

Lucy Knox to Henry Knox, May 1, 1777

Image

To Mrs K *MS. A. 9. 2. 55* *1745 III-164 a*
Brookline April 31st 1777
May 1st
My dearest dear friend
(663)
In what words shall I convey an idea to my dear Harry how
dear he is to me, or how much I want to see him - unless indeed we must not live
at all - I am not happy - and that I am sure will make my H -
join with me my love, in humble gratitude to him who hath preserved your
Lucy, and her sweet babe, and thus far carried them thro' the small pox - in person
~~was~~ ever more highly favored than I have been since it came out - but before for
three days - I suffered exceedingly - I have ^{more than} five hundred of them - twent in my
face - which is four times as many as you tell me have - but I believe none of
them will leave a mark - Lucy has but one - and has not had an ill hour
with it - but hers and mine have turned - and are drying away - and now for
a jaunt to New Britain - what hinders my coming with I don't know - only think my
love - of his being absent all this time - he writes me he has no prospect of
returning - nor as to I know - how to manage upon my return - Mrs Tom
(who prevailed upon my companion to take him back) has visited - nor is there
a man to be hired under 20 dollars a month - Boys are not to be had - as they
can earn much more by working in the ports - and standing ^{less} occasional centry
in short I am in a very disagreeable situation - and unless you will take
me under your wing - I know not what will ~~be the consequence~~ become of me
I thank you ten thousand times for your kind letters, copies of which
I have received - but alas - not one encouraging word of meeting soon

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(The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC02437.00582 p. 1)

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Transcript

[draft]

Brookline April 31st 1777 –

My dearest dear friend –

In what words shall I convey an idea to my Harry how dear he is to me or how much I want to see him – indeed indeed we must not live so – I am unhappy – and that I am sure will make my H – so –

join with me my love, in humble gratitude to him who hath preserved your Lucy and her sweet babe: and thus far carried them thro the Small pox – no person [*struck: were*] [*inserted: was*] ever more highly favored than I have been since it came out – but before for three days – I suffered exceedingly – I have [*inserted: more than*] two hundred of them – twenty in my face – which is four times as many as you bid me have – but I believe none of them will leave a mark – Lucy has but one – and has not had an Ill hour with it – both hers and mine have turned and are drying away – and now for a jaunt to Morristown – what hinders my coming with Peter – only think my love of his being absent all this time – he writes me he has no prospect of returning soon nor do I know how to manage upon my return – [Munson?] (who prevailed upon my compassion to take him back) has inlisted – nor is there a man to be hired under 10 dollars a month – Boys are not to be had as they can earn much more by working in the forts – and standing ocasional centrys in short I am in a very disagreeable Situation – and unless – you will take me under your wing I know not what will [*strikeout*] become of me

I thank you ten thousand times for your kind letters eaight of which I have received – but alas – not one encouraging word of meeting soon [2] I must describe the place I am in at present – it is called an officers room and is to be sure some degrees better than the common ones – when I first came which was last Wednesday – it was enlightened by one chearful window of about 2 foot square – but it was glass – there were two others of boards which were some bigger – neither clabboards upon the outside nor plaistering within – but a few rough plank was my gaurd from the weather – which answered very well when the wind was calm – two soals of old showes served for hinges [*struck: upon*] the door on which was cha[lked?] – the cloven footed gentleman upon his head – in short I was never so horror struck in my life – but

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presuming upon my connection with the military sent for the barrack master who gave orders that the carpenters should obey my directions by which means I am much more comfortable –

I have no glass but from the feel of my face I am almost glad you do not see it – I dont beleive I should get one kiss – and yet D^r tells me it is very becoming [he?] the D^r. has been very kind and attentive for which I desire you will write him a letter of thanks – and not call me by the formal name of M^{rs} K – I want an answer to a very saucy letter I wrote you before I was sick by a M^r Spooner – wherein I returned you a part of one of yours – for an explanation – what you meant by it I cannot [*strikeout*] tell – unless it was to rally me upon a subject which is too delicate to be played with – I have just come from a scene my Harry which has roused my very soul – in gratitude to my bountiful benefactor [3] a man who was inoculated at [*inserted: or about*] the time I was lay in the last agonies his pock proved the purple sort – and he poor soul must die – his brother had just arrived from his wife, who was near laying in – and very impatient for his return – and as a proof of her affection – had sent him some good things such as he might venture to eat – he sent for M^r Gardiner (who is in the next room to me) to make his will – and I had curiosity to go – he is just now dead – what a stroke will it be to that poor miserable woman – but oh my God my own situation will not bear reflection – how do I know to what the dear partener of my Soul is at this minet exposed – indeed my Harry I am serious, I cannot live at this distance from you – what has become of Springfield – have you no prospect you sure are not indifferent about it – if you are you are greatly altered since

You parted from your

LK

[*docket*]

M^{rs}. Lucy Knox

Apr: 31st 1777

Notes: Dated 31 April, likely meaning May 1st