

Williamsburgh Dec: 31st 1776.

My Dear,

I arrived here in health the 26th Inst: about
2 days after came in the last detachment of our
Battalion the most of them in good health,
Our destegration is not yet determined on, Tho:
believe we shall be divided Two Comp^{ys} to remain
here & the rest sent to Hampton with whom I
expect it will be my lot to go ~~which~~ which indeed is
my choice, at this place nothing is done but
mounting guards to protect what seems to me
hardly worth our notice & there some of Dunmore
Tenders are frequently to be pick'd up,
I am at present in a state of suspense, The Convention
is about raising six new Regiments of Regulars
at the completion of which the Minute plan will be
abolished, whether I am to be continued in the place
I now hold in the regular Service is uncertain.
Numerous are the applications, & the Convention
seems ~~very~~ ^{very} desirous of serving either themselves
their Sons, Cousins or Friends, which makes my
appointment very doubtful, this matter I
expect will be fix'd in Two or three days,

However this matter may be determined, I do not expect
to be up till the Spring, as I cannot leave the Battalion
till they are discharged as Minute men, several of the
members of the Convention have enquired of me whether
I would chuse to be continued in the place I now hold
in the regular service, which I have answered in
the affirmative, the desire I have of being instrumental
in the relief of my Country outweighs every other Consider-
ation, tho' I confess I wish the Point settled & that I should
spend the remainder of my days in my family.

I've nothing to write you that I expect will be news or
what you'd not find in the News paper which I have ordered
the Printer to send up, We have had frequent Accounts
in Town of the Firing of Cannon about Norfolk for
three or four days last past which occasioned many
Conjectures but last night we learn the Ships were
only firing & mass Guns, which they did for three days
successively, I should have had a poor Stomach for
such noise were I in their situation which must be
depressing ~~by~~ every one. I can gather, Indeed I
have from very good authority that L^d. Dunmore has
been drunk & they say mad ever since his defeat
at the Great Bridge, his Conduct & fate is enough to make
any man so, he has now on board & under his protection
a Number of men Women & Children whose behaviour

made them think it dangerous staying on shore &
obliged to send to our Officers begging provision &
firewood, We have here a Goal full of Tories & Negroes
taken as prisoners & hear there is on the road a
great many others coming up from Norfolk under
a Guard commanded by Capt. Johnston, how these
people are to be disposed of cannot yet be known,

From the best Aus.^{ts} I can get the troops, Peyton & Valley
are at Norfolk & will thro' have no certain intelligence
it is distant from here 100 miles, I hope to have the
pleasure of hearing from you as often as you can,

Direct your letters to me at Hampton, to the care of Mr.
Burdie in Williamsburg, ^{they} may come by the Post,
Remember me to the Children my brother & Miss Mary
& believe me to be

Y^r loving Husband

Levin Powell,

December 31st 1776

Mr. Sarah Touché

London 60th