

Historical Society of Penna.

Long Island 24th July 1776

My Dearest Kitty

I have rec^d your fav^r of the 16th inclosing a letter from M^r Yeates and one from a recruiting Officer. as you know the contents need not repeat it. I suppose you have also rec^d the letter M^r Yeates says he wrote to you pressing M^{rs} Ewings & your return and expects I will Acquiesce. Indeed from the Situation of Both Families if I had not Obligations to him, I could have not manner of Objection. M^{rs} Yeates must sensibly feel the loss of M^{rs} Ewing.

Believe me my dear it is not without pain I can bring myself to agree to your moving to a Greater distance from me, but as matters are now circumstanced, I am as effectually deprived the happiness of seeing you as if you were in the remotest corner of the Continent, your own & M^{rs} Ewings determination on the Subject cant fail of being agreeable to me, if it be to return Capⁿ Harris goes to Philad^a in a day or two & will conduct you so far, where my very Good Friend and Agent M^r Milligan will procure you a Carriage and every other Convenience to carry you to Lancaster –I hope you re^d the Wench safe and that she is to your liking. She cost me £43:0:0 and the Boy £47:0:0 this Currency. Cheap, if they turn out as I expect. for the present you will be obliged to keep them both with you, when I can go to Lancaster, will Bring the Boy with me.

as your family is now large perhaps you may find it difficult to find a Conveyance by the stage Coach, and can procure a Carriage to your Self if you determine to return. leave my ~~Thing~~ Cloaths with M^{rs} Blair –If poor little Sallys mouth should continue sore you must purge her & use a Gargle made of infusion of dry Sage or red Rose leaves, /the latter is best/ a little Honey – and a Very few drops of the Oil of Vitriol, or in its stead a little Alum. If it pleases God to spare us till the Beginning of ~~September~~^{October} I wish then to have her & the Blacks Inoculated. you need not / now be Afraid of Infection from Sally Yeates –I inclose a letter for M^{rs} Ewing taken out of the Post Office I believe from Jackey. If you see him bef= I do make my love to him

I hope you are now Convinced that had I thus long remained inactive that the Present Bustle would necessarily Bring me forth, how much more honorable and Advantageous my present station than that of a Militia man tho he is exposed to equal Toil and Danger

M^r Blair writes by Captⁿ Harris his Cough is Better –expect to hear from me by Captⁿ Harris –Jesse Joins in duty to M^{rs} Ewing –love to you and Sally and Compl^{ts} to M^{rs} Blair

God Bless & Preserve you my Dearest Kitty!

shall be the Constant Prayer of

your most Affectionate

Edw^d Hand

Sally I daresay is much delighted with her lap Dog