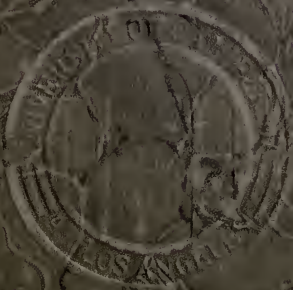


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WAGSTAFF — HARRINGTON LETTERS



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# The James Sprunt Historical Publications

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

## The North Carolina Historical Society

J. G. DE ROULHAC HAMILTON } *Editors*  
HENRY MCGILBERT WAGSTAFF }

VOL. 13

No. 2



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THE HARRINGTON LETTERS

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CHAPEL HILL, N. C.  
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1914

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1914

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THE HARRINGTON LETTERS

BY

H. M. WAGSTAFF



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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Herewith are presented certain letters of the Harrington family which were made available by the courtesy of Mr. William Weldon Huske, of Fayetteville, a descendant of General Henry William Harrington, of Revolutionary fame. It is thought by the editor that this collection all but completes the extant manuscript records of the Harrington family up to 1815, and particularly those of General Harrington himself up to his death in 1809. A mass of references and a large amount of his correspondence appears in the North Carolina State Records (Volumes 13 to 24 inclusive). Likewise Alexander Gregg, in his "History of the Old Cheraws" makes acknowledgement (note, page 105) to Col. H. W. Harrington (son of General Harrington) for valuable manuscripts from his father's collection illustrative of his public service and the Revolutionary history of the Peedee country. Nearly half a hundred of his letters, to or from General Gates, Governor Richard Caswell, Colonel Marion, John Penn, Alexander Martin, and others, are published by Gregg. These, together with the matter in the State Records concerning Harrington make a fairly complete summary of the Revolutionary services of this patriot and gentleman of the early days of our republic. Gregg notes that the private journal and a large part of the other papers of General Harrington were destroyed by the Tories in a pillage of his home during the Revolution. The few letters by him and to him in the present collection are, for the most part, personal, and written after the Revolutionary epoch.

Henry William Harrington, the younger son of a London gentleman, emigrated from England to the West Indies, and, after remaining in Jamaica a short time, came to South Carolina and settled on the Peedee River, near Cheraw, in a district known as Welch's Neck. It is not definitely known what year he settled there; but while a resident of South Carolina he married Rosanna Auld, daughter of Major James

Auld, of Anson County, North Carolina. This marriage was contracted shortly before the Revolution, and from it were born in time five children in the order named: Rosanna, James Auld, Harriet, Henry William, and Carolina, all of whom are subjects of mention in the following letters. As the Revolution approached Harrington was sheriff of the Cheraw District and on August 3rd 1775, was commissioned by the South Carolina Council of Safety a captain of a volunteer company of militia in St. David's Parish. In September, 1776, he was elected a member from the same parish to the South Carolina Assembly, but in the following month he removed to North Carolina, settling with his family twelve miles north of his South Carolina home, and to the east side of the Peedee, in that portion of Anson County that three years latter (1779) was erected into a separate county and named Richmond. Here Harrington had acquired a considerable area of very valuable lands and upon which he established a home which he called "Beausejour." Here four of his children were born. Though plundered by Tories and British on two successive occasions during the Revolution, the property was afterward restored to its attractive state and remained the family seat and a typical southern slave plantation until the Civil War.

One month after Harrington's removal to North Carolina he was commissioned by the new-born state a colonel of militia in Anson County. In this capacity he was active in holding down the numerous Tories of his district during the four years preceeding the British attack upon the Southern States in 1780. In that year, commanding a force of North Carolina militia, Colonel Harrington arrived in Charleston, April 6, and reported to General Benjamin Lincoln who commanded the defences of the port. Moultrie's Journal attests the value of the services of these raw troops. When the capture of the town became imminent, Colonel Harrington, with the advice and unanimous consent of the Lieutenant Governor and Council of South Carolina, and by the order of General Lincoln, left Charleston in April for Newbern,

North Carolina, there to take his seat in the General Assembly, to which he had in the meantime been elected, and to urge in behalf of South Carolina a large and immediate aid of North Carolina militia (See letter from Harrington to Mrs. Harrington, Gregg, Old Cheraws, 301-302). Lincoln, however, surrendered Charleston to Clinton on the 27th of May. Cornwallis, with upward of 5,000 British regulars, was now left by Clinton to prosecute the campaign for the conquest of the South. Congress, disregarding the advice of Washington, now appointed General Horatio Gates, of Saratoga fame, to independent command of the Southern department, and the Southern States made haste to put their forces in fighting condition. The North Carolina Board of War appointed Colonel Harrington as Brigadier General, *pro tem.* of the Salisbury District, which included the most exposed area of the state. Harrington stationed himself with headquarters at Cross Creek (now Fayetteville) in the center of the Highland Tory region from which Cornwallis expected to derive much aid. Cornwallis had thrown out detachments northward, one taking post at Cheraw near the Peedee and on the very borders of North Carolina. At Cross Creek General Harrington, with care of the country from Anson to the sea coast, kept a vigilant watch on the British outposts and sternly held the Tories of the Cape Fear country in check. At the same time he collected large supplies for the regular army. On the advance of Gates to attack the British at Camden, he summoned Harrington from Cross Creek to join him. A forced march was immediately begun by Harrington's forces, but upon arrival at Haley's Ferry on the Peedee he received intelligence of Gates' disastrous defeat on August 16. Harrington now established himself at Haley's Ferry for a time and performed most effective service in reorganizing the defense against the British advance. Likewise he co-operated effectually with Colonels Marion and Sumter, the guerilla leaders of South Carolina in their endeavors to hamper the forward move of the British forces. Nevertheless, in September, Cornwallis, reinforced by troops

from Clinton's command at New York, passed into North Carolina, Ferguson, the Marion of the Royalists, moving on his left. The latter was surprised at King's Mountain, there ensuing one of the bloodiest fights of the Revolution. After the loss of one-third of their number, and the death of Ferguson himself, the remaining Royalists laid down their arms. Cornwallis in consequence fell back upon his old posts in South Carolina in the last months of the year; while the Continental Congress appointed Gen. Nathaniel Greene to succeed Gates in the Southern department. In the meantime the General Assembly of North Carolina, to meet the threatened advance of the British, determined upon a reorganization of the state militia in order to more perfectly integrate it with the defense which was expected of the Continental troops. Hence it now elected Lieutenant Colonel Wm. Davidson, of the Continentals, to the post of Brigadier General which had been conferred temporarily upon General Harrington by the Board of War. General Harrington thereupon sent in his resignation, but continued to exercise the command and cooperated with Greene until the first months of 1781, when General Davidson assumed the duties of the post.

We have no record of military service on the part of General Harrington during the struggle between Greene and Cornwallis in the Carolinas through the last year of the war that culminated in Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown, Oct. 19, 1781. In 1783, the first year of peace, he was elected a member of the state senate from Richmond County, and again in 1785. In 1791 he was elected by the Assembly a member of the Council of State. Again he was sent to the state senate in 1798, and this appears to have been his last public service. Strongly attached to the pursuits of a country gentleman, he quietly cultivated his home estate in Richmond and his South Carolina estate near Cheraw, in Chesterfield County, and to a remarkable degree rehabilitated his personal fortunes. Under a regime of slave labor and unscientific methods he constantly sought to improve the

art of agriculture. He kept up a correspondence with several public men in his latter years, but mainly upon things agricultural. A Federalist in politics, he nevertheless took no part in the bitter partizan warfare of public men in the last decade of his life. He died at his seat, "Beausejour" in Richmond, March 31, 1809, in the sixty second year of his age.

After General Harrington's death, the letters of chief interest in the collection are those from Charles Washington Goldsborough to Mrs. Harrington. They relate particularly to the interests of young Henry William Harrington, 2nd son of the General, whom Mrs. Harrington contemplated putting to school in the North. However, before her plans were settled, the war of 1812 approached, and through Goldsborough young Harrington secured an appointment as midshipman in the American navy. It is regrettable that the other side of the correspondence, the letters of Mrs. Harrington to Goldsborough, are not available. From the one letter to her son, appearing herewith, it is evident that she writes in a very lively and interesting strain.

The letters have been placed in chronological order, despite the fact that the continuity of the larger series, the letters from Goldsborough to Mrs. Harrington, is broken by interpolation of others to or from Midshipman Harrington. By this method they preserve somewhat better their continuity of interest.

Thanks are due to Mr. W. W. Huske, of Fayetteville, for placing at the disposal of the editor a sketch of the Harrington family preserved in his own family records. Its interest is mainly geneological and such portions as have been used appear among the foot-notes to the letters. I also wish to thank Mr. W. A. Kirksey, of Cluster Springs, Virginia, for valuable assistance in reading the original manuscripts.

H. M. WAGSTAFF.

Chapel Hill, N. C., July 15, 1914.

## THE HARRINGTON LETTERS

PEEDEE, August 17, 1785.

DEAR SIR:

I hope that Lieut. Campbell has restored my negro Cuffee,<sup>1</sup> and paid you full fees with every expense, if so you will sir be pleased to send Cuffee to me by Jonathan Wise, otherwise you will proceed against Campbell in two actions.

Should you sir have a moment's leisure I might also learn in what State the suit commenced against Jo. Johnston stands and I shall my ever dear sir, rejoice exceedingly to hear by the same conveyance that you are in perfect health. With the most affectionate regard, the most perfect esteem—I am,

My dear sir

Your most humble & most obt. Servant,

H. W. HARRINGTON.

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> General Pinckney,<sup>2</sup>  
Charles Town.

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<sup>1</sup> A negro slave, son of Toney (General Harrington's body servant, whose note appears later), who was carried off by the British in their raids northward after Gates' defeat at Camden in 1780. Cuffee was a negro of remarkably valuable traits of character. Carried off with other negro slaves when General Harrington's plantation was raided in the summer of 1770, Cuffee subsequently fell into the hands of Captain Campbell, a British officer, who settled after the Revolution on Peedee. General Harrington brought suit against Campbell in Cheraw District for Cuffee's recovery. The damages found were large, and only to be discharged by the delivery of the negro. Rather than pay the amount, Captain Campbell sent to Jamaica for Cuffee, where he had been transported, and delivered him to his master.

<sup>2</sup> Charles Cotesworth Pinckney acted as General Harrington's attorney in South Carolina. In a letter from Pinckney to Harrington, Aug. 24, 1785 (State Records Vol. 17, p. 166) the latter is informed that he has not yet heard from Campbell and will proceed with the suit; that Johnston refuses to honor the debt except by security for payment in installments extending over four years. He requests instructions on the question of acceptance of security. Certain other of their correspondence on various business matters appears in Vols. 15, 16, and 17 of the N. C. State Records.

NEW YORK, June 10, 1780

SIR:

A few days before I set out for this city Mrs. Goldsborough<sup>1</sup> of Dorchester County sent me the enclosed letter for Col. Harrington which I presume covers one for her mother Mrs. Auld. She is very desirous that it should have a safe



and speedy conveyance. I shall therefore thank you to forward it by the first opportunity.

It will give me much pleasure to facilitate the communication between Mrs. Auld and her daughter; any letter that she will please to enclose to me shall go safe to her friends in Maryland.

I am, with Respect,  
JOHN HENRY<sup>2</sup>

Col. Henry William Harrington,  
on Pee Dee River,  
Anson County,  
N. Carolina.

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<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Robert Goldsborough, whose husband was born in Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland, in 1733; died there Dec. 31, 1788. He was a graduate of Philadelphia College (Now University of Pennsylvania) in 1760, took an active part in the anti-Revolutionary movements, was Attorney-General of Maryland in 1768, and a delegate to the Continental Congress of 1774-75, and that of May 1776. Mrs. Goldsborough was a Miss Auld of North Carolina, and sister of Rosanna, wife of General Harrington. She was mother of Charles Washington Goldsborough whose note appears later in this series.

<sup>2</sup> Henry, John, b. in Easton, Maryland, about 1750; died there, Dec. 16, 1798. He was graduated at Princeton in 1769, studied law and practiced at Easton. He was a delegate from Maryland to the Continental Congress in 1778-81, and again in 1784-87, and was then elected to the United States Senate, serving from 1789 till Dec. 10, 1797, when he resigned, having been elected governor of his State. He held this office until the time of his death.

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LOWTHER, 14 November, 1788.

DEAR SIR:<sup>1</sup>

I am now happy to have an opportunity to drop you a line from our Native Country, where I have spent some weeks past rather in gayety than satisfactorily among my relatives—indeed we have been entirely taken up in attending our Family leader the Earl of Lonsdale<sup>2</sup> since the fourth inst. At a Jubilee given by his Lordship at his castle at Whitehaven in commemoration of the Centenary Revolution on the landing of King William who was supported by the Lowther family—as my cousin (Col. Lowther)<sup>3</sup> has had the burthen of this business in aid to his lordship, I have had in addition to his Lordship's notice on this occasion a fair opportunity of personal observation, and should be particular in giving you an account of the greatest entertainment ever given by a subject were it not taken such notice of in the

public prints that you can not possibly miss it. It is sure that there were sixteen thousand people collected. I think we had upwards of four hundred gentlemen and ladies (including nobility) in the Castle and indeed every gentleman of consequence on either side of Parliamentary disputes seems to have stepped forward in every part of the kingdom to demonstrate an attachment to the present Royal Family. This is lucky for England, as the death<sup>4</sup> of his Majesty of which we are just informed gives us a devilish prospect of the convulsions that a consequential parliamentary dissolution will create in this country—his Lordship is not yet arrived at Lowther but is hourly expected on his way to London from the Castle. Four carriage and three Post Horses are ready harnessed and saddled at each stage and his presence at the Palace will be of consequence as he has the honor to send sixteen members to Parl. I shall suspend an account of further observation till we see what turns up—and content myself with continueing that on my way to this place from Whitehaven. I had the curiosity to sleep a night in the house I was born in, which I now found occupied by a nephew of your old friend Major Wise, his attachment to America soon brought on an introduction and I was hospitably entertained—he has a young wife; 25lbs. per annum and about 15 lbs. more by keeping school. He is a clever fellow and deserves a better birth. I was surprised to hear that Miss Wise was married to so near a connection, as Mr. Baulk proves to be, her cousin. The parson (Mr. Littlewaite) would have been a better match without any illiberality of congugal sentiment—I mentioned him to you because I think he deserves a transplantation in which perhaps you can be of service. He would suit the Cheraw church—is humble tho independent, he has indeed shown himself too much so in his choice of a wife whose birth and modesty will never promote her here. The story is singular and deserves to be related. The young parson had lodged sometime in a house where his wife was a servant. He noticed her prudence without the least sus-

picion, the girl at last returned to her father who is a Collier, the next morning the parson took out a license and as a reward for her virtue and humility greatly surprised the girl and her father.

The fire works alone cost his Lordship 600 lbs. sterl. I think the Frolick must have cost as many thousands.

P. S. As soon as time and opportunity permit I will endeavor to answer you with some observations on my tour thro' England.

(Gen. W. H. Harrington.)

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<sup>1</sup>This letter, written from Lowther, England, appeared in the Harrington collection of letters as they came into the editor's hands. It was without address and signature, the second sheet upon which the remainder of the letter was written having been lost. Nevertheless the editor believes it to have been addressed to General Harrington and written by a relative or friend, resident in Carolina, but on a visit to English relatives. The subject is interesting in that it reflects a view of the Centenary Celebration of the Revolution of 1688 and on this account it has been inserted.

<sup>2</sup>James (Lowther), by royal patent, May 24th 1784, created a peer of Great Britain, by the titles of Baron Lowther, of Lowther, in the County of Westmoreland, Baron of the Barony of Kendal, in the said county, and Baron of the Barony of Burgh, in the County of Cumberland; Viscount of Lonsdale, in the County of Westmoreland, and county palatine of Lancaster, and Viscount of Lowther, in the County of Westmoreland; and Earl of Lonsdale, in the County of Westmoreland. On October 10th, 1797, his Lordship was created Baron and Viscount Lowther, of Whitehaven, with a collateral remainder to the heirs male of the body of his cousin, the Rev. Sir William Lowther, of Smillington, Bart. Earl Lonsdale died may 24th, 1802.

<sup>3</sup>Sir William Lowther, son of Rev. Sir William Lowther, of Smillington, succeeded to the title of the Earl of Lonsdale in 1802 upon the death of his cousin, James, first Earl of Lonsdale.

<sup>4</sup>George III exhibited the first signs of mental disorder in 1765 but soon recovered his usual robust health, and not again until October 1788 did there appear unmistakable signs of a recurrence. "The immediate cause," says Lecky (England in the XVIII Century, Vol. V. p. 96) "appears to have been the injudicious treatment of a severe bilious attack, excessive exercise, and imprudence in keeping on wet stockings during an entire day." It was this illness of the King that gave rise to rumors of his death as that of the above letter. He lived to 1820, having reigned for 60 years, through one of the stormiest periods of English history.

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CHARLESTON, June 11, 1789

DEAR FRIEND:

I am extremely obliged to you for your polite favor of the 25th ult. and particularly so for the attention you have shown by writing to your Moravian friend on my account. His answer satisfies me that such accommodations as I should expect are not to be got at Salem; nevertheless I am not the less obliged to you and him.

It is with pleasure that I hear always of our good friend's health at Constitution Hill. Be obliging enough to remember me to him.

The Postman from Cheraw delivered me your letter yesterday afternoon and sets off again today at 12, so that I have no opportunity of inquiring about the gins for cotton: between however the present moment and the next trip (which will be next month) of Brown the Cheraw Rider, who I shall desire to call on me, I will endeavor to find out which is the most advantageous machine and communicate the intelligence to you.

In the meantime I am, D. Sir, with respect your

Obt. Hum. Svt.,

J. F. GRIMKE.<sup>1</sup>

To Henry Wm. Harrington, Esq.

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<sup>1</sup> John Faucheraud Grimke, Jurist, b. in South Carolina, Dec. 16, 1752; d. Aug. 9, 1819, in Long Branch, N. J.; fought through the Revolution as Lieutenant Colonel of Artillery. He studied law in London and was one of the Americans there who petitioned George III against the measures which infringed on colonial rights. Returned home at the beginning of hostilities; elected Judge of the Superior Court of South Carolina, 1783. In 1799 he became Senior Associate and thus virtually Chief Justice. He was frequently a member of the State legislature; Speaker of the House 1785-86 and a member of the S. C. Convention that adopted the Fed. Const. in 1788. He was given the degree of L. L. D. by Princeton in 1789. He published "Revised Edition of the Laws of S. C. to 1789;" "Law of Executors of S. C.;" "Probate Directory;" "Public Law of S. C.;" and "Duty of Justices of the Peace."

3 Sept., 1789.

DEAR SIR:

I received yours by Toney<sup>1</sup> with the enclosed paper, and will pay due attention to the matter. I was very sick and not up at our election<sup>2</sup>, but am informed that Mr. Thos. Wade<sup>3</sup> went for the Senate, agreeable to my wish. Mr. Pleasant May<sup>4</sup> and Wm. Wood<sup>5</sup> for the Commons—the first of which is also agreeable to my desire, and the other I care not much about. The Conventioneers I am told for our county are Spencer<sup>6</sup>, Wade, May, Gilbert<sup>7</sup>, and Jamison<sup>7</sup>, among whom I have reason to believe there is different sentiment about the constitution, though I fear the majority will be against it, but am not absolutely confident in my opinion about them as I was not there.

Toney informs us you were all well yesterday, which we are happy to hear—and as for our family they have gone through the rubbers—in the ague and fever way this sea-

son, but seem all to be rather on the mend at present—Our little Charley and Harry are the lowest in health of any of us and appear to be at a stand in their sickness, Betsy, myself and Sher'd are getting the better of it, and our little girls mend slowly.

I don't remember any news worth communicating.

Am Dear Sir with respect and affection,

Yours,

JOHN AULD<sup>8</sup>.

Henry Wm. Harrison, Esq.

<sup>1</sup>Toney was a favorite and trusted slave of General Harrington and had been his body servant throughout the War of Revolution. He was a negro of remarkable character, honest and faithful in the highest degree. He was the father of Cuffee who was the subject of the suit between Lieutenant Campbell and General Harrington. General Harrington purchased Toney in 1771 from John Mitchell, a Tory residing near Cheraw, S. C., and who sold out and left the country when partizan feeling developed incident to the opening of hostilities. After the Revolution General Harrington sent Toney on horseback from Peedee to Newbern, N. C., with a bag of 1,500 Spanish silver dollars to pay for a land purchase. The money was duly delivered.

<sup>2</sup>Election for the General Assembly.

<sup>3</sup>Thomas Wade, native of Anson County, a member of the Constitutional Convention at Fayetteville in 1789. He was senator from Anson in 1782, 1783, 1786, 1789, 1791.

<sup>4</sup>Pleasant May, native of Anson, member of the Constitutional Convention that ratified the United States Constitution at Fayetteville in November, 1789; also elected to the State legislature (Commons) in 1788, 1789, 1792, 1793, 1794, 1795.

<sup>5</sup>William Wood, of Anson, member of House of Commons from 1786 to 1794 with exception of 1788.

<sup>6</sup>Honorable Samuel Spencer, Esq., native of Anson, and member of both the Hillsborough and Fayetteville Constitutional Conventions (1788 and 1789). Previous to these services Spencer had been member of the first Provincial Congress (Newbern, 1774) of North Carolina, and of the second Provincial Congress (Hillsborough, 1775). He was also made Colonel of Militia in the military organization set up by the second Congress, and at the same time became a member of the Provincial Council of Safety. In 1777 Spencer was elected by the General Assembly as judge of the Superior Court and served until his death in 1794. He was an ardent anti-federalist in the Hillsborough Convention, took a most active part in the debates on the Constitution, and contributed very materially to its defeat by that body.

<sup>7</sup>Jesse Gilbert and David Jameson, both elected to the Constitutional Convention at Fayetteville, 1789.

<sup>8</sup>John Auld, member from Anson in the Commons in 1783 and 1784; member of the State Senate in 1788. Auld was brother to Mrs. W. H. Harrington.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 10, 1791.

SIR:

I have heretofore written frequently to you on account of Mrs. Caroline Goldsborough<sup>1</sup> of Dorchester County in Maryland, who is the sister of your lady. Her anxiety to hear from her mother and sister, has induced me to trouble you once more. She has had no letters, or any other intelligence

for more than two years, and is now under painful apprehensions that they are dead or have totally forgotten her. To remove her inquietude, I must entreat you to write her by the first opportunity.

If you enclose your letters to me, they will be safely forwarded to Mrs. Goldsborough.

I am sir, your Hbl. Svt.,  
JOHN HENRY.<sup>2</sup>

Col. Harrington,  
North Carolina.

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<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Goldsborough, mother of Charles W. Goldsborough and sister of Mrs. W. H. Harrington (See footnote No. 1 letter No. 2).

<sup>2</sup> See footnote No. 2 letter No. 2.

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CAMDEN, April 21, 1792.

DEAR SIR:

I find that on the last day of the last session of the Legislature, that the sitting of the court of equity at Columbia was postponed till the fifteenth of May. You will therefore have no occasion to be there before the 14th. I hope you have not had the tremendous freshes which have deluged the whole country adjoining the Congree and Wateree. Corn will be very dear for considerable quantities of that article are destroyed and a great deal of indigo here is damaged which will occasion that article also to be scarce and consequently dear.

I remain with sincere regards and esteem,

Very truly,

CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY.

Brig<sup>d</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Harrington.

---

July 2, 1798.

State of North Carolina,  
Richmond County.

We the inhabitants of the town of Rockingham convened together to take into consideration and point out some suitable person to represent the county aforesaid in the Senate

at the next General Assembly to be held for the State aforesaid, give it as our opinion that Henry Wm. Harrington, Esq., be nominated as candidate for that purpose and that Walter Leak, John Clark, and James Terry be a committee to draw up an address inviting him to accept thereof should he obtain the suffrage of the freeholders of the county aforesaid.

Signed by:

JAMES TERRY	TEDDY NOBINGTON	WM. ROBINGSON
LEWIS LAWYER	WM. ROBARDS	MICAJ. GAINY
IND. BOWNS	JOHN COPE	WALTER LEAK
JOHN LONG	JAMES SMITH	IND. CROWSON
BOWEN CAREY	BENJAMIN STEATEY	

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<sup>1</sup> General Harrington became the candidate for the State Senate in this year, 1798, and was elected, this being his last public service as far as the editor can discover. He was an ardent Federalist in politics.

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Perhaps there never was a time when the County of Richmond stood more in need of the Exerting of Public Spirit than the present, since the Horrows of War were over. The fewer we have of real Patriots the greater will be the praise if any benefit be done to Society or any danger averted from us. When our Rights and Liberties were invaded we had our Cincinnatus in Richmond, when now again our political Character is insulted we apply to his advice tho' in times of peace and Tranquility—There is such a thing as a Negative as well as a Positive Virtue—It is in the power of the magistrates of Richmond to deny the office of High Sheriff to that indigent vain fellow of the Feudal Tribe who is now so importunate—This denial may be the happy means of preventing a greater impending evil in our Political System. It will give a check to the Popularity of his Party and we are well aware to which side of the House his Interest and Popularity would incline.

Our Eminent danger from the votes of an ignorant dram-

Drinking Rabble—May Heaven and your Worships prevent  
—Such is the fervent prayer of

LIBERTY AND EQUALITY.<sup>1</sup>

Genl. H. W. Harrington.

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<sup>1</sup>This was an address to Gen. Harrington, apparently accompanying the appeal of his fellow citizens to stand for the Senate in 1798, in which election his prestige was expected to rescue his county from the control of the Republicans.

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RALEIGH, Dec. 20th, 1800.

DEAR SIR:

Your favor of July 24th with the bags of wheat and barley seed never reached me till October. Receive for them my very best thanks. They have been sown sometime, but later than I wished. However, although the produce may be thereby lessened, yet the experiment will answer my purpose better as to ascertain(ity) the probability of its taking the Rust. If our Tide Swamp will produce that grain free from Rust I think the best farming we could go on, notwithstanding the great cry about cotton, would be to sow a crop of wheat and immediately after it is off put in corn. There would be no danger of exhausting our land if the opportunity was taken of letting on the water of the first fresh coming down from the Rich up County Lands and such freshes are frequent about the time of the Indian Corn very early in October. Cotton as far as my experience goes and from my correspondence with Mr. Kinlock will not answer well on our Tide Swamps and if the Corn etc. above mentioned cannot be carried into effect successfully, I suppose we had better continue on Rice. That article, if managed well, and the average prices of a few years continue, will do extremely well. Mr. Heyward has brought the growing it by water to such perfection that upward of twenty Tierces per hand had been made to upwards of forty hands round.

But I am very much inclined to try Cotton and a statement of the increased value of the Exports of So. Carolina in a few years from 2 millions to 10, which, I suppose you have seen, increases that inclination as the increase evidently



appears to have been greatly by the single article of cotton. Col. Wade Hampton, I understand, is the principal cotton planter of So. Carolina and that his crops are made from the low lands of Congaree or Wateree. If so, I suppose those of P. D. (Peedee?) will answer well and that you have from the great profit and your readiness to embrace every improvement gone largely on it. As I have on the low land of Cape Fear River a great deal of cleared high River Swamp I will thank you to give me every information on the subject, as without compliment I regard you as the first farmer in the State. At the same time please inform me whether you are inclined to contract for the delivery of from 1 to 2000 bu. of corn at Georgetown, the lowest price and earliest time of delivery, the sooner the better and if a post does not come regularly from your neighborhood to Fayetteville perhaps the most speedy conveyance would be by Georgetown whence the Post comes regularly every week to Wilmington setting off on Thursday or Friday from Georgetown.

Hitherto, although it was constantly my intention to be more diligent, I have neglected to write you for the Saint ( ) seed, Siberian, annual and perennl Vetch, Smyrna wheat, winter oats, spelts & ( ) which you ordered and also to give orders for some articles for myself but immediately on my return home, having already taken means to place money in New York I will write for them and on receipt will endeavor to convey some of each to you. Early in February I propose passing Georgetown on my way to Charlestown and if the articles arrive and be not too bulky shall carry and leave them for you in that place and there with great pleasure will reciprocate your farming presents. The Timothy Beans I expect will be an object, they turned out extremely well but unless your black-eyed peas are better I could send you some superior. Perhaps yours and mine are in fact the same sort, for those you sent me as observed by you were somewhat damaged. So indeed was the white wheat a little, not materially, but it ap-

peared somewhat mouldy and weevil eaten. I wish the proper name by which to write for some to the northward.

Your County Politicks according to custom has taken up much of our time & Webb<sup>2</sup>, or Wall<sup>3</sup> not appearing to establish their charge against M'farland,<sup>4</sup> he will be triumphant. The House appeared well disposed to oust him, but the witness brought was too hesitating and not sufficiently positive. A bill has passed to compel witnesses to give evidence, which I understand from Mr. Wall will secure M'farland's banishment in future. We have done but little good and a great deal of harm the particulars of which you will soon know by the return of your members and the public prints, to them I must refer you & hoping for a speedy reply Remain Dr. Sir with Regard and Esteem

Yrs. Respectfully

BENJ. SMITH.

P. S. I came up late in the session and thus escaped the mortification of witnessing much political violence and passion.

General Harrington,  
Beausejour,  
Richmond County,  
No. Carolina.

I wrote last night by Post to New York for the Spelt, Vetch and all the other seed mentioned.

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<sup>1</sup> Benjamin Smith was a large planter; his home at Belvidere, Brunswick County. A member of the House of Commons of the State in 1791, he was elected to the State Senate in 1792 and served continuously therein until 1801, and again from 1804 to 1810, at which date he was elected Governor of the State. In his youth he had served in the war of the Revolution as an aid to General Washington, and later fought in the Southern struggle against British invasion. For his military services he was awarded a large tract of bounty lands in western Tennessee. He was a member of the board of trustees to whom was granted the charter of the University in 1789 and at the first meeting of the board, Nov. 15th, 1790, he transferred to the incipient University a patent for twenty thousand acres of his Tennessee lands, thus becoming the first benefactor of the institution. Certain of the proceeds of this gift later were devoted to the construction of a building at the University named in his honor (Smith Hall), now used by the Law School. Governor Smith died in Smithville, N. C., Feb. 10th, 1829.

<sup>2</sup> Robert Webb, member of Commons from Richmond County from 1780 to 1787, and of the Senate 1788 to 1790 and again in 1796 and 1797.

<sup>3</sup> William Wall, Senator from Richmond 1794.

<sup>4</sup> Duncan McFarland, member of House, 1792, and in the Senate 1793, 1795, 1800, 1807-09. McFarland also represented his district in Congress, 1805 1807, the 9th Congress.

RALEIGH, April.

DEAR SIR:

I write<sup>1</sup> this to return you many thanks for your kindness in sending to me the waggon load of cotton seed which got safe to my hand a few days after leaving your house and to express my great disappointment in not having been honored with any more of your favors since your first and only one. Being favored with your message by the Waggoner *that you intended writing me by Post* to this place, leaves on my mind a belief that you have done so, and a fear that thro' some misfortune or other it has not reached me: Letters to and from me miscarry so frequently through the post offices, especially on the Crop Posts, that it would be gratifying to discover where the Fraud is practiced; the offices between Raleigh and your place being few I indulge a hope it may be traced in this particular if you have written more than one letter to me and you can recollect the date and time your letter was put into the Post Office.

I have directed my overseer to pitch my crop of cotton entirely in hills four feet equidistant, believing with you that it will be the safest crop for a beginner and I have hopes ere this that two-thirds of his crop is planted.

Can you account for the fall of cotton in Fayetteville for I understand the market abroad continues especially good?

Hoping before long to have the pleasure to hear from you I remain with respect and great Esteem, Your Svt.,

B. WILLIAMS.

Genl. Henry Wm. Harrington,  
Beausejour,  
near Rockingham,  
Richmond County,  
N. Carolina.

Via Fayetteville.

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<sup>1</sup>This letter is undated but appears to have been written by Benjamin Williams during his incumbency as governor, perhaps in 1800. Williams, a native of Moore County and a large planter, was elected Governor of the State first in Nov., 1799 and by annual election at the hands of the legislature served three successive terms and was again governor in 1808. He was State Senator in 1807 and 1809. He served one term in Congress, the third Congress, Dec. 2, 1793, to March 3, 1795, and was a republican in

politics. He was born Jan. 1, 1752, was a revolutionary patriot and fought in the battle of Guilford Court House, Mar. 15, 1781. He gained the rank of colonel for his gallant service, having entered it as captain. He was a plain man, of small pretensions, simple, modest, and of irreproachable character. He died in Moore County in 1814.

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RALEIGH, June 16, 1801.

DEAR GEN'L:

Your much esteemed favor of 13th ulto. came to hand a few days past, as well as that which you mention to have written sometime ago.

My cotton was planted early in April and had not come up as it was injured by the late frosts, but the weather has since been so extremely cold that it has not grown much. It however now begins to make a more favorable appearance and I have hopes it will improve fast: no doubt the frost having destroyed the first and the second planting of cotton southwardly will very much lessen the crop in that quarter, thereby enhancing in value that which may be made. This however affords us an unpleasant prospect for extending our cotton crop in future, if the price is to be governed by the quantity made. I had indulged the belief that the larger the quantity the better the price would be, inasmuch as it would become an object for strangers to apply at our markets with certainty of being supplied. I am very much pleased with the prospect of this new gin you mention answering my purpose for the present better than what the others may. I shall rely on your goodness to give me as early information respecting it as your health will permit, which ere this may be re-established is the sincerest wish of yours with great regard and esteem

B. WILLIAMS<sup>1</sup>

General Henry W. Harrington,  
near Rockingham, Richmond County,  
N. Carolina.

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<sup>1</sup> Written in the second year of his service as governor.

RALEIGH, July 10, 1802.

MY DEAR GEN.,

Long have I intended to write you in answer to your obliged favor of last year and let you know how my crop of cotton turned out, but owing to being late in getting it cleaned since which too the pressure of official duties has occasioned delay.

I planted by actual measurement 42 acres, almost half of which was very good land, the other half but indifferent, tended in the way and agreeably to the instructions (with which?) you have so obligingly favored me, say 4 feet equidistant etc. After all the perloining of my own negroes and robberies of my neighbors 3,200 pounds of cotton was made and I think without prejudice is equal to any upland cotton, for there wasn't 100 lbs. yellow or faulty cotton among it. This I think is to be ascribed to the excellent season of last year, for as far as I am able to form an opinion it was perhaps a better season than usual. Indeed I recollect no unfavorable time during the growing of the crop except a short drought about the filling up of the cotton, and certainly it was such as admitted of all cotton not too late planted maturing itself; in this your observations respecting the planting early so as to gain season has been manifested important, for in 10 acres of my crop, I am confident, could it have had the advantage of 10 or 15 days more season would have yielded abundantly more than what it did, much of it being overtaken with frost. Upon the whole I am of the opinion take one year with another could we obtain 18 cents for cotten it would be the best crop for us to make. I have shipped what little I made to London and notwithstanding the unfavorable accounts from there for some time back; that since the Treaty of Amiens<sup>1</sup> and general peace, trade will resume its proper station and that we shall yet find a tolerable market in Europe for Cotton.

This year I have planted near 200 acres generally better land than the last but have been so occupied at home as not

to have it in my power to visit my Plantation since the crop has been planted; my overseer however writes favorably.

So far I have taken the liberty of acquainting you with what more particularly concerns myself, you will in return very much oblige me by referring to your present year's cropping. I flatter myself you may have made some fresh discovery in the culture of cotton that may be useful. Russell's Gins we have found fully coming up to your description and it is my intention to apply for another this summer should none superior be invented. Lately I saw a Paragraph in the Public print of S. C. setting forth that a man of that state had made considerable improvement on the patent Gins. If you have information in that regard I shall thank you to communicate it me with instructions how to apply for one.

With my sincerest wishes for the health and happiness of you and yours, I remain, Dr. Sir, with much Esteem,

Yours,

Gen'l Harrington.

B. WILLIAMS.

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<sup>1</sup>The Treaty of Amlens was signed March 1802, being the first lull in hostilities between England and France since 1793. Williams was disappointed in his expectations as to its influence on American trade in that Napoleon again forced war upon England in 1804 which continued until the downfall of the Corsican in 1814, during which period American trade suffered its greatest restrictions in consequence of English and French oppression and our Own government's several embargo acts.

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MY DEAR AUNT,<sup>1</sup>

A long, very long, silence has prevailed between us. What has been the cause? Doubtless I am to blame, tho I wrote to you the last. I offer to you, my dear Aunt, my sympathy and condolence in the afflicting bereavements which you have experienced—Gen. Harrington<sup>2</sup> and your son-in-law are, I am told, no more. They are gone to a better world, where corrupt-ability puts on incorruptability and man disenchained from his worldly passions, finds in the bosom of his Redeemer a happiness in duration eternal, in bounds without limit, a happiness beyond the conception

of the most vivid imagination. Let us then weep for the illustrious dead, not because they are taken from us to receive their crown of glory but because they no longer live to guide our steps and to display to us the bright examples of virtue.

It is I believe more than two years since I have either heard from you or written to you, though my inquiries about you have been frequent and earnest. Mr. McBride<sup>3</sup> your representative has frequently given to me information respecting you and the family. I lately met with Mr. Satterwhite<sup>4</sup> who appears to be an acquaintance of James<sup>5</sup> and who informed me that he had already heard from James who it appears has united himself to a lady of fine accomplishments and good fortune and has a promising heir. All this, my dear Aunt, must afford you great happiness and tend to alleviate the afflictions which have befallen you. Mr. Satterwhite described James to be a gentleman of polite, engaging manners, strong and cultivated mind, and to have a heart a perfect stranger to all guile. I trust this description of my cousin is drawn to the life.

Although young in years and in constitution I feel as if I were an old man, having now four children who occupy almost all my leisure. My great anxiety is to educate them correctly; and their progress in learning is highly flattering to a parent's pride. Two of them Charles and John, are yet too wild or too young to learn, but Caroline and Louis have been to school for more than a year. They both read, spell, and recite admirably; and Caroline in addition writes a beautiful hand, tambours and dances extremely well. Almost all my evenings are spent with them. They of course every evening learn something new and in their improvement consists one of my highest gratifications. Another blessing for which I cannot be too thankful, they have all fine constitutions and enjoy uninterrupted good health.

My dear mother<sup>6</sup> was well the last time I heard from her which was almost ten days since. She desired to be most affectionately remembered to you and that I ask you to write to her.

May I ask you, my dear Aunt, to write to me, and give me particular account of yourself and of all the members of your family, in whose happiness I cannot but feel deeply interested. Can I ask you, with any hopes of success, to pay us a visit? Could not James and his lady accompany you? Traveling you know improves our health and might benefit yours. We have a snug little cottage, large enough though to hold you all in comfort and I really think you will be pleased with our city. We could all go over to Cambridge together where my dear mother would rejoice to see us. Think seriously of this trip, and determine to take it. Catherine has been taught to esteem and respect you. Come and give her an opportunity of loving you.

Your affectionate nephew,

CHAS. W. GOLDSBOROUGH.

Washington, Feb. 12, 1811.

P. S. Write to me under an envelope directed to the Secretary of the Navy.

Mrs. Rosanna Harrington.

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<sup>1</sup> Many of the following letters were addressed by Charles Washington Goldborough to his Aunt, Mrs. H. W. Harrington, widow of General Harrington and mother of Midshipman H. W. Harrington. They prove him to have been a man of fine fibre and courtly character, representing the Revolutionary type of American gentleman with English traditions of life and conduct. He was the son of Robert Goldborough of Cambridge, Maryland, and was born in that town, April 18, 1779, died in Washington, D. C., Sept. 14, 1843. He was the first clerk of the Bureau of Provisions and Clothing of the United States Navy and Chief Clerk of the Naval Department from 1798 to 1812 under Secretaries Benjamin Stoddart, Robt. Smith, and Paul Hamilton. From 1841 until separate naval bureaus were established he was Secretary of the Naval Board. He is the author of "The U. S. Naval Chronicle," and an unpublished "History of the American Navy." He was a Federalist in politics.

<sup>2</sup> General Harrington died March 31st, 1809.

<sup>3</sup> Archibald McBryde, of Moore County, N. C., member of Congress 1809 to 1811 and 1811 to 1813, and in the State Senate in 1813 and 1814. He was a Republican in politics.

<sup>4</sup> No information about Mr. Satterwhite was available to the editor.

<sup>5</sup> James A. Harrington, elder son of Mrs. H. W. Harrington, member of House of Commons in 1808.

<sup>6</sup> Mrs. Caroline Goldborough, of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland, sister of Mrs. H. W. Harrington.

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MY DEAR AUNT,

I duly received your last letter and sincerely thank you for it—because of the real pleasure it has afforded me. I intended to have replied to it in extenso (as our diplomatists would say) that is at full length, but time has not permit-



ted. I will then defer that pleasure for some time and confine myself now to objects more immediately interesting.

Your anxiety, my dear aunt, about the education of your children, cannot be too highly commended—happy children to have such a mother!

We have no seminary of learning immediately in this neighborhood, that I would recommend. My inquiries have been very particular—at St. John's. There the system of education particularly as it respects morals, is extremely defective, and there are so many beautiful young girls there, that the attention of the students is very much diverted from their studies. At Charlotte Hall<sup>2</sup> about thirty miles from this, I do not approve of the teachers. At the college in George Town<sup>3</sup>, their catholic habits would I presume be an objection with you, and I rather think that it would be a reasonable objection. This much for all the colleges and seminaries of learning in the neighborhood of the metropolis of our country. However there is a college at Carlisle<sup>4</sup> that I would recommend, as well for its system of education, its discipline, and its situation. As for the cheapness of living, etc., I do not believe it to be inferior in any respect to Yale—among other things it is very healthy. Now my dear Aunt, should you choose to send my cousin to Carlisle, it will be in my power and it will be very agreeable to me, to pay attention to him. I will procure him such letters as will secure to him an agreeable reception into the best society—and every accommodation necessary to his comfort. If you should still determine to send him to Yale, let him not pass us—the sight of any member of your family would afford me great happiness.

Since I last wrote to you, we have lost my brother Robert<sup>5</sup>—one of the best hearted men that ever lived. Mother has been over and recently returned. Her health is very good. She desired me to remember her to you in the most affectionate terms—and to express her great anxiety to see you.

I am in great haste,

Your affectionate nephew,

Wash. Aug. 15, 1811

CHAS. W. GOLDSBOROUGH.

<sup>1</sup>This letter to Mrs. Harrington is evidently in reply to one from Mrs. Harrington respecting her plans for the education of her youngest son, Henry, who later received an appointment, through Goldsborough's influence, as midshipman in the American Navy and fought in the war of 1812 upon the U. S. Frigate "United States."

<sup>2</sup>Charlotte Hall, in the northern part of St. Mary's County, Maryland, a state academy founded in 1774.

<sup>3</sup>Now Georgetown University, founded in 1799, by members of the Roman Catholic church, and was in 1805 transferred to the Jesuit Society in Maryland, in whose control it remained.

<sup>4</sup>Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, chartered by the legislature of Pennsylvania, Sept. 9, 1783. Established on what was then practically the frontier, Dickinson was the first college founded to meet the needs of the population of the new West. It received a liberal donation from John Dickinson, author of the famous "Letters from a Pennsylvania Farmer," one time governor of Pennsylvania and most influential in the moulding of our Constitution in 1787.

<sup>5</sup>Elder brother of Charles W. Goldsborough and named for his father.

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MY DEAR AUNT:

I have just received your letter of the 22nd ult. Should it be your choice to send my cousin Henry to college, surely he will not object, since it is his advantage only you can have in view; and he must admit that you are far the most competent judge as to the propriety of the measure. The advantages of a liberal education are inestimable. He naturally must wish to become a useful and valuable member of society. Let him then pursue his classical studies. Let him afford to himself a fair opportunity of gratifying his honorable ambition by improving and enlarging his mind. But what, my dear Aunt, is the bent of his genius? If law, physic, or divinity, then it must be indispensably necessary for him to prosecute his studies—if mercantile pursuits should be preferred by him, then he must procure a situation in one of our most *respectable* mercantile houses—if a soldier or a sailor's life should be agreeable to him, he has arrived at an age to commence his career—he is now a good age for a cadet in the army, or a midshipman in the Navy—as to the situation of a clerk under the Government, let him I entreat you never think of it but with a determination never to become one. I speak with experience when I assure you that though I have one of the best situations of this sort under the Government, yet if I had never entered the service, I should I am persuaded have been worth tens of thousands where now I am worth hundreds—when I was a lad, about the age of my cousin Henry, my worthy, revered,

departed friend and patron, Governor Henry,<sup>1</sup> told me that he would procure me a situation as clerk but that I must not remain longer than six or eight months in such employ, and then assigned reasons which my own experience has abundantly confirmed. For years have I felt my error in continuing; yet, owing to some unaccountable infatuation possibly a degree of indolence which is foreign to my nature, and the persuasions of those with whom I have had the happiness of acting, I have contrary to my own judgment remained,—and now I consider myself from long habit a kind of fixture.<sup>2</sup>

With respect to Carlisle college, the reputation of the teachers, for learning, piety and diligence, is very high—no religion is taught—The professors are mostly of the Protestant Episcopal<sup>3</sup> church—The expenses of board and tuition are about \$200—I believe indeed precisely \$200—his clothing would not cost him more there than at home—The habits of the college are remarkably economical—and the morals of the collegiates are guarded with parental care.—Henry you say is not in good health: then Carlisle is the very place for him to go to. The mountain air would soon brace him up—and invigorate his constitution.

Should he determine to select the mercantile business, it will, I believe, be in my power, as soon as our commerce shall be on a safe footing, to procure him such a position as I should wish to see him in—He would have to pay his own board etc., till of age—The expenses in Phila. or in Balto. or New York, in either of which places I believe I could procure him a situation would be from \$500 to \$600 annually—It is, be assured, as necessary for a young man to serve a regular apprenticeship to the Mercantile business, to become a respectable intelligent merchant as it is for one destined to the bar, physics, or divinity, to go through a regular course of studies in either of those professions.

Should he determine for the army, I think the appointment of a cadet can be obtained for him—or should he choose an appointment in the corps of marines (which I think pre-

ferable to the army) I think I could obtain for him the commission of a second lieutenant—If he should prefer the navy, I could get him a midshipman's warrant<sup>4</sup>. Now, my dear Aunt, do you and my cousin Henry determine what is to be done—and command my services without the least reserve.

I thought that you knew of the death of my brother Hawes, who died between five and six years since.—John, Horace, and myself, are all the children left of my father and mother.—John, who is the most perfect character I ever knew, lives in Easton, and is in very extensive practice as a lawyer—his circumstances easy.—Horace is now with my mother—poor fellow, he has a failing which we have some hopes he will recover from: though many attribute it to his personal deformity.—My poor brother Robert was not happily married—about three years before his death he was divorced—his child lives with my mother.—My brother Hawes left four children, Francis, Robert, Charles, and Carolina: all promising—their mother, one of the finest women I ever knew—lives in Delaware—Tho' she spends much of her time with my mother—brother John has four—John—Elizabeth—Henrietta—and I do not know the name of the youngest—tho' believe Henry.

Yes, my children shall know your name, and be taught to esteem and love you.

Yr. affect. nephew,  
CH. W. GOLDSBOROUGH,  
Wash't. Aug. 30, 1811.

Mrs. Rosanna Harrington.

<sup>1</sup> Governor John Henry, of Maryland, a note on whom appears with letter No. 2.

<sup>2</sup> Goldsborough was chief clerk of the navy department for fourteen years, retiring in 1812, when partizan politics finally made his position uncomfortable upon the outbreak of war with England. In political principles he was a strong Federalist.

<sup>3</sup> Dickinson College was controlled by this denomination, though its usefulness and the healthful situation commended it to the legislature of Pennsylvania and it often received a state appropriation as a maintenance fund.

<sup>4</sup> Between the date of this and the succeeding letter young Harrington must have expressed his preference for naval service rather than any of the alternatives. He received his midshipman's warrant Dec. 17, 1811, and after a short period of instruction in navigation was assigned to service upon the Frigate United States commanded by Stephen Decatur.

NAVY DEPT., 20 Dec., 1811.

SIR:

You will report yourself to Dod Hunter at the Navy Yard here, who will instruct you in the theory of navigation.

Respectfully yours,

PAUL HAMILTON<sup>1</sup>.

Midshipman H. Y. W. Harrington

Presents

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<sup>1</sup> Paul Hamilton, b. Oct. 16, 1762, St. Paul's Parish, S. C., d. June 30th, 1816, in Beaufort, S. C. He was Comptroller of South Carolina from 1799 to 1804; was governor of South Carolina 1804-1806; was Secretary of the United States Navy from 1809 to 1813, being appointed by Madison in his first cabinet.

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MY DEAR AUNT:

I have just received yours by Mr. Mitchell.

Do not suffer yourself, my dear Aunt, to entertain any fears about my cousin Henry. He is, without flattery, one of the most moral correct young men I ever knew—and he is much pleased with his profession. Dod Hunter, under whom he is now learning navigation, called on me a few days since for the purpose of expressing his very favorable opinion in relation to Henry—and frequently called him a fine, very fine, young man.

As soon as he shall have completed his studies with Dod Hunter, he will be attached to the frigate United States commanded by my particular friend Commander Decatur,<sup>1</sup> to whom I shall write by Henry, and who, be assured, will pay attention to him—Henry must however go first to the E. Shore<sup>2</sup>—Mother says she will be grievously offended if he does not—He is quite well. In great haste,

I am, my dear Mother,

Yr. aff. nephew,

CH. W. GOLDSBOROUGH.

Feb. 19, 1812.

Mrs. Rosanna Harrington,

Fayetteville, N. C.

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<sup>1</sup> Stephen Decatur, b. Jan. 15, 1779, in Sinnepuxent, Maryland, appointed a midshipman in 1798; in 1799 was promoted to a lieutenantcy. In 1802 he commanded the Norfolk and Enterprise in the war against the Bey of

Tripoli. He made the most brilliant naval record of all our officers in the war against the Barbary States. In 1808 he was a member of the court martial that tried Commodore James Barron for surrendering the Chesapeake to the British. In the war of 1812 he was in command of the Southern Squadron with the Frigate United States as his flag ship. At the opening of hostilities he encountered and captured the British Frigate Macedonia. In 1814 he was transferred to the "President" as Flagship and the command of a second squadron and performed those brilliant services that has rendered the naval record of the United States the most brilliant, perhaps, in our naval annals. In 1820 he was challenged to a duel by Commodore James Barron and in the encounter which followed Decatur was mortally wounded and a few hours later, March 22, 1820, died. His death provoked profound sorrow throughout the nation.

<sup>2</sup> Cambridge, the home of Goldsborough's mother, is in Dorchester County, Eastern Shore of Maryland.

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MY DEAR SIR:

Allow me to introduce to your acquaintance Mr. H. Y.<sup>1</sup> W. Harrington, a young gentleman whom you will find worthy of your esteem and kind attentions.—He is the son of the late Gen<sup>l</sup>. Harrington of N. C. and my cousin, possessed of a handsome patrimony, he has entered our naval service from motives which will I trust conduct him in time to distinction. He is diffident and amiable—and may require advice. Will you exercise toward him a paternal part, so far as to give him your advice when he may require it? In doing so, you will greatly oblige him, and me.

I am, with very great esteem.

Yrs. truly,

C. W. GOLDSBOROUGH.

Theo. Armistead<sup>2</sup>, Esq.,  
Norfolk, Virg.

Wash. 3 March 1812.

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<sup>1</sup> Harrington soon dropped the "Y" out of his name and thereafter wrote and received all correspondence as H. W. Harrington.

<sup>2</sup> One of five brothers of an old Virginia family who fought in the war of 1812. One of these brothers, Col. Lewis Armistead, led the forlorn hope and was killed in the assault on Fort Erie, in the war of 1812, and another, Col. George Armistead, commanded Fort McHenry, guarding the approach to Baltimore, and succeeded in driving away the British fleet on the occasion when Francis Key wrote the national song, "The Star Spangled Banner." A nephew, Gen. Lewis A. Armistead, led in the heroic charge of Pickett's division at Gettysburg, which for brilliancy and daring will rank in history with McDonald's charge at Wagram, the charge of the Old Guard at Waterloo, and of the "light brigade" at Balaklava.

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MY DEAR AUNT:

I wrote to you a few days since informing you of the character which Dod Hunter gives my cousin Henry, which will I trust afford you much consolation for his offence.

Henry has been ordered to the frigate United States, Commanded by Commander Decatur, now at Norfolk—on his way thither he intended calling at Cambridge to see my mother and remain with her about a week. He will then proceed on to Norfolk. I have given him letters of introduction to Commander Decatur, Lieut. Allen<sup>1</sup> and Mids<sup>n</sup>. Hamilton, all of the frigate U. States—and to Thec. Armistead esquire, one of the most estimable men ever born. I have asked Mr. Armistead to give Henry his kind advice whenever necessary. Henry will find in him particularly, a friend—In the others also he will find friends. Lt. Allen (1st Lieut. of the ship) is one of the very best officers in our navy—and perfectly the exemplary gentlemen—Mid's<sup>n</sup>. Hamilton<sup>2</sup> is a remarkable fine elegant young man—Henry and himself will I hope become very intimate friends.

I am, my dear Aunt,

Yr. affec. nephew,

CH. W. GOLDSBOROUGH.

Was'N. Mar. 8, 1812.

Mrs. Rosanna Harrington,  
Fayetteville, N. C.

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<sup>1</sup>William Henry Allen, b. in Providence, R. I., Oct. 21, 1784; d. Aug. 15th, 1813. He entered the navy as midshipman, April 28th, 1800, was 3rd lieutenant of the "Chesapeake" when she struck her colors to the British frigate "Leopard" in 1807, and drew up the letter of the officers to the secretary of the navy urging the trial of Capt. James Barron for neglect of duty. He became 1st lieutenant of the frigate "United States" in 1809, and gained distinction in the action with the "Macedonia," Oct. 25th, 1812. In 1813 he was made commander of the "Argus" and on the 14th of August fought the British vessel "Pelican" in which contest he was mortally wounded and his vessel captured.

<sup>2</sup>Archibald Hamilton, midshipman, May 18, 1809, Lieutenant, July 24th, 1813. Killed in action, January 15, 1815. Son of Paul Hamilton, Secretary of the United States Navy.

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FLAGSHIP-FRIGATE PRESIDENT AT SEA, July 19th 1812.

DEAR HARRINGTON:

How do you do? Have you been well since you left Washington and how do you like the sea, etc. Does salt beef and pork agree with your stomach? I have spent a very agreeable time of it since I left Washington, but I must confess I had rather be there than on board. I was at Hampton

and saw Wilson Jones whom you may remember seeing at W<sup>sn</sup>. Pray let me know whether you have heard from any of our old cronies at Washington; I saw Atwood<sup>1</sup> in New York, on my way to Newport. I spent four days in Philadelphia and four in the former city. Do come on board in the next boat if you possibly can, I wish to talk over our old affairs with you.

I have been very well since I saw you last, except two or three days sea sickness &c.

With sentiments of respect and esteem I have the honor to be your friend and well wisher.

WM. BELT<sup>2</sup> U. S. N.

Midship<sup>n</sup> H. W. Harrington,  
Frigate U. States.

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<sup>1</sup> M. C. Atwood, Midshipman, Dec. 17, 1810. Purser, March 26, 1814. Died May 12, 1823.

<sup>2</sup> Wm. J. Belt, Midshipman, Sept. 1st, 1811, Lieutenant March 3rd, 1817. Commander Feb. 9, 1837. Dismissed Nov. 2, 1842.

MY DEAR AUNT:

I have received your letter of the 1st inst. Its contents give me great concern. You say that Henry must return to you; and, if I did not think that he would be an ornament to his profession;—that the chance of his becoming distinguished in any other would be very slender—and that it would render him very unhappy to abandon the navy—I should concur with you in the wish you have expressed. You say you cannot act the part of a Roman mother—Now my dear Aunt pardon my frankness—This expression was used in a moment of weakness, and it was but a moment, for in another expression used by you I find even the Spartan mother, “for he must not be disgraced.”

I will not undertake to say that Henry cannot retire without actual disgrace, but of one thing I am persuaded and that is, that if he were to retire now he would feel very sensibly—and his feelings would unfit him for a long time to come, for any other valuable profession; and attached as he is to



the Navy, he would never be happy in resigning under existing circumstances.

He is now in a situation where he will acquire reputation—which must have a tendency to wean still more his affections from the shore. He cannot be expected to return shortly. The time of his return, is, indeed, very uncertain. Five ships are cruising together, he is on board of one of them, and one of the best and we know not where they are; but we entertain no doubt of their safe return into Port.—Henry will then let you know how he likes the service, upon stating to you his actual experience, he will have it in his power to remove most of your objections to his continuing in the service, if not all of them. You know, I suppose, his dislike to a farmer's life. He has much of the heroic ardor of his father. Do not, my dear Aunt, allow your fears (which are natural and certainly not unaimable) to suppress the growth of the promising plant. If he prefers remaining in the service, check not his disposition or you may destroy his usefulness. All agree with me in the opinions I have expressed. My solicitude for his continuing in the Navy arises solely from my persuasion that he will prove an ornament to it, that he will acquire a reputation, and in that way contribute to the happiness of mother, his country and his friends.

Among others I mentioned the subject to my Catherine<sup>1</sup> who has all the tender feeling of the most anxious mother. I consulted with her, her reply was—"He cannot resign now and if he were my child I should say remain."

If contrary to my expectation Henry should express a wish to resign—then I assure you I will do my best to get him out of the service in the most honorable way.<sup>2</sup>

In great haste, I am, my dear Aunt,

Your affc. nephew,

C. W. GOLDSBOROUGH.

Aug. 10, 1812.

Mrs. Rosanna Harrington.

<sup>1</sup> Catherine, wife of Charles W. Goldsborough.

<sup>2</sup> This letter was evidently in reply to one from Mrs. Harrington to Goldsborough expressing her maternal fear for the safety of her son who was at this time off on a cruise under Commodore Decatur and participating in the engagements of the squadron.

## SHIP-PRESIDENT AT SEA

DEAR HARRINGTON:

I shall accuse you of the want of that friendship and intimacy which existed between us at Washington and which I hope will long continue, if you do not let me hear from you oftener than you have done.

Your boat<sup>1</sup> has been long side of us very often since we came out, but you have never put yourself to the trouble to write to me moreover, to learn how I weathered out "Our Running Fight<sup>2</sup>,"—It was to me and I rather expect to you also a novel thing and if I did not suppose you had learned the particulars I would give them to you—However I hope we shall give some of them the thumps<sup>3</sup> before we get in and I rather think we hammered the rest of him the other day.

It goes damn hard with me now as our stores have all given out and we are obliged to miss our salt Pork and Beef. I think I had rather be at Washington with old Mother McCandle. Pray how do you come on in the line of "Clean Shirts." If you are overstocked, I'll take them off your hand. They are in great demand here.

I hope we shall all be rich when we get in port again.<sup>4</sup> If we can come across the Convoy—We Yankees will be apt to astonish them—Write by the next and every convenient opportunity and let me know how you come on. I hope we shall have a Frolic together in New York in the course of the summer—Give my best respects to Mr. Hamilton and Jamison.<sup>5</sup>

In haste, Yrs. with sincere esteem,

WM. BELT,

12 July 1812.

Mr. Henry W. Harrington,  
Frigate United States at Sea,  
Mr. Howell.

<sup>1</sup> Young Harrington was upon the Frigate "United States," and his friend Belt upon the "President," the latter ship in a squadron composed of that and two others, the "Congress" and the "Wasp," commanded by Captain John Rodgers.

<sup>2</sup> Three days after the declaration of war in 1812 Captain Rodgers sailed in the "President" in command of a squadron to intercept the British West India fleet. On June 23, 1812 he met the British Frigate *Belvidera* which

escaped after a running fight of eight hours. The Captain himself fires the first gun, the first shot in the war.

<sup>3</sup>High enthusiasm, typical of our naval forces in the war of 1812, accounts for the brilliancy of our achievements in the sea fighting of 1812-1813. The cruise of Rodgers and his squadron, after the Belvidera fight, continued a most brilliant record, making 23 prizes of British vessels during his command of the "President" and attendant ships. Applause and honor greeted his return to American shores.

<sup>4</sup>This was in anticipation of the distribution of prize money from the sale of captured vessels.

<sup>5</sup>Wm. Jameson, b. in Virginia 1791, d. in Alexandria, Va., Oct. 7, 1873. He was appointed a midshipman from the District of Columbia in 1811. He received his commission of Lieutenant in 1817, Commander in 1837, and Captain in 1844. He adhered to the cause of the Union at the outbreak of the Civil War and was commissioned Commodore July 16, 1862. He was subsequently invalided and remained on the retired list during the war.

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FRIGATE UNITED STATES, BOSTON, Sept. 1. 1812

DEAR MOTHER:<sup>1</sup>

In haste I inform you that we arrived in this port yesterday after a cruize of 70 days. We have been so busily engaged since our arrival that I have found it utterly impossible to write sooner and my chance even now is a bad one, I shall however spend a day or two on shore shortly—I shall then have an opportunity of writing to you and the rest of my friends.

The last letter I received from home was dated 2 of May not having heard from Carolina since that time I am of course anxious to know how you are all coming on. I should like to know whether you succeeded in settling the Estate to your satisfaction and if our friends are doing well. In one word, I should like to have all the news. I expect to receive a letter from you before we sail from this place tho it is impossible for me to say how long we shall remain here.

If letters for me were enclosed to Mr. Goldsborough he could forward them on whenever this ship enters any port, for he will be informed of its arrival much sooner than it will be possible for letters to reach you.

I must go on duty.

H. W. HARRINGTON.

Mrs. Rosanna Harrington,  
Fayetteville, N. C.

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<sup>1</sup>This is the first letter from Midshipman W. H. Harrington to his mother that appears in the collection. It was written after Decatur's cruise in command of the "United States" and the "Argus." Decatur's vessels remained in the port of Boston, Mass., from September 1st, 1812, until early in October, when it set off on a cruise toward the Azores.

FAYETTEVILLE, Sept. 1812.

O MY DEAR HENRY,

Must you sail again before mother sees you? And perhaps before she can even write to tell you how much your friends want to see you, and how gratified your poor mother, aunt, and sisters were only by learning that you were in Boston, more than a thousand miles from them!!! I wrote to you immediately after the recd. of yours from Norfolk of the tenth of June, but you must have sailed before my letter could have reached that place. In that letter I wrote you that your dear good brother<sup>1</sup> had lost his youngest child, his dear little Rosanna! You know what a tender father he is, Poor fellow! he was greatly afflicted. Your sister Troy<sup>2</sup> and her three children were with us two or three weeks ago in good health and all even the little Rosanna<sup>3</sup> anxious to hear from you. Your sister says that she has not received a line from you since you left home. I had a letter from your only brother<sup>1</sup> a few days ago, he says he shall never be happy until he sees you settled at home, and urges for you to come and take charge of your estate the next winter. In answer to your question about the settling of the estate, I can only say that I hope to get through at last; but the present dull price of "produce" will I fear make the negroes hire for very little and the lands will rent in proportion, but though this is a heavy drawback and there are yet a few heavy debts to pay there is but one that is urgent (John McFarland<sup>4</sup> who has sued on a bond) and we have funds provided, that will be collected before he obtains a judgment, that I have no fear of being obliged to sell any of the negroes for that, or any other debts, unless times grow more desperate than at present.

You may suppose that after being so long ignorant of your fate, we were all eager for the first news of the squad. Yesterday morning as we were at breakfast, your mother about half way through with her first cup of tea, Miss Winslow (Lucy Ann) entered, and told us with her eyes sparkling that "Uncle Belden sent her to tell us that Com<sup>d</sup> Roger's squad<sup>n</sup> had arrived safe at Boston." This put an end to mother's tea drinking at that time, and so completely choked

Aunt Eliza<sup>5</sup> that I believe she was scarcely able to eat all day afterwards. Harry hugged Lucy Ann, and Caroline<sup>6</sup> and Henry Ayer<sup>7</sup> jumped about "like mad" with joy. This morning as we had just begun breakfast again, James Alves came in with your letter! He had been at the postoffice and hoping he said to be the bearer of good news inquired for letters for us. The arrival of your letter more completely put an end to this breakfast than the last; so that we have to charge you with the loss of two breakfasts; I could scarcely forbear hugging Alves myself. Poor Harriet<sup>8</sup> burst into tears and was for sometime unable to refrain from sobbing—Caroline was much affected too and Aunt E's throat again choked up; all the negroes came up to ask about "Master Henry" and some of them shed tears!

Your other two aunts<sup>9</sup> and many of our friends came in an hour or two to congratulate us and inquire after you. The general question is, "When will he come home?" I wish I had the power of answering this question with certainty. I think it must be next winter, by the first of January at farthest and as much sooner as can be with propriety.

We are again in the house that we first came to in Fayetteville. The brick castle did not please us or rather the situation of it was disagreeable. The house and lot where we now are we all think much more pleasant, and as our family is now as small as you wish it (only Aunt E. and two little fices) the house does well enough. I would give you the news of the town if I could, but it generally passes my ear without fixing on my memory. There is no great alteration in Fayetteville since you left it. As soon as it was known that your letter was rec<sup>d</sup> and that you were certainly safe-landed, a number of your old comrades to wit John McRae, John Wright, James Alves, Wm. Tillinghast and others whom I forget, met together and made a large bowl of punch, to drink to the success of the young midshipman. Harriet says that this compliment must have been payed to you for her sake but you know better. In Wadesboro, everybody almost, have become canting Methodists.

The Miss Jacksons exhort and pray publicly—Miss Wade, pilgrim-like, walks half a dozen miles on foot to meeting, Mrs. Jackson too. Hannah Robinson and her little sister ten years old fancy themselves converted and make much to do about it. And Sherwood Auld's wife has caught the infection to the no small mortification of her husband. The once cheerful little Wadesborough has become the dullest spot upon the globe. We impatiently wait for a long letter from you giving us the journal of your travels—describing the different places you have been at—the prizes the squadron has taken &c. &c. You must have materials now, to fill a volume unless like Prince Leboo new scenes crowded upon you so fast that, you could not remember all your *knots*; however, as you have the use of pen and ink this could not be the case. How did you feel when you first heard the guns of the President and the Belvidera? I make no doubt that you were anxious to be nearer and to have a share in the action, but did no thoughts of home—of mama come across your mind. Finish your career my dear son as soon as you can with propriety and come home, that we may all be together the small balance of time that your mother has to stay here.

Harriet has just rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from Eliza Sibley from Nashville on the way to her father with Henry and an elder brother. She makes kind inquiries after you. Your Sisters and Aunts all unite in love to you and in wishing you soon to return home.

That heaven will protect you from every ill is the daily prayer of  
Your affectionate mother,

R. HARRINGTON.

Received 27th Sept.

Henry William Harrington  
Midshipman on board  
the frigate United States.

<sup>1</sup> James Auld Harrington.

<sup>2</sup> Mrs. Robert Troy (nee Rosanna Harrington), eldest child of General Harrington.

<sup>3</sup> Rosanna Troy, daughter of Robt. Troy and Rosanna Harrington Troy, was born at Beausejour, the old Harrington homestead in Richmond County, Oct. 14, 1806 and married John Gough Lance, physician of Cheraw, Feb. 12, 1824.

<sup>4</sup> Farmer of Richmond County, member of the House of Commons from Richmond County, in 1805.

<sup>5</sup> Miss Elizabeth Auld, a maiden sister of Mrs. W. H. Harrington, residing with her.

<sup>6</sup> Caroline, youngest daughter of General and Mrs. W. H. Harrington, later married to Otho Chambers, a man of good estate, resident in Rowan County.

<sup>7</sup> Son of Mrs. Harrington's sister, a Mrs. Ayer, who was left early a widow and later married to Col. Blakeney of South Carolina.

<sup>8</sup> Harriet, second daughter of Gen. and Mrs. W. H. Harrington, born at Beausejour, 1790, married Bela Wm. Strong, a lawyer from N. Y. who settled in Troy, Montgomery County. Her husband was killed in a duel with another attorney named Holmes, his brother-in-law, former midshipman W. H. Harrington, acting as his second. As a result of this loss Mrs. Strong lost her reason for a time, but eventually recovered and lived to a ripe old age in Wadesboro.

<sup>9</sup> There were four of the Auld sisters, Mrs. Harrington, Mrs. Ayer, and Miss Nancy and Miss Betsy, the latter two never married.

<sup>10</sup> Mrs. Harrington had moved from her country estate, Beausejour, to Fayetteville for the benefit of the schools for her children, but later returned to her plantation home in Richmond County, and still later to Wadesboro, Anson County, where she resided at the date of her death, Oct. 13, 1828.

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BOSTON, 15 Sept., 1812.

DEAR MOTHER:

It has been now more than four months since I have heard from any of my friends. I of course wait impatiently for letters from home. My last (informing you of our arrival here) ought to be in Fayetteville by this time; if so I may expect in 10 or 15 days to hear how you all are and to get the Carolina news. We are making some repairs which I think will detain us here near a month although the commander says we shall sail in less than a fortnight. Our movements however never keep way with his reckoning. Our 1st Lieutenant left this place today for Providence, R. I., he is to return to the ship before we sail. This circumstance together with the repairs before us convince me that we shall be here longer than the Commander says we shall. At any rate letters directed to this place from Fayetteville within ten days will arrive before we sail.

I have thought seriously for sometime past of joining the Army and have determined to do so if I can get such an appointment as I wish. I think that many and much greater opportunities for distinguishing themselves will be afforded to young men of the Army in Canada among the Indians and before and upon the walls of Quebec than those of the Navy can expect. I wrote to Mr. Goldsborough on the subject a

few days since requesting him to make some inquiries with respect to vacancies etc. I shall depend on him to manage things for me at Washington and on receiving his answer I shall be able to inform you whether I am to become soldier or remain sailor. I wrote to you on the day we sailed from New York on the last cruise expecting to send the letter on shore by our Pilot who had actually got in a boat to return when it was determined to take him the round with us—He remained on board and I accordingly missed sending my letter. I mention this lest you should think I neglected to write when I had an opportunity. I have written to none of my Carolina friends or acquaintances since our arrival, this is not from a want of inclination. I have no time now which I can call my own, 'tis the States', do tell them so and make every necessary apology for my apparent neglect. I want to know what you all intend doing with yourselves—whether you have any idea of returning to Peedee<sup>1</sup>—whether Brother<sup>2</sup> is making or has made preparations for removing to No. Ca. What has become of our boys (Cousins Tawney and Wiggins) who ought to be fighting characters these days? Fauri's large head would stand a glorious chance among the cannon balls.

Remember to all friends.

H. W. HARRINGTON.

Tell Mrs. Fletcher not to mind altho- she has not been "called" as particularly as usual won't do to regard trifles these war times. 16th Sept., 1812.

Mrs. Rosanna Harrington

Fayetteville, N. C.

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<sup>1</sup>This is in reference to a possible return of the Harrington family to Beausejour, on Peedee River, in Richmond County.

<sup>2</sup>James Auld Harrington married Eleanor Wilson, daughter of Governor John Lyde Wilson of South Carolina and was living in that State at the time of this letter. Gov. Wilson was a prominent lawyer living at this date in Georgetown, South Carolina. He was elected governor in 1822 and served a two year term. A member of the Nullification Convention of 1832, he advocated the most violent of the measures that were proposed then and during the session of 1833. In 1838 he published a "Code of Honor," which he affirmed was the means of saving life, but which seems to have been intended rather to regulate duels, in several of which he took part.



BOSTON, Oct. 4, 1812.

DEAR MOTHER:

I received yours of the 13 September on the 27th. It gave me pleasure to hear that my friends were well and that (while beating about on the Ocean) I am not entirely forgotten by them. I am glad to hear that you are no longer troubled with boarders and I really hope you are determined never more to be so. As my sentiments on this subject have always been known to you, you may suppose that I am much better satisfied with your situation now than when I left you. I could however wish that you were not so entirely destitute of a protector as you at present are, or that you had such a one as you would find in my brother, were you in that house on Peedee which I once had the pleasure of calling my home, and he on one of his plantations. In his last letter he says "As soon as I see a solution on the old capes I shall come up." We are now prepared for a three months cruize and expect to sail in a few days, so I am likely to eat my Christmas dinner at sea (unless our Commander should give us some repairing jobs before that time) instead of in the camp; for I have not heard a syllable from Mr. G. yet.<sup>1</sup> A long cruize will considerably derange my plans for entering the Army—such a one (short and successful) as the Constitution's last would just suit me, but should we run across to Europe, South America or India, and be gone 3, 6, or 12 months as we must be I shall have lost my chance in the Army. I have great hopes however of meeting with some of their cruisers before we leave our own coasts.<sup>2</sup> You have not mentioned Madette or Leonard in your letter—if they are still in Fayetteville and should ask after me, tell them I shall be glad at all times to receive letters from them. I hope that these young men will place themselves in active situations in which they may be of service to their country and do honor to themselves for I think that they if no other of my acquaintances in Fayetteville have spirit of enterprise enough to do something during this War. I am now equally unable with yourself to answer the "general question" which my friends ask and can

only say that when the avowed objects of the war are obtained and peace shall succeed that I can with "propriety" return, I promise myself the pleasure of visiting my friends—until *then* my services are my Country's. I hope that you will suffer no uneasiness on my account or permit any of my friends to do so—The fortune of war is as changeable as the wind—there is no possibility of knowing where duty may call or necessity drive us—so long as we carry the compass in one hand and the Quadrant in the other, fear not our safe return.

Oct. 5th. I could not conclude this scrawl last night. While writing was so tormented by my jovial shipmates that I scarcely know what I have written. I have however now as little time to apologize for the defects of my letter as I have to overhaul it or commence another—We are now getting ready to unmoor ship and if the wind was fair should probably sail today; I make no doubt we shall be off early in the morning—I shall detain this letter until then.

Oct. 6. Today we drop down to Nantucket Roads (about 9 miles from here) and expect to sail tomorrow or in a very few days. Remember me to friends.

H. W. HARRINGTON.

Mrs. Ros<sup>a</sup> Harrington  
Fayetteville, N. C.

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<sup>1</sup>Young Harrington had written after his first cruise to Charles W. Goldsborough respecting a transfer from the navy to the army, being evidently moved by the restlessness of youth to take part in the campaigns then preparing against Canada. The next cruise of Decatur, however, seems to have satisfied his thirst for adventure: Likewise Goldsborough's reply must have discouraged the plan of transfer, since we hear no more of it upon his subsequent return to port in shattered health.

<sup>2</sup>On the 8th October, 1812, Commodore Decatur sailed from Nantucket cruising toward the Azores, where on the 25th his flagship, the "United States" (upon which Midshipman Harrington served) fell in with the British frigate *Macedonia*, Captain John Surnam Cardue, who instantly made chase. But Decatur had no intention of escaping, and the action was short and decisive. In ninety minutes the *United States* had shot away the mizzen-mast of the *Macedonian*, had dismantled two of her maindeck guns and all but two of the carronades on the engaged side, had killed forty-three and wounded sixty-one of the crew, had put one hundred shot in her hull, and made her a prize. On the *United States* twelve men were killed or wounded. The prize was brought into New London by early December, adding another to the long list of our sea captures of the year.

DEAR HARRINGTON:

I take this opportunity to enclose you—that which your present situation must necessarily require.<sup>1</sup>

With best wishes for your recovery,  
Your sincere friend,

D. TAYLOR.<sup>2</sup>

Frigate U. S. Dec. 11, 1812.

Mid<sup>sn</sup> W. Harrington

Forwarded by Mr. Timberlake.

<sup>1</sup>The frigate United States returned to port at New London the 7th of December. Midshipman Harrington, in the last weeks of the cruise had suffered an impairment of his health which confined him somewhat more than a month at New London.

<sup>2</sup>Dugomier Taylor, Midshipman, 16 January, 1809, Lieutenant, 24 July, 1813. Died at sea 5 October, 1819. He served upon the frigate United States in company with Harrington in 1812 and was in the Macedonia fight.

NEW LONDON, Conn., Jan. 11, 1813.

DEAR MOTHER:

I have just received your letter without date. The mail closes in five minutes. I therefore have barely time to say that I am recovering my health faster than I could expect. I now walk about all through the house and should walk all over the town were it not for the inclemency of the weather which is very severe here at present. I shall commence my journey<sup>1</sup> to the southward as soon as I think my health sufficiently recovered. I will write from New Haven or New York to let you know that I am on the way.

In haste,

HENRY W. HARRINGTON.

Mrs. Ros<sup>a</sup> Harrington

Fayetteville, N. C.

<sup>1</sup>Midshipman Harrington procured a leave as a result of impaired health and set out the 27th of January southward to visit his mother in North Carolina. Arrived in Fayetteville he soon was persuaded to assume the management of his estate and charge of his mother's interests, and in consequence resigned his commission the 12th April, 1813. However, since the war was not yet over he remained for some time unsettled in his purposes and plans, but eventually, despite an early distaste for agriculture, settled to the life of a southern planter upon his home estate.

DEAR HENRY:

I wrote to you soon after the arrival of the U. States—but by some fatality I have just found that the letter was never put in the post office—In that letter I congratulated you for the share you were so fortunate as to have in the victory over the Macedonia and asked you what were your wishes as to continuing in the Navy. By letter just received from Aunt Harrington, I have heard for the first time that you were left unwell at N. London. By this time I hope you are restored to health. If not, and I can in any way whatever serve you command me freely: or whether you have or not recovered—Aunt appears very uneasy about you, and extremely anxious that you should go to North Carolina. Should you wish this considering your late ill health, there will not I apprehend be any difficulty in procuring you the indulgence. When there you can make up your mind whether to remain in the service or not.

Mrs. G. and the children unite with me in best wishes and regards for you.

Yr. friend,

C. W. GOLDSBOROUGH.

Wash<sup>n</sup> 22 Jan., 1813.

Mr. H. W. Harrington

Mids<sup>n</sup> Crew U. S.

N. London, Ct.

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NEW HAVEN, Conn., Jan. 28, 1813.

DEAR MOTHER:

I have just arrived here from New London which place I left last evening. Tomorrow or next day I go to New York where I expect to remain 10 days or a fortnight. My journey will thence be continued on southward so that I think about 7 weeks from this time you may expect me in Fayetteville.

Should you see brother tell him to be prepared for me, that I almost think already that I can see *the fox* amoving<sup>1</sup> and although he is 7 or 800 miles ahead of me, unless he

runs a good race he will find me in the course of two months close at his heels.

Affectionately your son,

H. W. HARRINGTON.

29th. John Eccles and John Lord found me in a short time after I arrived here. Should their friends inquire after them you can inform them that they are well.

29 Jany.

H. H.

Mrs. Ros<sup>a</sup> Harrington  
Fayetteville, N. C.

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<sup>1</sup>After retiring from the naval service and taking up the management of the old Harrington homestead, Beausejour, on the Peedee, in Richmond County, young Harrington became a typical Southern planter of large estate. He loved the chase and kept a kennel of thirty or forty fox hounds. In the season he drew about him large hunting parties from among his friends and entertained them lavishly during a week's hunt. He carefully protected the game upon the large estate. Engaged in the culture of cotton, he owned about three hundred slaves, and devoted himself exclusively to agricultural interests with the exception of two terms service to his county in the state legislature as member of the Commons (1816 and 1817). As a result of disappointment in a youthful love affair Harrington never married, perhaps also being influenced to a general disinclination for society by the part he played in the duel of his brother-in-law, Belah Strong, and his sister's subsequent loss of reason. See *supra*.....

MY DEAR AUNT:

You will at length I hope have the happiness of seeing your worthy son Henry my cousin, and although he has been in battle, and subsequently been sick, you will I think find him just as "safe and sound" as when he left you—indeed I think improved in appearance. He seems bent on continuing in the Navy, however he defers a definitive determination upon that important point until he shall have an opportunity of consulting with you. I can only say that in my opinion he would make a figure in the Navy.

Poor Horace,<sup>1</sup> after many years of affliction, died a short time since—My mother tho' well, is in much distress in consequence of this bereavement. I have not heard from her direct since it took place: but brother John has written. All our other friends are well.

I have had so much writing to do of late that really I have no taste or relish for writing even to you. My little

daughter has opened a correspondence with her cousin and namesake who must answer her letter by first opportunity: otherwise my little Jade,<sup>3</sup> who is somewhat punctillious, would be much hurt. She made two errors in her Epistle. It is however her first attempt. I would not suffer her to write another by way of slight punishment. Next time she will spell better. Make excuses for her. Remember, she is barely 9 years old. Kitty<sup>4</sup> joins me in affection and regards.

Yr. affec. nephew,  
CH. W. GOLDSBOROUGH.

Wash<sup>n</sup>, Feby. 11, 1813.  
Mrs. Ros. Harrington,  
Fayetteville,  
Mr. H. W. Harrington.

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<sup>1</sup> Horace Goldsborough, brother of Charles W. Goldsborough, an invalid who resided with his mother at Cambridge, Maryland.

<sup>2</sup> Fourth brother of C. W. Goldsborough, residing at Easton, Md., and in the practice of law; at this writing the only surviving brother of the writer.

<sup>3</sup> Only daughter of Charles W. Goldsborough. Her name was Caroline, for his cousin, Caroline Harrington, youngest daughter of General and Mrs. W. H. Harrington.

<sup>4</sup> Catherine Goldsborough, wife of Charles W. Goldsborough.

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FRIDAY MORNING, 6th Aug., 1813.

DR. HENRY:

We are deprived of the pleasure of visiting you today as promised, "by wars and rumors of wars<sup>1</sup>." This day at ten o'clock a draft takes place in this Beet; and before this reaches you I expect to acquire a new character, that of a soldier. "A substitute, my kingdom for a substitute," will be my cry should I be drafted which is more than probable as 3-5 are required; one half expected to march in less than a week to the seaboard of this State<sup>2</sup> which is supposed to be in danger of an invasion. The remainder to serve the U. States at a moment's warning. Come down instanter, yr. uncle<sup>3</sup> wants "the sinews of war,—men and money." One man however would answer at present and you must assist in procuring him. You see I count with certainty on being drawn.

We send the chair for Harriet and hope to see you both at dinner on Saturday. Make an effort of the kneepan now. I shall be on thorns from the moment I'm drafted until I get a substitute or find it impossible. Difficult I discover it to be. Hence you will hasten down with all speed possible. Try to be here to breakfast.

Your affect. brother,  
JAS. A. HARRINGTON.

I must give any price for a substitute for my business in Anson court and county will not admit of my absence.

Henry William Harrington, Eq<sup>r</sup>

Mount Airy<sup>4</sup>

Alias Jones,

Anson County.

Dr. Jacobs.

<sup>1</sup>In 1813 the British government made unusual efforts to break the spirit of the Southern States which composed that part of the Union most determined in its support of the National administration in a vigorous war policy. Our small but heroic navy, overwhelmingly outnumbered by the British fleets, were now in large part bottled up in protected harbors and the British war office instituted an effective blockade of all the Southern coasts and threatened invasion at various points from the head of the Chesapeake to the mouth of the Mississippi. The national government was making strenuous efforts to provide men and money for adequate defense. Norfolk had been attacked in June and Hampton burned and pillaged within the same month by Admiral Warren. He still remained in the Chesapeake terrorizing all its coasts, while Admiral Cockburn was scouring the Atlantic coasts as far south as Florida. The National Government, to meet the pressing need, contracted a new loan in the summer months of 1813 and set the draft law into operation to fill up the regiments that voluntary enlistments failed to supply.

<sup>2</sup>The writer of this letter was at this date living in South Carolina, at Cheraw, in Chesterfield County, just south of Richmond and Anson counties in North Carolina. He seems to have practiced his profession of law in both states.

<sup>3</sup>Evidently "Uncle Sam," the United States Government.

<sup>4</sup>This place does not appear in the list of Anson County post offices at this date (1813).

NEW LONDON, August 10, 1813.

DEAR SIR:

This evening I was at your friend Capt. Otis's<sup>1</sup> while enjoying myself with the good family a young gentleman of your former order whom I had previously noticed in the public part of the House inquired in my hearing for a Mr. Legard, but on close examination of a letter he had in his hand it proved to be my name he mentioned—the let-

ter was from a Mr. Harrington that was sick in this place last winter, who wished to be remembered to a Mr. Ledgard. I soon discovered myself to him, he let me peruse the part of the letter relating to me which furnished me with the most pleasant feelings as it called to mind the time that I rendered services to a stranger and in some measure performed part of the duty incumbent on every human being—Mr. Taylor<sup>2</sup> who had your letter I was much pleased with—there was a nobleness attached to his person that insures friendship and commands respect. 'Tis late in the night (say 11 o'clock) and as I am but just discharged from being a soldier—I have not rid myself of those lazy habits that I have contracted during one month campaign. As I am nodding for my pillow—I must conclude tomorrow.

With esteem I am your friend,

J. LEDGARD.<sup>3</sup>

Capt. Otis's family wished to be remembered to you.

Harrington, I really can't conclude yet, as I have something of importance to communicate. Miss Sallie Wilson was married last Sunday at 2 o'clock P. M. to a Capt. Johnston<sup>4</sup> of Baltimore after a courtship of seven days, represented as being vastly rich. When I think of you I think of the old Checker Board, the pretty girls that came to see you and old Mother Dickenson<sup>5</sup>. The town is evacuated in a manner since your old commander paid us a visit, no girls at all. I shall ever be happy in receiving a line from you. Taylor will tell you some little incidents as he was surrounded by your old group of friends. This is wrote in haste. I hope you will be able to English it, at any rate you will know it is from your old friend who has made repeated inquiries often on board the frigate.

J. L.

Henry William Harrington (Taylor says you rank as a justice).

Henry William Harrington,  
Fayetteville, N. C.



<sup>1</sup> Probably the keeper of a public house or inn at which Harrington resided while sick in New London.

<sup>2</sup> Dugomier Taylor, midshipman, former associate and friend of Harrington on board the frigate United States.

<sup>3</sup> Ledgard's references would lead to the conclusion that he was in the naval service and there associated with Harrington; but no record of his name appears in the Navy Register. If he was a soldier, he was not an officer, since his name does not appear in the Army register of officers.

<sup>4</sup> Probably Hezekiah Johnson, of the Army, born in Maryland, appointed from Maryland as Captain of 1st infantry, 20, Jan., 1813. Disbanded June, 1815. Appointed Military Storekeeper, 26 Sept., 1821. Died 8 Sept., 1837.

<sup>5</sup> Probably the attendant of Harrington during his illness at New London.

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WASHINGTON CITY, Aug. 20, 1813.

DEAR DEAR HARRINGTON,

Your friendly letter directed to me at New London—sufficiently explained that you were unacquainted with any circumstances relative to me since your absence in February; a few days after your leaving New York, I received orders from Com. De.<sup>1</sup> to take charge of Schooner Ulysses—employed for the purpose of cruising to the South, to inform our vessels of the blockade of the Chesapeake. But the enemy were determined I should not succeed in my exertions—for I was captured in less than 10 days by a 74 gun frigate—After remaining with the enemy several days, was sent to Bermuda, and detained a prisoner of war for nearly three months, politely treated and had an opportunity of becoming better acquainted with the disposition of the enemy. I arrived a few weeks since in Providence, R. I., passed through New London, was received politely by the Com., settled my account with the ship and.....but first I must tell you of New London and your old friends. I found the Reepers on board, well and cheerful, showed them your letter which the purser handed to me; they all joined in wishes for your health and spirits.—At the public house where you were sick, fell in, and became acquainted with your old friend Ledgard; did read him the post-script in your letter respecting him—Presently after we were joined by the kind females who attended you when sick, mutual inquiries ensued respecting you. I assure you, never were my feelings more gratified. At the moment I repented of anything like neglect to a friend so dear.

I arrived at Washington, repaired to the Department; where my commission was presented to me<sup>2</sup>—my feelings can be better conceived than described. Ledgard wrote to you from New London. You may hear from me again before I am ordered away, my exchange being not yet negotiated—or possibly I may have the pleasure of seeing you here, as you contemplate the Military. But rest assured that whether here or there, I shall ever think you my esteemed friend.

Yours unalterably,  
DUGOMIER TAYLOR.

Mr. Henry Harrington,  
Fayetteville, N. C.  
Mail.

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<sup>1</sup> Commander Stephen Decatur (see above).  
<sup>2</sup> Dugomier Taylor, Commissioned Lieutenant, 24 July, 1813. Died at sea 5 Oct., 1819.

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GEORGETOWN, DIS., COLUMBIA,  
Feb. 23rd, 1814.

MY DEAR AUNT,

I have received and thank you for your favor. About twelve months since I left the Navy department<sup>1</sup>, & since that time have had no connections with the Government. With the present incumbent<sup>2</sup> of that Department I have but slight acquaintance: and knowing me as he does to be a Federalist, and being himself a most violent Jacobin I cannot suppose that any representation from me would have any other than an injurious effect upon the just pretensions<sup>3</sup> of my cousin. If he can approach the present secretary thro' some loud talking Jacobin<sup>4</sup>, he would succeed, particularly if he should be an Irish or French one—Just from Ireland or France and a renegado the most choice of all. Should neither of these be at hand, Willis Allston<sup>5</sup> might answer. His not being a gentleman is a pretty good recommendation with William Jones, because in that particular they may shake hands,—hail fellows, well met.

I must incline to the opinion, my dear Aunt, that cousin Henry is not exactly cut out for a farmer. He expressed to me a great disinclination to that kind of life. Interpose

not then to persuade him from pursuing that course which his own inclination would prompt; for he will not be happy in a contrary pursuit. The war I believe is approaching its end<sup>6</sup>. Such at least is the general impression here. In the event of peace, which may be expected in about five months, if cousin Henry has any disposition to go into the mercantile business I would recommend this place in preference to any other. And having made up my mind to take a partner in business (I am now a merchant) if he chooses I will join him,—& and he may make his preparatory arrangements as early as he may please. Upon this point I should wish to hear early, that I may shape my course accordingly.

My dear mother was well a few days since, and I trust in heaven continues so. My Catherine has just got out of a three months illness. I was at one time apprehensive of losing her, but she has been returned to me, Tho' her constitution has undergone a severe trial. About 6 months since we had another babe which we call Hugh Allen—a sweet promising child. All my children are quite hearty. My Caroline has been for several days past talking of writing to her cousin, and she will do so in a few days and give her the fashionable news.

I am very dear Aunt,

Yr. affectionate nephew,

CHAS. W. GOLDSBOROUGH.

Mrs. Rosanna Harrington,  
Fayetteville, N. C.

<sup>1</sup> Charles W. Goldsborough resigned as chief clerk of the naval department in December 1812, which position he had occupied since 1798.

<sup>2</sup> William Jones, Secretary of the Navy from 12 Jan., 1803 to 7 Dec., 1814. Secretary Jones was born in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1760. He joined a volunteer company at the age of sixteen, and was present at the battles of Trenton and Princeton, afterwards he entered the Continental naval service, and served gallantly under Com. Truxton on James River, when that officer encountered and beat off a British ship of superior force. In 1801 he was elected to Congress from Philadelphia as a Democrat and served one term. After his service as Secretary of the Navy 1813-14, he became president of the United States Bank after its recharter in 1816, and also collector of the port of Philadelphia. He died in Bethlehem, Pa., 5 Sept., 1831.

<sup>3</sup> Harrington yet retained some idea of a re-entry into the naval service, though the plan never materialized.

<sup>4</sup> The Federalists acquiesced with much ill grace and party spleen in the Republican administration's conduct of the war of 1812, and even in

its declaration. Partizan politics was especially bitter in 1814, culminating in the Hartford Convention as a Federalist protest and threat.

<sup>5</sup>Democratic Congressman from North Carolina 1803 to 1815 and 1825 to 1831. During the war of 1812-15 with Great Britain, he was Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the house of representatives and particularly obnoxious to the Federalists.

<sup>6</sup>Through the good offices of Russia, England and the United States had initiated tentative negotiations for peace in 1813, but it was not before August, 1814 that a meeting between American and British commissioners was first held, at Ghent, in Belgium. After long and tedious negotiations the commissioners signed a treaty on Christmas Eve, 1814, though the news did not reach America until the middle of January, 1815.

MY DEAR AUNT,

It has been a long time since I have heard from you or of you—You have I hope been well—The family also. My dear mother frequently enquires after you in the most affectionate terms—her health has not been very good lately: tho' by the last accounts she was tolerably well—having as few of the infirmities of age as any person I ever knew. She talks of visiting us this fall; but I am afraid to flatter myself with the hope of her coming.

How are you all my dear Aunt? Is Henry yet settled & has he taken to himself a partner? I would write to him but do not know where he now is.—Should he be with you, will you ask him to procure and forward to me as early as may be in his power, information upon the following points?

1st. Is there not an extensive tract of country on or near the Peedee, covered with valuable pine and cypress timber?

2nd. What is the quality of the timber—the size in diameter and length, and how far from navigable water?

3rd. What is the quality of the soil, is it healthy or otherwise—Is there good drinking water to be had?

4th. Could water be obtained by sinking wells—upon the land generally? What is the distance from Fayetteville or Lumberton?

5th. To whom does the land belong, & on what terms could from 10,000 to 20,000 acres be purchased?

I make these inquiries understanding that there are extensive tracts of land now called Barrens, wholly uninhabited—yet covered with very valuable pine and cypress timber—near navigable water:—that they are considered as of little value because the country does not afford water falls

for saw mills—and that in consequence they can be purchased on very moderate terms. I wish the enquiries to be made without suffering it to be known, that any plan of cutting the timber and getting it to market is in contemplation. If the information I have received should prove well-founded, it is probable that I shall raise a company and have a steam power created which is far preferable to a water power—this idea however we will keep to ourselves. In that case I shall come on for the purpose of examining the lands, timber—etc., and should Henry feel disposed, he can take an interest in it.—Please request his early attention to this subject.

What an age of wonders? But yesterday<sup>1</sup> Napoleon was dethroned and banished to Elba—and the Bourbons ascended the throne of their ancestors—today Napoleon returns, seizes the reins of Gov<sup>nt.</sup>, drives Louis before him, gets defeated in a great battle, abdicates & rumor now says he is “hanged”! How many valuable lessons may kings and potentates draw from the history of this wonderful man?

I have been quite unwell for several days—So much so that writing, generally a pleasure, is now quite irksome to me. Excuse, therefore, my dear Aunt, the brevity of this—and with affectionate respects and best wishes to all my connections, believe me

Yr. affectionate nephew,

CH. W. GOLDSBOROUGH.

Wash<sup>n.</sup>, Aug. 12, 1815.

Mrs. R. Harrington,

Fayetteville, N. C.

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<sup>1</sup>Figurative. Napoleon abdicated the Imperial throne of France first on April 11, 1814 by a treaty with the allied powers at Fontainebleau. He retired to Elba 4 May. Escaping from Elba he landed nine months later (March 1st, 1815) on the French coast near Cannes and begun the history of the “Hundred Days,” culminating in Waterloo, a second abdication, and banishment to St. Helena.

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MY DEAR AUNT,

Your letter of the 16 ult. reached me yesterday, & it was such a gratification to hear from you, after so long a silence, that I summoned my little flock to hear it read. I may truly

say to you that they are grateful for those passages in which you so kindly remember them; & all expressed great anxiety to take a trip to North Carolina. Their sympathy for Cousin Harriet's deplorable loss<sup>1</sup> was manifested by their tears. Gracious heaven! What must she have suffered—what must she still suffer? Ah! cruel, tyrannical custom, that often dooms the votary of honor to involuntary error and premature death! When will this woe-breeding practice be abolished? Would to God I possessed the power of arresting it.

For the last ten days I have had and still have an afflicted family—my dear Catherine is confined to her bed with one of those terrible nervous headaches which baffles all medical skill—blisters are at length recommended, and God grant they may afford ease—my son John, and my little boy Hugh Allen are also unwell, tho' neither I hope seriously. Caroline, young as she is, is her mother's best nurse. She is all assiduity and tenderness, & cannot suffer herself to go to school while her mother remains sick. She has just informed me, that as soon as she shall be relieved from attending the sick bed of her mother, she will revive the correspondence with her cousin—Louis goes to school near us, and is progressing in his studies as rapid (ly) as I could wish. Charles is with his grandmother, who gives me flattering accounts of him.

I have not heard from my dear mother<sup>2</sup> for the last six weeks, & feel quite uneasy about her: tho' I hope if she were seriously unwell, that I should be sent for. She cannot now write with as much facility as she used to do. Her advanced age has brought infirmities of the body with it; but her superior mind retains all its charm. I often think, my dear Aunt, that my lot, in being separated from those I love so dearly is a cruel one; but imperious necessity compels submission, and I yield without a murmur tho' not without regret.

So long a time elapsed between the date of my last letter to you and my receiving your reply, that I had almost despaired of hearing from you—I had been making arrange-

ments which would have put it out of power to go to North Carolina for a considerable time. These arrangements have not however been matured; but a few days will enable us to decide. In the meantime I beg the favor of you to inform me as early as possible, how much of the timbered land in question you have<sup>3</sup>, and whether you wish the whole amount of the purchase money paid immediately. And if not, at what period or periods. The machinery and other preparations necessary to establish a steam power for sawing to advantage, are so expensive, that we are obliged to economize our resources.—In six months after the machinery should be in operation, we could pay you with perfect convenience—as it would cut 10,000 feet per day. And it is presumed that profits upon the plank cut in that period would greatly exceed the cost of the land.

There are other points upon which Cousin Wm. Henry will oblige me by giving me information—viz; 1st. Are there any good boat-builders near or on the Peedee? 2nd. Can good laborers be had, and on what terms? 3rd. Are there any good wagon-makers? 4th. Are substantial workhorses cheap, and can plenty of provender be got for them on reasonable terms?

Upon receiving this information I think I shall be able to determine immediately with respect to proceeding personally to view the land and purchasing it. 5th. How far is the land from boatable water?

Keep me my dear Aunt in your affectionate remembrance. Present me respectfully and affectionately to my relatives and believe me,

With great esteem,

Yr. nephew,

C. W. GOLDSBOROUGH.

Wash<sup>n</sup> Oct. 3, 1815.

Mrs. Ros<sup>a</sup> Harrington,

Beausejour<sup>4</sup>, near

Haley's Ferry, on the Peedee,

Richmond County,

North Carolina.

Fayetteville P. Office.

<sup>1</sup>This reference is to the death of Belah Strong, husband of Harriet Harrington, second daughter of General and Mrs. Harrington. Strong had recently been killed in a duel with a brother attorney named Holmes. See above.

<sup>2</sup>Charles W. Goldsborough's mother lived at Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. See note above.

<sup>3</sup>Goldsborough went into business after his first retirement from the naval department. A former letter made inquiries about timber lands along the Peedee. Evidently the Harringtons in reply made an offer to sell some of the timber lands of the old Harrington estate, this letter having reference to details of the projected transfer.

<sup>4</sup>The Harrington family removed from Fayetteville to the Harrington homestead, Beausejour, in Richmond County, sometime in September, 1815.

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CHESTER, 25 Sept., 1817.

DEAR COUSIN—

It has been a long time since I have heard of you. Yesterday as I was coming from Washington to Baltimore one of the passengers observed he was from Fayetteville.

I immediately inquired after you. He informed me that he was very well acquainted with you.

I am now on my way to Chester, Pa., to join the Franklin 74. She will in the course of a few days sail for England, from there returns to the Mediterranean and remains there for two years. As I am in a great hurry I must commence ending my letter. Give my best love to all my acquaintances and relations.

Your Affectionate cousin,  
L. M. GOLDSBOROUGH<sup>1</sup>.

U. States.

P. S. Thomas Owen Davis<sup>2</sup> desired me to give his best respects to you.

Do excuse my bad writing. The motion of the vessel is so great that I hope my apology may be accepted.

L. M. G.

Mr. Henry Harrington,  
Fayetteville, N. C.

Politeness of  
M. D. Smith.

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<sup>1</sup>Louis Malsherbes Goldsborough, son of Charles Washington Goldsborough, born in Washington, D. C., 18 Feb., 1805, entered the navy as midshipman at seven years of age. He was promoted lieutenant in January, 1825, and after serving a short time in the Mediterranean squadron went to Paris and passed two years in study. In 1827 he joined the "North Carolina" in the Mediterranean, and while cruising in the schooner "Porpoise"



in the Grecian archipelago, he commanded a night expedition of four boats and thirty-five men for the recovery of the English brig "Comet," which had been captured by Greek pirates. After a fierce fight, in which ninety of the pirates were killed, the "Comet" was rescued, and on the arrival of the expedition at Malta he received the thanks of the English government. In 1833 he married the daughter of William Wirt, and went to Florida, taking with him a colony of Germans to cultivate lands belonging to his father-in-law. During the Seminole war he commanded a company of volunteer cavalry, and also an armed steamer. In September, 1841, he was promoted Commander. During the Mexican war he was executive officer of the frigate "Ohio," which bombarded Vera Cruz in March, 1847. From 1853 to 1857 he was superintendent of the United States Naval Academy. In 1858-60 he commanded the Sloop "Levant" in the Mediterranean, and the frigate "Congress" in Brazilian waters. He was commissioned Captain in 1855. At the beginning of the Civil War in 1861 he was appointed flag-officer and placed in command of the "Minnesota," of the North Atlantic blockading squadron. In September, 1861, he planned and executed a joint army and navy expedition to the sounds of North Carolina, and captured Roanoke Island Feb. 5, 1862. He received the thanks of Congress for his service. He was made rear admiral in July, 1862. In 1865 he commanded the European squadron, in 1868 was ordered to Mare Island, California, and in 1873 was placed on the retired list, and thereafter made his home in Washington. At the time of his death, Feb. 20, 1877, he had been in service longer than any other naval officer then living and had seen more active duty. The letter to his cousin, appearing above, was written when he was twelve years old.

<sup>2</sup> Midshipman, 1 February, 1814. Resigned 4 October, 1822.

GENTLEMEN<sup>1</sup>:—I have delayed writing to you expecting some information from you respecting the dividing line, between Richmond and Robeson or something relative to my business as surveyor. I beg leave to suggest to you my opinion as to the first that is if the line is to be ascertained agreeably to the Act of 1777—that we shall lose territory and of course a number of the inhabitants of Richmond will be turned over to Robeson. This you, Messrs Steele and Harrington will easily understand from the following observations (as you are acquainted with surveying). If the line of Robeson as now marked was called S. 45 W. it would be the nearest point to the South Carolina line from Overstreet's Bridge (now Campbell's) because the State line, is I believe N. 45 W. and would be a right angle. But behold the line as it now stands is S. 35 W. and a square to that would be N. 55 W. which is 10 degrees farther from the North Pole than the State line and is an acute angle which must become nearer the North to find the highest point to the South Carolina line from Overstreet's Bridge. If Mr. Gilchrist<sup>2</sup> will persist in having the Act dividing the line between Bladen and Anson now to affect the county of Richmond— I think it strange indeed for you will find both counties made since

the passing of the Act that he wishes (as I have been told by Col. McQueen) renewed, or a line run according to the Act directing the line between Bladen and Anson. If he can show any Act directing the line between Robeson and Richmond different from the old marked line that has stood and is well known for many years back you must submit except where William Robinson and other from Richmond gave all below or all south of Stewart's road to Robeson. But the year following the Act was repealed at the request of Mr. Stewart<sup>3</sup>, then a member. Anything you want, such as a petition or petitions you can have by writing on immediately. But I hope the legislature will not undertake to give one part of a county to another without strong prayers from the most of the inhabitants of that quarter which is not the case and as to the old line between Bladen and Anson neither of the original parties complained and I know no other reason but avarice why Robeson wishes any change. Mr. Harrington, I have found another of Charles Haley's which perhaps is the right one which you will find enclosed. If anything is lacking on my part that was entrusted to either of you, that is material, pray write to me and I will do everything in my power at this late period to forward it. Mr. McNair will oblige me in paying to Mr. Hall Surveyor of State perhaps \$1.50 that I owe him for copies or whatever he says and I will settle with Mr. McNair when he comes home. I am Gentlemen your very

Humble servant,

L. MACALISTER.

Dec. 9, 1817.

Messrs. Thos. Steele, H. W. Harrington, & Neil McNair,  
the Members from Richmond County in General Assembly, Raleigh, N. C.

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<sup>1</sup>This letter, concerning a boundary dispute between Robeson and Richmond counties, is addressed to Thomas Steele, member of state senate, and H. W. Harrington and Neil McNair, members of the Commons from Richmond County in 1817, by L. Macalister, who appears to have been county surveyor for Richmond at this date.

<sup>2</sup>John Gilchrist, member of House of Commons from Robeson in 1817, and very often a member of either House or Senate between 1803 and 1846.

<sup>3</sup>Jams Stewart, member of the state senate from Richmond County in 1804, 1813, 1814, and 1815.

CHARLESTON, 31 of July, 1843.

MY DEAR SIR:

I am now engaged in writing for the *Southern Review*<sup>2</sup> an article the object of which is to place the Southern States in that position which properly belongs to them from, and in, the war of the Revolution. My sister Harrington<sup>1</sup> informed me that you were in the possession of the family papers and documents of your father, and would let me have them. If, my dear sir, you will carry out this pleasing news, you will greatly oblige me and I may be a pioneer in the cause of the South as your father in the cause of our liberty—All old letters, memoranda, journals, pamphlets, etc., will be very acceptable. Mrs. Harrington will forward what you may please to favor me with.

Yours truly,  
JOHN L. WILSON<sup>3</sup>.

Henry Harrington Esq<sup>r</sup>.,  
Rockingham, Richmond County,  
N. C.

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<sup>1</sup> Mrs. James Auld Harrington (formerly Eleanor Wilson, daughter of Governor John Lyde Wilson, of South Carolina) resided at Cheraw, S. C.

<sup>2</sup> Evidently the "Southern Quarterly Review," founded at New Orleans in 1842 and published at Charleston, S. C., from 1843 to 1855, thence transferred to Columbia, S. C., for a few years, and afterward to Baltimore. The article referred to in this and the following letter seems never to have appeared in its columns.

<sup>3</sup> Son of Governor John Lyde Wilson of South Carolina.

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CHARLESTON, 24th of Aug., 1843

MY DEAR SIR,

My sister Eleanor<sup>1</sup> informed me, that on your hearing of my writing an article for the *Southern Review* in order to put the Southern States in the position that they ought to be, in the history of the United States, you were so kind as to say, I might have the use of the papers of your father. I wrote lately a hurried letter to you, which I directed to Rockingham upon this subject; since when, I have been informed of your correct address. You will greatly oblige me if you will permit me to have the use of the family papers, which may be safely and expeditiously forwarded from Che-

raw; and my sister E. has promised to attend to that for me. If you would accompany the papers with a succinct biographical sketch of your Father the kindness will be the greater. I know he held many important stations in the Revolution, and was a man not only of great intelligence, but also of great method and order.

Accept the assurance of my respect and regards

JOHN L. WILSON.

Henry Harrington, Esq.,  
Rockingham,  
Richmond Count,  
North Carolina.

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<sup>1</sup>Eleanor Wilson Harrington, wife of James Auld Harrington, of Cheraw, S. C.







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