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THE HUNTINGTON LETTERS

THE HUNTINGTON LETTERS

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IN THE POSSESSION OF
JULIA CHESTER WELLS

EDITED BY

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"THE RISE OF THE SWISS REPUBLIC," ETC.

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UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

THE HUNTINGTON LETTERS.

A WORD OF EXPLANATION.

THESE letters are contained in a folio marked "Invoices." On the inside of the cover is pasted a slip of paper with the words:

1856.
MRS. FANNY T. WELLS.
Found among the papers of her mother,
MRS. R. TRACY.

Then follows an engraved portrait of Judge Benjamin Huntington, member of Congress from Connecticut, 1789. It is the same portrait which is to be found in "A Genealogical Memoir of the Huntington Family," by Rev. E. B. Huntington, A. M., and is painted by a grandson,

Daniel Huntington, the well-known portrait painter, and engraved by A. H. Ritchie. The words "from an original miniature" appear at the bottom of the portrait.

After this come the letters, spread out flat, but having once been folded and addressed in the old-fashioned way, without envelopes. The collection is by no means complete, many letters having been given away in course of time, or scattered in such a manner that they can no longer be traced.

The correspondents are various members of the family of Benjamin Huntington, of Norwich, Conn., the period covered being from 1761 to 1799. Most of the letters passed between the Hon. Benjamin Huntington himself and his wife Anne, when he was serving in the General Assembly of Connecticut at Hartford, or in the Continental and United States Congresses at Philadelphia, Princeton, and New York. Others were written by a daughter, Rachel

Huntington, when on visits in New York, Stamford, and Rome, N. Y., to her sisters, Lucy and Anne, in Norwich. There are letters also from the sons, George and Benjamin Huntington. The folio, furthermore, contains a more or less miscellaneous collection of letters and documents, only a few of which have been deemed of sufficient value for publication.

While it would be too much to claim that these letters are capable of arousing widespread, popular interest, they are nevertheless of real value to close students of American history, as showing the life of an American family which bore its part in the struggles of more than a century ago. The spirit of the Revolutionary era pervades them in very truth. Especially will they deserve the attention of the descendants and family friends of the persons mentioned in the following correspondence. In fact, it is for the sake of this comparatively small group of readers that Miss

Wells now desires to publish the Huntington Letters.

At her request I have undertaken to add a word of explanation, without, however, attempting to annotate more than a few of the many names of persons which occur in these pages. It has been my object to reproduce these letters as much as possible in their original condition—to let them tell their own story, and not to edit away their peculiarities. For this reason I have retained their vagaries of spelling; have refrained from supplying punctuation, even when it seemed much needed; nor have I ventured to cut down religious effusions, conventional precepts, harrowing descriptions of bodily ailments, or pretty phrases of courtesy; these are touches of the time, and throw light on social and economic conditions.

The following facts in regard to the family history are gleaned from the work already mentioned, "A Genealogical Mem-

oir of the Huntington Family in this Country," by Rev. E. B. Huntington, A. M., published in Stamford, Conn., 1863.

The name of Huntington has been well represented in all the industrial, educational, military, civil, and religious movements of the American continent for more than two centuries.

The common ancestor was a certain Simon Huntington, a Puritan emigrant from England. A record of the Roxbury Church, in the handwriting of its pastor, the Rev. John Eliot, states that Margaret Huntington, a widow, came to Roxbury in 1633; that she was a member of the church; that she had —— sons with her; and that her husband had died on the passage, from the smallpox.

Margaret Huntington remained about two and a half years in Roxbury, married Thomas Stoughton, then of Dorchester, and with him, taking probably her young-

est three sons, she removed to Windsor, Conn., then a new settlement, where she spent the rest of her life.

Two of her sons, Christopher and Simon, went first to Saybrook, and in 1660 joined the colonists who settled Norwich. They and their descendants at once took a foremost position there both in church and state.

Anne Huntington was a great-granddaughter of Christopher; Benjamin Huntington a grandson of Simon. They were thus second cousins, once removed. They were married May 3 or 5, 1765, she being twenty-five years of age and he twenty-nine.

The career of Benjamin may be summed up as follows: He graduated from Yale in 1761, soon after entered upon the practice of law in Norwich, and rose rapidly to the front rank of his profession. In 1775 he was chosen by the Legislature of his native State on the Committee of Safety, ap-

pointed to advise with the Governor of the State during the recess of the Legislature. Only the ablest and truest patriots of that trying day would have been put upon that important committee. Again, in 1778, on the recommendation of Washington, he was appointed by the Legislature one of that convention to be held in New Haven for the regulation of the army. From 1780 to 1784, and again in 1787 and 1788, he was a member of the Continental Congress; and when the new Government went into operation, in 1789, he was chosen to represent Connecticut in the First Congress of the United States.

From 1781 to 1790, and also from 1791 to 1793, he was a member of the upper house of the Connecticut Legislature. On the incorporation of Norwich City, in 1784, he was chosen, for an indefinite period, its first mayor, in which office he served until his formal resignation in 1796. He was also appointed in 1793 a Judge of the Su-

perior Court of Connecticut, holding this office until 1798.

The children of Benjamin and Anne Huntington were all born in Norwich: Henry, May 28, 1766; Gurdon, March 16, 1768; George, June 5, 1770; Lucy, January 21, 1773; Anne (Nancy), March 30, 1775; Benjamin, March 19, 1777; Rachel, April 4, 1779; Daniel, December, 1781.

Rachel married at Rome, N. Y., January 19, 1800, William Gedney Tracy, a merchant of Whitestown, N. Y., who was born in Norwich, Conn., November 15, 1768.

Their youngest child, Frances (Fanny), married William Henry Wells, of Brattleborough, Vt., and it is her daughter, Julia Chester Wells, who now desires the editor to prepare for publication "The Huntington Letters," which are in her possession.

FIRST PERIOD.

1761–1792.

CONTAINING MAINLY THE LETTERS WHICH PASSED BETWEEN THE HON. BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON AND HIS WIFE ANNE.

FIRST PERIOD.

1761–1792.

WHEN the correspondence opens, Anne Huntington is not yet married, and is living with her mother at Windham, Conn. She writes to her elder sister, Hannah, wife of Gideon Tomlinson, of Stratford, Conn., an officer in the army:

DEAR SISTER!

Our last News from Stratford was by Mr. Chandler and then no Letter which I thought was cruel we are impatient to hear from you and hope Shortly to hear good News thinking if any thing to the contrary had happend we Should have heard from you before now.*

O my Dear Sister I am with you in my thoughts almost continually as well in my Sleeping as waking Hours last

---

* Hannah Tomlinson's only child, Jabez Huntington, was born December 24, 1760. His son, Gideon, was Governor of Connecticut from 1827 to 1831.

Night I wakd my Self Talking to Sister Hannah & Lucy I fain would have gone to sleep again and Dreamd on but so great was my Disappointment in finding all to be a Dream that I could not compose my Self to sleep for some Hours. I have no News except what I have wrote to Sister L. Honrd Mama & all Friends at Windham are in Health through Divine Indulgence, and Nothing would add more to my Happiness than your presence Mama Designs to hold you to your Promiss of coming to Windham in the Spring I cant but Long for its approach for if you come it will be a Spring indeed to me. Pleas to give my compts. to Capn. Tomlinson tell him I shall Heartily Rejoice to see him at Windham I Congratulate him & you on his return from the Champaign *

* The close of the war between England and France, called in the American colonies "The Old French and Indian War." It ended with the surrender of Canada to the English, September 8, 1760.

Mama gives her Love to you & says she shall think you unkind if you Dont write by Mr Ripley who Designs to make you a Visit. Farewell Dearest Sister my best wishes attend you am your Affectionate Sister & Friend

ANNE HUNTINGTON

Windham 14 Janry
1761.

P x S. pleas to give mamas & my regards to your Honrd Dadda & Mama Compts Miss Polly. A H

To MRS HANNAH TOMLINSON

II.

More than thirteen years have elapsed. Anne Huntington, settled in Norwich, writes to her husband, Benjamin Huntington, in Hartford :

DEAR SIR ! I rec^d your Second kind Letter Saturday Evening which in some measure Compensated for your not returning which I was in great hopes of on account of what Brother W Wrote which he never told me of till some days after he wrote I have partly wrote you two Letters but throwd them by because I had no News to write but what would add to your Trouble and concern about me I have had a Melancholly time of it ever since you^v been gone for twas but the next Morning after you went from home I was taken with raising Blood but not to that

Degree I did the other turn the Doctors Still Speak incouraging to me and think my Complaints rather of the Histerick than Hectick kind but doctors are Liable to Mistakes and often Fail in their Judgment Especially in Hectick disorders I Rest but very Ill Nights Saturday Night had but very little Sleep rode out with Nathan W yesterday and rested much better last Night and am Better this Morning tho I Tremble and am weak but have no Cough and I hope no setled Fever am much discouraged at turns about my Disorder but do not dispair of relief God has ever been Favourable and is ever Merciful

I trust I^v an Interest in your Prayers Dear Sir pray for me that I may not have a False Hope

Dont be too much concernd about me but let us rest assured that God will do that which is for the Best

The Children are well and send their

Duty the berer waits and I can only Subscribe my Self most Affec^{ty} yours

ANNE HUNTINGTON

Norwich
Monday Morning-
23^{d} May 1774

BENJ^{N} HUNTINGTON Esqr

III.

Benjamin Huntington is deputy from Norwich to the General Assembly of Connecticut, in session at Hartford.

HARTFORD *April 29th 1775*

MRS. HUNTINGTON

This is only to let you Know that I am well and hope to Come home Next Week The Assembly is very full of News and a Great Deal of Business but the Members Sworn to Secrecy therefore Cannot Informe you of Any News or thing of Consequence but Matters Do not appear to me to be Worse than I Apprehended when I came from home I have Wrote to Mr Wetmore Concerning Mother Huntington & Mr P Wetmore and have heared that Friends at the Westward are well.

Mr Hancock* from Boston arived here today on his way to the Congress—Write to me by Every Opportunity who am your

BENJ HUNTINGTON

* Meeting of the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, May 10, 1775, with John Hancock as President.

IV.

HARTFORD *May 13th 1775*

MRS HUNTINGTON

I have the Pleasure to Informe you that the Lower House have Determined Not to Do any Private Disputable Business this Session which will make a Short Session & I hope to be at home in Ten Days or a fortnight Please to Informe Capt Jz Putnim thereof and any others that may Inquire of you There is News from New York that the Forces that are Coming are Destined to New York and that the Ships are Chiefly Loaden with English Good & Agents on Bond to Sell them to the Yorkers in Spite of the Sons of Liberty * but they may

* The term "Sons of Liberty" was first used by Isaac Barré, the companion and friend of Wolfe, sharer in

find the Market more Troublesome than they Expect—I am your

BENJ HUNTINGTON

MRS ANNE HUNTINGTON

---

the capture of Louisburg and Quebec, in a speech which he delivered in the British Parliament against the Stamp Act. It was reported in the American colonies, and at once became a household term here. Local organizations were formed in the different colonies under this name, having as their object the practical nullification of the odious Stamp Act by preventing importations and encouraging home industries.

V.

HARTFORD *May 24th 1775*

MRS. HUNTINGTON, after Tenderest Regards to you I would Inform you that I am in Health and hope to be at home this Week but not before Saturday as I must Come by the Way of Middle Town and you must not be Concerned if I Dont git home before Next Week—I hear Betty has been sick but Bitter [Better] am afraid you^ll Fatigue your Self with hard Work without help Pray get help and fav^r yourself as much as you Can I have no Great Matter of News to Write only that no Tories are allowed to Sustain any Office in the Colony five or Six Justices and Capt Hide for one are left out & Sundery Military Officers are Broken on Account

of Toryism it is a Terrible Time for the Enimies to their Country and I wish it might Never be better for them till they Repent I am your Constant

BENJ HUNTINGTON

Give my Love to the Children & tell them I shall very Glad to hear they have been good Children, When I come home

B H

May 25th 1775

P. S Since I wrote The foregoing Capt Mott has arrived from the Congress & Brings news that they are unanimous and highly Approve of what we have Done in taking Tyconderoga * and Crown

* "The possession and control of Lakes George and Champlain had from an early date been regarded by the people of New York and New England as necessary to their protection against the encroachments of the French in Canada. It was around Ticonderoga and Crown Point that the greater part of the fighting in the French and Indian War occurred. When the Revolutionary struggle opened, the importance of those posts was at once recognized in the Northern colonies, and far-sighted individuals

Point and have Sent orders for the Military Stores in those Places to be kept at the Joint Expence of the Whole Continent as also that they Determine that the Whole Cost of Defence Shall be born by all the Colonies alike in Proportion to

in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York alike proposed their immediate seizure. . . . Ticonderoga was then garrisoned by Captain Delaplace, of the Twenty-sixth Regiment, British Army, and a small company of regulars." Captain Edward Mott thus describes the origin of the Ticonderoga enterprise:

"A number of the principal gentlemen of the Assembly at Hartford, on Friday, the twenty-eighth day of April, Conversing on the distressed Condition of the people of Boston, and the means necessary to relieve them, fell on the Scheme to take that fortress [Ticonderoga], that we might have the advantage of the cannon that were there to relieve the people of Boston. I told the Gentlemen that in my opinion it might be taken by surprise with a few men, if properly Conducted."

Captains Mott and Phelps, with six or eight volunteers from Hartford and re-enforcements from many places on the road, marched to Ticonderoga. They were joined by Ethan Allen and Seth Warner with their Green Mountain Boys. A Massachusetts force, under Benedict Arnold, overtook this Connecticut force, and entered the fortress gate at the same time—May 10th. Thereupon Crown Point also was taken. On May 18th, Benedict Arnold surprised St. John.—*Connecticut Military Record, 1775–1848.*

their Ability About forty or fifty Regular Soldiers with their Wives and Children are now in Hartford who were brought from the Northward in a word we have none but good Newes these two or three Days Except that three Men are Missing who were in a Fight a St Johns last week and Mr Wales & others have Wrote from New York that they have Intelligence that the Indians in Canada are about to take up Arms against us I Shall not be at home before next Week and am yours till Death

BENJ HUNTINGTON

VI.

NORWICH *May 7th 1776*

SIR I recd your Favrs of the 11th & 14th Inst Have had no oppertunity to send you a Line since your Absence to aleviate your Fears about Gurdon* He nearly recoverd his Lameness the Day after you left Home and his Eye is much mended and he Quite Brisk and Hearty He shed

* Gurdon, the second child, married "first, March 20, 1792, Susannah Tracy, who was born August 8, 1770, and died August 21, 1793. He married for his second wife, July 6, 1794, Anna Perkins, who was born February 1, 1768, and died April 21, 1802. He began life as a carriage maker at Norwich, but after a few years removed to Rome, N. Y., where he became a merchant, and by his strict and unbending integrity and the genial kindliness of his heart acquired the esteem and respect of all who knew him. He was successful in his business, from which he retired some years before his death, which took place in 1840."—*Huntington Memoir.*

Tears when I read the parts of your Letters that concern[d] him The rest of our Family are well for which Fav[r] we have Great reason to be thankful. There has been Two Deaths in the Landing since your Absence John Watermans only Child and Salla Weeks very Suddenly The Children Send their Duty and all want to have you return. Hope you enjoy Health of Body and Tranquility of Mind and that the Disagreables of Absence will be Amply repaid in the Publick Good. I am with a Grateful return of Affection and Esteem Yours

ANNE HUNTINGTON

P x S Hon[rd] Mother sends you her Best Regards A H

If you can git some Tea * at a Constitu-

* "Yielding in part to the storm in America, the Parliament took the tax off of nearly everything except tea. By releasing a part of the English duty on tea sent to America the Government arranged it so that the Americans, after paying a tax in America, would have their tea

tional Price I Should be very glad if it was but a Little thare is none here but what is sold in a Clandestine manner A H

cheaper than before. The Americans were not contending for a little money but for a principle, and they refused to receive the tea. They began to drink tea made of sassafras roots, sage, raspberry leaves, yaupon, and other American plants."—*The Household History of the United States and its People, by Edward Eggleston.*

VII.

HARTFORD *May 20th 1776*

MRS HUNTINGTON

I Embrace Every Opportunity to Write to you This is the 3d Letter I have Wrote but have Not yet heared from you nor the Children am Greatly Concerned for You all but hope Nothing Bad has hapned because I have had no Intelligence I have no news to Acquaint you of tho Much is said here About Reports from the Northward some Say that Quebec is taken whilst others affirm our Army there has Retreated but those Reports are none of them well Authenticated *—The Tories at the Westward I Presume you have heared

* The evacuation of Canada by the Americans took place June 18, 1776.

are Detected in Raising Men to Butcher their Country Men and are taken up & Imprisoned to the Number of 39 at Fairfield—My Duty to Madam & Love to the Children hope to be at Home Next Week I am your Affectionate

BENJ HUNTINGTON

MRS ANNE HUNTINGTON

VIII.

HARTFORD *May 21st 1776*

MRS HUNTINGTON

I Wrote you a Line yesterday in which I said Something about News which then was not authenticated but Since that have had it Confirmed that about 500 Troops before Quebec had been Obliged to Retreat 15 Leagues up the River St Lawrence. Leaving all the Sick to the Mercy of the Regulars but that they are Encamping at Convenient Place to Command the River which if Maintained will Answer our Purpose—We also had News yesterday which Comes with Credit that one of the Yankey Vessels in Boston Bay has taken a Store Ship belonging to George Guelph with 75 Tons of Gun Powder and

1000 Stand of Arms on Bord—I am in Hopes of Coming home Next Week Some Talk of this Week but I think Business on hand will not be finished by that Time I have not yet heard from you nor the Children Since I Came from home—If you have any Chance to buy Flax or Wool before I Come pray buy as much as is Necessary—Tell Harry * I have Bought Tully's Orations and that Gurdon must have it when he has Done with it but Icant Buy a Greek Grammar in Hartford

* Henry, the eldest child, "graduated at Dartmouth in 1783, and entered upon the profession of law, but soon abandoned this for commercial pursuits. He established himself in business in New York, and had also an interest in the partnership of George Huntington & Co., of Rome, N. Y. Becoming largely interested in land speculation, he soon removed to Rome, where he spent the remainder of his life in a most successful business career. He was chosen President of the Bank of Utica, and retained the post until his resignation a short time before his death, when his failing health hindered his weekly visits to Utica. His business career, from its beginning to its close, was marked by a high tone of honor and integrity. . . . In

I wish you would Speak to Mr De Witt and Desiree him to take £29.17.3 York Currency * out of that Money in the Sheet in your Care and Send it with my Compliments to Messr Van Vleck & Ship in New York to Pay for Some Duck I owe them for. I Choose to send it by Land and have Waited for nothing but an Opportunity to Send by a Trusty hand Since Recd the Duck I have an order here on the Treasury for the same Sum

1805, 1806, and 1807 he was a member of the New York Senate, and in 1806 was also a member of the council of appointment. In 1816 and 1818 he was a member of the Assembly. In 1821 he was a member of the convention for revising the State Constitution. He was also one of the presidential electors in the elections both of 1808 and 1812. . . . He married Catherine M. Havens. His death occurred in Rome in 1846." — *Huntington Memoir.*

* "The coins that circulated in the colonies were chiefly foreign, and each colony had a rate of its own, which was already disturbed by the issue of paper money in Massachusetts."—*Bancroft's History of the United States of America, p. 555. vol. ii.*

A national coinage for the United States was not established by Congress until 1786.

I am with the Most Endearing Sentiments of Conjugal Esteem your

BENJ HUNTINGTON

MRS HUNTINGTON

P S if Mr De Witt has no Opportunity to Send the Money before I Come home I Suppose it will not be much Matter Only this That wish to be Prompt in Payment

B H

IX.

HARTFORD *May 29th 1777*

MRS HUNTINGTON

I take this Opportunity to Convey a Line which have more Leisure to Write than I had to Answer yours by John Stockwell

It is with Concern that I hear of any Difficulty you Meet with in your (*Widowhood*) but hope you will not Suffer among a Civil People Especially when you are able to Pay for all the Favours & Supplies you want—we Read that "the full fed Soul Loatheth the Honey Comb, when we are put to Distress for an Article for the Support of Life we know better how to prize it I wish to be more Thankfull for every Enjoyment than I have been, & hope

to see a Greater Scarsity of Money than we have at Present. That the Worshipers of Mammon may be Put to Difficulty to Come at the Shrine of their Idol whose Worship must be Supported and will be kept up at the Expence of all that is Good & Praiseworthy—That God has but one Perfection and that is the Idea of Infinite Increase or Augmentation and when the Materials of Increase are Plenty his Size must Grow to an amazing Bulk his Worshipers are hearty Sincear & True for they Give their Hearts and Souls to him and his Service is their Most Perfect Freedom a Freedom that Differs not from Slavery—The Assembly Yesterday had a Most Serious Debate upon the Question whether they would Repeal the Act for Regulating Prizes [Prices]* This Debate was brought on

* An act for regulating prices was already in force. In this session of May, 1777, an attempt was made to repeal the act, but without success. On the contrary, the principle was reaffirmed, and severe penalties decreed against violators. Maximum prices were fixed for pork,

by Gentlemen in Trade and Seconded by Farmers who have No Avertion to Money nor to the Ways of Gitting of it Seriousness Brooded on their Countenances they Declared that articles of Life & for the Army would always be Scarse untill the Poor Farmer and the Honest Importer Could be Encouraged to their Several Emploments of Raising, Importing &c and that the Prices stated by Law were in many Instances low & Disheartening and Would bring on a Scarsity, these Men were such as I am sure Wished well to their Country, but the God of this World had blinded their Eyes I Never Saw More Seriousness appear on hearing a Most Authodox Hopkintonian Sermon than was in the House & on full Debate & Consideration the Question was Put

West India rum, New England rum, best Muscovado sugar, American manufactured cheese, best neat-leather shoes, salted pork, good yard-wide tow cloth, rye, wheat, flour, and molasses.—*Public Records of Connecticut, vol. i.*

whether The House would give Liberty to a Certain Great Patriot to bring in a Bill for the Repeal of the Law against Monopolies & Oppression, there were but about ten or Twelve Hands up for the Repeal, to the Great Mortification of the Mammonites who will yet be seen to worship on Every high Hill and under every Green Tree

It is now under Consideration whether an Act Shall be Passed to make it more Dangerous to Violate the Law against Oppression, That no man shall, after his Covinction for a Breach of that Law be Capable of Holding any office Civil or Military nor to Recover a Debt or Receive a Deed of Land and that None shall hold an Office untill he has taken a Solomn Oath that he has not Violated that Law Directly nor Indirectly after the 10th Day of June Next which Act I hope will Pass and that Justice & Virtue May in our Day Triumph over Iniquity—I have a New ap-

pointment on the Commit of Safety* for the year Ensuing but am very Sorry to See Gen[l] Huntington † left out he is a Useful Man in that Business & has Rendered good Service to his Country but it is in Vain to Expect a Reward for any Good Deed in this World if the Reward is to Come from the Hands of Designing Men—There were about Eighty Prisoners brought into this Town yesterday taken from Long Island by a Party who went over & brought them off the (Point) agree-

* The Committee of Safety consisted of the Governor and a few other gentlemen of the Assembly, whose duty it was to devise ways and means for carrying on the war, at this time an extremely difficult and important task.

† Jedediah Huntington, of Norwich, appears on the Lexington Alarm List as colonel. He served twenty-three days, being stationed at Roxbury during the siege of Boston in 1775. In 1776 he fought under Washington in the campaign around New York. In 1777 he was promoted to brigadier general of the Continental Army, saw much service throughout the war, wintered at Valley Forge, and was a member of the court that tried André. He retired with the disbandment of the army in June, 1783, and died September 25, 1818.

able Mr Joseph Chew is one of those Captives. Capt Benj Throop * was one of the Captains in the Expedition & Little Joseph Lothrop † of Norwich was in the Party, they Came up with the feelings and appearace of Victors no Doubt they had Sensations of the Similar Kind that were had by Alexander the Great—I am at a Loss when I Shall Come home as I Cannot Conceive of the Assembly Rising this Week If you have spent your Money you must Try my Credit a few Days among Friends —My Love to the Children & Compliments to Capt Abel & other Friends and Good Wishes to Enemies, that they may become Friends—There is one Stone to be Executed here this Morning between the Hours of 8 & 10 for Conspiracy against

* Captain Benjamin Throop, of Norwich, was lieutenant in 1775, captain in 1776, promoted major in 1778, and retired January 1, 1783. On the Connecticut pension rolls he appears as living in New York in 1818.

† Joseph Lothrop's name occurs in the Lexington Alarm List as that of a private who served one day.

his Country—May God be Merciful to him—I am afraid he will Suffer too Much for his Crime, but am not his Judge if his own Account of his Case is True his Case is hard—I know not the Truth of what he says and Indeed Suspect it much—I am &c

BENJ HUNTINGTON

MRS HUNTINGTON

X.

More than three years have elapsed. Benjamin Huntington is now a member of the Continental Congress, in session at Philadelphia.

NORWICH *June 10th 1780.*

DEAR SIR

I rec^d a Line from you Dated at Hartford and had the Pleasure of hearing from you by Mr Bill had soon an oppertunity of sending Harry the things I forgot in my Great perturbation to put up for him Have heard nothing from him since you left Home

Our Family are all by Favour of Providence in Health which is nearly all that is worth while (in the small Circle of my Affairs to communicate at such a Great Distance. Am anxious till I hear how you have the Small Pox, tis needless to re-

quest you to let me hear from you by the first Opertunity. Mr Frisby continues here and says Nothing about changing his Lodgings he Determined not to keep school here more than this Quarter he says Mr Spalding the Young Atty from Canterbury was in Town this Week to git a Place to Board. Shall want your advice where to send the Boys to School Gurdon studies his Accidence yet but believe (to use his own Phrase) does not Extend himself have heard nothing said about gitting another Schoolmaster Please to make my Devoirs to Mrs President * and except of

* The wife of Samuel Huntington, who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and President of the Continental Congress from September 28, 1779, until July 6, 1781, when he resigned on account of failing health. He was perhaps the most illustrious member of the Huntington family. He was elected Governor of Connecticut in 1786, and died in 1796. In 1761 he married Martha Devotion, daughter of his pastor. They had no children of their own, but their home was the resort of a large circle of friends and relatives. Samuel learned the trade of a cooper when a youth, but through diligent study fitted himself for the bar, so that before his thirtieth year had ended

Best Wishes for Health & Happiness From your

Affectionate &c ANNE HUNTINGTON

P S there has been Plenty of Wheat cry^{d} along Street to Day 100 Dollars p^{r} Bushel.

---

he was not simply an established lawyer, but one who had already won distinction.

It is still remembered that Mrs. Huntington "in a white short gown and stuff petticoat, and clean muslin apron, with a nicely starched cap on her head, would take her knitting and go out by two o'clock in the afternoon, to take tea unceremoniously with some respectable neighbor, the butcher's or blacksmith's wife, perhaps. But this was in earlier days, before Mr. Huntington was President of Congress or Governor of Connecticut."—*History of Norwich, by Frances M. Caulkins.*

XI.

NORWICH *Septr 22d 1780.*

SIR:

I recd yours of the first Instt in which I have the agreeable acct of your Health and had Since the pleasure of the Like by Mr Ellery who informd me he Sat at the Same Board with you when at Philadelphia. Our Family and relatives at Norwich are well except Harry who has informd you of his misfortune. Deacon Huntington has lost his Son Roger in a Sudden and surprising manner As he was studying at Doc Rogers's with a sharp pointed Pen knife Carelessly in his Hand a Fly Bit him and he knockd his knees together and pierced the knife into his Thigh and cut Through the main Artery

Doc Rogers Soon stopt the Blood from coming through the Wound bound it up and did not open it for Several Days tis thought the Doc^{t} was not skill^{d} in such Capital wounds the Thigh Swell^{d} to a great Degree and they Had Doc Turner to it he open^{d} it and found near Two Quarts of Clotted Blood within the Thigh and a Mortification begun he told the Young man Immediate Amputation was the only Possible Remedy and that a very improbable one to which he consented and in less than an Hour after the operation Expired on the 7th Instant. Captn Edgerton's Daughter Lucy was Buried this Day his Son Ben. is very sick with the Long Fever. I think we have great cause of Thankfullness for the Discriminating Favour of Providence in preserving the Lives of all our Children. I have a great many things to say but have so many Family Avocations pressing upon me, tis very Difficult for me to write any thing in the Day

Time, and my Sight fails me very much so that I am not able to write much by candlelight. I believe I must come to the use of glasses if I can find any I have try^d to Procure some Cyder but can hear of none to be sold nearer than Connecticut River Believe I shall send there with Mr Isaac Abel to git some he says he will buy a Load of Hay for us and settle with you when you Return E Lord Fails me about Hay Mr Hough Call^d at our House the other Day to see us I askd him if he would give me the Money for the State Note you mentiond he said the Assembly had not setled how they should be rec^d and he expects they will the Next Session he offerd to let me have what Money I wanted and Believe I shall except his offer I indeavour at the best accomomy I am Mistress of but you are sensible of the Nessary expence of our Family I intend to engage Pork as soon as I can I suppose it will be very

Dear we give 4 Dollars a pound for Beef.*

I did intend to have gone to Windham soon but cant Leave Harry at Present and shall omit it till you return, which I heartily wish for

From, Dear Sir

your ANNE HUNTINGTON

HON^RBL BEN HUNTINGTON

N. B. Cap^n Abel came here to Night and told me not to forgit to give you his kind Comp^ts and tell you he wants to see

* To show the hardships encountered by this good woman, and her resolute patriotism, I quote from the Huntington Memoirs, pp. 89, 90: "On one occasion of pressing want on the part of our Revolutionary Army, an earnest call was made upon the families of Norwich for supplies of clothing. In the absence of Judge [Benjamin] Huntington, then away in the service of the State, his wife, selecting a single blanket in which to wrap her youngest child [Rachel], forwarded all the rest to the army, and supplied their place on the beds at home by blankets cut from the carpets on the floor, preferring for the present well-sanded floors without their accustomed covering, so that the noble patriotism of the needy army might be encouraged and rewarded."

you very much the Children send their Duty

Elisha Lathrop & Jaz Perkins Esq^{rs} are Chosen Deputies for the Town of Norwich.

XII.

NORWICH *May 29th 1782*

DEAR SIR!

I rec^d your Letter and the Money by Coll Halsey With Pleasure can inform you am in a much better state of Health than when you went from home the rest of our Family are well a favour we ought to notis with Gratitude Harry is now at home on account of Mr Huntingtons Indisposition he Designs to return as soon as he can Hear Mr H is recover^d Coll Durkey last Night left this world with the Greatest Seeming composure and Resignation I think we have Just reason to lament his Death I wish you Health and Happiness and no anxiety about us at home we have a kind Providence ever attendant upon

us and a Prospect of being very comfortable on all acc^ts^ but the want of your company which is indeed very hard to be reconciled to Brother Huntington from Windham went from here this afternoon he appears Chearful and more like himself than I have seen him for a long time he says his Wife and sister Stoors * are coming to see me in a few days have heard nothing from Mr Clark since you went from Home Mother seems as contented as can be expected.

Pray write by Mr Tracy to

Your Constant and Affectionate

ANNE HUNTINGTON

* A younger sister, Lucy, who was born in Windham, June 16, 1744, and married Colonel Experience Storrs, of Mansfield, Conn., where she died, February 6, 1801.

XIII.

NORWICH *June 4th 1782*

DR SIR!

I wrote you by Capt Fredk Tracy a few Days past since which have nothing Material to Inform you of except that we are all well which am willing to give you the latest inteligence of I am impatient to hear how you got to P and whether you enjoy Health and I was going to say when I may expect to see you but I Forbear Harry is at Home yet but shall git him ready to go as soon as I can I hear Mr Huntington has nearly recoverd from his Illness

Our Horse has not been fit for Service since he came Home by reason of a Swelling on his Back Doc Perez has been very

busy with his Skill Knife & Precipitate and thinks the Horse in a good way and I Believe thinks himself so too I trouble you with this acc^t of the Horse because I dont know but you will choose to give some Directions about Him

I shall count the Days till Mr Browns Return when I hope to receive a Line from your Hand I inclose a Certificate from Capt carew which he omited—I am Dear Sir without Reserve

Yours ANNE HUNTINGTON

P x S Mother Desires to be suitably Remembred as do the Children

BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON ESQ^R

XIV.

PHILADELPHIA *August 5th 1782*

DEAR MRS HUNTINGTON

The Pleasure of Writing to my faithful Partner is great but that of Receiving a Line from you is greater. It brings Tidings from my best Friend on Earth. By it I learn the State of the Dear Family for whose Happiness Honor & Interest my deepest Concerns are employed. If a Temporary Absence from Such a Friend is Painful, how unsupportable must a finale Separation be. But not to anticipate Sorrow we ought to Reflect that our Present Enjoyments are the Gifts of Heaven to Promote our Happiness in this Imperfect State and that without them our Lives would be insipid But the Hopes of a

Blessed Immortality Resting on a Sure Foundation of Privilege laid in Matchless Wisdom & Benevolence and Confirmed by the Omnipotence of him whose Designs Cannot be Defeated, afford solid Consolation to the Mind even whilst we are driven in the Midst of Boisterous Events down the Troubled Torrent of Time. When we Consider that all our Infirmities Sufferings Pains Bereavements & Mournings are designed by Heaven to bring us to that Pure Meekness of Spirit in which alone we Can Partake of Immortal Joy, the most Ponderous Destresses in this World become Welcome Corrections from the Hand of our almighty Parent This Rapsody of thought Occurred on Sitting Down to Write & upon Turning my Thoughts towards home—I am in Good Business and hope to find you in better health, and that you will not omit Riding out as often as you can—But after all our Efforts for Self Preservation, our whole Trust must be in

that being who alone is Able to help us for vain is the help of Man

Give my love to the Children

I am your Affectionate

BENJ HUNTINGTON

Mr Lathrop tills me Gurdon is Coming here which I hope he will not fail to do by the next Packett whilst I am here

B H

XV.

PRINCETON *Septr 8th 1783*

DEAR MRS HUNTINGTON

Since my Last Nothing Material has hapned a Dutch Minister is Dayly Expected to arrive in Philadelphia and it was Rumoured that Some of his furniture was arrived last Week This must be a Wonderful great Affair and what Congress can Do with this Great Personage in Princeton is more than Humane Wisdom can Divise for there are not Buildings Sufficient to House more Dons nor (in) Indeed as many as are Already here Some are under Necessity to Go to Philadelphia once or Twice a fortnight to Breath in Polite Air. The Country so badly agrees with those Sublime & Delicate Constitu-

tions that it is to be feared that many of them will Contract a Rusticity that Can never be wholly Purged off We have nothing here but the Necessaries and Comforts of Life and who can live so? The Agreeables of the City cannot be had in the Country I Expect no Business of Importance will be Done untill Congress Returns to that Sweet Paridice from which they hastily took Flight in June last* Since which Time an Awkward Rustication has been their Painful Situation on an Eminence in the Country where they have no Musquitoes to Serenade them in bed and

* The Continental Congress more than once changed its place of meeting, though Philadelphia was its first and customary home.

In 1777 Alexander Hamilton, who was ordered to Philadelphia to secure stores, gave Congress notice of immediate danger one evening, and its members, few in number, fled in the night to meet at Lancaster.

Toward the end of June, 1783, mutinous soldiers surrounded Congress in Philadelphia, clamoring for their pay. Congress insisted that the State authorities call out the militia to restore order, and the request being refused, it adjourned to Princeton.

in the Day they have a Prospect of no more than 30 or 40 Miles to the High Lands on the Sea Coast nor can they hear the musick of Carts and Waggons on the Pavements in the City nor See the motly Crowd of Beings in those Streets. This must be Truely Distressing to Gentlemen of Taste—The Ladies make less Complaint than the Gentlemen and the Gentlemen who have their Ladies here seem in some Degree Contented. The President* of Congress who Belongs in the Jersy is obliged to leave his Lady in Philadelphia to Keep Possession but has the Promise of a Very Genteel House here if he will take it but not Knowing whether Congress will abide in Princetown or not, he is at the utmost Loss what to Do, Whether it is best for him and his wife to live together as Peasants do in the Country or for her to be at Philad^a as the Ladies do, and for

* Elias Boudinot.

him to Live as a Gentleman Doing Business in the Country in hopes of Retiring to the Pleasures and amusements of the City when Business is over this Matter Requiring Great Deliberation Cannot (like the Emigration of Congress in June last) be hastily Determined Thus you See we Great Folks are not without Trouble. I hope to become a small man in a few Weeks and Retire from the Embarrassments of Dignity to the Plain & Peaceful Possessions of a Private Life not Desiring to Live without Business but to do useful Business without ye Pangs & Vanity of this Wicked World

All I have Wrote is not what I Designed when I began & Consequently have not yet advanced one Step toward any Design and having nothing to Write About am at a Great Loss what to Write because it Requires more Strength of Genius to Build on Hansom Fabrick without Materials than with—I am Spending Money very fast but

not so fast as I Could with the Same Degree of Industery in Philadelphia & it is a Mortifying Consideration that my Cash is Spent for no better Purposes, but the Great & General Concerns of a Nation must attended to and the Fashions & Customs of the World are Such as Require it to be Done with Expence—A new Fashion is among the Ladies here which is the Same as at Philad^a The Roll is much less than formerly and is Raised to a Peak on their Forehead Frowzled and Powdered and they wear Men's Beaver Hats with a Large Tye of Gauze like a Sash or Mourning Wead about the Crown & Decorated with Feathers & Plumes on the Top which makes a very Daring Appearance The Brim of the Hat is Loped before about as low as their Eyes and is a Kind of Riding Hat They Walk Abroad and Sit in Church in the Same. Some have them in the Same Figure made of Paper and Covered with Silk with Deep Crowns as a

Beaver Hat but as this is much out of the Line of Business I was sent here to do I have not been very Particular on the Subject I might also mention the Waistcoat and Long Sleaves much like the Riding habits our Ladies wore Twenty five years ago but as they Differ some from them & having no Right to be very Much in Observation upon the Ladies I am not able to say Much on the Subject

Give my love in Particular to Every Child in our Family & Regards to Friends & Neighbors

I am Dear Spouse
your Most Affectionate
BENJ HUNTINGTON

MRS ANNE HUNTINGTON

XVI.

N. York *July first 1788*

Mrs Huntington

Mr John Smith the Barber Sets out this morning for Chelsea & is the Bearer of this—I arrived safely at Capt Hardings in 48 hours from the Time I left home had no fair wind and was in a heavy Rain about half the Way yet was very comfortable the whole Passage Old Mrs Bates and her grand-Daughter Miss Betsey Bunce were on Board & Arrived Safe after an abundance of Sea-Sickness Capt Culver will sail in four or five Days & by him I shall send you a little Flour—My Lodgings are Convenient & the House at Present Very full of New England Gentlemen who

Incline to put up at a House of their own Country Man. Capt Harding & his Lady are both in health & send Compliments &c they have no Family but themselves and two Servants I have seen Dr Cogswell but have not found whether I Spell his Name right or not have also seen Prosper Wetmore & his Brother Robert & heared from our Friends at Stratford & Stamford &c all well. Mr James Davenport * was here but one or two Days before I arrived & is Expected again soon Have Inclosed the News & therefore have nothing to say about that Subject saving only that we expect News this Day from Virginia that they have adopted the New Constitution — By Capt Culver I shall

* A half-sister of Anne, Elizabeth, married the Hon. Abraham, son of Rev. John Davenport, of Stamford, Conn. It was this Abraham who called for lights in the legislative hall on the 19th of May, 1780, declaring his intention, if the Judgment Day was approaching, of being found at his post of duty. Their children were five, among whom John and James were members of Congress, and Elizabeth married the Dr. James Coggswell mentioned in this letter.

Write some Directions about Sundery Matters which I had not Time to think of before I left Home

Give My Love to the Children

I am your BENJ HUNTINGTON

XVII.

NORWICH *July 28th 1788*

I have just heard that Capt. Culver Sails this Morning have only time to acknowledge the receit of yours of the 24 & 25th Inst[t] I esteem it a privilege that I can hear from you so often. I have been obliged to spare some of the flour you sent me and have but very little left Should be glad if tis convenient you would send me some more. We have dismised Man Cyrus for some cavalierly conduct in particular striking Hezekiah on the head with a stone for a small affront and some other enormities of the like nature. Harry sent him with a letter to Sister Wales and one enclosed to the Selectmen to deliver if she pleased I pitied

the poor fellow but dont think him qualified to live at our house I was loath to have any such overtures made in your absence but suppose you would have done the same had you been present. I hope you will come home in September and wear your own Cloaths.

I am yours
ANNE HUNTINGTON

BENJ^N HUNTINGTON ESQ^R

XVIII.

NORWICH *August 11th 1788*

DEAR SIR I have been very Sick but the Doctor tells me I am better but am very weak I have been greatly mortified about my neglect in not acknowleging the rec^t of the Shawls &c by Mr Warren which he Deliverd as soon as he ariv^d
I was very well pleasd with my Shaul & think it an elegant one and if ever I git well I shall wear it I gave the little one to Rachel * which pleases her much I am Loath you should know that I am sick but dont let it ditress you only let me have your prayers. Our Children both sons & daughters have ever since your absence done every thing in their power for my

* The seventh child, Rachel, was nine years old at this date. It was she who subsequently wrote most of the letters which form the latter part of this collection.

comfort dont think of returning on account of my indisposition I realy think it will injure you and the family.

I have an excellent kind Nurse in Mrs Dains and now you want to know what ails me I believe my distemper is without name in the first place I had a considerable high fever attended with great pain so that for about a week I got no quiet sleep but by opperation of opium I am now almost Clear of fever and can Sleep quietly without opium nothing at present seems to hinder my Gitting about but a general weakness & debility which the Doctr says Time will remedy

I did not expect when I first took up my pen that I should be able to write three Lines I cant answer your Letters that came since my sickness only we have recd the 4½ bbl flour

I am your ANNE HUNTINGTON

BENJN HUNTINGTON ESQR

XIX.

NORWICH *March 31t 1789.*

SIR

The letters by Mr Rodman Captns Culver & Niles with the flour &c have been duly recd. I wish I coud acknowledge your favours with propriety but my Strength will not admit of writing but a few lines I have had 2 or 3 very ill turns of late and have recruited again I am now mending & have been for several days past. Doc Tracy says he thinks I shall be about in a few days as well as Usual my Cough and fever seem to abate I am feeble but hope when the weather is setled and warm to gain strength by riding more frequently I desire I may be patient and submissive whatever may be the event of

Providence concerning me. dont be anxious about me our Children are kind and attintive as they can be and I try to divest myself of all worldly cares as much as possible. the account of Mrs Backus's Death is truly affecting Mr Backus by his letter seems overwhelmed with grief I heartily pity him his proposals about his Children upon more mature consideration I believe he will not approve of himself I have not mentioned to Mrs Dr. Comprez or any one else any thing of the matter but I think she has her hands full to manage her own Children Mr Wm Morgan Boarded the Gager Boys and I have heard they were used very kindly and were very loath to go from Mr Morgans when Mr Witter took them to board at his house if I had 2 little ones to put out to board and Nurse I should be as willing to trust Mrs Morgan as any one I am acquainted with I make no doubt but she would undertake it as reasonably as any one in this place

but I am not able or disposed to Meddle in the Matter and cant take care of my own family I can only hint at the many things I would say if I was able

I am your ANNE HUNTINGTON

BENJ^N HUNTINGTON ESQ^R

XX.

NEW YORK *June 20th 1789*

MRS HUNTINGTON

I Recd no letter from you or any of the Family by Capt Niles by which I Conclude nothing Extraordinary had happened I am in hourly Expectation of Culver who I hope will bring good News that you are in better Health & that the Family are Comfortable I have nothing worthy of Notice to mention at Present The Papers will Inform what has been doing this Week in Congress * we are giving Every thing into the Hands of the President which we are not fit to manage ourselves Perhaps we shall find this will lead us to a

* The first Congress under the Federal Constitution met at New York, March 4, 1789.

Greater length than we at first Conceited I hope but dont believe we are acting wisely in Giving Power to the President* to turn out the Great Officers of the United States at Pleasure without giving any Reason for it we are told that he is under a Sufficient Check by being Responsible for his Conduct I wish to know how much Restraint he will be under by his Responsibility when he has an Army at Command and all the Officers both Civil & Military a Set of his own Creatures Dependent on him for a Subsistence in their Places, and with a Disposition to Support himself in Place by force as will be the Case in the first Instance where a President is Ambitious and finds himself under a Probability of Failing of a Re-Election, but why should I Trouble you

* Here the Hon. Benjamin Huntington foreshadows the dangers and difficulties arising from the extraordinary appointing powers of the President. He apprehends the growth of the spoils system.

with Politics I wish I was not Troubled with them myself!

I shall write you again by Culver and am at Present with Sincear Affection your

BENJ HUNTINGTON

MRS A HUNTINGTON

XXI.

New York *July 17th 1789*

Mrs Huntington

I Recd your letter of the 7th Instant by Capt Culver and am happy to hear you are gaining Strength and hope you will be favourable to yourself I am fully Persuaded that your not Writing to me by the Packetts was no fault in you but it was a greater Disappointment to me that no body from the Family would Informe me What your State of Health was than any disinterested Person would be apt to Imagine I conceited you was growing more Ill and that no body would Informe me of it lest it Should give me trouble & Perhaps bring me home when my Presence would be of no Service

I cannot Say when I shall come home there is talk of adjourning in September which I hope will be the case and if it Should be so I am in Hopes you will be well Enough to go with me to New Havin and make a Visit over to North Stratford a Week or two in October whilst the Assembly sits for I Suppose I must be there if I Come home before the Assembly Rises which will almost Destroy my whole happiness in coming home unless you can go with me & I hope you will be able to Ride such a Journey in a Carriage and that it will advance your Health

It is very unexpected to be Obliged to be in this Place Six Months without Receiving a farthing Compensation for Time or Service but I hope all will be right at last and that I shall not have Occasion to Repent coming

I am in good Health and can Buckle my Shoes with less Trouble than I have

for Some years Pass^{d} haveing in a great measure got Rid of the Gout & Some of my bulk tho. but little of the latter nor am I Cured of the former nor do I Expect I ever shall—

Capt Bela Turner has been in this Place and to Philadelphia about three or four Weeks Pass^{d} with a letter of Credit Signed by one Choat who is not known to any body here and the Merchants have not thought proper to trust him goods on the Credit of it I heared last Evening he had a turn of the Fever and Ague but have not seen him today he tells me his Daughter Anne has married a very good Man that has a good Farm and is in a way to gain a good Subsistence—I wish he himself was a ditto—he wanted me to Write on the back of his Letter of Credit that it was a good & Legal one, and proposed to pay me in goods for the old Chaise if he Succeeded in getting the Goods It would have been a very fine way of Collecting a

Debt of £12 . . . 0 . . . 0 in Goods, for me to Subject myself to the Payment of as much as he Should Please to take on the Credit of a Letter Subscribed or Indorsed by me It would have been not material to the Merchant here whether Mr Choat was to be found or not if I had Indorsed it and was able to pay the money but, to do him Justice, after I had Declined writing my opinion on the Bill as to its Validity he said he did not Desire I Should do any more than write my opinion as a lawyer than the Doubts of the Merchants might by that means be removed as to the Legallity of its form This I Declined as I was no lawyer in New Hampshire and had no Right to give an Opinion as to its Opperation in that State—he Desired me to git Judge Livermore's Opinion on the Subject. And to Oblige him, I went to Mr Livermore with the Letter of Credit he said that if he had wrote Such a Letter himself it would be good, but would not give his

opinion in Writing, for the Same Reason on which I Declined; Thus I have told you a long Story which I don^t Desire to told again & have wrote this in Stead of talk and Suppose you don^t desire to hear any Thing about Politics & The Papers will tell you the News and what Fine Dinners were Consumed by the Cincinnati * on the 4th of July a Time in which if their own Accounts of themselves may be Credited, they behaved themselves very well— Give my love (for to my Sorrow I have nothing Else which I Dare Send) to the Children & Family

From your BENJ HUNTINGTON

* The Society of the Cincinnati, established by officers of the army at the close of the Revolution in 1783.

XXII.

NEW YORK *August 4th 1789*

DEAR SON

Yours of the 27th of July has been Recd and the Contents Observed I hope we are in a good way and that my Debts will all be paid within a few Months The Duty Acts are now begining to opperate & I hope to Receive some Pay for my Service but what it will be is not yet known There is so much Talk in the Country about the Report of the Committee for Six Dollars P Day * that I Expect it will not be more than five, what-

* The Salaries Bill, passed at this session, stipulated $25,000 for the President, $5,000 for the Vice-President, $6 a day for members of the Senate and the House, and $12 for the Speaker.

ever it is must be Accepted with Patience but People ought to Consider that we give up all Business and all Prospects besides the Service of the United States and in Case they do not sit more than two or three Months in a year as is Expected will be the Case our Sacrifices at home by leaving all other Business will be poorly Compensated for; Especially Professional Men who will be wholly Defeated in their Practice at home by being gone in the best Part of the Year for their Business as Lawyers &c I have been a Slave to the Public these 24 Years Pass[d] and Should now have been perfectly Poor, if I had not used the utmost Economy in my house and if I am worth anything it is not the Public Bounty as I have no Reason to Doubt but a Steady Practice in the Law would have been much more for my Interest than the Business I have Done

I hope to be at home in about six Weeks but cannot Probably be Allowed

my full Pay at Congress by that Time but it will be good Pay at Some Time or other & then I hope to put the Shops in better Business than at Present—I have Rec^d a Line from Harry who says he is going to Vermont to Prevent any Mischief in Selling our Lands in that State who seem to have adopted a System of Knavery about Taxes but hope to Escape the Effects of their Villainy—I hope you and all the Family will pay the utmost Attention to your Mamma's Health & think that if She gits health at this Time and in September She may be Expected to Recover I Doubt not but that you all Consider that if you Should loose her you never can have the loss Repaired

I am &c

BENJ HUNTINGTON

MR GURDON HUNTINGTON

XXIII.

NORWICH *Feby 8th 1790*

DEAR SIR

The Last letter I recd from you was dated 31t Jany by which I am informd you are recovering Slowly from your disorder I was in hopes you had perfectly recoverd but as you justly observe Patience and Resignation to Providence is our duty I have been taking the Bark prepared in a different manner from what I have ever taken it and I have gained Strength my fever is not so high as it has been but I have at this time a Chill coming on which makes my hand tremble so that I can write but very poorly the last Letter I wrote you I never expected to write another I had been raising matter that appeard the

same as that which comes from a boil and was very low and faint I am of the same mind I was then as to what my disorder is but how long this feble thread of life is to be extended and for what purpose God only knows I am as happy as I can be with my infirmities in your absence our Family are all well except me. I want to write a very long letter but am not able I am with Sincere Affection & respect your

ANNE HUNTINGTON

BENJ^N HUNTINGTON ESQ^R

XXIV.

NEW YORK *Feby 28th 1790*

DEAR MRS HUNTINGTON

By a letter from Hary & two others from Gurdon & George * by the last Post I have heared from you that you are much in the same Ill State of health as for a month passd which is not Surprizing but I hope your Case is not Desperate but be

* Third child, George, "was the first of the Huntington family who moved into central New York. He first settled in Whitestown, in 1792, then the most important of all the New England settlements in that vicinity. He had little or no property, but opened a store as agent for Mr. Hyde, of New London. In the succeeding year he removed to Fort Stanwix, near Rome, and by the assistance of his elder brother, Henry, established himself in business." . . . The business connection of Henry and George Huntington, under the firm of George Huntington & Co., continued until his death in 1842. He was known as "the patriarch of the village."—*Huntington Memoir, p. 134.*

that as it will, I know it is my duty to Trust you in the hands of a faithful Creator who will take us all out of this world when he Pleaseth. I hope your confidence in the great Redeemer of Mankind will be well grounded and unshaken—I cannot say when I shall come home but Hope to See you in May or June and that you will before that Recover your Health

My own health is nearly the Same as when I mentioned to you that I was Slowly Recovering I attend Congress every Day where there are good Fires but cannot attend Meeting on Sundays being so much Troubled with the Rheumatism that I cannot Endure Sitting in the Cold but hope to get the better of it in a Short Time—

I am deprived of a great Satisfaction which I Should take (were it possible) to see you and spend the Time in admistring some Degree of comfort to you in your Sickness but we must be contented with

the Allotments of Providence to whose divine Protection you are most heartily Recommended by

Your Affectionate

BENJ HUNTINGTON

MRS ANNE HUNTINGTON

XXV.

NEW YORK *March 6th 1790*

DEAR MRS HUNTINGTON

By a line from Harry by last Post I was very happy to hear you had been more comfortable than usual I hope you are really in better health than when I left home I have sent you half a Dozen of best Madeira by Capt Parker and would have you send for more if needed or for anything I can Procure for your health or Comfort I hope you are mistaken in your Conclusion that you shall not Recover. MRS Harding tells me her Sister Rockwell was (once) Supposed to be in a fixed Consumption but Recovered; it has been the Case with many others who have recovered & I hope to see you again in Perfect health—

Our lives are but Short at the longest; but to have useful Lives cut off before they are arrived to the Age of Man is a most afflicting loss to friends and to the Public; the tender Thread is so easily broken that none of us even in the Meridian of life and vigor of health can presume with Safety on an hour's Continuance in this World we ought to wait with Patience our appointed Time and be ready at the Call of heaven to leave these Tabernacles of Clay which must be shaken off at some Time or other it's not best for us to know when, nor is it our Duty to be Gloomy at the Thoughts of Mortality a Christian life may be Cheerful and I think ought to be so; we ought to spend this life in Praising the Deity which is by no means a Melancholly Employment.

To leave you in a Declining State as I Supposed I did when I parted with you was to me a most painful Circumstance I anticipated the heaviest bereavement I

could Conceive of among humane losses. I am now much Encouraged concerning your Recovery & hope on my Return to find you able to Ride out for your health and to have as many happy Days in carrying you abroad as I have had

My love to the Children & Family

I am your Affectionate

BENJ HUNTINGTON

MRS ANNE HUNTINGTON

XXVI.

New York *March 14th 1790*

Dear Mrs Huntington

I Recd no letter by the last Post from any of our Family but by a letter from the Govr * and another from Col Leffingwell I was informed that you Remained in much the Same State of health as when I left home which I think is not by any means discouraging—I am however exceedingly concerned for you but hope to see you in better health on my Return but cannot Say when that will be but Expect it will be in May or June—I am in better health than when I left home, am obliged to be very careful of myself and not expose

* Samuel Huntington.

(myself) to the Cold or wet We have no (News of) Importance—I hope & trust you will be enabled to endure with a becoming Patience the Distresses of your Infirmity & that all the Divine Dispensations towards you may be so Improved as to promote your happiness both temporal & Eternal—I am very unhappy in being Separated from you at a time when you Stand in greater need of my Services aid & Support than ever before—My love to the Children

I am most Affectionately

Your BENJ HUNTINGTON

MRS ANNE HUNTINGTON

XXVII.

NEW YORK *April 9th 1790*

DEAR MRS HUNTINGTON

By Mr Emmerson of N London I send you another Scrawl without News for we have none our August House is going on Steady Steady and as Slow as Steady In hopes of Rising at Some Time or other I had a letter from Harry by Capt Parker in which he says you are in the same State of health as for Some Time passd I was in hopes of your gaining health and Strength and am anxious Still to hear that is the Case—cannot the Doctors Contrive Something that will restore the Coats and Juices of your Stomach to a proper temper that your Food might become more nourishing I think that such a Step

would put you in a Way to gain Flesh and with it you might Expect Health to be Restored Would you like any Porter or wine or any Thing which I can send from this Place which you fancy would be Palatable I beleive such things as agree with your appetite will be most Nourishing and Probably tend to correct the Disorders of the Stomach and Replinish the Body with wholsome Juices—But I am writing of things I know nothing of but from my own Reason upon the Subject Pray let me know if you have a Desire for any thing I can Send and it Shall be Sent I have money and can Send what you want and have no thoughts of witholding any of the Comforts or Conveniences which you Desire—When I begin to Write to you I know not how to leave off I have no other way of talking to you and so take the liberty of talking too much as I fear—

Pray let Harry know I have Rec^d his

Letter with the Inclosed final settlement Certif[t] and sold it at 7/6 for the Principal and 6/ for the Interest and am to have the Money in Time to Send home by Capt Parker by whom I Shall send it with his other Money which I have Rec[d]

I am you Affectionate

BENJ HUNTINGTON

M[RS] HUNTINGTON

XXVIII.

New York *May 25th 1790*

Dear Mrs Huntington

Your kind letter of the 19th with the Post Script of the 22d Instant was this Day Recd at the hand of Capt Perkins which with the unfavourable News I have by the Norwich People concerning your health is *Affecting indeed;* but don't let this trouble you I have Pleasure Even in the Pangs of Sorrow when felt for the beloved Object of my Esteem and Affection—

Pardon (my dear) these Emanations of an Anxious heart and let your Confidence be in him who was dead and is alive & lives forevermore — The dreary road of Man to Bliss is through this Vale of tears

The Time will come when the King of

Terrors shall loose his frightful Form and his deadly Sting Shall hurt no more Then shall we have Beauty for Ashes and the Oyl of Joy for the spirit of heaviness—All the Days of our appointed Time will we wait, till our change comes—If you Should go before I am sure to follow when I have accomplished as an Hireling my Day—Man cometh forth like a Flower & is cut down he fleeth like a Shaddow and continueth not — May the Lord be your Strength upon the bed of languishing and when flesh & heart shall fail may God be the Strength of your heart and your Portion forever and though we are Sorrowful now yet may our Sorrow be turned into Joy — When the great Redeemer was Scourged by wicked men and Suffered on Mount-Calvery the Chatisement of our Peace was then upon him & by his Stripes we are healed, to this only Source of our Salvation can we look for that Peace which the world cannot give nor take

away. May God Almighty grant you all Joy and Peace in Beleiving

We have lived many Years in great Harmony and I hope & Trust not without that love which is beyond the Power of Death to Extinguish—I have the most grateful Satisfaction in your Love towards me at all Times, that it has been with that ardent Affection which has its Foundation in the purest Principles of Conjugal Friendship and Fidelity improved by the Precepts taught us by our great Lord and Master; But I most sincearly lament my own Defects of Duty towards you and have in the whole Course of our Connection been mortified that I had it not in my Power to Render your Life more happy—A kind Providence has been Sufficiently Bountiful and we have abundant Reason of Thankfulness—Accept (*my dear*) of my tender and most hearty acknowledgement of all your kindnesses and to our Children who have (for aught I know)

grown up in Virtuous Habits under your Parental Assiduity of Care and Government

I hope and expect to See you in the course of a few Weeks and in the mean Time must commit you to the kind Protection of the Father of Spirits

I should come home Immediately to See you for a few Days if for the best, but cannot Sustain the Idea of another Parting

I am your most Affectionate Sincear and faithful Friend & Consort

BENJ HUNTINGTON

P S May 29th 1790

I Approve of your doings with the Shawls & Callicoes &c and am glad you concluded to Make you a loose Gown of Part of the Callicoes I have purchased and Sent by Erastus Perkins a Pair of Shoes which are as near as I could guess of a Size to fit your foot and hope they will be easy to your feet if they are too

Small, Send for a larger Pair and I can Send them in a few Days—

I have purchased a Barrel of Flour and a Piece of Course Linin which I Suppose will be nearly what you wanted I think it good & it Cost 1/11¼ £ Money P Yard I also have Sent you a Coffee Mill which Gurdon can fix up on Some Studd or Post in the Garret

I Shall not think it Strange if you dont write often to me nor would I have you make any Exertions of that kind I cannot Desire it—

Your Affectionate

B HUNTINGTON

MRS HUNTINGTON

XXIX.

NEW YORK *June 26th* [*25?*] *1790*

DEAR MRS HUNTINGTON

By Capt Perkins I Recd no letter but Mr Thomas Lathrop & his wife & Mrs Hannah Huntington came with him and Inform that they have lately seen you riding out by which I conclude you are in no worse health than when I heared from you last—

I was mentioning your Case to a Lady of the Name of Bedlow who said She had a Julep which was a most Powerful thing for present Relief in the Chollic and was kind Enough to furnish me with a Recipe by which I have got the Articles put up and Sent it to you fitted to take a Dose is a table Spoon full at once I have Sent

home the Recipe and wish it may be kept Safe and that you would let Dr Tracy See it and take his advice before taking any lest there might be Some of the Articles it contains improper for you I have a bad opinion of Quackery and would not have the medicine used without advice It was used by a Very famous Physician for Mrs Be[d]low in a very difficult Case and gave her Immediate Relief and She has used the Same for the Chollic more than thirty years and it always has the same Effect—

I am in hopes of Coming home in two or three Weeks or in the Month of July but cannot Say when—I in comfortable health but a little Troubled with the Billious disorder but hope to git quite Rid of it when I come home and Relax from Health and as happy as I Can be at so Great a Distance from my most Agreeable Connections — The Inclosed Paper Contains the News of the Day Mr Chapman brings this and Can Informe you whether

I Appear to be as Fat as Ever—I Confess I Pitty the Horse that Brings home the heavy Load!

The Speculators Exhibit Long Faces on the Arrival of two or three Ships from Europe Laden with Dry Goods which has put at least a Temporary Stop to their Sale of Goods at Extortionnous Prices—The Man who Deals Justly Loves Mercy & Walks Humbly is of all Flesh the Most unsuitable Person to Manage a Trade in the Present Times—I am told a Law has Passed in Connecticut Exempting Such Persons as Refuse to Purchase British Goods for a Certain Time, from Part of their Taxes I wish you to Look at that Law & take the Benefit of it if Possible, but Dont Subject yourself to any Inconveniences for a Trifle or if a Compliance with that Law should Involve you in any Thing low or out of Character I wish you to have no Concern with it—

My Duty to my Mother and Love to

the Children Each one in Particular I wish Gurdon would Write Line or two as well as he Can and Send by Mr Brown —The Boys here Dont write like him

My Regards to Capt Abel Mr Wetmore &c—

This From your BENJ HUNTINGTON

XXX.

Anne Huntington died at Norwich, October 6, 1790. Benjamin now writes to his daughter, Rachel, not quite twelve years of age.

PHILADA *Feby 4th 1791*

MY DEAR DAUGHTER

Your Letter of 28th of Jany was this Day Received P Post It is very pleasing to receive letters from my children by them I learn the condition the family is in, and if they are well and comfortable it adds cause of thankfulness of heart to the great preserver of men, or if unwell or under any calamity my attention to their Remedy is excited and may often be improved to advantage, the great distance of this Place from my home makes me more

anxious to hear from you and less able to afford the assistance you may need, but the time is not very distant when I shall return & I hope be happy in finding the Dear objects of my care and fondest wishes in health and Increasing in knowledge and usefulness, I hope my dear child you don't forget to pay due Attention to those precepts of Religion & Virtue which your dear mama so often inculcated on your young & tender mind, may her instructions never be forgotten, and may those earnest prayers and Supplications which she put up to the throne of grace for you and for all of us, ever remain there as precious memorials in our behalf. The loss of earthly Parents and Friends is heavy & very distressing, but it is all in the Course of Nature and must be expected, but when we consider that these Afflictions are administered by the hand of that God who is our best and everlasting friend and Parent we may take comfort

from it & be Satisfied that his dispensations are meant for our good and that the Judge of all the earth cannot but do right let us not despise his chastenings nor forget our duty towards him—Give my love to all the Family & tell them I am getting better daily & have almost Recovered my voice—

I am perfectly willing Mr Jabez Tracy should Marry Mrs Mc Bride if they are both so in love as to be in the Fidgets unless they marry. This Subject may be thought too Ludicrous to follow the Serious matter next above but Marriage is of divine Institution and in that View is a Serious Concern it is Serious in every view and ought never to take Place but when the Affections of the Parties are so deeply rooted and firmly fixed as to be able to overlook and forgive a Multitude of disagreeables which will arise in the Course of humane affairs and be very afflicting unless the Parties are determined

to live in Peace in Spite of all the disturbers of domestic happiness

I am my dear child with the tenderest concern your affectionate Parent

BENJ HUNTINGTON

MISS RACHEL HUNTINGTON.

XXXI.

George Huntington has moved to Whitestown, in the State of New York.

WHITES TOWN *June 10. 1792*

HON SIR

Your esteemed fav of 5 Ult^{o} is received p Mr Chesebrough, by the News Paper I discover that the party against Gov Wolcott have failed in their undertaking, this pleased me because I suppose it is the same Junto that opposed your election last year, I hope by this time the Freemen discover their unfair intreague so as not to be influenced by them I wish to hear how the votes run for the Nomination of Representative to Congress and for Assistants & wheathr M^{r} L—d was Nominated by a larger number than you, I think he has

made so little noise in Congress his Friends must again lift hard to support him the next election—

I have now been Twelve weeks from Norwich & Mr Hyde has not arived. I expect him dayly but with no more reason than I did seven weeks ago. I was here three weeks without doing any business then I opened Goods and am selling with tolerable incouragement I have established a good character for the shop & perhaps have done as well as if Hyde had been here—I want nothing but the company of my near Friends to make me very contented in this country. within a few rods where I live there are Two Attorneys. Two Doctors who Drugists & a merchant, all very respectable well educated young Men these added to a Number respectable Farmers make a very good society. besides almost every day there are Gentlemen from N York, Albany, or N England traveling into this Country &

to the Genesee. all make a stand here many stay Two or three days to Recruit, this affords a variety in our company and gives us the News and will make this a Place of consequence—since my last I have obtained the Census of Whites Town, in Septemb^r 1790 there were 1840 Inhabitants May 91. 3875. May 92. 5743 many who have moved into this country the last year have settled without the limits of the district where the census is taken, this deceived Judge White who told me there would be 8000 inhabitants this year—the increase is now very rapid in the district where there was one Capt Compay of soldiers 3 years ago there is now Two Regiments of eight large companys each. the soldiers are all Young active Men fit for duty, this makes us sufficiently strong to defend us from the Indians was they disposed to Quarrel—

I am in good health my Friends tell me I grow fat fast am anxious to hear from

Norwich every Opportunity. Please to give my love to all Brothers & Sisters I have received no letters from them except one from Lucy—I am with the strongest Filial Affection & Respect your

Son GEO HUNTINGTON

BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON ESQR

SECOND PERIOD.

1796–1798.

CONTAINING MAINLY THE LETTERS WRITTEN BY RACHEL HUNTINGTON TO HER SISTERS, LUCY AND ANNE (NANCY).

SECOND PERIOD.

1796–1798.

I.

Rachel Huntington, seventeen years of age, pays a visit to her brother, Henry, in New York, and writes to her sisters, Lucy and Anne, in Norwich.

NEW YORK *November 19th 1796*

MY DEAR SISTERS

this is the first time I have had leasure to write to you, since I parted from you at Norwich, perhaps by this time, a little narrative of my adventures, will not be ungratefull to you.—About thre hours after Cousin Alice & I left you, we arrived at New London; we went immediately to Mr Laws, made a good visit, & about four o clock P M embarked for N York, which we reached in 15 hours; we went directly to Brother Henry's, & Alice,

finding on enquiry that Mr W Fitch's family were at Stamford & Mrs Watsons, about setting out for Bethlehem, concluded to take up her abode with me while we stay in town—Monday & Tuesday we went a shopping all about town, Wensday morning went to Mr Watsons, & in the evening to the Theatre, where the tragedy of the Earl of Essex, (founded on the story of Queen Elizabeth, & the Earl of Essex,) or the unhappy favorite, & the Padlock a musical entertainment were performed with considerable applause—I confess to you, I was not so delighted with the play, as I expected to be, but there are very few plays, that have nothing disgusting in them—I spent Thursday at Mr W Wolsey's with Mrs John Davenport, her daughter Mary Davenport, Cousin Alice, & Miss Patty Dwight, a niece of Mrs Wolsey's, from North Hampton—last night we were again at the Theatre, & were entertained with the Comedy of the young quaker, &

my Grandmother, a whimsical, well performed, farce,—I believe you will think dissipation has got fast hold of me, but do not be troubled, I will shake it off whenever it is necessary—

I have bought a camels hair shawl for Lucy, & some lace, which I shall send by Culver, I shall buy some knitting nedles for Nancy, & also a brown beaver hat if I can find one that I think would suit her; I have been to Mr Tiffin's for one, & he has none but sattin beavers, which are extravagantly dear & in my opinion not so good as the other kind—I will enquire further & if I cant find a brown hat to suit my *fancy*, shall buy a green one, like one I purchased for myself—

I think it is probale Miss Cogswell [and] I shall go to Stamford about the middle of next week, but cannot certainly tell—I'd like to have forgot to tell you that Doctor Brown has been here, & brought me a letter from Benjamin, & I wrote by him to

Ben—He desired me to give his compliments to Father & Nancy, he says he thinks it very probable, brother George & Lady visit Norwich this winter, so I told him Lucy would return with them, if they should,—O sisters! if I could see you but for one hour, what pleasure it would give me—

I am engaged to spend the day at Mr Cotton's tomorrow, it is quite late & I must rise early—Give my duty to Father, love to brother & sister, & their children & believe me most affectionately your sister

RACHEL HUNTINGTON

MISSES L & A HUNTINGTON

II.

NEW YORK *December 9th 1796*

MY DEAR SISTERS

by Mr Carew I have just time to write you a few lines to inform you where I am, & that I shall stay a fortnight longer in New York. you must not be surprised if your sister should spend the winter at Bachelors Hall, at present I certainly have no *expectations* of it, nor, on my arrival here, did I intend to stay any longer than a week. Last night there was the most *dreadfull* fire that has been known for a great many years, forty, or fifty houses & stores were burnt, & a great many poor families, turn'd out of doors; at present nobody, is able to make any estimate of the losses, they must certainly be very great—

It was about one o clock, when the cry of fire was heard, *our* family rose immediately, the gentlemen ran to the fire, & Mrs Duncan, Miss Cogswell & myself to the top of the house, from whence we had a full view of the City which was perfectly illuminated, the tops of the houses being covered with snow gave a fine appearance to the scene—I can hardly concieve a more beautifully sublime object there are thre or four poeple talking in the room where I am writing which may serve as an apology for the inacuracy of this letter—You cant tell how much I was disappointed at not receiving any letters by Charles Carew, you must not disappint me so any more if you should I am determined it shall not lessen the number of my *beautifull litterary productions*—Cousin Carew promised to call for this at ten o clock, it is now past ten, & as he does not appear I believe I may as well write on—Last monday afternoon as Alice & myself were out a shopping we

happened to meet Miss Betsey Rogers & cousins, Eliza & Betsey Davenport Miss Rogers ivited us to call & take tea with her, & we accepted her invitation & in the evening had a most agreeable little ball Miss Rogers was the musician a harpsichord the instrument—I have bought a black beaver hat for Nancy & shall sent it by Niles, it is a very pretty one my letter is calld for. adieu your most affectionate sister

R HUNTINGTON.

III.

Rachel Huntington is on a visit at the house of Major John Davenport, of Stamford.

STAMFORD *January 3d 1797*

MY DEAR SISTERS

Mr Thomas has just calld here for letters to carry to you. I wrote two or thre days ago a letter which I have given him & am now seated in Major Davenports Office, scribbling again—Mr Thomas tells me he heard Brother George & Lady, had set out for Norwich, & that Col Colebirth told it him in N York—I wish it were possible for me to be present to partake in the pleasure such a visit must give you, but as it is not, I must content myself without it, wish you a full enjoyment of it, & please myself with idea that you are happy—

Present my congratulations to Miss Charlotte Tracy, & tell her I remember the agreement of the "6th of July 1796"—The news concerning Mr Eels & Miss R gives me pleasure tho it does not surprise me.

You wish to know whether I saw our Cousin Wetmores, I saw Victory, & Robert, at the Play House, the former came to our box & had quite a long conversation with me, he informed me Prosper & his family were at Stratford, & that all our friends there were well, but not a look could I get from Bob, 'tho he sat directly opposite me, & I stared him full in the face severall times—There is a fine body of snow on the ground, & we are quite *apprehensive* of Company from New York, a party of our friends having engaged to visit us the first sleighing, when we are to have a Ball I say we are "apprehensive" of thier coming before Alice's & my own trunk arrive as we have but very few

cloaths here, & those not very *Tippy*—We have spent this day at Mag Davenports, it grows late enough for us to think of taking our departure, & I believe it behoveth me to finish my letter, I shall keep letters written, by me, for future, & send them every opportunity if you will do the same, you will much oblige & gratify your ever affectionate Sister

R HUNTINGTON

MISSES L & A HUNTINGTON

IV.

New Haven *Jany 6th 1797*

Dear Son

Your Letter of the first Instant was handed to me after the Mail for New London was gone which Prevented me from an Immedeate answer but as soon as I could I wrote to Lucy by a Mr Allyn of this Place who was to go & I suppose is gone this Day for N London but lest the letter by him should fail I now think it best to put this into the Post Office for the Next Mail I am most heartily sorry not to See you and your Wife before your Return but must Consider it as an unavoidable Misfortune I wrote Lucy My Consent that She shall go with you tho, she has A Right to do as she Pleases as

she is of Age to act for herself your kind offer to supply her with Necessary Accommodations for the Journey is very obliging I am unhappy in not having it in my Power to furnish her with Cash and other Articles sufficient for the Journey and Support for so long a Time but what you advance for her you must Charge to my Account as I dont desire you to Sustain the Cost without my assistance it will be a tedious Journey for you to Come from Hartford to New Haven for no Purpose but to see me whene I cannot spend but little Time with my friends I am in hopes of Coming to See you at Fort Stanwix in May or June Next if well enough to Endure the Journey I am at Present in usual health excepting a Visit of the Rehumatism in my left leg which came upon me before I left home and yet Continues painful but hope it will leave me soon I have not heard of Rachel Since I came here but hope Major Davenport will bring

her to meet me at Fairfield my Confinement in the Court for so great a Part of my time is very tedious but I must attend that business to obtain a Subsistence in my Declining Age which will soon be pass^d & gone—Give my kind love to Benjamin & tell him I hope he will be contented to Remain with you untill of Age and that he may have the good fortune to go into Business as his Brothers have all done without loss of Time I was obliged to spend much Time and money in fitting myself for Business after of Age having been left an Orphan at five years of age * & Destitue of friends who had Abilities or Inclination to put me forward since which time I have been a Slave to the Publick and have at last nothing to Expect as a Reward but to be Despised in old Age I have Indeed been highly favoured

* Benjamin, Sr., was born April 19, 1736, and his father, Daniel, died September 13, 1741. His mother married again, November 30, 1742.

by Divine Providence in being Enabled to afford a Decent Education to my Children and I hope I have Property Enough to prevent my being Burthensom to them in old age

If Gurdon has Collected the Note I left in his Hands against Gen[l] Williams I hope Nancy can Spare a Part of it for Lucy's Expences on her Journey but must at this Distance leave the Concern of it to your Descretion

I have already Wrote too much because I know not how to Stop

My Affectionate Regards to your wife & to Gurdon & his wife & Nancy

I am &c

BENJ HUNTINGTON

M[R] GEORGE HUNTINGTON

V.

This letter is undated. It seems to have been written from Stamford, and to fit in to this period.

My friends here treat me very politely, & appear glad to se me, & my time passes very agreably, & I hope not unprofitably—Mrs Stiles is here on a visit, & expects to spend the winter, I treat her with due circumspection & shall endeavour to keep in her good graces—I believe the society here is nearly the same as when you visited Stamford, we have no beaux unless thre or four students, at Mr Smith's, may be calld so; two of them Mr Sands, & Mr Marlot, a frenchman, have spent an evening with us & appear to be smart young gentlemen—Alice & myself have become quite enlightened in the science of Phisiognomy, & find

no difficulty in cutting profiles of persons two or thre weeks after seeing them—we have got quite a collection, of miniature profiles, of some persons which we saw in New York, it is not an unpleasing amusement, to cut them where the features of the persons are striking—

Cousin Eiza [Eliza] desired me to apologise to you, for her not writing to you, she said she believed several letters had been written to her from you, which she never recieved she said she felt rather awkward about writing to you at present, as the last letter she recieved from you was almost torn to pieces—I found one letter from you directed to her, dated February 1795 I read it, & as the contents were rather out of date for the present time, commited it to the flames.

Eliza bade me tell you she had the promise of going to Rome with you—she says if you write to her again she shall certainly be a good girl & answer your letters

—she is quite a Belle in New York, & if she is not made a vain quoquet, before spring, may with propriety be pronounced a person of an an uncommonly strong understanding, she is very beautifull, & if she is proof against flattery will make an exelent woman—

I suppose Father is now on the circuit, & intend to write to him very soon—I intended this only as a cover to the enclosed, but believe I shall fill it up—Give my love to Brother & sister, & my Nephew & *nieces*, tell Edward I hope to see him very much improved in his reading, when I return home—Give suitable regards to all my acquaintance who enquire after me in a *friendly* manner & tell them, think of them, & love them just as well as I used to do Adieu

your gratefull & affectionate

R HUNTINGTON

MISSES L & A H.

VI.

Lucy Huntington goes on a visit to her brother George, in Rome, N. Y., and Rachel addresses her letter to Anne, in Norwich.

STAMFORD *January 29th 1797*

MY DEAR SISTER,

I have written several letters to you within the last fortnight, & for want of some private opportunity to send them, have destroy'd them, but if no other conveyance offers soon I shall send this by the mail. I have got a little picture, pocket handkerchief for Edward, & another for Susan, which I think will please & instruct them, & if a good opportunity presents, shall send them with this. Well sister how do you like solitude? should

you be sorry, or glad, to see Rachel? or are you rather indifferent about it? Your letter to Cousin Alice, made me feel quite consequencialy I assure you, when you mention'd, I must expect to be summond home soon, let me request that it may not be too soon—I last week recieved a letter from sister Lucy, she was then a few miles beyond New Canaan, & had dined with the Mrs Whitings & I suppose brother & his party arrived at Fort Stanwix in safety, or I should have heard of it before this time—Lucy mentioned that Cousin Rebecca Huntington promised to spend some time with you, & I think, with her, Miss Miner & Cousins Betsey & Polly Perkins, to each of them make you a visit, you may consent to my staying till May, when I calculate to return home by the way of New York—Last week I went to Fairfield with Major Davenport & Lady & Cousins Alice & Alfred, in a sliegh—Our Cousin Burr appear'd glad to see me, & I was

quite pleased with her, she appears to be a good friendly woman, of very plain manners & I think bears some resemblance to our deceaced Mother I was extremely grieved to find Father so very lame as he was, 'tho he told me he was getting better, & thought his unusual lameness came in consequence of a bad cold, which he caught in the extreme cold weather in the begining of this month—Father said that before he left home, you almost repented letting me make a visit at Stamford before you. If it were possible I would willingly forego the pleasure I shall recieve in my visit, & take your place at the old *mansion* in Norwich & let you finish my visit at Stamford—but as it is *impossible*, cutting short my visit can do no good—but if you will consent to my making a good long visit, I promise you that I will be a good girl & stay at home, steady as any *quaker* lass. Mrs Watson & Cousins Eliza & Betsey Davenport came up from New York last

Monday, & Tuesday evening, after Alice & I, return'd from Fairfield we had a very agreable little Ball. Mrs W—— & Cousin Eliza went away on Thursday, the former to Hartford & the latter to N York Cousin Betsey is still with her Stamford friends & will stay 'till the next sleighing, when Mrs Watson is to return from Hartford & take her with her to New York

Cousin Betsey is in the Chamber writing with me, & every minute there comes a mandate for us to appear below stairs, it seems there is a little, coxcomical Frenchman there, who keeps enquiring for "de Ladies." he came here one evening & staid 'till allmost midnight, notwithstanding, repeated hints were given that it was time for him to depart, & then he asked "a thousand pardons" for going so early, when he went away—but I must stop writing Cousin Betsey sends you—here's another message—good night to

you—I fear it will be long before I have the pleasure of saying so to Monsieur—

your truly affectionate sister,

RACHEL HUNTINGTON

MISS ANNE HUNTINGTON

VII.

STAMFORD *day after fast 1797*

MY DEAR SISTER, the enclosed was written several days ago, & the careless postmaster neglected to send it to Norwich, but I am determined to send it by the next stage with the addition of another sheet, & I hope you will be glad to see it—This afternoon the stage stop'd at the Stage house opposite here & Gen[l] E Huntington & M[r] Zach Huntington were the first persons who met my eyes, & I felt as much delighted as I should at home at the sight of old acquaintance General H calld to see Major Davenport, & was very polite to me, he told me all the Norwich news he could think of, & wish'd he could tell me better news about my father, but he was very lame, though much better than he had

been. Mr H—— says that he believes his niece is very soon to be married to Mr Mumford, & more dependance may be placed on that, than on the New York *tattles*, therefore I wish you not to mention what I have written concerning him in my other letter, to any one—Oh dear, I cannot help continually thinking of papa's leg, do Nancy let me know how it is whether you think it will get well as the weather grows warm, & if he still keeps up his spirits, if he does not, remember my sister, that it is doubly necessary for you to be cheerfull, I wish I could be contributing to his comfort, with you, but circumstanced as I am, it seems best for me to finish my visit as I have proposed, am I acting right, or not? I must stop writing 'till tomorrow—Sunday I have been to Church this day & heard Mr Burnet, (who was at our house last Summer) preach, he dined here, & enquired after father, was very sociable & agreable in conversation,

but no great orator. Mr & Mrs Smith & thier family are going to Sharon next week & soon after thier return Mr Smith is going to Windham, & has promised to call on me at Norwich about the second tuesday in june. I wish you could be acquainted him & his Lady, they are really a very worthy pair, I was thinking Lucy was to see my letter, when I began to write about them, but *no matter*—I am very glad to hear Mrs Uriah Tracy has so fine a son, the family are undoubtedly much pleased with it, Mr Huntington informd me that all the mischief of Mr T's Barn & out houses' being burnt was plotted by a little boy, who had confess'd the fact, it is to be hoped his confession, may stay the hands of *worse* incendiaries, For some time I was almost afraid to hear from Norwich, for fear the news would be that Brother Gurdons shops were burnt, but I hope the danger is now over—How does Mr Hyde like Capt Burnham's attention

to Sally? don't you think the Whitestown man would be quite as agreable? How does Mrs E Tracy, & her *sisters* do? I suppose it is allmost time for Miss Debby, to return from Boston—when you see them I will thank you to give my love to them—Indeed Nancy, I wish very often that my visits were over & myself fairly fixed down in the old mansion, again, practicing the industry & Philosophy which I have been planning since I left home—I hope they will not both forsake me when they are put to the test, & make me sing the old tune "how much easier it is to theorize, than practice"—I hope Papa will send me some money, by the mail,—Remember me affectionately to all friends, particularly to brothers children & let me know if Edward is a good Boy, I suppose Susan has forgotten me—

your affectionate sister

R Huntington

Miss Anne H

VIII.

STAMFORD *April 12th 1797*

MY DEAR ANNE,

A day or two, previous to the reciept of your letter of March 19th in which you desire me to prepare for my journey homeward as soon as I conveniently can, I dispatched a letter to you, in which (if remember right) I told you Brother Henry was married, & was to carry Mrs *Huntington* to New York in May—Major Davenport was at New York last week & brother told him that he should go to Shelter Island the *first* week in may, & return as soon as possible to New York with Mrs H. he did not write to me, but sent word that he would in a few days. My friends here advise me to stay & visit my new sister, &

I need not tell you how much I wish to, for you can easily immagine it) it will probably be a long time before another opportunity as good as the present, will offer. Mr & Mrs Davenport will be going to New York the second week in may, (&, it was told me, with an injunction not to let any one know it *hereabouts*, *Cousin Alice* is to go with them,) I have concluded to wait & go with them, if I do not hear from you, that it is necessary for me to come home immediately. O Nancy, I wish it were possible for me to get at a little of yours, or Lucy's wholesome advise, (the last word is spelt wrong, but no matter) I assure you it would very often be gratefull to me—I believe you have really had a great many trials for your patience within a few months, (the consolatory visit of our dear *Crank cousin's* cannot be a very small one) That of not recieving your new hat must, I believe, be laid to my charge, for I ought not to have depended on its being sent on

board the vessel without my particular care—Cheer up your spirits my sister, & remember it will be your turn to go abroad next, & leave me at home to pay for *gadding* all last winter. When I saw Papa at Fairfield, he offer'd to give me ten dollars, which, as I did not then need it, I declined accepting, he however bade me write for it in the spring if I should want it, I will thank you to tell him that I should be very glad of it now, if he can spare it; if not, I *can* do without it—I recieved a letter from Benjamin a few days since in which he writes, that Lucy is very much pleased with her visit at Rome, & *talks* of returning home in April or May, but I suspect we shall not see much of her before september, I am pleased that you have finished reading Humes England, & am determined to bring you some pleasing novel for a desert, but cannot promise that it will be Cammilla, as I have heard it condemn'd by some persons, on whose judge-

ment, I should put a good deal of dependance, as being far inferior to Miss Burneys other writings. Mrs Radcliffe's "Castles of Athlin & Dunbaine" is advertised in the New York papers, & as there is only one volume the expence of it will not be much —I intend buying it, & I think you will be pleased with it if you like such things as well as you used to—The Mysteries of Udolpho, have been so much caressed, (poor things), that they have not had sufficient liesure to keep thier *cloaths* in repair, a continual round of dissipation & visiting has preyed upon thier *feeble frames*, & they have grown old in the days of their youth—Brother bought some books at auction when I was in New York & would have given a very good novel, entitled "Caleb Williams", to me, but on examining them, he found all the volumes were alike, he gave me the "Ghost seir or Apparitionist, which some person who has read it, has justly defined with a pencil at

the end of it, "A very miraculous nothing at all."

You write that perhaps Mr B M Mumford will be company for me on my (way to) Norwich—but I begin to have serious doubts (whether) the match between him & Miss Huntington ever takes place, his behaviour is certainly very odd if that match is still in contemplation, there is a Miss Sedgwick in New York to whom he pays very particular attention; & (to use the expression of Miss Rogers, Cousin Elizas correspondent) "he is out shopping with her evry morning & at the play, or visiting with her, every evening," very fine things, he has said also of Cousin Eliza, which it would not be worth my while to repeat, even if I had more paper such conduct is rather uncommon for a *mortgaged man* but perhaps *Vanity* may be the cause of it all, Have you heard any whisperings concerning it in Norwich? if you have'nt pray keep what I have written

to yourself, for I should be mortified to be the propagator of such a *story* Mr M—— is a great favorite with the Ladies, & perhaps he may be for *quoquetting*, & Miss S—— *rings* louder than any belle in New York. With duty to Father & love to all friends, I am

my dear sister, yours,

R HUNTINGTON

Seeing I have begun to write the tattles, & my letter can't go till next mail, I may as well finish—I believe that Miss Eliza D—— Miss Sedgwick & a Miss Gordon, have been *rathther* greatest belles in New York last winter, (Eliza & Miss Gordon were both guests to Miss Rogers) for some time Mr Mumfords attention seemed to be paid equally to those three Ladies, Eliza came away in her *glory*, Miss G went soon after, (to Balls town) but not before Miss Sedgwick had begun to *out ring* her—since that time Eliza has recieved several letters

from Betsey Rogers, in each of which, she says something about Mumford's particular attention to Miss S—— Cousin Betsey Davenport is very intimate with Miss Sedgwick & writes to me, that she has not calld on her friend this some time without meeting Mr M—— Miss R—— "cannot think he has any *thoughts* of courting *that Norwich Lady*"—Mr Bell, (a second Elisha Tracy) says "Miss Sedgwick has made twenty victim's," & himself & Mr Mumford must be ranked among the first of them—thus my sister I have given you some of the *tattles* of New York—I hope in compassion to me you will burn this page as soon as you have read it, least, a bird of the air should carry the sound—

Probably this will very soon be handed to you by one of the "Sacerdotal order," if it is, do give him one for me in return.

R H

IX.

New York *May 15th 1797 Monday P M*

My dear Anne.

Christopher Leffingwell call'd here a few minutes ago for letters to carry to you, & as Mrs Duncan had heard me once express a wish that he might not call very soon, she pretended I was not at home, & he has promised to call in half an hour, 25 minutes of that time will be devoted to writing to you & *perhaps* I may indeed be out before he comes—Brother Henry has gone to Shelter Island & is expected back on Saturday next, Brother George will stay 'till he return & would if possible go to Norwich. He is very anxious to visit Papa, & if he was not detained in New York by Henrys business I make no doubt but

he would—Our House is all in confusion, *srubbers* painters & white washers, are all uniting thier skill to make the house look as well as possible when Mrs H—— arrives, who I am told by all her acquaintance, is a pattern of nicety—I have spent but one afternoon from home since I came to New York & yet have been *very* busy. I am now engaged in making a gown for myself which (I regoice to tell you) Fashion, (that tyraness) will permit to swing above the dirty puddles & filthy cinque & drains—I have a multiplicity of commissions to execute for Lucy & Hannah, I have been out shopping a great deal with brother George, & whenever I go with him I bid him remember his wife & sister, & they may thank me for many handsome things which he has got for them—Benjamin Mumford moved from here several days ago, but as he has no housekeeper, he comes here when he is *hungry*, I have had his deserted chamber clean'd out for

my drawing room & have *enacted* that no Gentleman shall presume to spit in it." Brother Henry desired me to make all necessary revolutions in the house, & many will undoubtedly be made, but it will not cease to be a kind of Bachelors Hall 'till the mistress of the house arrives

Miss Sedgwick (the high sounding belle) has been gone out of town a fortnight, & I think Ben begins to look a little sober, he has been quite unwell for a day or two but has now in his usual health he has indeed play'd the coquette at a high rate for five or six months—I wish Betsey H—— would come to New York & set up for a belle, (it would be amply in her power) & just pay him in his own coin for his jilting her—but I have reason to believe he has the bag here is Mr Leffingwell Give my love to all friends & believe me your affectionate sister

RACHEL HUNTINGTON

MISS ANNE

X.

In this letter Rachel describes to her sister Lucy the fashions prevailing in New York in 1797. A part of this letter has already been published on pages 16 and 17 of "Old Houses of the Antient Town of Norwich," by Mary E. Perkins.

NEW YORK *May 28th 1797*

MY DEAR SISTER

The enclosed pacquet was intended to be sent by General Floyd, but he went away before it was given to him—I have forgot what I wrote in it, but shall send it along & perhaps there *may* be something entertaining in it—Lucy I believe most of the comissions from you & sister Hannah have been attended to by Brother George or myself — I have bought two bands which are the most fashionable trimings for beaver hats, a white one for the blue

hat, & a yellow one for the black one, they should be put twice around the crown & fastned forward in the form of a beau knot. Brother has got each of you a pink silk shawl which are very fashionable also—Many Ladies wear them for turbans, made in the manner that you used to make muslin ones last summer, George has given me one like them, The fine lace cost 10 shillings a yard, & I think it is very handsome. there is enough for two handkerchiefs & two double tuckers, the way to make handkerchief's is to set lace, or a ruffle on a strait piece of muslin, (only pieced on the back to make it set to your neck,) & put it on so as to show only the ruffle, & make it look as if it was set on the neck of your gown, many Ladies trim the neck of thier gowns with lace & go without handkerchiefs but I think it is a *neater* way to wear them—with fashionable gowns it will not be necessary to have much more than half a yard in the width

of your tuckers—I send a doll,* by Brother George which I intended to have dressd in a neater manner but really could not find time—it however has rather a fashionable appearance, the cap is made in a good form but you would make one much handsomer than I could, the beau to Miss *Dollys* poultice neck cloth is rather large but the thickness is very *moderate*—I think a cap crown & turban would become you—I have got a braid of hair which cost four dollars it should be fastned up with a comb, (without platting) under your turban if it has a crown & over it, if without a crown—Brother has got some very beautifull sattin muslin, & also some handsome "tartan plad" gingham for your gowns, there is a large pattern for two train gowns of the muslin, which should be

* "It was customary at this time, in the larger cities, to exhibit the fashions on dolls imported for this purpose from Europe."—*Old Houses of the Antient Town of Norwich, p. 16.*

made thre breadths wide two breadths to reach to the shoulder straps forward, & one breadth to be cut part of the way down before, to go over the shoulder & part of it to be pleated on to the shoulder straps, meeting the back breadths, & some of it to go around the neck, like the *doll's*—the pleats should be made pretty small, & not stitched to the lining, but you should wear binders over your shoulders—an inch & a half should be the width of your binders. (I must have done writing this pretty soon. the last sentence if you observe is quite *poetical*—but let me *stick to my text Fashion*) It is the fashion to have draw strings fastned on the corners of the shoulder straps by the sleves on the back, and have a tack large enough for them to run in, made to cross on the back, run under the arms an inch below the sleves & tie before—I should advise you to have your gingham one made in that way, with draw'd sleves for sister Hannah & I have

seen as large Ladies as you with them, & I think they would look very well for you Sleves should be made half a yard wide & not drawd less than seven or eight times, I think they look best to have two or three drawings close together & a plain spot alternately—Some of the ladies have thier sleves coverd with drawing tacks, & have thier elbows uncover'd if you dont like short sleves, you should have long ones with short ones to come down allmost to your *elbows*, drawed four or five by the bottom—if yo want to walk with long gowns you must draw the train up thr'o one of the pocket holes, I have bought some callico for chints trimings for old gowns, if you have any that you wish to wear short they are very fashionable at present, & gowns that are trimed with them should be made only to touch the ground, there is enough of the dark stripe for one gown, & enough of the light for one there should be enough white left on

the dark stripe to turn down to prevent its *ravelling*. I gave 10 shillings for the callico & have been laughed at for my 'foolish bargain' but I am not convinced that it is foolish The William street merchants ask three shillings a yard for trimings like the wide stripe & two for the narrow—I guess you will like the narrow —the kid shoes are of the most fashionable kind, & the others, of the best quality Brother George keeps enquiring for my letter—& as I have fill'd up my paper I'll leave the *improvement* for you to make With love to sister Hannah & Benjamin I am my dear sister yours, most affectionately

R HUNTINGTON

MISS LUCY HUNTINGTON

XI.

NEW YORK *June 5th 1797*

MY DEAR ANNE

I intended instead of writing to you to have seen you myself at the time in which you will recieve this letter—but our sister has been but a little while in New York, & Mrs Duncan is about moving so that she will be very much alone, (or what is as bad surrounded by men) if I go away—she is very urgent to have me stay longer, & so is brother—they bid me stay till next week, & ask you to set a time when I *must* come home—(Indeed I have particular reasons for wishing to be away from Norwich a fortnight from this time—*but* I will tell you when I see you—I am very much pleased with our new sister she is a plain

woman, who will not enter into all the fashionable follies of the Town, but I believe will make an excellent wife for Brother Henry, she is fond of retirement & is a pattern of neatness—you Nancy must make her a good visit when I am once more *fixed* at Norwich—Brother George, & Betsey Davenport went from here last Sunday, & I suppose George is at home before this time, last wensday evening I went to the theatre for the first time since I have been in New York—my beau was Mr Richards & the party in our box Mr & Mrs Gurdon Mumford Ben. & William. Mumford, a Mr Pomeroy, & Mr Bell the latter of whom, in manners, resembles Elisha Tracy you will see him if ever you come to New York—The play was the school for Scandal, which was admirably performed. it is indeed a very excellent burlesque upon scandal—I have been out a visiting but very little in the mornings, & have drank tea out, only one

evening since I have been here — but am now *deeply* indebted to many Ladies who have done me the *Honor* to call on me—Sister Huntington is soon to have a great deal of company, & it will be in my power to assist her a good deal if I stay in New York a little longer

I send by Mr Thomas a silk shawl for Sister Gurdon it cost eleven shillings & six pence—it is small, but I could not get a larger one, as they are not fashionable & nobody has them to sell—I tried also to get one with a greater proportion of black in it—but could not get such an one as I wished to—Brother Henry has given me a dozen handsome silver tea spoons, but I believe I shall keep them till I go home myself, unless you wish me to send them

I send a little printed handkerchief for Edward, & a large one which if you please you may give to James Latham

You say perhaps I shall be "*shocked* at your old fashion'd appearance—no no sis-

ter Anne, I am not so easily *shocked*—you will see your sister Rachel return home without much alteration in her appearance —A little time may be advantageously appropriated to fashion—but to pay too much attention to it, is in my opinion worse than to assume the dress of a quaker—I am glad Betsey Huntington bears Mumford's fickleness with so much spirit—it is surprising to me that the reports of his gallantries did not reach Norwich sooner—Here, it is not generally believ'd that he was ever engaged to Miss Huntington—Mr Bell was here the other day, & speaking of the "*charming*" Miss Sedgwick, said that she had "laid *prostrate* half the gentlemen in town"—as for *himself* he was "*leveled with the dust*, & had it in serious contemplation to take a voyge to Italy to recover him of his malady—but "Mumford was undoubtedly the *highly favored* man"—Bell is a great news monger, & among other things he told me that Abby How-

land is courted by a Mr George Muerson Woolsey, a respectable merchat in this Town. I cannot *vouch* for the truth of the report—Mr Mumford does not certainly appear in quite so high spirits as he used to—whether in consequene of *late events* or not, I cannot determine, he has given up all thoughts of housekeeping & is going to a Boarding house to live—I hope you will destroy this letter as soon as you have read it, as so much *scandal* had better not be preserved—but I hear so much that it is difficult to refrain from writing some of it—It is time for me to dress for dinner, as we are going to have company—I must stop writing in three minutes. With duty to Father & love to Brother Gurdon's family & *yourself* I am my dear Anne your affectionate sister

RACHEL HUNTINGTON

MISS ANNE HUNTINGTON

XII.

This letter is undated, but seems to have been written by Rachel Huntington on the eve of her departure for Rome, N. Y., where she was to live at the home of her brother George.

My Dear Sisters

I arrived here in safety yesterday at sun set—I had the pleasure of spending the evening with Miss J Watson, & Miss Hudson, sisters of Henry Hudson—who were on a visit to Miss Leffingwell—Doctor Cogswell calld with Mrs Colt, in five minutes after I got here—I am much pleased with her, she will be an excellent companion for me on the journey which we have undertaken the Doctor says he has thoughts of going to Norwich soon—Perhaps Fanny L—— will return with Mr Thomas to Norwich—if she does she

will stay part of her time with you—she is a charming girl, & I think Mrs Leffingwell is a very worthy woman—Col Wadsworth has promised to send his sleigh & horses to help us on twenty or thirty miles, where we shall meet Mrs Colt's sleigh. I am afraid we shall have but little snow—I have had only a few minutes to write, but I know you had rather have this letter than none—I will finish with a little *advise* —Brighten up your countenances my sisters, & *weep* no more—I must stop writing —my love to Father & all friends

Your sister R H

Mrs G H & Misses L & A H—

XIII.

ROME *March 15th 1798*

MY DEAR SISTERS,

I arrived here yesterday, after a very fortunate passage from Albany & found our friends in good health—Mr Tracy was so polite as to bring Mrs Colt & me in his sleigh from Whites town here as the snow was almost gone we have however had excellent sleighing three fourths of the way from Albany—Sister Hannah says She is glad I have come & has given me the room which leads from the parlour—I believe I shall feel very happy here—but I can hardly realize that I am to return no more to Norwich—Indeed it is difficult for me to speak of parting from you—Benjamin was at a ball last evening & has been

very much engaged to day so that I have seen him but a few minutes—He seemed sorry that I was not here in season to attend the Ball but '*so was not I*' Brother G has enquired at almost every place between this & Hartford for *Surinam beans* & seed peas, but could no where get a sufficient quantity to plant. & he wishes you to send him as many of those *articles* as you can spare, if you have more than he wants Mrs Colt will be very glad of some, good lettice seed will be very acceptable, perhaps you may have an opportunity to send them by land, or if not we would thank you to send them to New York as soon as the river opens & we can send for them—Mrs Colt will be glad of some other kinds of garden seeds if you have them to spare—I hope you have ere now written to Cousin Eliza Davenport, if you have not I beg you will soon & make some apologies for my leaving Norwich at a time when I was expecting her & Betsey

—I hope sister Nancy will go to New York as soon as possible perhaps Sister Caty will return with her to Norwich, but if Nancy stays but one fortnight it will be much better for her than not to go I hear there is a man going to Norwich in a few days—I shall then write to Edward—Benjamin wishes to write a few lines in my letter, but before he takes it I must request you to write to me very often as we shall feel anxious to hear from father—My love to all friends

Your affectionate

RACHEL HUNTINGTON

MISS HUNTINGTONS

Sister H desires love to you

DEAR GIRLS

Brother returned last evening soon after I was gone to a ball (mentioned by Rachel) so that I had not the pleasure of seeing them till this morning I was fearfull least

the sleighing would be so bad that Rachel could not conveniently come to Rome with brother George but it has fortunately prooved otherwise. I am not as yet determined how to spend the summer but have a number of schemes which I hope may turn out to advantage I shall take care to give you notice when I have determined on any measures—You will percieve by this that I am in (what Rachel calls) a *low key* and can hardly keep open my eyes.

I continue affectionately

Your Brother

BENJ HUNTINGTON

MISS HUNTINGTONS

It only remains to add a few details, before taking leave of the principal persons mentioned in these letters.

Miss Wells desires me to mention the tradition that Tom Moore, when he was in New York, sought the hand of Rachel Huntington in marriage, and wrote her many letters and poems. These she is said to have destroyed before her marriage to Mr. Tracy.

LaFayette is said to have visited her in Whitestown in 1825.

Many stories of the patriotism of Rachel's mother-in-law, Margaret (Grant) Tracy, have been handed down in the family. Not content with hanging the portraits of George Guelph and his wife upside down, she dug a ruby out of her engagement ring, sold it to the British, and gave the money to the American army. It is also recorded of her that she was very fond of tea, but being too patriotic to drink it openly in consequence of the agitation against the Stamp Act, she used a mahogany table, made with a drawer in which the cups could be hastily slipped when visitors arrived.

Sister Anne, or Nancy, was a great beauty, opened many balls, and at the same time cultivated her mind by studying Blackstone and reading German. She never married, and died at Rome, N. Y., in 1842.

Lucy married Dr. Matthew Brown, resided for a while at Rome, N. Y., and afterward at Rochester, N. Y.

Among the grandchildren of the Hon. Benjamin Huntington, of Norwich, and his wife Anne, a word should be said about the noted portrait painter, Daniel, son of Benjamin, Jr. He was born October 14, 1816, and married at St. Ann's Church, Brooklyn, June 16, 1842, Sophia Richards. He is now living in New York. His life has been given to the cultivation of the fine arts, for which Nature designed him, and in which his success has been unquestioned. Especially has he acquired a continental reputation as a portrait painter. It may be interesting here to quote part of a review of his work,

which appeared in the "Whig Review" as long ago as August, 1846, and is reproduced in the "Huntington Memoir": "Huntington, to whom we are inclined to give the highest place among our artists of the highest school, sent five pictures, exclusive of three portraits, any one of which would have asserted his pre-eminence in this department of his art. . . . His female heads are remarkable for their graceful contour, their high foreheads, but broad, low, and classical brows, and for their perfectly feminine expression, which, as well as their freedom from that exaggeration of points of beauty, such as large eyes and small mouths, into which modern painters are apt to fall, gives them a truthful air which some of hot-bed taste mistake for materiality. . . . His heads of old men have equal excellence, and are full of character and vigorous drawing. . . . Huntington's pictures bear the stamp of high cultivation and of great genius. Not only are his conceptions beautiful, just, and of a high poetic order, and his designs clear, but his work is almost always well done. The tone of his pictures is such that the eye rests upon them with delight and contentment; the heart sympathizes with the sentiment expressed, and the judgment approves almost without a but." Daniel Huntington is one of the founders of the Century Association in New York, and in 1861 was elected President of the National Academy of Design as the third president, the first two having been Prof. Morse and A. B. Durand.

MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS.

MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS.

THE following letter within a letter is perhaps the most curious in the whole collection. It purports to have been written by one Abigail Grant to her husband Azariah, but it exists only in the form of a copy, being part of another letter, which bears no address, and of which the signature has been torn, or cut off.

The two letters together, in the same handwriting, are written on both sides of a single sheet, now yellow with age.

As there is no direct indication either of the sender or receiver of the second letter, one could only guess at their identity from the context, but the editor is constrained to admit that, after considerable research, he is unable to give a satisfactory solution to this riddle. Moreover, the date which heads the sheet, might be read either 1775 or 1776, though the latter seems the more likely. To cap the climax of uncertainty, however, Abigail Grant, according to the records, died twelve years before the battle of Bunker Hill, so that the first letter may possibly not be genuine at all.

I.

August ye 19th A. D. 1776 [*or 1775?*]

LOVING HUSBAND after Love to I would inform you that we are well through Gods mercy upon us and through the Same Mercy I hope these Lines will find you well also I keep writing to you again & again & never can have only one Letter from you tho I hear by Captn Wm Riley * news that makes me very Sorry for he Says you proved a Grand Coward when the fight was at Bunkers hill & in your Surprise he reports that you threw away your Cartridges So as to escape going into the Battle I am loath to believe it but yet I must unless you will write to me & inform me how it is, And if you are afraid pray

* No Captain William Riley appears in the lists of Revolutionary soldiers of Connecticut.

own the truth & come home & take care of our Children & I will be Glad to Come & take your place, & never will be Called a Coward, neither will I throw away one Cartridge but exert myself bravely in so good a Cause. So hopeing you will let me know how it is, & how you do, So bidding you farewell, wishing you the best of heavens Blessings & a Safe & manlike return, subscribing myself your Loveing wife untill Death

ABIGAIL GRANT *

(Dont Shew Grants Letter)

The Above is a true Coppy of a Letter Sent to Azariah Grant by his wife. I was

* In "Ancient Windsor, Connecticut," by Henry R. Stiles, vol. ii, p. 309, is to be found the following account of Azariah and Abigail Grant:

"Azariah Grant, born at East Windsor about 1722; was appointed one of the administrators of his father's, Samuel Grant, estate, May, 1751, and called the eldest son in the distribution, 3 Dec., 1751. He married 6 July, 1749, with Abigail Beman; settled in the house which stood next north the late Major F. W. Grant's house in

so vastly pleased with the natural Simplecity of it & the Cutting Reflections I could not but Send it you. What must a man of

East Windsor, where she died 26 (*var.* 19) Feb., 1763. He married with (2) Eunice ——, and she died 19 Feb., 1784. He married 26 Oct., 1886 [*sic*], with (3) Mrs. Mary (Benton) White, b. 15 Sept., 1741, wid. of George White. He died at Windsor, 17 (*var.* 16) April, 1798, aged 76 years. She died at Winsted, 3 Dec., 1800, aged 59 years."

Azariah and Abigail had six children, of whom all did not grow to maturity.

Azariah was great-great-grandson of that Matthew Grant, one of the original company, who came in 1630 to Dorchester. General Ulysses S. Grant was a descendant of this same Matthew.

As for Azariah's war record, the editor has gleaned the following facts:

He enlisted May 9, 1775, in a Connecticut regiment raised on the first call for troops. His regiment, marching by companies to the camps around Boston, took post at Roxbury, and served during the siege until the expiration of its term of service in December, 1775. Detachments of officers and men were engaged at the battle of Bunker Hill, June 17th, and in Arnold's Quebec expedition. Azariah was discharged December 10th.

In November, 1776, the General Assembly, in view of approaching cold, directed the selectmen of each town to collect blankets to send to soldiers serving in the Continental Army. On this occasion Captain Ebenezer Grant made out a list of towns, and the blankets were carefully apprized by Messrs. Nathaniel Strong and Azariah Grant.

any feelings undergo at the upbraidings of *such*, and so *near* a friend Would you not rather be cut inch by inch to pieces? Would you undergo half so much in that

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In 1777 Azariah Grant joined the additional infantry raised in Connecticut for the Continental Army. He enlisted March 20th for the war, and his name appears on the military rolls at various times until December 31, 1781.

On April 12, 1779, Azariah Grant was among the persons in East Windsor who took the oath of fidelity to the State of Connecticut.

Finally, he is found among the Connecticut pensioners, residing in Vermont, who benefited by the pension laws, passed by Congress on March 18, 1818, for the survivors of the Revolutionary War, who had served for nine months or more in the Continental Army or Navy.

Azariah Grant's military record is, therefore, on the surface a thoroughly good one.

The Grant and Huntington families have been more than once united by marriage. Matthew Grant married a widow, Susanna Rockwell. Her second daughter, Ruth Rockwell, married Christopher Huntington, great-grandfather of Anne Huntington, wife of the Hon. Benjamin Huntington. A great-granddaughter of Christopher Huntington, Martha Huntington, married Noah Grant, a great-grandson of Matthew. From this marriage came a second Noah Grant, a captain in the old French War. The third son of this captain, who also bore the name of Noah, resided in Coventry, Conn., and had a son named Jesse Root Grant, who was father of General Ulysses S. Grant.

way? but he is Callous & does not feel it Laughs & makes a Jest of it as much as any of his Mates do. Tho he Owns & Swears it is Certainly his Wifes hand, She Certainly wrote it &c &c

When I began Coppying it I thought not of adding, but it is a pity to Send much Clean paper out of Camp & So I will go on—What Came of my Letter to the Treasurer? Did he give you no Answer? My Men are Suffering, many of them, for want of the Money for Necessary Cloaths, Sauce, [?] which they are most unrighteously Obliged to buy themselves a great part of the time Since the new Continental Regulations took place &c &c Your Blanketts I cannot yet hear a Word of.—Pray how goes the Onions? If you can get any here they will fetch you 4^{d} pr Bunch—I hear you have had a Brush with Meddliters [?] (alias Mat Talcott) * because

* Matthew Talcott, of Middletown, Conn., was lieutenant colonel of the Sixth Regiment at the outbreak of the

they stopped 2 or three of your Vessells loaded with Onions * going Down the River Why do you not write me of Such kind of News? How goes on the Skeen Business of your being a *Tory* etc. etc.? Pray give me a Little discription of Leonards House I believe it may Safely be worshipped for by all acc^ts its neither the Likeness of anything in Heaven Above or in the Earth beneath or in the Waters under the Earth Sammy was over here yesterday at Capt Watermans † & Sent for me, but I was Tied fast on a Court Martial

war. Was promoted colonel of the Twenty-third Regiment in May, 1775; commanded his regiment in the campaign around New York during the summer of 1776, and resigned in the fall of that year.

* The mention of *onions* suggests Wethersfield as the home of the person to whom this letter is addressed.

† A John Waterman, of Norwich, was a quartermaster sergeant of the Third Regiment, General Putnam's, in 1775.

A Captain Abraham Waterman marched with part of the Twenty-fifth Regiment of the Connecticut militia in the alarm when the British shipping lay off New London, September 4, 1778.

& could not possible go till almost (2) (3) Clock & then he was gone. He is so Elevated with his promotion that he will not Condescend to come up the hill to Our encampment—Never Mind we'll be in . . . . . him up yet

II.

This copy of a document is in a woman's handwriting, on modern white note paper.

(COPY.)

In 1779, Col. William Browne, of Salem, in the Old Bay State, had a farm in Lynn, Conn., of twelve thousand four hundred & thirty-six acres, which had been leased for a term of years, with nine *slaves*—Benjamin Huntington, Esq. the administrator on confiscated estates, when making his return of the inventory of Mr. Browne's property, stated to the general assembly that there were "a number of slaves apprized, who beg for their liberty;" & that the lessee of the farm would assent to their

being liberated, without requiring a diminution of his rent. Accompanying the inventory was the following petition, in the handwriting of Mr. Huntington:

To the Hon. General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, now sitting in Hartford:

The memorial of Great Prince, Little Prince, Luke, Caesar, & Prue & her three children, all friends to America, but *slaves* (lately belonging to Col. William Browne, now forfeited to this state,) humbly sheweth, that their late master was a tory, & fled from his native country to his master, King George, where he now lives like a poor slave.

That your memorialists, though they have flat noses, crooked shins, & other queerness of shape peculiar to Africans, are yet of the human race; free born in our own country, taken from there by man-stealers, & sold in this country as

cattle in the market, without the least act of our own, forfeit liberty; but we hope our good mistress, the *free State of Connecticut*, engaged in a war with tyranny, will not sell good honest Whigs & friends of freedom & independence of America, as we are, to raise cash to support the war; because the Whigs ought to be *free*, & the *tories* should be sold.

Therefore your memorialists pray your honors to consider their case, & grant them their freedom upon their getting security to indemnify the State from any expense for their support in case of want, or in some other way release them from slavery.

And your poor negroes, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

GREAT PRINCE,
LITTLE PRINCE,
LUKE, &c.

Dated at Lynn,
Election Day, 1779.

The Lower House *granted* but the *Upper House negatived* the prayer of the memorial. A Commitete of Conference was appointed, but each House adhered to the original vote.

III.

A letter from Governor Huntington.

NORWICH *April 24th 1790*

SIR

I have receivd your several letters of March 6th—13th—& 20th, besides several packets of newspapers under cover of your superscription.

Your Son hath found Joseph Storys power of Attorney to you, together with my letter which first enclosed it to you

I now send them both herewith enclosd, & wish you may be able to obtain the whole demand due to Story both money & Clothing, it will do the poor

Soldier a great kindness, & he asks no more than Simple Justice

With sincere Esteem

& Respect

I am sir

your humble Servt

SAML HUNTINGTON

HONBLE B. HUNTINGTON ESQR

IV.

NEWHAVEN *Feby 1t 1791.*

SIR,

Mr Eveleigh has presented me my account from the Treasury books & indulges me only the present Sessions of Congress to procure him an authority for my discharge.

I have heretofore attempted to interest you in this business & given you some information of the difficulty attending it. The time is now become short & the case pressing—& as neither the State of my health or finances admit of my coming to Philadelphia to procure myself justice; & as I know very well by experience that it is *ruinous* to a poor man's affairs to dance

attendance upon Congress for such purpose—I must repeat my Solicitations that you would endeavour to get justice done for me, or at least procure an Act to cancel my Account at the Treasury.—

I must now recapitulate the circumstances which hitherto have obstructed the business:

In the first place applications from time to time during my service in the pay-Office to have my Salary fixed were either ineffectual or prevented by more important affairs in Congress—even immediately prior to the disbanding the Army, Congress were in no disposition to do anything with me—(perhaps because a larger representation of the nature & difficulties of my Service was thought necessary to be made than any Member of Congress was willing to attend to.)

On My discharge from the Army therefore, the Paymaster General, who having had previous conversation with the Super-

intendant of Finance upon the Subject, & being unwilling to Send me home without a penny, put into my hands a Sum of money, which, with what I had before received, he declared was within the allowance which the said Superintendant of Finance conceived I was intitled to—The opinion of a person who was had at that time in Such universal & supreme respect, as well as Authority in Some Similar matters, was a kind of warrant to the Paymaster General, & I certainly never expected afterwards but to receive a balance not to pay any—However in the winter following, when Congress were at Anapolis, upon a representation of my having retired from Service & a request by the paymaster General that my Salary might be fixed Congress immediately passed an Act without any enquiry which did not defray my *necessary* expenses.—The Paymaster General declared he never would Suffer the allowances made by that act

to be passed to my credit, & accordingly nothing hath ever been entered. Frequent Applications were afterwards made, both by the Paymaster General & myself—at length a Committee was obtained, who seemed disposed to consult entirely with the Paymaster General, I left all to him & them & came home—

Mr Pierce drew out my account for the Committee agreeably to the ideas before settled upon between him & the Superintendant of Finance, & the Committee made report thereon which Mr Pierce informed me cast the balance in my favor—certainly this event gave great quiet to my mind, as I thought by it, my object was more than half obtained.—However the report hath never been called up, though I have engaged Members to attend to it, they informed me there had not been a fit opportunity. But Colo Wadsworth told me not to fear, that Congress would certainly pass my account. I rested upon that, till lately

I have heard that the report & every thing concerning it were lost. I now am in despair, for I have no more money to lose upon the affair, & cannot attend upon Congress be the event what it will. I am in an extreme low state of health, & it is well known enough that I have not ten pounds to *command* in the world.

I Suppose that what I shall add to this Letter, if you can have patience to read it through, will be a Sufficient foundation for you to make a representation to the House by which if nothing can done for me, an unnecessary public prosecution may be prevented when nothing is to be obtained.

The Articles of my Account drawn out for the Committee by the paymaster General I presume were these—

depreciation of pay as Adjutant of Artillery, (Stevens's Corps not recognized by any State till after I left it) August 1777 to October 1778 at 50 Dollars per month & three rations per day—

Pay as Chief Assistant Paymaster General at Camp from November 1t 1779 to Mr Pierce's appointment to the office of Paymaster General, at Six hundred dollars a year & two rations a day—

Salary as Deputy paymaster General from Mr Pierces promotion till the end of November 1783 at one Thousand Dollars a year & Six rations per day—

Allowance for Forage for two horses when forage was not Supplied by the Forage Master—

Ditto for two hired Servants from the time that the Commander in Chief forbid Officers not of the line to take servants from the line—

Ditto for Stationary, fuel & Office rent (when not furnished by the Quarter Master)—

Extra expenses of Journeys on public business.

As I have not a Single paper respecting my transactions in the Pay Office

I can only as I have done state these matters generally—Every Letter & all my Vouchers & Documents & every paper of whatever kind of a public nature were left with the Paymaster General—they were necessary to him—to me I supposed they could be only a useless burden. For I supposed my Salary would be ineviatably fixed upon some just principles, as I expected to be a citizen of the *independent* States of America—

As I never saw the Account drawn out by Mr Pierce for the Committee nor know not what it was, only I know it was intended to be as I have Stated—I know not what the report of the Committee was, what they allowed, or what they disallowed, only that I was informed it was Sufficient to cover me & more.

These however are facts—that I served the period mentioned in Stevens Corps of Adjutant of Artillery & never had my depreciation made up by any State for the

reason assigned—Also in the Pay Office as represented—two horses I kept while deputy paymaster General, part of the time at my own Charge, I cannot tell particularly,—they were *absolutely* necessary, any one who knows the Service will be convinced of it on a moments reflexion—two Servants I hired at 10 Dollars per Month each, from the time of the Commander in Chief's order, which forbid me & all other Officers not of the line to take Servants of the line—The order exists & may be found—The order which forbid taking Servants from the line, did not prohibit servants to this description of Officers but the order *itself* directed such Officers to *hire* their own Servants. The two Servants were absolutely necessary to me, one as a Messenger & for other Services, the other as a Cook—It could not be expected that I should pay the whole Army Six times a Month, as I absolutely did, examine & keep accounts,

without any clerk, which is also a fact, & besides all this, run of errands & cook my own victuals. The pay of the Servants was less than the allowance to Soldiers, reckoning their clothing—Stationary, fuel & Office rent I frequently provided at my own charge;—Several journeys to Albany & Livingston's Manner after public Money at great expense—The amount of all which I cannot say particularly—

With respect to my Salary as Assistant & Deputy Paymaster General—it was justly considered that a chief & confidential assistant in the *Pay Office* with the *trust of money* was different from a common Clerk in a common Office who writes Six hours a day & the rest of the time to pleasure, & the Six hundred dollars was but a moderate allowance.

As Deputy Paymaster General the whole business was performed by me without any Clerk, & Mr Morris directed the pay to be divided, so that I absolutely

made Six different payments a month to the whole Army. The Service, Sir, & the care *

* Thus incomplete.

V.

OSTEND AUSTRIAN FLANDERS *16th May 1791*

THE HON BENJ HUNTINGTON

SIR—

Presuming on your well known Benevolence & Candour, I've taken the Liberty to address you on a Subject which your Superior Judgt & good Sense must Convince you is worthy your Attention I address you as a friend & Patriot to the Country who I have the Honor to belong to and Seeing the Laws of that Country Violated I think it my Duty as a Citizen to Seek Redress & Know of no Person to whom I may better apply to than a man of

your Exalted Station. I will briefly open the mater to you and point out Several instances where the Colours of the United States and the Commanders of such Colours have been treated with the Greatest Indignity One Instance Occurred 4th Instant (viz) Capt Curtis Reed of the Ship Abigail of Boston felt severely the want of a *Consul* to Represent his Case to the Court of Brussells—Several of the Ship's Crew had left Capt Reed four or five days without leave and then applied for their Wages. By the laws of the United States their Goods of every kind with their whole wages were forfeited, of Course Capt Read Denied Paying their wages untill his arrival in America Agreeable to his Articles as the wages were not due untill that Time and further he could not answer it to his owners, on his denial his Sailors made application to the Grand Bailieu of this Town who Immediately sent two officers and arrested Capt Reed in the Open

Street and took him to Prison like a Common Vagrant where he was detained untill he gave Sufficient bonds for his appearance at Court 5th Instant Capt Reed appeared before the Magistrates and was ordered Immediately to pay the Wages of his Sailors at a time they were not due and to Discharge Such of his Sailors as were not Satisfied to go the Voyage within him & further & further to pay all Costs of arrests &c to the amount of £52—10—& this in open Violation to the laws of the United States of North America Ive now been two Years a Resident of this Town & never knew of an Instance of the Kind with the Ships of any other Nation there being Consuls of all Nations residing in this Town Except of America. Another Instance, Adam Babcock Esqr Commander of the Ship Enterprize belonging to Boston was treated in the Same manner and Remained in Prison two Days for not paying the Wages of his Sailors that were not

due and was after Obliged by arbitrary power to pay and Discharge the whole Crew (which were American Subjects) which was very much to the Detriment of his Voyage, Capt Samuel Foster of the Ship Despatch of Boston was treated in the Same Manner Lodged in Prison and Obliged to Pay his People when their wages was not Due in open Violation to the Laws of the United States—Instances of this kind so Often Occurring and so much to the Disadvantage of the Trade of the united States and Derogatory to the Honor of a free and Independent Nation, I doubt not but you will take matter into your wise & Serious consideration and lay the same before that most august Body the Congress of the United States of North America and they beyond a Doubt will find Just Cause to appoint an American Consul to Reside in the Town of Ostend in the Austrian Netherlands to prevent any further Abuses and Indigni-

ties Offered either to the Colours or Commanders of Ships belonging to the United States of North America

Being a Resident of the Town of Ostend and an American I take the further Liberty to Offer myself as a Candidate for the Office & Should that most august Body the Continental Congress think Proper to Confer on me that Honor I flatter myself I should so fill the Office as to Give them Intire Satisfaction—The earlier part of my life was Spent in a Counting house—My family are residents in the Town of Boston in New England & I Believe Sir my Father not wholly unknown to you — Dan[l] Hubbard Esq Merchant of Boston, Should this Meet your approbation & You Should think Proper to do me the honor to answer this Letter if you Direct for me to the Care of Mess[rs] Sharnock & C[o] Merchants Ostend it will come Safe to hand—Letters lodged in London to be put into the

Flanders Mail is the Most Direct & Safe Conveyance

Interim I have the Honor to be your most Obedient hum[l] Serv[t]

THO[S.] G. HUBBARD

VI.

NORWICH IN CONNECTICUT *Novr first 1791*

SIR

I Recd the Inclosed Letter on the 3d of August but as the President was on his Tour to the Southward I Supposed it needless to Convey it to you untill his Return to do Business at Philada when Congress would be together and the Gentlemen from Massachusetts might be Enquired of Concerning the Character to Mr Hubbard he is of a Good Family in Boston but I have no Acquaintance with him I find on Inquiry that he is a Young Gentleman of a Sprightly turn and Good [abilities?] As The Necessity of appointing a Consul at Ostend is a Subject of which the President is to Judge I have

send you the Original Letter and kept only a Copy & Submit the Propriety of laying it before the President to your Discretion—

I am with Great Respect

Sir your Most hum^{l} Servt

B H

His Ex^{cy} Thos Jefferson

Sec^{ry} of State

VII.

HARTFORD *29th June 1795*—

SIR/

I propose to go to Boston in a few days on some Special Business and as I have not been there since since the year 1772, in which time almost all my old acquaintance are either dead or gone away, I therefore beg the favour of you that you would be so good as to give me a few Lines to his Excellency John Adams to assist me in his friendly advice if need be, Relative to the business I am going upon, your compliance will much Oblige your Hum: Sert

in hast at the ferry 5 oClock—A. m.

P S. the Stage is this moment gone into the boat without my Letter I have now before another oppertunity presents, Just to give you a hint of the business I am

going upon to Boston (viz) the old Missisippi Lands said to be obtaind by General Lyman before the year 1772 & which is now about to be reviv'd again, and I believe from what I have heard that there is yet some Probibility of making something out of that affair, but more of this when I shall have the pleasure to See you, I wrote Govenor Huntington Last week, but afterwards understood his Excel^y was gone to New Haven, but my Letter is now Lodg'd at the Govr House in order to procure a Letter to Govr Adams in Boston I wish you would speak with Govr Huntington to give me as good a Letter to Govr Adams as he thinks best as also one to President Adams if he Judges it proper. I formerly shew those Missisippi papers (Now by me) to Judge Jay Doct^r Franklin, Govr Livingston, the Honble. Wm Smith Doc^r Johnston & the Honble Richard Law, Govr Handcock Govr Adams the Honble James Dewane of

New York and Mathew Clarkson Esqr in Philadelphia who all of them gave it as their oppinion, that perhaps something might arise out of these papers Concerning the before mentioned Grant to Genl Lyman & that might be of some consequence to those original Proprietors that first embarked in said Missisippi scheam, and sent Genl Lyman over to England to Solicitt a Grant from the Crown of the afore said Lands on the E. Bank of the River Missisippi and as his Excellencys & your names (I think) are Entered on the Book Containing the Records & names of the Old Proprietors, as also Govr Handcock, Govr Adams, Govr Livingston, Doct^{r} Franklin, Govr Franklin Govr Oliver, Mathew Clarkson Esqr. now Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, John Foxcraft Esqr Late Postmaster Genl, with Doc^{r} Franklin &c &c &c, as also some hundred scattered from the River St Croix to Savannah in Georgia and many of the first

Characters in these States as also in England, Ireland, & Scotland are are also amongst the Proprietors of the Grant said to be obtained on the E. Bank of the River Missisippi by Genl Lyman, & his associates, Doc^{tr} Johnston, & the Hon^{bl} Richard Law are also both of them proprietors in said Grant, and Now Sir, as I had not time when I wrote Govr Huntington, I wish you would be so kind as to go to him when he returns from New Haven and Shew him what I have wrote you and that you would also desire the Govr to give me as good as a Letter as he Can to Govr Adams and also to the Hon^{bl} John Adams, your attention to the Above will add to the many favours already received.

by Sir

Your Very Hum: Ser^{t}

H: Ledlie

N:B S^{r} as I purpose With the Line of proveidence to Sett off for Boston. by the

first or mieddell of next Week you^{ll} plese to Return me an answer to What I now Write you togeather With His Exe . . cy^{s} & your Letters this Week or if the gov^{r} Should not Return time enough from N haven or that no oppertunety Either publick or priviett presents then in that Case if you or the gov^{r} Will Send S^{d} Letters to me at or Monday the 13th of July nixt I Will pay the bearrer of S^{d} Letters or his Excellency or you therefore all the princepall Gentellmin in this &. the neighbouring States Were Conserned in ye above Grant. H. L.

June 6th Since : Writting the above at which time & Since I Could hear Nothing Conserning which Way his Exe^{ll}cy our Govr intended to Return home from N Haven by yesterday I Saw Co^{ll} Greseciner at our meetting who informed me for the first time, altho I have Repiettedely Sent to Capt bulls the gov^{rs} usuall

Loadgings that his Excell . . cy Was gone home by the Way of Seabrook & concequently Would not Return this Way I therefore Embrace this oppertunety by the Way of the Norwich Stadge to Send forweard this Letter & have promised him a Reward Exclucsive of postedge provieded he Will bring me an answer, as Well from the gov^{r} & also from you N : B there is Contin^{d} in the above grant to Gener^{ll} Lyman on the E bank of the River : Missippie ab^{t} tweenty two millions of (Acres) So that the above Spackeuliation (Will) farre Exceed anything of the Kind that Ever Eithier Mr Judge Willison or Mr Robt Morris Were Ever conserned in, it begins N on the River Yesua [?] & extends S from the Lattude of 31 N to 32 S on the River Missippie & I Verieley belive by the beste & most (akkurate) information I Can gett there is Some prospact of obetinninge & Making Something of the above grant if it is Reguelerly & properely prefered—but I

shall no more of this & which I Will Communacatt to you & his Excellcy When I Return With the Line of proviedence from boston Sr as I Write this in very great hurrey you Will plese to excuse the bad Writting Spelling Dicksion & gramer and as I sepose by What Coll Greseciner told me yesterday that the governor gott home Last Satturday Evining I must Just take the Liberty to Desier you Would be So good on the Recpt of this to Step Down to the governors & Shew him this my Letter to you which togeather With What I Wrott his Exciellincy the 29th of June last Will give Him a More particular Nerretive of what I mean abt the Lands on the River Missippie then What I Wrott him as above I am Sr as before &c

your Honrs Most Humble
Servant in great hast
H: Ledlie

Honorable Binjemin Huntington Esqr
Norwich.

VIII.

MANSFIELD *the 18th Octobr 1799*

DEAR SIR

I begin my letter now knowing of any Oppertunity not how I shall get it to you but propose to Send it to Capt Gurdon your Son expecting that it is the most provable Way to get it to you. Our long Aquaintance, & as I have Reason to conclude, our near Friendship & Connection create in me a Strong Desire of letting you know that Friendship has not abated on my Part, hope it has not on Yours & that I ardently desire to hear from you, & know Somithing about you, how you are, where you are & of your State of Health, I Suppose let you be where You will You have the Satisfaction of the Company &

Society of your Childred, who in Case they have that filial Respect for you that markt thare former Conduckt towards you it must yeld You an agreable Satisfaction & Consolation in your Solitary State let You be in what part of the World Soever. I part with one near Friend after another last Week I attended the Fueneral of my Friend the Rev^{d} m^{r} John Storrs, whose Company and Society used in time pass to be agreeable, liveing lattarly in the Same Society. Your Sister continues much in the Same State She was in before you went to the Westward, except that her Fitts are more frequent tho not So hard, Was Advised last Winter by Sundry Phisicians to take a lengthey Journey with her into the Cuntry, accordingly this Spring I let out my Farm disengaged my Self from Buisnes & Set out on the 28th of May last to the Northward, We Steard our Course to Strike Connecticut River as Soon as conveniant, came on its Banks

at Infield in this State & continued on the Bank as nearly as convenient to Lebanon Newhampshire where I had many Friends & Relatives we taried there allmost a Week & then passed through Dartmouth crossing the Bridg there & proseeded Westward part of the Way on White River to Randolf in Vermont on our Way there we past by Salle & Phyle that were Brother Huntingtons Childred, as allso Spencer who is Setled in Lebanon in the Sadling Buisness on the River, Salle in a Town called Bethel, and Phile in Norwich all of which are in comfortable Health, But at Randolf I found my Brother Aaron & Sister & other Friends where we Taried for about three Weeks on a good Soil & among a very Industrious People, It is but 17 Years Since they began to Settle here they have now 2 Companies of Trained Soldjers of more than 74 Men in each, likewise an Artilery Comp^y & a Cannon made of wrought Iron about 3 Feet in

Length, mounted on Cariage which on the 4th July they put to Service. that Day they Observ^{d} in as conspiciuous a Manner as is observ^{d} in New York or Philadelphia & in Immitation of those Places. You are Sensable there is a Mountiain passing about N & S through the State of Vermont on the E Side the Mountain they are allmost unanimously good loyal Federalists, love their Cuntry, are Industrious & healthy & Despise the Polloticks of the W Side who. many of them are Jacobites or Ante Federalists as is Said, But Vermont is a fine growing State they really have a most excellent Soil for Wheat & Grazing it does now allmost & will Soon excel any State in the Union for Raising excellent Horse & Cattle & most excellent for Dayries It is not uncommon for their Cows to fill a common pail at a Meal & more, 20 Cows will yield 20 Pails of Milk, or their abouts, of the best which you are Sensable makes the best Butter

or Cheese . . . . But I am wearing You I Doubt with Observations on Vermont . . After we had taried there about 3 Weeks We Sot out towards Home came down White River crost the Bridg at Dartmouth came back to Lebanon New Hampshire where we taried about 2 Weeks among our Friends & Aquaintance while we were there I heard Mr Aaron Cleaveland Preach in that Place, who has a lisence for Preaching & makes that his Buisnes. . . After finishing our Visit in Lebanon we Sat off down the River came on the E Side to Wallpole where we crost on the Bridg & came on the W Side as far as Northampton then took a Post or a Turnpike Road & Traveld West about 40 Miles to Pitts Field, Thence through Barrington Stockbridg & Lenox to Sandisfield to my Brother Eleazar where we taried about a Week & then Returned Home through Hartford got Home about the midle of August, your Sister was bet-

ter while on our Journey, tho had Some poor Turns & Seemd better for a time after our Return Home, But her ill Turns Still continue & I know not now that She is better than when we Sot out on our Journey—However Despicable the State of Newhampshire might be in their Infancy, I Some how or other have got mutch attacht to their Manners & Government I had an Oppertunity of Seeing their last revised Laws & the Journals of their Assemblies for two Sessions I think they Discover as great Wisdom Justice Regularity & Prudence as any State on the Continent I must confess more pleasing to me & I think the Subjects are happey under a Wise Administration of Government, While at Lebanon, I Visited our old Friend Col° Pain whose head is ornamented with those Silver Locks that adorn the old Man, he retains the Franknes & Hospitallity which markt his Carackter in younger years—tells me that he

Intends to obtain a Turnpike Road from Portsmouth to Dartmouth to pass near his Hous & then he has done with all publick Buisnes . . I believe that we Scarsly past any Town either goeing up along the River or in the State of Vermont & So on to Pittsfield & through Barrington but in allmost & I know not but in quite, every one, their is a revival of Religion especially among the younger Sort of People, Some Places more & Some less, They Assemble in Conferences (1/2) a Day in a Week & perhaps one or two evenings in each Week. Old Mr Timo Allen with whome we taried one Night Says he thinks So general a Concarn on the Minds of the People indicates that the Days of Milenium are comminsing.—We have had I believe with us a fruitfull Summer & plentifull Harvest, But I believe the Demands in Market are but small—I have not ben in Norwich Since you went from there & have not heard anything More from you

than that the Water at the Pool in New Lebanon was Some benefit to you, I really am Desirous of hearing from you & your dear Children with You, Your Sister Desires to be rememberd to You & to your Children & wants to hear from them & from you in Case it may be Agreeable.— Friends at three or fourscore years old I think are necesitated to Retain their Society & Friendship, for enexorable Death is continually lopping off one after another, untill by our Age We have but few of our Cotemporariries left, he that lives the longest has the Most Friends generally to Bemoan, But that my dear Sir is not much Matter provided we So live here that we may meet in a better World than this, where all the Interventions of Friendship Shall cease & We Shall Se as we are Seen & know as we are known, I Still continue in great Measure confind at Home, very rarely go abroad without Mrs Storrs & am allmost

Discouraged with respect to her ever ariveing to a comfortable State of Health, But as my Name is pritty much So has the Visisitudes of Fortune ben with me through Life, But it is true in general that Experience is the best Schole Master, but unless I make a proffitable Improvement of the advers Dispensations of Providence towards me, these Troubles I now feel & are (daily conversant) with, will be greatly to my hurt & Disadvantage—I hope in Case (this letter) reaches You that you will be kind enough to to let me hear from my ever dear Friend. untill then I remain Dear Sir your near Friend & Affectionate

Brother EXP STORRS

HONBLE BENJN HUNTINGTON ESQ

THE END.

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