

Dear Major

College Camp 8<sup>th</sup> July 1776

You were rightly informed when you was told that you were ordered to Carolina. The 6<sup>th</sup> Regt. had actually marched to James town & we were to have followed yesterday, but on Sunday ~~morning~~ an Express arrived countermanning us. What has occasioned it is not certainly known: A report is circulating that several of Clintons Transports were driven ashore in a Gust & that he was killed & his Troops cut off. This has not been yet contradicted. Several People from N: Carolina say that Letters were rec<sup>d</sup>. those from Charles town confirming it. However, we may conjecture thus much, that our affairs to the Southward are in a flourishing way, <sup>of</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup>. Lee would not have sent back the Troops. The N: Carolina Troops are likewise returned.

A Great Change has happened, since I wrote you, in the Destination of the Troops. Hampton, York, James town & the Post at Burwell, Ferry are

occupied by the 1300 Minded Minute Men lately  
raised. The C<sup>o</sup> is gone to the Old Camp at Spring  
field - 6 Companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Comp<sup>y</sup> of the 2<sup>d</sup>  
are to march for Guins Island to Morrow, where  
Col Stevens is to command. We are to remain here  
till further Orders. Gen<sup>l</sup> Lewis, Col<sup>l</sup> Woodford  
Stevens - Buckner Christian & Weedon set off for  
Guins Island this Morning - An attack is intended  
if practicable. Lord Dunmore has been reinforced  
by 200 Tories from the Eastern Shore of Maryland  
- They are exceedingly troublesome in that Quarter  
- Col<sup>l</sup> Fleming has been obliged to march with  
part of his Reg<sup>t</sup> against them & has quieted  
them. 103 Barrels of Powder & some other Re-  
cessarys are certainly arrived at the Eastern Shore  
for the Continent. I saw the Letter to the Coun-  
cil confirming it. More is shortly expected and a  
very good Correspondence settled for further sup-  
plies. Our Delegates from Congress assure us  
publickly that Independance would be declared  
in form the 1<sup>st</sup> of this Month. But I suppose  
you

will have it confirmed before you'll receive this.  
A Gentleman in Town, from Philad<sup>a</sup>, told me this  
Day that he ~~heard~~ <sup>heard</sup> Mr. Chau declare in Convention  
at Annapolis, that a Gentleman then present in the  
Convention (who holds a Member) had, of his own free  
will, made a Visit to France & Spain & that he  
had a assurance from those Courts that they would  
enter into Alliance & a Treaty of Commerce with  
America whenever she would declare herself  
Independant: What think you of that Major.  
Gov<sup>r</sup> Henry is very Ill - I saw him Morning &  
am much afraid he will not stay long to enjoy  
those Honors which his Country has deservedly  
heaped upon him. Col<sup>l</sup> Marshall arrived  
Yesterday with the Companies from Alexandria  
who with the rest of the Reg<sup>t</sup> are in General,  
very Healthy. I have only to add that I am,  
with great Truth, Yours, Very affectionately  
D. Griffith  
Who is to be your Senator?

Please to forward the Enclosed to Mrs. G.  
as soon as you can.

Pratt  
July 28 1776