

Mr. Skipswith Henry

Dear Sir

Monticello Dec. 26. 1789.

Our voyage from Hors d'œuvre was pretty easy. I determined at Mrs Carr's to divide the remaining part equally into two days by coming to the Byrd ordinary. a wretched place indeed we found it: but we could not have got up by any other division without the danger of lying in the woods. from there we came with your horses 15. miles to the stone quarry where my waggon horses met us, & relieved yours. The three-wheeled road is so deeply cut by the waggons, and continues to grow so much worse daily, that you must of necessity change your route. I would not derange a settled plan but that I see the absolute impossibility of your reaching Monticello in one day from the Byrd or any other house whatever. I have spoken to young J. Nicholas. he says he expects that you will always come by his house that there is now no inconvenience, as he keeps now a boat in James river as well as in Slate river. he has written to his father to expect you the 29th of January, and on the 30th my horses shall meet you where my road leaves the main fork road about 9 miles from here. it is thereabouts there begin to be some little hills we are all well. give our love to Mrs Skipswith & the young people & accept assurances of the attachment of
your affectionate friend & son

Mr. Skipswith.

W. Jefferson

Henry Withers

Dear Sir

Monticello Dec. 26. 1782

Our voyage from this morning was most easy.
 I determined at our last, to divide the remaining
 part equally into two days by coming to the Pope's
 camp. a mistake here indeed we found it: but we
 could not have got up by any other division without
 the danger of being in the woods. For there we came
 with your horses 12 miles to the store house where
 my waffer horses met us, & relieved yours. The three
 waffer horses is so deep, cut by the waffer, and
 continues to grow so much more deep, that you
 must of necessity change your route. I would not
 have a better plan but that I see the probability
 of your reaching Monticello in one
 day from the Pope's or any other place whatever.
 I have spoken to young P. Willson. He says he
 expects that you will always come by his house
 that there is no inconvenience, as he keeps a
 a boat in his own house as well as in that
 he has written to his father to expect you the 27th
 of January, and on the 30th. my horses shall meet
 you there and you shall leave the main fort about 9 miles
 from here. It is therefore here begin to be some little
 we are all well. Give our love to our children & the young
 people & accept assurances of the attachment of
 your affectionate father
 Henry Withers

Henry Withers