

Lucy Knox on the home front during the Revolutionary War, 1777

Image

Miss K
 Boston May — 1777
 (666)

As I can think of no address, which would convey an idea of my affection, and esteem, I will ^{it} omit ^{it} entirely, rather than do injustice to my heart, a heart wholly absorbed ⁱⁿ love and anxiety for you — I cannot at this time tell where you are, nor form any judgment where you are going — we hear both Armies are in motion, but what their rout is, we cannot hear, nor form any judgment, nor have we yet been able to conjecture what a situation, for us who are at such a distance — how much more we suffer for you than you for yourselves — all my hopes are, that it will not, cannot last, — a french general, who styles himself commander in chief of the Continental Army, is now in town, he says his appointment is from Mr. Jean that he is going immediately to head quarters, to take the command, that he is a major genl and a deal of it, who knows but I may have my Harry again — this I am sure of, he will never suffer any ~~one~~ to command him, in that department, — if he does, he has not that soul, which I now think him possessed of. —

Polly is very unwell — he has a terrible breaking out — ~~which~~ which Dr. Bullpuck says, is very like a leprosy, Dr. Gardiner thinks it the itch, which has lain so long in his blood, as it ^{corrupt} it to that degree that the cure will be difficult — he is as thin as gabriel Bironnet was, but in good spirits, and says he has an appetite — but that he is not permitted to indulge. I am very anxious about him — and so times fear we shall lose him, or at least that the humour in the blood, has taken such deep root, as to outlast

Lucy Knox to Henry Knox, May 1777. (Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC05895 p. 1)

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this future days — this will be handed you by Capt. Seanzont who will also deliver you
your box of pickles — I have got seven yards of linen for breeches for you — am
afraid to have it made up here for fear it should ~~not~~ be spoiled, as it cost twenty
shillings per yard — sure there must be a tailor in Morristown — if there is not don't
send at me — seven pound lawful — for two pair of breeches is a great deal of
money — too much not to have them made neat — The pretty rascals I wrote
you of upon examining I found to be painted — that the first washing would have
spoiled — but I be upon the look out for you — I wrote you last Thursday by Col.
Henley — and the same day by the post — can you not get some covers foran'te, it
would save us a very great expence — an object at this day, when the price of
every thing is so exorbitant, indeed it is difficult to get the necessaries of life
here, at any price — the evil increases daily — beef is at eight pence a pound — if you
will take half an ox neck, shins, and all you may get it for seven pence — for butter
we give two shillings a pound — for eggs two pence ^{piece} a ~~pound~~ ~~piece~~ — and for very
ordinary libra wine, twenty shillings a gallon — as for flour it is not to be had at
any price for egles, nor rhyrit — a pretty bad we are in — this and the behaviour
of our town meeting has almost made me a tory — will you believe me when I tell you that
M^r Coving is among the number — who they have pass'd a vote to confine in
close jail untill they can determine what further is to be done with them — this upon the
suspicion of their being torys — I do not mean to blame them for riding themselves
of those persons — who in case of an attack, would take a part against them — but
their meddling with that Old gentleman, who has been excommunicated this ten years can
take from us other motive, but to share his estate — the Colonels — Colts Revere, Dear

Lucy Knox to Henry Knox, May 1777. (Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC05895 p. 2)

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are the three leading men of the place - the first of these motioned to dissolve the meeting -
 and let the people revenge their own cause - quite military was it not - in short the mob
 have so much the upper hand at present - that there was a man to have been shot
 on Thursday next - and the gent dare not execute him, for fear of the consequences
 he is son brother to Dr Olivers wife son to Col George of Salem - but so much for
 the present: my hand trembles to such a degree, that it has been as much trouble to me
 to write what I have, as it will be to you to read it, I believe my nerves are much
 weakened by the mercy I have taken, in the true meaning of the
 word Adieu.
 your own Lucy Knox

our lovely baby sends her pap - pap - (as she calls him) a kiss -

I want much to know if your soup is good for any thing - ^{not} No more than
 we by saying no

Lucy Knox to Henry Knox, May 1777. (Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC05895 p. 3)

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Transcript

Boston May –

As I can think of no address which would convey an idea of my affection and esteem, I will [*inserted*: it] omit intirely, rather than do injustice to my heart, a heart wholly absorbed [*struck*: if] [*inserted*: in] love and anxiety for you – I cannot at this time tell where you are nor form any judgment where you are going – we hear both Armys are in motion, but what thier rout is, we cannot hear. [*struck*: nor form any judgment], nor have we yet been able to conjecture – what a situation, for us who are at such a distance – how much more we suffer for you than you for yourselves – all my hopes are that it will not, cannot last, – A french general, who stiles himself commander in Chief of the Continetal Artillery, is now in town, he says his appointment is from M^r Dean - that he is going immediately to head quarters to take the command. that he is a major gen.^l and a deal [?] of it. who knows but I may have my Harry again – this I am sure of he will never suffer any [*strikeout*: but] one to command him in that department. – if he does he has not that Soul. which I now think him possessed of—

Billy is very unwell – he has a terrible breaking out [*strikeout*] which D^r [Bullfich] says is very like a leprosy, D^r Gardiner thinks it the itch, which has lain so long in his blood, as to [*strikeout*] [*inserted*: corrupt] it to that degree that the cure will be difficult – he is as thin as gabriel Johonnot now but in good spirits, and says he has an appetite – but that he is not permitted to indulge. I am very anxious about him, and at times fear we shall lose him, or at least that the humour in the blood, has taken such deep root as to embitter [2] his future days — this will be handed you by Cap^t Searjent who will also deliver you your box of [*struck*: pic[*inserted*: k]les] pickles – I have got seven yards of linnen for breeches for you, am affraid to have it made up here, for fear it should [*struck*: not] be spoiled, as it cost twenty shillings p^r yard – sure there must be a tailor in morristown – if there is not dont scold at me – seven pound lawful – for two pair of breeches is a great deal of money – too much not to have them made neat – the pretty waiscoat I wrote you of upon examining I found to be painted – that the first washing would have spoiled – but I [*inserted*: will] be upon the look out for you — I wrote you last thursday by Col^o Henley – and the same day by the post – can you not get some

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covers franked, it would save us a very great expence – an object at this day. when the price of every thing is so exorbitant indeed it is difficult to get the necessarys of life here, at any price – the evil increases daily – beef is at eaight pence a pound [*struck: of*] if you will take half an ox neck, skins, and all you may get it for seven pence – for butter we give two shillings a pound – for eggs two pence a [*struck: peaiice peice peaiice*] [*inserted: piece*] – and for very ordinary lisbon wine, twenty shillings a gallon – as for flour it is not to be had at any price, nor cyder; nor Spirit – a pretty box we are in – this and the behaviour of our town meeting has almost made me a tory – will you believe me when I tell you that old M^r Erving is among the number who they have passed a vote to confine in close jail untill they can determine what farther is to be done with them – this upon the suspicion of thier being torys – I do not mean to blame them for rid[*inserted: d*]ing themselves of those persons – who in case of an attack, would take a part against them, but there meddling with that old gentleman who has been superanuated this ten years can be from no other motive but to share his estate – the Colonels – Crafts, Revere & Sears [3] are the three leading men of the place – the first of these motioned to dissolve the meeting, and lett the people revenge their own cause – quite milatary was it not – in short the mob have so much the up[*inserted: p*]er hand at present – that there was a man to have been shot on thursday next – and the gen^l dare not execute him, for fear of the consequences he is [one] brother to D^r Olivers wife Son to Col^o Frye of Salem – but so much for the present. my hand trembles to such a degree that it has been as much trouble to me to write what I have, as it will be to you to read it, I believe my nerves are much

weakened by the mercury I have taken, in the true meaning of the

word Adieu

Your own

Lucy Knox –

our lovely baby sends her pap – par – (as she calls him) a kiss –

I want much to know, if your Soup is good for any thing – do [*inserted: not*]

mortify me by saying no