

Coppy of Mrs Martha Washburns letter
Cambridge Jan^y the 31-1776

My Dear sister

I have wrote to you several times in hopes that would put you in mind of me, but I find it has not had its intended effect I am realy very uneasy at not hearing from you and have made all the excuses for you that I can think of but it will not doe much longer if I doe not get a letter by this nights post. I shall thank myself youe forgiveness by all my friends. The distance is so long yet the post comes in very regularly every week. The General myself and Jack are very well. Nellys sister is I hope getting well again and I believe is with child I hope noe accident will happen to her in going back - I have not thought much about it yet - yet knows where we shall be I suppose there will be a change soon but how I cannot pretend to say - a few days ago General Clinton and several companies

sailed out of Boston harbor, for what
place distant for we cannot find out
Some think to Virginia he is gone others
to New York - they have been kept in
Boston so long that I suppose they will
be glad to seek for a place where they
may have more room as they cannot
get out of the way here but by water
Our Nancy has been very successful
in taking their vessels two was taken
last week loaded with coles and
potatoes wares and several other articles
for the use of the troops. If General Clive
ton is gone to New York General Lee is
there before him and I hope will give
him a warm reception - he was sent there
some time ago to have matters put into
proper order in case ^{any} disturbance
should happen as there are many
foes in that part of the world
or at least many are suspected to
be very unfriendly to our cause at
this time - winter here has been
remarkably mild - The snow has
never been frozen hard enough

to walk upon the ice since I came
here. My dear sister be so good
as to remember me all inquiring friends
give my duty my mama and love to
my brothers and sisters Mr Bassett your
Dear children and self in which the
General Jack & Kelly joins me

I am Dear Nancy your
very affectionate sister

Martha Washington
To Mr Bassett

Eltham
Marlbourn Feb 27 - 1852

My dear Charles

~~I have copied the~~
above letter for you, from Mr Kuffon's
book of old letters. There is a curious
old document among these old letters
a petition - I will just give you an
extract from Mr Kuffon's volume of it
The following petition fragments of a
your petition are all the remains
of a subject of our revolutionary history
which is known now to very few persons

I found ^{the petition} among the papers of my
deceased grand father Edward Kuffen
I have heard more of the circumstances
from my father George Kuffen who was
16 years old when it occurred during the
time of the greatest depression in Virginia
1781 this petition was brought forward
and offered publicly for signatures and
it is a fact that it was signed by numerous
persons many respectable and some highly
standing. The purport of the petition was
that Virginia should make peace with
England on the terms proposed. An
Arche Robertson seems to have been the
prime mover - Mr Kuffen thinks old
Mr Alison might possibly know some
thing about this matter - and would be
glad if you would ask the old man &
find out who were the signers it is said
there were 40 - I will say no more
about this old matter - Mr Kuffen says
I must tell you he will be glad to see you
here any time - Give much love to
Anna & the dear Anthony, I saw ~~one~~
Ray she asked so kindly after you
Your most affectionate
father