sanders. August 14, 1911. Mr. George T. Sanders, 7212 Germantown Avenue, Mt. Airy, Philadelphia. My dear George:

I have not the heart to reply to your note of August 5 after the shock of your telegram about your father's death. I begin to feel very old. There is hardly anyone left of all the friends with whom I was so intimate in 1872 when you as a area little fellow five years of age, came into my life. You are about the last remaining link connecting me with those happy Salem days when your dear Grandmother was alive. I often look back and think of those times with a feeling of regret that I have so rarely been able to come in personal touch with the members of your family.

Your mother must have passed away during one of my absences from the United States. I knew nothing about it until long afterwards; and now your father's death comes as a great shock. He was not only a dear personal friend but the first in the world to take practical interest in the telephone and helped me out. He and Mr. Hubbard together assumed all my financial liabilities for experimental work on the telephone and organized the first telephone companies. As a matter of fact your father was the first to associate with me in this work and we took in Mr. Hubbard afterwards.

I am very sorry that I could not have been present at the funeral in Boston to show my respect for your father's memory; but the distance was so great and the time of notification was so short that I found it would be impossible to get there in time.

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Believe me I do sympathize with you all very sincerely. It is too bad 2 that I so seldom come in contact with any members of the family. Now that the older generation have passed away I wish I could meet again some of the little children I remember so well. What has become of Nat and Mary and I wonder whether they remember me still and ever speak of me to their children. It must be a great comfort to you to have your wife and children with you now. You are not alone and have their personal sympathy in this hour of trial.

I received the copy of the Silent Worker you sent and have read with much interest your wife's account of how she educated the children. It is a noble instance of a mother's love acting under circumstances of the great difficulty. When I look at the picture of your children I begin to realize that I am an old man. The little babies are practically full grown women. I wish I could meet them now. Please give my best love to Lucy and to the children, and believe me,

Your affectionate friend, Alexander Graham Bell.