

My dear

Hampton Feb: 4th 1776.

I have now before me your three several fav^r ~~Letters~~
the 3^d 9th & 13th which I rec^d wth Mr. Combs & Mr. Tyler with pleasure
I've been uneasy at not hearing from you for some time & could
not conceive the reason as you might at any time have an
opportunity by post

In your first letter I hear of the loss of Mans Chisel, I am sorry
for the accident but Gods will be done, there probably has
been some carelessness in this, but not designedly

The papers which you mention left by Mr. Keys I think had
better not be sent for fear of accidents, I suppose them to be
Bills of Exchange

I am much surpris'd at Capt. Brownough's not having
his money paid him long before the date of the letter, Col.
Peyton promised me he w^d do it immediately ^{on his}
return from Williamsburg, I should have sent
Dumpeit, but his not meeting us as payson
much pinch'd for Cash for traveling expens^e
Colt Hendricks does accept of his Commission
what I did not believe when I wrote you wth
to him, I am well pleas'd he does & look soon
persuade him to it, but as to my taking his
more than I know of at present or wish, I
serve in the place I now hold with good suc^{cess}
our men rais'd higher.

When I shall be relieved ^{from} here I cannot tell it depends
on the raising the New Troops & the force of the enemy
I still expect it will be some time in March but this
is conjecture, don't expect me until you see me

By your 3^d letter I am inform'd of the Childrens being
sick, but am glad to find you say in the same they are
getting better, they I hope will recover it, I have confidence

in god that I shall find you all hearty on my return,
The greater part of our Battalion have enlisted into the regular
Service, I think we have of Minute men not over 82 remaining
Capt. Garrison has left I think but five,
Our having so few Minute men here is one reason why I think we
shall soon be relieved, & hereafter we shall have no Occasion to
go farther than Alexandria, where in all probability an
Attack will be made ere long.

Since my last letter to you we have been honoured in this Neighbourhood
with ~~the~~ the Comp. of great men, General Clinton & Lord Powden
from Boston with what Number of Forces is as yet a Secret, came in
Hampton road eight days ago,

Thursday last I had the Pleasure of conducting the Honble Genl. Cosby
Esquire on Board the Roc. Buck Ship of War, Commodore Hammond
Commander, at the head of a Flag of truce, where I had the honour
of Breakfasting on the best Ayson Tea, with the Commodore, Genl.
Dunmore, the other Lord & several Gentlemen Officers,
received & treated with great Politeness by the whole.

The moment I discovered an inclination to go,
some difficulties to encounter before we got to this Ship
two Ships of War, the Mercury & Kingfisher, three
boats & several Tendons to pass by before we got to her,
one from hence about 10 mile, the Commanders of some
Vessels treated us but roughly, & was boarded & brought to
me,

mention the un civil treatment recd of some of these Vessels
cannot help observing, the very different conduct of one of the
others, viz^t the Kitty Transport, On Board of this Vessel I saw
about 12 or 15 Officers, the most hospitable kind people I ever
met with, it seemd as if nothing would make them happier than
making us so, in short their treatment was so exceeding kind &
Polite, that it induced me on my return to send them a present
by another Flag of 20 bushels of Oysters 30 loaves of Bread a goose &

Turkey, being such things as I understood they were most in want
of, It grieves me to see men of such Sentiments as these engaged
in such a Cause,

I forgot to inform you that I was accompanied with the Flag of truce
mentioned above by Capt. Decker, Capt. Fitzgerald & Doct. Griffith &
was much pleas'd with the Voyage.

Whether Genl. Clinton intends to strike a stroke here or go farther
I cannot tell, but from every thing I could gather ^{of} the ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{board},
their destination is, one of the Carolinas, however we keep
a very good look out here,

My Mother writes me the latter has run away & desires to know
whether he is to give up the Hatts which was left in the Shop,
I would by no means keep from a man what was his own, it would
be difficult however to know who these Hatts were made for, the
Hatter had wool from me to make 800 gatts, if they had
been recd. the probability is, that, that many of them
out of my wool, at any rate I ought not to be the only

It can be no great inconvenience for the people to wait
return which I expect is not far off, I will therefore
Justice, I am sorry to hear of Genl. John Miscon
as much when I left home, I shall fully depend on him
my affairs to the best advantage & in the same manner
for himself as well with the Miller as the Overseer, I
he will excuse ^{me} for this trouble as well as for my not
which he will consider is owing to the want of pay, &
not to be had here,

You mention your Mother's Illness, & that you can't leave home to see her
I should be sorry any thing would prevent your going, you being absent
from home a fortnight could Occasion no great loss ^{in consequence} if
it does, it should not be considered on such an Occasion, you ought to go,
I will excuse this rough draught, it's wrote in a hurry & not paper
to make a fair Copy, You will however consider me

Y^r Loving husband
Leven Powell

February 24th 1776

To

Mrs Sarah Saville

in

Deedum

delivered by Mr
Combs J.