

Sebastian Brandt to Henry Hovener

Virginia, January 13, 1622.

Autograph letter signed, 3 pages + docket.

[draft]

Well beloved good friend Henry Hovener

My comendations remembred, I hartely wish your welfare for god be thanked I am now in good health, but my brother and my wyfe are dead aboute a year pass'd, and touchinge the busynesse that I came hither is nothing yett performed, by reason of my sicknesse & weaknesse I was not able to travell up and downe the hills and dales of these countries but doo nowe intend every daye to walke up and downe the hills for good Mineralls here is both golde silver and copper to be had and therefore I will doe my endeavours by the grace of god to effect what I am able to perform. And I intreat you to beseeche the Right Hon:[*orable*] & Wor:[*shipful*] Company in my behalfe to grant me my freedome to be sent either to me I dowbte not to doo well & good service in these countries humbly desyringe them also to provyde me some experimented fellowe & a strong boye to assiste me in my businesse, and that it may please the aforesaid Company to send me at my charge [2] a bed w[*i*]th a bolster and cover and some Linnen for shirtes and sheetes. Sixe fallinge bands w[*i*]th Last Size pairs of shoes twoo pairs of bootes three pairs of cullered stockings and garters w[*i*]th three pairs of lether gloves some powder and shott, twoo little runletts of oyle and vinnegar some spice & sugar to comfort us here in our sicknesse abowte ffyftie pounds weight of holland and englishe cheese together, Lykewyse some knyves, spoons, combes and all sortes of cullerd beads as you knowe the savage Indians use Allso one Rundlett w[*i*]th all sortes of yron nayles great and small, three haire sives, two hatchetts w[*i*]th twoo broad yrons and some Allum And send all these necessaries thinges in a dry fatt w[*i*]th the first shippinge dyrected unto Mr Pontes in James Towne here in Virginia And whatsoever this all costes I will not onely w[*i*]th my moste humble service but allso w[*i*]th some good Tobacco Bevor and Otterskins and other commodities here to be had recompence the Company for the same [3] And yf you could send for my brother Phillipps Sonne in Darbesheere to come hether itt were a great commoditie ffor me or suche another used in minerall workes. And thus I comitt you to the Almighty. Virginia 13 January 1622.

Sebastian Brandt

[*docket*]

Sebastian Brands lettre

To M^r Hofener 13, January 1622/3

That ther is Mynes of Gould

and Silver and Copper in

Virginia

Notes: **Sebastian Brandt's** origins are obscure. His name does not appear in any of the regularly consulted records of Virginia – he never served on any juries and was never an official of any kind. It is possible that he was of the Brandt family of shipbuilders of Topsham in Devonshire, England. It seems that Brandt was lured to Virginia by exaggerated reports of the gold and silver to be found there and that he spent at least a year there because of the references to his wife and brother, but no more than a year because of his comment about his illness. It is also possible that he could have arrived in 1619 when 1,200 settlers arrived at Jamestown. He could have died from this illness or he could have returned to England once he realized there was no gold. The reference to “Mr. Pontes” was to John Pountis (also spelled Powntis and Powntes) who was the Admiral of the Jamestown district. Pountis would have been responsible for receiving goods from England.