

Lucy Knox to Hannah Urquhart, April 1777

Image

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1776 *1776* *June?*
Prob. number 26
Answer to her sister's in Hannah's register

The very sincere & tender affection that I entertain for you
my dear sister induces me to write you at this time, notwithstanding the great neglect with which
I have been treated both by you and my dear Mama - to her I wrote several times during the
Siege of Boston - but never obtained a line in answer - a circumstance that surprised
and grieved me not a little - where she is now I know not - I am not only deprived of father
mother & sister - but also denied the satisfaction of hearing of their well fare
you I am told are at Halifax - if you are it is probable this may reach you - and if
it should I beg of you to give me a particular account of my friends - and relations
as Capt August with you
is your little boy living - is he well - where is my brother - when did you hear
from him - is Sally married or not - I much wish to know all these particulars
for my father and Mother I entertain the most Dutiful and tender affection - and in
paternal love ~~we~~ are not behind hand - therefore am greatly interested in
the above particulars - my dear Henry is well - he my dear sister is as when
you knew him, the best and tenderest of friends, never were two persons more happily
united than we - *born Dec 26 1776* We have a lovely little girl - of whom I fear I have the honor
she is very like her grandmother - she looks exactly like ^{our} Mama - who I hope
will one day see her - she will love her I am sure she will - I am going at last
to take the small pox more for the sake of my little Lucy than myself - the
Army and the Country in general having been inoculated, will make it
dangerous for me to go from home without knowing how to do it - and in the
present state of things I wish to be in such a situation - that I can go to all
parts of America without danger - my Henry is not much at home and

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(The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC02437.09891 p. 1)

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Transcript

[draft]

The very sincere or tender affection that I entertain for you my dear Sister induces me to write you at this time, notwithstanding the great neglect with which [*inserted*: I think] I have been treated both by you – and my dear Mama – to her, I wrote several times during the Siege of Boston – but never obtained a line in answer a circumstance that surpris'd and grieved me not a little – where she is now I know not – I am not only deprived of father mother Brother & Sisters but also denied the satisfaction of hearing of their welfare. you I am told are at Halifax – if you are it is propable this may reach you – and if it should I beg of you – to give me a particular account of my friends and relations –

is your little Boy – living – is he well – [*struck*: where is my Brother] [*inserted*: is Cap^t Urquhart with you] when did you hear from him [*inserted*: my Brother] – is Sally married or not – [*inserted*: where is she.] I much wish to know all these particulars for my father and Mother I [*struck*: love with] [*inserted*: entertain] the most Dutiful [*struck*: and tender] affection – and [*struck*: with] [*inserted*: in] fraternal [*struck*: love &]] am not behind hand – therefore am greatly interested in the above particulars [*inserted*: the answer to the above Querys] – my dear Harry is well – he my [*struck*: dear] Sister is as when you [knew] him, the best and tenderest [*inserted*: of] friends, never were – two persons more happily united than we – we have a lively little girl, of whom I fear I [*inserted*: we] [are too] [*struck*: fond] she is very like her gran mama – She looks vastly like [*inserted*: our] Mama – who I hope will one day see her – she will love her I am sure she will. I am going at last to take the small pox – more for the sake of my little Lucy than myself the Army and the country in general having been innoculated will make it dangerous for me to go from home without haveing had it – and in the present state of things I wish to be in such a situation – that I can go to all parts of America without danger. my Harry is not much home – and [2] I do not like to from him – oh my Sister, how horrid is this war, Brother against Brother – and the parent against the child – who were the first promoters of it I know not but god knows – and I fear they will feel the weight of his vengeance – tis pity the little [*struck*: while] [*inserted*: time] we have to spend in this world – we cannot [*strikeout*] enjoy

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ourselves and our friends – but must be devising means to destroy each other – the art of killing has become a perfect science – that man is most esteemed who has the best knack, at destroying the human species – in our juvenile days my Hannah we little thought – this Barbaras art would so soon have reached America – but [*inserted: alas*] her fruitfull fields [*struck: have become the scene*] of war [*struck: and destruction*] [*struck: Battles rapes*] been covered with the dead and dying [*inserted: oh the heartfelt*] – the grief their sister and brothers [*inserted: must have*] suffered [*struck: can never be told*]

but enough of this god send a speedy issue to this war and give us a happy meeting is the sincere wish and prayer of her who thro all the changing scenes of life never will cease to be your affectionate friend and sister

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Unedited Version:

is your little Boy – living – is he well – **where is my Brother** when did you hear from him – is Sally married or not – I much wish to know all these particulars for my father and Mother **I love with** the most Dutiful and tender affection – and **with fraternal love** am not behind hand – therefore am greatly interested in the above particulars – my dear Harry is well – he my **dear** Sister is as when you [knew] him, the best and tenderest friends, never were – two persons more happily united than we – we have a lively little girl, of whom I fear I [are too] fond she is very like her gran mama – She looks vastly like Mama – who I hope will one day see her – she will love her I am sure she will. [. . .]

– but her fruitfull fields **have become the scene** of war **and destruction Battles rapes** been covered with the dead and dying – the grief their sister and brothers suffered **can never be told**

Edited Version:

is your little Boy – living – is he well – **is Capt Urquhart with you** when did you hear from him **my Brother** – is Sally married or not – **where is she**. I much wish to know all these particulars for my father and Mother **I entertain** the most Dutiful affection – and **in fraternal** am not behind hand – therefore am greatly interested in the above particulars **the answer to the above Querys** – my dear Harry is well – he my Sister is as when you [knew] him, the best and tenderest of friends, never were – two persons more happily united than we – we have a lively little girl, of whom I fear I we [are too] she is very like her gran mama – She looks vastly like **our** Mama – who I hope will one day see her – she will love her I am sure she will. [. . .]

– but **alas** her fruitfull fields of war been covered with the dead and dying **oh the heartfelt** – the grief their sister and brothers **must have** suffered