THE GILDER LEHRMAN INSTITUTE of AMERICAN HISTORY

Inside the Vault: Highlights from the Gilder Lehrman Collection

March 4, 2021

The session will start shortly. Please note:

- Your video and audio will automatically turn off.
- You can participate through the Q&A function.
- If you have technical difficulties, please email <u>collectionprograms@gilderlehrman.org</u> so we can assist you.

Panelists

- Sandy Trenholm Collection Director
- Lois MacMillan 2006 Oregon History Teacher of the Year
- Holli Campbell Company Manager for the Broadway production of Hamilton
- Zoya Siddiqui Curatorial Intern
- Allison Kraft Assistant Curator

During the Session



- If you would like to ask a question, you can use the Q&A feature, which is at the bottom of your screen.
- Viewing in full screen is recommended to see the presenters and the presentation at the same time.

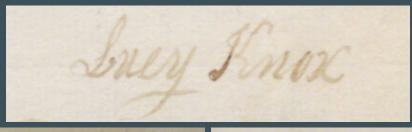
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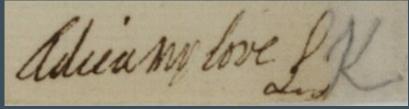
- Your microphone is automatically muted.
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Today's Documents

All of our tonight's letters were written between April and August of 1777.

- Letter to her estranged sister, Hannah, about the division the war caused in their family
- Letter about smallpox
- Two letters discussing loyalists, shortages, and the dangers of the American Revolution



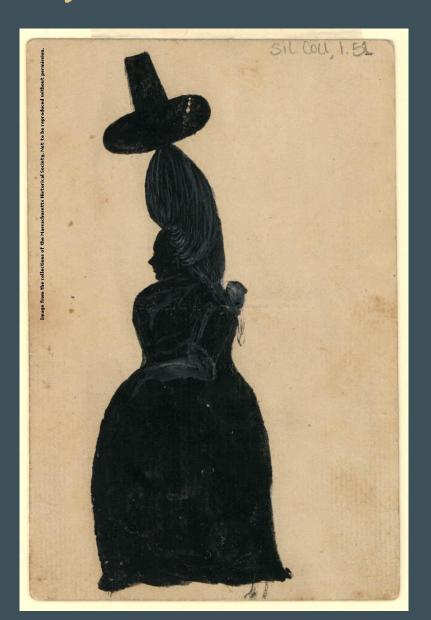


Deuvert, best of men,

"Adieu my love. LK."

"Dearest, best of men,"

Lucy Flucker Knox (1756-1824)



- Born August 2, 1756
 - Parents Thomas Flucker and Hannah Waldo (loyalist)
 - Siblings Thomas and Hannah
- Married Henry Knox in June of 1774
- 1775 Lucy & Henry escape during the siege of Boston.
- 1776 The Flucker family flees to Canada & England.
 - Never saw her family again
- February 18, 1776 Baby Lucy is born .

Lucy Knox to her sister, Hannah

Probe designed of the send developed to "he very sincere of tender affection that I entertain for you my sear hoter induces me to write you at this time, porathestading the great reglect with which There been treated both by now and my bear Mame to her I wrote reveral times charing the beige of Boston - out never obtaine a line in answer a circumstance And suppressed are greene me not a little over the is now I know not I am not my deprive of father mother souther a linear but also denice the naturpaction of heaving of their wellowe you I am told are at transfer . If you are it is proporte this may reach you are it It should I beg the you to give me a particular account of my prices. and relations is capt august mit you) is your little brown living to be well where is my orrother when hed you hear from him is July married or not I much with to know all these providences. hor his father and Mother of tree with the mast Dulyon was thereter affection and with pratural love the an not behind hand therefore are greatly interested on he above particulary my hear thursy is well he my our hoter is as when got haven him, the best and tenderest horized, how were the records more happily will than we we have a lovely little girt, of whom I pear I are twoften the sivery like her grangeanen. She boks vatty like hamu who I hope with one day see her she will love her I am sure the with I in giving at less to take the break for more for the oake of my all Lucy than my sold the long and the country in general having been minoculated will make it thangerous for me to yo from home without haveing had it was the present state of things I wish to as in such a nitration that I can go to all Jan's of limerica without durier my tenony is not much at home win

I do not like to from him - It my lister, how howed it this war, Corother against orother and the parent against the child who were the first promoters of it I anow not but god knows - and I hear they will feel the weight of his orngence tes picy he will wante we have to open in this work we cannot turn sury revolves and our friends - but part be devening neurs to dellow tack other Me and of history has become a perfect securce that man is most Esteemed who has the best kneet, at destroying the human species in our surenile says my Hannah we little thought his Boarbanes and would so some have reached america but her boardand facilly have become the seeneof war and described Buttles taxes per covere with the Sead and by ong - the great their where who mether super flage move to the but enough of this god and a speedy stace to this was and gire us a happy meeting is the source wish and prayer of her who there whe has congranging scenes of like never will cease to be your affice himment freend Jeange Seange Singe

"Brother against Brother"

I do not like to from him _ Il my firter, how horved is this war, conother again borother- and the purent against the child who were the first promoters of it I anow not best god knows - and I hear they will feel the weight of his vengence tis july the little while we have to meni in this work - we cannot lans jury ourselves and or of Encines - but must be devising means to destroy each other - the art of killing has become a serfect secure that wan is min

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"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 vengence – tis pity the little time we have to spend in this world – we cannot injoy ourselves and our friends – but must be devising means to destroy each other – the art of killing has become a perfect science."

Family

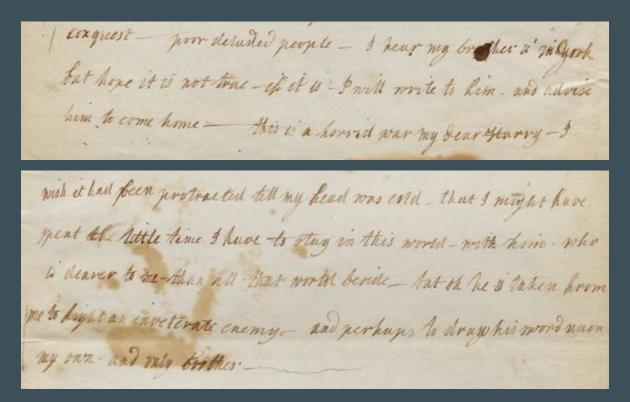




Thomas and Hannah Flucker Bowdoin College Museum of Art

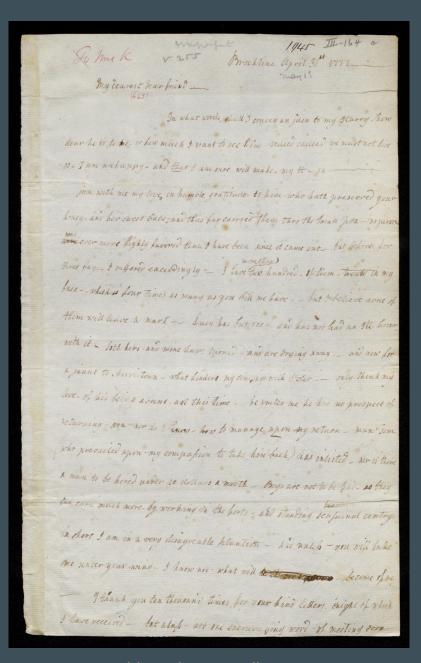
"My dear Harry is well - he my sister is as when you [saw] him, the best and tenderest of friends, never were - two persons more happily united than we - we have a lively little girl, of whom I fear she looks vastly like our Mama - who I hope will one day see her - she will love her I am sure she will. 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 innoculated will make it dangerous for me to go from home without haveing had it."

"My own and only brother"



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"I hear my brother is in York but hope it is not true - if it is - I will write to him and advise him to come home - this is a horrid war my dear Harry - I wish it had been protracted till my head was cold - that I might have spent the little time I have to stay in this world with him who is dearer to me than all that world beside - but oh he is taken from me to fight an inveterate enemy - and perhaps to draw his sword upon my own and only brother."

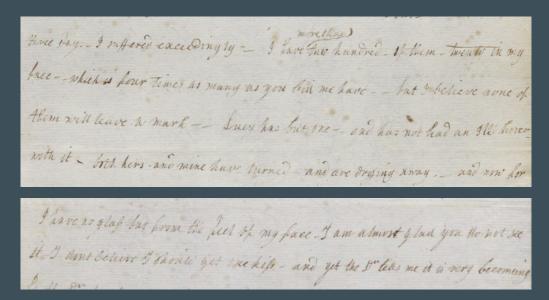


Lucy to Henry, May 1, 1777

- Dated April 31, but probably May 1
- Written from the hospital in Brookline,
 Massachusetts
- Discusses smallpox
- Ends by explaining Lucy was "weakened by the mercury I have taken"

- "Among the Continental regulars in the American Revolution, 90 percent of deaths were caused by disease, and Variola the smallpox virus was the most vicious of them all." (A History of Military Medicine, p. 107)
- British soldiers had herd immunity.
- On February 5, 1777, George Washington made the risky decision to mass inoculate the army against smallpox.
- Mid-April 1777 Lucy Knox and baby Lucy are inoculated for smallpox in Brookline.

Lucy and Baby Lucy get smallpox

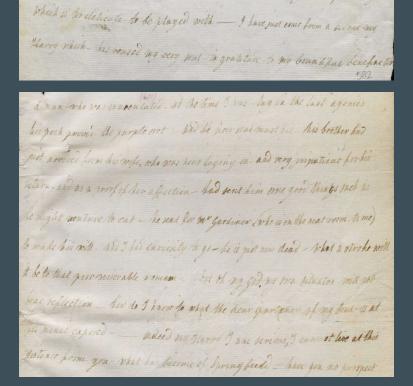


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"I suffered exceedingly – I have more than two hundred of them – twenty in my face – which is four times as many as you bid me have – but I believe none of them will leave a mark – Lucy has but one – and has not had an III hour with it – both hers and mine have turned and are drying away."

"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."

Witnessing death in the hospital



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"I have just come from a scene my Harry which has roused my very soul ... a man who was inoculated at 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."

Pars K Profess Nay as I can think of no address which would convey an idea, of my afection and extern, I will smit intirely, rather than do injurice to my heart, a heart wholy absorbed if love and anxiety for you - I cannot at this time lot where gon are nor form any judgment where you are going we hear both language are in motion but what their rout is, we cannot hear no form may puly ment, nor have me yet been able to conjecture what a returning for us who are at such a distance - how much more we rafter for you than you for governelves , all my hopes AN. that it will not cannot last, - I french general, who there himself com maker in Chief of the Continetal artillery to now in town he rays his apprenticut I from Mo Jean that he is growing immediately to hear quarters. It take the command. that he is a major gent and a deal of it who know but I must have my Hearry again this I am sure of he wit never suffer any too one to command him, in that department. If he does he has not that Sout , which I now think him properties of Bully is very name to be her a terrible breaking out or which I Bullfrek mays a very like a lepron, 2" Carrener thinks it the sick which has bein so long in his block as a compe to that degree that the care will be difficult he is as thin as gasned Deformet was but in good enersts and rays he has an appetite but that he is not gernited to windye I am very anaious about him was at times fear we shall lose him for at least that the human in the blood, has taken such deep rost in hembelier

Lucy to Henry, May 1777

- Movements of the armies
- Shortages in Boston
- Treatment of loyalists

Shortage of supplies

sport box of pictor quickes I have got seven yards of hinner for breches hor you am afraid to have it made up here, for few it should to be specified as it exist breath their pain of breeches is a great deal of money - too much not to have them made neat - The pretty various I wrote.

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"I have got seven yards of linnen for breeches for you. am affraid to have it made up here, for fear it should not be spoiled. as it cost twenty shillings pr 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."

Rising prices

thereby— and the same day by the post— san you not get some cover firenties it would have us a very great capence— in object at this day, when the price of every thing is or exercitant indeed it is difficult to get the necessary; of life line at any price. The evil guereases daily beef is at easyst pence a grain. His year will take half an to nech thin, and an you may get it for seven pence for sutten we give ten shillings a frame for eggs this pence a price pence for sutten order and siden wine, twenty shillings a gallow— as for flour it is not to be had at lay price nor egypter: nor required a pretty bear we are in . This and the behaviour

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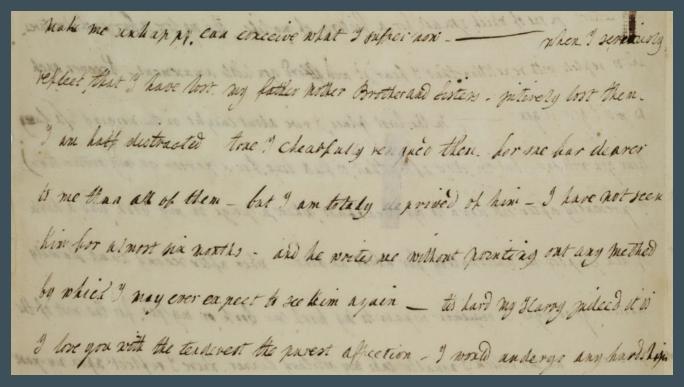
"Can you not get some covers franked, it would save us a very great expence – an object at this day. when the price of every thing is so exorbitant indeed it is difficult to get the necessarys of life here, at any price – the evil increases daily – beef is at eaight pence a pound if you will take half 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 piece – and for very ordinary lisbon wine, twenty shillings a gallon – as for flour it is not to be had at any price."

I write you a line by the last port pire to let you know I was alive which made I was als enell there my with propriety for the had derious thoughts that fin I rever should see you again is week no I reduced by only low; days places but by hely I a good constitution I am comprisingly better to day - I in see to server your three Last betters in one of which you ask for a history of malife, chai me for in farmarfularitaries of with regulation that I hear it with Afford you will a musement. However men to joint fine it gon - In the first place I rive about caught on the norming to lung how you will save but the day after that, is full line her a gerson on my return tien) I presently after not down to my breakfast, when a page in my book and a dish of the compley me afternately for about an hear when after receive that family in matters go ne right I register repair to by hord me book or my per for the rest of the or poreners - at this oclock I smally take my willary direct. where I reflect apon my past said happened when I used to not set the window watereing for my Harry , and when I now him have Crowing my leart would leap for jing - when he was ask my ran and never happy from me where is the bare thought of rix north abounce, would have shooked him to direct Allex pless while I place my little Lucy by me at lable - but the more ragaging les little actions are type 11 mas the more so I regret the absence of her father who want take each relight wed is then _ is the afternoon I commonly take my chaire . has rice outs the year

Lucy to Henry, August 23, 1777

- Details about her day
- Loss of her family
- Saving money in case Henry should be taken prisoner
- Equal command

Loss of her family



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"When I seriously reflect that I have lost my father Mother Brother and Sisters — intirely lost them — I am half distracted true I chearfully resigned them for one far dearer to me than all of them — but I am totaly deprived of him — I have not seen him for almost six months ... tis hard my Harry indeed it is I love you with the tenderest the purest affection."

Prisoner of War

I will I had lifty quinies of spare to send by her for recessions fat I have not - the very little god we have must be reserved for by Love in lase he should be taken for friends to such a case are not too common

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"I wish I had fifty guinies to spare to send by her [the ship the *Hero*] for necessarys – but I have not – the very little gold we have must be reserved for my Love in case he should be taken – for friends in such a case are not too common."

"Equal command"

his lep of the military man about you - you might then after the war have lived at ease at the large of your life but and I have have lived

being long acastomed to command will make you too hange ty hor mercantile mattern - this I love you will not ensider yourself as commander to chief of your own house - but be convinced this not is the affair of Mr Condac that there is med a thing is equal ermonand - I send this by Captandal

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"Oh that you had less of the military man about you – you might then after the war have lived at ease all the days of your life – but now I don't know what you will do – your being long acustomed to command – will make you too haughty for mercantile matters – tho I hope you will not consider yourself as commander in chief of your own house – but be convinced tho ... that there is such a thing as equal command."

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LUCY KNOX

BACKGROUND

Lucy Flucker Knox (1756-1824) was born into a life of wealth and privilege in Boston, Massachusetts. Her father, Thomas Flucker Sr., was Royal Secretary of the Province of Massachusetts and the third highest-ranking crown official in the colony. Lucy was known as a highly educated, strong-willed, and dynamic woman. At the age of seventeen, Lucy gave up her position in society and was disowned by her family when she married Henry Knox, a poor bookseller. In 1776, most of her family left Massachusetts for England, while her brother remained to fight with the British army. Lucy never saw her family again.

The daughter of a loyalist and the wife of a patriot, Lucy is an important witness to history because her family was divided by war. As her husband climbed the military ranks and became one of George Washington's most trusted friends, Lucy traveled in influential patriot circles and was not reluctant to discuss affairs of state in a frank and forthright manner with her husband. After the war, the Knoxes took possession of the vast Flucker estate and built their home in Thomaston, Maine. Although only three of their thirteen children survived to adulthood, Henry and Lucy had a long and apparently happy marriage. No reliable images of Lucy Flucker Knox exist. This silhouette is the only know "image" of Lucy.



Silhouette of Mrs. Henry Knox. ca. 1790 (Massachusetts Historical Society)

Upcoming Programs

- Inside the Vault, Thursday, March 18 at 7 pm ET (4 pm PT)
 - We will be discussing Civil War diaries as primary sources.
- Book Breaks, March 7 at 2 pm ET (11 am PT)
 - Edward Ayers discusses his book The Thin Light of Freedom: The Civil War and Emancipation in the Heart of America.
- Nominate a teacher for History Teacher of the Year!
 - Each year the History Teacher of the Year award honors an exceptional K-12 teacher in each of the 50 states, District of Columbia, Department of Defense Schools, and US Territories. These winners are then entered into a pool for the National History Teacher of the Year award.
- Visit <u>gilderlehrman.org</u> for free resources for students, teachers, families, and history enthusiasts of all ages.