

Camps at New York August 15th 1776

After Due Respects to you & Deuty to my mother I would inform that we are all in tolerable helth but Timothy Dart who is not in a very good state of helth But not down Sick.

I will give you an ajournal of our voiage from weathers -field where we imbarked on thursday evening. We set saled on Friday morning & sailed as far as the upper part of middle Haddam and by a ancher that Night, Saturday we arrived at the upper part of Lyme with a very low wind, & Sunday beet down to Seabrook with a conterary wind but very high, we got out into the sounds about twelve oclock & then the wind was fare for Newyork & we best that day & that Night – within Sight of Norwalk islands which is about eighty miles from Seabrook, Monday we Lay by at anchor almost all day by Reason of a calm, Tuesday we arrive as far as City Island which is about thirty miles from New York, & on Wednesday we arrived at Newyork about 3 oclock in the after noon, and when we had arrived the news in the camp was that we was to be attacked that night it was conjectured from several circumstances as Dunmore's fleet arriving & the winds being strong at South & troops from the fleets landing on Long &c but it being very Rainey Night we lay very still without Being Alarmed:

I find things in a comfortable situation for Soldiers, we have a good [illegible] toward the western part of the town: we hear that General Lea is coming from the South ward with 10 (?) thousand troops to Reinforce our Army: it is Generally beleved that the enemy will make an attack on Newyork very soon, as for news I have no more at present So I Subscribe my selfe desiering an intrest in your prayers att the throne of grace for me and the army & the Cause of Liberty. Your loyal husband

Jonathan Birge

Newyork Sept 1st 1776

Sir

After due regards to you & deuly to my Honoured mother and Love to my Children I would inform you that I am well except something of the Camp Disorder which makes me feel something feeble but not to but what I keep about wee have been in a very unsetled state ever since I came here, at our first arrival we stayed in Nyork about a weke, & then our Regement was ordered onto Governers Island which is about a mile from Nyork to the south wee tarried their about 5 or 6 days & when the Regulars got Possession of L island we abandond Governers Isl & we had to sail in boats in fair shot of the Regulars canon from L island for about 3 quarters of mile the shot struck very thick among the boats but never struck aney boat or hurt aney man but one till we had all got over, the man that was wounded happened to belong to my company whose arm was shot off close to his body by a shot from the shiping before he got into the boat, his name is Abel Hawkens of Tol- and he is yet alive in something & hopeful way to get well:

I have lost one man of my Company namey Elisha Olcott our People are very much complaining of the quick steps

wee seeme to be in something of a broken state at this place but we hope to be got into a more settled state soon: as to writing aney thing special about the state of the army or what it is like to be

John Jones is well & lives with me as a waiter It is generally supposed that the town will soon be abandond or burnt, send me a letter as soon as you can and let me know how you all do

I have seen brother Tucker & brother Grant they are or was well the day before yesterday thus I conclude with a desier of your Prayers for us & the success of our armes against our cruel and malitous enemy we here that Capt Bissel is taken, Ebenezer Write is wounded in his leg & taken, you will have in the papers particulars of the affairs on Long Islang & thus I conclude

Jonth Birge

Camps at Harlem hills 10 miles above Newyork September 24th 1776

After my Deuty to my Honored mother if she be yet alive
and due and proper Love & regards to you & my femely hoping
you are well. as those lines leve me Desiring your prayers
for me & the success of our army

Maney things have hapened to me since I left home: I lived
At Newyork when I first came to camps about one weak
& then we was ordered onto Governers Island & stayed their
About a week more & then was drive of in the greatest
confusion & danger none of us hurt but one & that hapned
to be Abel Hawkens of toland belonging to my company
of whome I have wrote in a former letter who is since
Dead of his wound

we tarried in Newyork a few days & then marched up
about 2 miles above the city & their in camped a weak or
10 days until their came up the east River & achored Right
against us – 5 ships & then we had marching orders & likewise
put our bagage on board of waggons to go up to Kings
-Bridge & the next day we was ordered to the Brestwork down
Close under the shiping & lay their about an hour & half
Under the heveyest cannonade by 5 times that ever
I heard & withing 40 rods of some of the ships, then we was
Ordered off through all the fire, one man of my company
Was left on the ground at or near the treanch who said he
Had rather lie theor than Run thorough the fire & we left
Him their & have never heard of him since, his name is
Heman Baker, he belonged to Toland, he was one of Sergants & a very likely
Man: the day we left the Brestwork was Sunday before last
a very hot day maney of our men lost their packs & all they
had but what they wore I carried my pack thorough with a
little help: but I had lost a considerable part of what I
at Governers island & on bord the waggon which never got
through but was left on the Rode & the enemy have got
them I suppose the princepul things that I have lost is
my Bed, 1 sheet & pillow my Bible Night thoughts & old Count
Book my beens dried apples & all my herbs 2 or 3 lb of lose
Sugar & camblet cote & all my pewter & coffe pot which I
Bought at Hartford which held 3 pintes: 1 blanket my best clothes I
Have sent home which I hope are carried safe to Benjamins
at Hartford: I should be glad if you would send the following
by the hand of mr Thos Posst of Hebron who is about
to com down with a team let then cost what they will

if they arrive safely it will be the cheepist method I
can take by half to live for chese is one shell p lb
18 – for butter

I would have you send about 50 or a hundred wt of
Chese and 15 or twenty wt of butter put into a tite
Firken not prest tite but in bouls & filled with Brine & let
the chese & firken & chese be put into a barrel & headed
up tite with a paper nailed on on head with my name
& rank in Col Sages Regement in Conneticut forces
& if you can get it send 10 or 15 lb of sugar & about
6 or 8 cakes of chocholet: perhaps you will think that
I intend to winter here by sending for such Store, but
They are a market hear & will fetch the cash if the
Regulars do not get them: & likewise I would have
you send another old soldier Blanket for the weather is
groeing cold & our accomodations ar poor & I have left
one of mine

I am in as good State of health at present as I have
had since I have been from home: a more fategueing
uncomfortable campaign so far I never knew but
I have heather been preserved through the thickest
Dangers to appearance that ever I was in, & hope
I may bee Returned to you in safety & in health in
In Due time: thus I subscribe my selfe your
Loyal Husband promising to Return to you again
as soon as Providence shall open a door their
for -----

Jonth Birge

among the Rest send me a few sheets of paper
Remember my Deuty to Father & Mother Hammond
& love to Brothers & Sisters & all my neighbours & friends

Camps at Harlem 10 miles above Newyork Octr 6th 1776

Kind & Deutyful Wife: you must not think that Distance & long Absence has weaned in the least degree my Affections from you & my family altho I have wrote but seldom to you and what I have wrote has had a tendancy to mak you trouble but it was Real necessity mad me send for those articles for which I sent & I determin to send home some money which we are in dayley expectation of Drawing very soone, altho my Expenses are & have been very large through the extravagant price which has been on everything that I have bought

I can inform you that at Present I am in good health at Present through Divine goodness which I esteem the greateast worldly Blessig & especialy in our camp for I never saw a wors place to be sick in for we have not one doctor to our whole Brigade in camp for they are all gone out to take care of sick in the hospitals in the county

Our people are some what sickly in camp yet but they Generally Recrute when we send them into the country and But few dies compared with the Number of sick

As to our circumstances of living we are better provided than when I wrote to you last for we have a tent and some straw to lye on to keep us from the ground & we fare considerably lik hogs but I desire not to complain For I am alive & why should a living man complain It is not all the commissions or pay scarcely that induces Me ware it for the cause of freedom & love to posterity That could have me to under go the fategue of such A campaine as this but I hope we shall fare better Soon, so you may conclude that I shall Return as soon as may be for I want to hear from you & my family & much more to see you, but I would not think that I am uneasy with my circumstances for I am in helth thank kind providence & I am the only Cpt in the Regement that is well & but one only besides myself that Pretends to do aney duty in cam which makes my Deuty some what hard but I hope to be carried through but I am afrade that as the weather grows cold I shall be Exposed to get cold but I intend to keep as comfortable as I can for I have bought one blanket

since I sent you the last letter but if you send me another I shall not have two much
bed cloathing for winter: we hear that the French fleet is near the mouth of Delaware River & we
hope that they will play a tune for the Regulars to dance as they have for us but things
look frouneing on us as yet but we must know that God will do Right and we must wate for
his salvations

My deuty to my Honoured mother if she be yet alive & likewise to Father, mother Ham-
mond with a desier of their prayers for me & the army in General so I conclude with sub-
scribing my selfe your true & loyal Husband

Jonth Birge

John Jones is sick & gone out to our hospital at New Rochel he is prity low with the camp
Distemper & Lenord Rogers is very poorly with the scurvey, & I have heard that Thos Taylor is
Dead

but we have not heard certain of the truth of it the nuse come not very direct for he
was sick & went out into the country but I never knew whare I was in hopes his uncle
would find him & be able to help him: we have but 26 men in my company fit for deuty out of
above sixty: I have not heard that but four or five have Died

Camps 5 miles above Kings Bridge Oct 20th 1776

Loving wife after due affections to to you & the rest of my family, I inform you that I am at present in as good a State of health as I have enjoyed this ten years past at any time for which I desire in an especial maner to be thankful for at this time I have heard of the death of my mother by Mr. [illegible] which visitation I desire to be Duely humbled under as I hope we all may:

I have no special nuse to write but only that we are still in an [illegible] unsettled state, the Regulars are Landed about ten miles to the Eastward of Kings Bridge and are sloly advancing towards the westward which our people Donot try to hinder as we are told for Ge Lea is Lying at the Eastward of them with about ten thousand men & Genl Washington with us at the Northward with I know not how many perhaps as many more besides several Brigades in Differant stations: it is the general conjecture among us that the Generals intend to draw the Enemy a little out and then make an attack, or else divert the Enemy till cold weather and let them push off to winter quarters and which will answer the best for us I know not, we trust we have faithful gener-als and hope under God that we shall finally have suces in our enemies

I have Received a box of Good Butter and 4 or 5 lb of Sugar and a quantity of herbs & cranberries from sister swetland & a pear which came of our from our own tree all which Received a very welcome Reception: Mr. [illegible] has not come yet at his arrival & I hope to have [illegible] More stores

I hope if my life is spared to Return to my family at the end of the campaign, my mind is much at intervals on my family and home affairs but I keep them as much from Preplexing me as posible for it is the countrys cause I am Ingaged in and must pay attention to it

I have received 2 letters from you & hope you will send to me as often as you cane thus I conclude and subscribe my self your most loyal husband till providence shall separate what it has joined

Jonth Birge

To Isaac Birge

My son Isaac after fatherly affections to you these are to Inform you that I am well as I hope you are I received your letter Dated Sept 24th in which you informed that

you was well and that you got along with [illegible] very
well for which I was very glad to remember my son to be
obedient to you mother and do as well as you can and if we should
be prospered well this season I hope if my life is spared to return
home this winter and have no more call to armes to separate
parents from children & children from parents aney more
write to me as often as you can let me know how [illegible]
goes on and whether you are well this I conclude with this admonition
that you Remember your creator while young
my love to Pricilla, Jonathan Ruth Simeon and Annie

Jonth Birge

Philips Patente Nov 17th 1776

Dear Madams

We think ourselves bound by the Ties of peculiar Acquaintance
_____ and good Regard to a Deceased friend, to write you the
melancholy and disagreeable News, of Loss of you Dear Husband
whose untimely fall is most Sensibly felt by us & Regretted,
and we doubt not but lamented by all his acquaintances
And as you are the Breaved Relict of our Departed Friend
We now condole your great and Lamentable loss, sympa
thizing in your afflictions, praying that the loss may be
Sanctified to you and the tender offspring, and that you may each
be supported by Divine Grace under heavy trial and
that we may all follow his good examples, strive equally
to excel in virtue, and render ourselves useful to our
Country – that we may see the cause of all afflictions,
View the divine right of disposing of all events reverence
the hand that gives the blow, refrain from murmuring or
complaining, and acknowledge that it is God has done it who
cannot do injustice, but orders everything in infinite wisdom
perhaps such reflections on the divine dispensation may admini
-ster consolation to an afflicted mind, and render those kind of
troubles less bothersome – the circumstances of your hus
bands death are easier told by word than write, we can only
tell you that he received a wound in his left shoulder by the
muzzle of a gun being struck off by a cannon ball, the wound
at first appeared mear frivolous and trifling but being searched
by the doctor was found much worse than our apprehensions
He was moved up to Stamford and after about ten days illness
Expired which was disagreeable and unexpected news to us as also
it will be to you Madam with respect we subscribe your

Cordial Friends & Well Wishers ----

Edward Paine

Nathaniel West

George Hubbard

P. S. The Articles you sent by Mr. Post we have taken
And given him on receipt and paid him his troubles of
Bringing, and will pay you for them at our return
Mr. Post will bring your husbands cloathes and other
Things and I desire the papers may be kept entirely
Safe, as it will be difficult settling accounts with the company without them
Yours with respect
Nathaniel West