

Letter from Lucy Knox to Henry Knox, April 31, 1777

Brookline April 31st 1777 –

My dearest dear friend –

In what words shall I convey an idea to my Harry how dear he is to me or how much I want to see him – indeed indeed we must not live so – I am unhappy – and that I am sure will make my H – so –

join with me my love, in humble gratitude to him who hath preserved your Lucy and her sweet babe: and thus far carried them thro the Small pox – no person was ever more highly favored than I have been since it came out – but before for three days – I suffered exceedingly – I have more than two hundred of them – twenty in my face – which is four times as many as you bid me have – but I believe none of them will leave a mark – Lucy has but one – and has not had an Ill hour with it – both hers and mine have turned and are drying away – and now for a jaunt to Morristown – what hinders my coming with Peter – only think my love of his being absent all this time – he writes me he has no prospect of returning soon nor do I know how to manage upon my return – Munson (who prevailed upon my compassion to take him back) has inlisted – nor is there a man to be hired under 10 dollars a month – Boys are not to be had as they can earn much more by working in the forts – and standing occasional centrys in short I am in a very disagreeable Situation – and unless – you will take me under your wing I know not what will become of me

I thank you ten thousand times for your kind letters eaight of which I have received – but alas – not one encouraging word of meeting soon I must describe the place I am in at present – it is called an officers room and is to be sure some degrees better than the common ones – when I first came which was last wednesday – it was enlightened by one chearful window of about 2 foot square – but it was glass – there were two others of boards which were some bigger – neither clabboards upon the outside nor plaistering within – but a few rough plank was my gaurd from the weather – which answered very well when the wind was calm – two soals of old shoes served for hinges to the door on Which was chalked – the cloven footed gentleman upon his head – in short I never was so horror struck in my life – but presuming upon my connection with the military sent for the barrack master – who gave

orders that the carpenters should obey my directions by which means I am much more comfortable –

I have no glass but from the feel of my face I am almost glad you do not see it I don't believe I should get one kiss – and yet the Dr tells me it is very becoming he the Dr. – has been very kind and attentive for which I desire you will write him a letter of thanks – and not call me by the formal name of Mrs K – I want an answer to a very saucy letter, I wrote you before I was sick by a Mr Spooner – wherein I returned you a part of one of yours – for an explanation – what you meant by it I cannot tell – unless it was to rally me upon a subject which is too delicate to be played with – I have just come from a scene my Harry which has roused my very soul in gratitude to my bountiful benefactor a man who was innoculated at or about the time I was lay in the last agonies his pock proved the purple sort – and he poor soul must die – his brother had just arrived from his wife, who was near laying in – and very impatient for his return – and as a proof of her affection – had sent him some good things such as he might venture to eat – he sent for Mr Gardiner (who is in the next room to me) to make his will – and I had curiosity to go – he is just now dead – what a stroke will it be to that poor miserable woman – but oh my god my own situation will not bear reflection – how do I know to what the dear partner of my Soul is at this minet exposed – indeed my Harry I am serious, I cannot live at this distance from you – what has become of Springfield – have you no prospect you sure are not indifferent about it – if you are you are greatly altered since

You parted from your

LK

Transcript Source: The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History