

Bridgewater November 2<sup>d</sup> 1804

Dear Sir, You must excuse me for not writing to  
you before it was owing to my not having time  
I am now at Uncle Lloyd's and am in tolerable good  
health, I found our Relation all well, & I hope  
these few Lines that I now attempt to convey to you  
will find you & the family enjoying every measure  
of health that can be expected. I had tolerable good  
luck in my journey but was very Expensive  
I arrived here the Sabbathday evening after I left  
you — But Monday morning to my great  
Surprise I discovered that the white Mare had  
the fever very bad & what to do I did not know  
it troubled me all most as much as the my ill  
Luck in selling the Cattle had had —  
it being Sunday when I was in Boston I could  
not do my business with Mr Jackson when I was there  
the Wednesday following myself Uncle Lloyd & Aunt  
sat out for Boston I put the Mare in the Chaise  
where she did Euderingwell & then went I did my  
business with Mr Jackson the particulars I shall here after  
write — we returned home on Friday we could find no  
market for the mare, I wrote a horse that belonged  
to Lloyd & before I returned I swapped him away  
Saturday the man came back to demand as the  
bargain was made between him & me I was obliged  
to carry it thro' although it did not concern me  
I told the man that I would Exchange with him  
again and let him have the white Mare for  
the horse I let him have and after a long  
debate we shifted Horse He gave me thirty Seven  
Dollars to be paid in one Year which Note  
I shall let Charles Small have before I return —

*[Faint, illegible handwriting on aged, stained paper, likely bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is arranged in several horizontal lines across the page.]*



Monday morning I put away the horse and got  
another white Mare I think I have made a  
fine bargain I see Doct<sup>r</sup> ~~to~~ Yesterday I have  
agreed to go to his house tomorrow he likes the  
man very well & wishes to trade for his she is  
a butyfull Saddle mare - the bay mare I have  
not yet ~~to~~ expect to sell her to uncle Lloyd  
but have not yet made or finished the bargain  
I find it very difficult getting stock of a horse  
I should be glad to see both of them and go home  
by water but it is uncertain whether I shall or no  
I have some encouragement of having some  
money for you I shall know tomorrow I will now  
inform you what Information I got from Mr Jackson  
concerning the College Land he wrote to Mr Lewis  
while I was there I go on and print the Land  
if you like the price he wishes you to inform  
him as soon as convenient he now puts under  
obligation to you and wishes you to have the Land  
on these Conditions you must pay one quarter part  
down & one quarter every year untill the sum be  
paid he will give a bond for a deed when he receives  
the first payment and further he will not have any  
of the timber made since untill half the amount  
is paid and after he receives all his pay he will  
give such a deed as he mentions in his letter to you  
It is uncertain what time Mr Lewis will go on & press  
the Land but I think it will be in the course of this  
month Mr Jackson has permitted him to you it is likely  
you will go on & the Land with him &c  
I shall return as soon as I possibly can - they all  
wishes to be remembered to you -  
this from your Dutifull Son  
Ward B Howards

Bridgewater  
Nov 13

17

Capt: Seth Howard

Leeds County of  
Kennebec District of  
Maine

Via post office in Grand

Caught up in March 26<sup>th</sup> 1798  
Honored Parents, with sentiments of filial Love  
I again attempt to write a few lines to you -  
hoping they will safely arrive and meet a  
kind Reception - although it is but a few  
Days since I wrote, but the subject that I now  
am aiming to write upon I hope will meet  
your approbation - my Request of you at this  
time is for to get you to assist me in gaining  
a Commission in the United States Service,  
which at this time may easily be obtained -  
as my mind has been for Six Months past -  
taken up in the Militia's acquirements and  
seeing the Difference between the two Stations  
has excited a virtual wish in me to make  
application as above - I flatter myself that  
you will be pleased at some future Day,  
to see one of your Sons engaged and Exerting  
himself in the defence of the Rights and  
Liberty of our Country - the way that I would  
wish for you to proceed will be to make applica-  
tion to General Learner, (to Whose Brigade I  
now am attached in) for a Recommendation which  
I am positive he will freely Grant as he  
ever <sup>has</sup> been a friend to me ever since my first  
acquaintance with him - then if Gen<sup>l</sup> Chand-  
ler has not got home - please to send the Rec-  
ommendation in Closed in a complaisant Letter  
directed to him at the City of Washington  
where I have no Doubt by this applying to  
his Colleague Henry Dearborn the Secretary at  
war - He can get a great Commission for me

MS of Charlotte has got home & got them & write  
to Genl Dearborn - which will answer the same  
purpose -

our friends in this Country are all in health Except  
Mr Phillips I fear he is inclining to the consumption  
we talk of building Air Furnies and of much  
business but I do not know as I shall Enter upon  
any thing untill I hear from, or see you - I have  
never reciev'd a Letter from any of our family since  
I Left home do write - I would not have you  
think that if I obtain my Request in this Letter  
that I should be oblig'd to go immediately in to  
Service - but I first assure that your patriotic  
Disposition will cause you to use every Exertion to gain  
this Request of your Dutifull Son -  
I am sensible of many favours you have bestowed  
on me since my Childhood I wish I might be able  
to reward you for the same - if by my good  
Conduct I can in any manner discharge the Debt I  
will try my utmost endeavours, Your Son Ward B Howard

it is not so hard to obtain it as people may  
here is a young man a little older than I am  
has this day recd a Lieut Commission - as  
I have been verry intimate with him since  
I have been here, he is verry earnest I should  
make application immediately - Dear Parents  
do gratify this your affectionate sons request  
I am in no lucrative business at present  
only pay my way and improve my time  
in studying - the Mercantile business looks  
verry Dubious here at the present Crisis -  
I now expect to return in June - I wish  
you to attend to this business immediately  
after you receive this letter - there will be  
no time to delay the vacancies will soon  
be filled up - you may perhaps be able  
to forward a letter to Chandler so that he will  
get a commission before he returns -  
do not consider this as a Childish Notion  
it is accompanied by the approbation of  
many well informed men of this vicinity  
you must pardon my folly in speaking too  
much in my own praise - I am now in health  
and sincerely hope these few lines will find  
you thro the Goodness of God enjoying every  
comfort of this life - the greatest enjoyment  
that we can be blessed with here are but sparity -  
therefore I hope we may all be enabled to look  
to our maker and preserver for assistance while  
we remain in this dark and gloomy world



20

POST OFFICE  
26 MAR 18

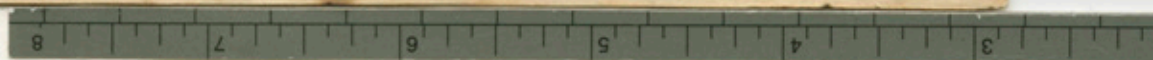
Capt<sup>m</sup> Seth Howard  
of Leeds

County of Kennebec, District of Maine  
Via post office Grand



August 9th July 9th 1810

Dear Sisters with a trembling hand but a joyful  
heart I embrace this opportunity to inform you that I received  
yours of the 25th ult for which you hear my hearty thanks  
we are all well here except my old Comptant which  
is on me at this moment but being so overjoyed with  
the glad tidings I have so writt to you that I shall try  
to shake the yoke on so the paper so that I hope you will  
understand it. your father & Mother both arrived here  
last Friday evening in rather little there they left you  
they left your brother at Bridgewater with Mr Howard  
Mr Howard likes so well that your father and I went  
on Saturday morning to look at a farm and by Dart Court  
our child out of the Court House like the farm  
but dont like the price as our you hope that he  
will find a lot that will suit him and if he both your  
beloved Mother says she will stay here and your father  
will come home all & little all business and show you all  
on as soon as possible your Poor & Mrs & aunt will  
start tomorrow morning for Frederick so is your beloved  
brother Coritt & hope to find him a little recruited  
the Dart & Miss Badley were here the last of June  
and now with the Dart said that Coritt had got  
some better and thought it odd he had got  
so have his leg taken off they will consult with  
him and conclude what will be best soon after  
your father gets there and we shall give  
information as soon as possible after the  
conclusion as to think of his returning  
so I think I think it impossible but your Mother  
will not leave him so I think that you may  
calculate that she will spend the summer  
here at Canary Hall and if your father  
lets himself I hope will be successful in making  
sale of his property in the Custom Country  
we are very anxious that you should all come  
here and little your Mother says that she  
thinks still more want come a prefer I  
wish he could think it best to come and



your Aunt Lindsey you must tell them  
what you think of this place and perhaps  
they will agree to go left and then on.  
it is not in case I am doing so well that  
I could recommend the place but I do think that  
Cony Person that is well and will attend to  
Bairns may make a handsome living but  
as you know the place I shall leave if  
so you so Judge your father wished me so  
inform you that the horse he sent on to Bordy Water  
was there yet and the sorrow which he bore  
from home performed the journey well they  
they that with old misfortune on the journey  
but are in good spirits after hearing that  
Covell was yet a live and a little better  
Do excuse the bad speaking & writing  
you have my best wishes for your health  
and welfare in this life but above all  
in the world of spirits your poor Mother  
and the folks send their love to you  
we all wish to be remembered to all the  
family and so Miss Lindsey & family I  
conclude by subscribing my self yours

David Phillips

To Ward B Howard

S B

Mr. Ward B. Howard  
Topsham District of  
Maine

Massachusetts

LD

March 1<sup>st</sup> 1812

Mar 1, 1812

Dear Parents

For fear of the to yretic alarm  
my preceding letter has occasioned you  
I again write much sooner than usual  
and have the pleasure of informing you that  
I am in good health also Seth and all our  
relatives and friends in this country  
the mortal disease that has raged and  
proved so mortal in this neighbourhood  
has in some measure abated no more  
cases within two or three miles from me  
have taken place for eight days past - the  
disease appears to take its course Southward  
there are a number sick in the south and  
East part of this town 2 were buried yesterday  
and a number now lay very low - I  
have fortunately escaped thro the goodness of  
the mighty directors as yet with only  
the spasms of the complaint - Seth came  
to my house this evening from Dartmouth  
where he has been a number of days I expect  
to go with him to Pauph keep in a day or  
two he has a grate notion of a paint  
and Oil Establishment in some convenient  
place he appears to be more fond of that  
than the mercantile business - If I was

WB  
The person mentioned in the bottom of this who is dead is  
John Boyce Twin Brother of Abraham Boyce both of  
them lived with me - aged 23 years -  
WB Hayward

business at home I sometimes fear that  
I have been the mean of depriving you of  
his assistance when it was most needed &  
so I wish you to write & if most agreeable  
to you for him to return no doubt he will  
comply with your request, otherwise he  
will continue with me unless we should  
find some <sup>plan</sup> more lucrative and agreeable  
to him, he appears to be well contented at  
present and I assure you is a fine young  
man - March 22 three weeks after the

foregoing was written - myself Seth & all our friends  
are well, Seth is at Dads Bailey, Dads Bailey has just  
gone from here - the mortal disease mentioned in my  
former letter continues & has recently entered my own Arms  
one of my blacksmiths lays a lifeless Corpse - one 2 & 3  
buried in a day in this town & has been for some time past  
when God will withdraw his afflictive hand I know not  
if I or Seth is sick I will write you immediately be not  
to much alarmed answer the above without delay  
& remember that I am & hope to be to the last day  
of my existence your dutiful & affectionate Son  
WB Hayward

acquainted more with that branch of  
business I could better determine relative to  
the profits &c. If any opportunity offers I  
will send him all the aid for my power  
or if he is willing to continue with me I  
can find him sufficient employment but  
the only difficulty is I cannot afford to  
hire and give Dutch wages as he perhaps  
may expect I am doubtful but I have it

in my  
by help  
moment  
It is not  
start in  
with a little  
note in so  
has <sup>been</sup> done  
provision  
on the business  
that tells of  
me on some  
taken away

reword him  
iness the  
page of 21 -  
young man to  
of the world  
I have been for  
expect but I  
mention about  
interests appropriate  
for my part  
continue with  
I should be  
re that knows

any thing concerning my business more to  
the greatest stranger in the world - after we  
return from Pennsylvania we shall conclude on  
something myself or he will hereafter write  
you ~~some~~ determination - I wish for the more  
time that you would write your pleasure  
respecting his continuance in this country  
as he has informed me relative to you

from W B Stone

in great haste





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1 3/1/1812 *From:* W B Howard

*To:* Dear Parents [Seth Howard]

RBH-0e09

*Source:* Bowdoin

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March 1st 1812

Dear Parents

For fear of the so grate alarm my preceding letter has occasioned you I again write mutch sooner than usual and have the pleasure of informing you that I am in good health also Seth and all our relations and friends in this Country. The mortal diseas that has raged and produced so mortal in this nabourhood has in some measure abbated. No new cases within two or three miles from me have taken place for eight days past. The disorder appears to take its course Southward. There are a number Sick in the south and East part of this town. 2 were buried yesterday and a number now lay very low. I have fortunately escaped thro the goodness of the mighty director as yet with only the Sparest of the complaint.

Seth came to my hous this evening from Doct Baileys where he has been a number of days. I expect to go with him to Poughkeepsie in a day or two. He has a grate notion of a paint and oil establishment in some convenient place. He appears to be more fond of that than the mercantile business. If I was acquainted more with that branch of business I could better determine relative to the proffits &c. if any opportunity offers I will lend him all the aid in my power or if he is willing to continue with me I can find him sufficient employment but the only difficulty is I cannot afford to hire and give sutch wages as he perhaps may expect that I have it in my <[hole in paper]> toward him by help <[hole in paper]> <business> the moment <[hole in paper]> age of 21. It is not <[hole in paper]> young man to start in <[hole in paper]> of the world with a <> have been fortunate in <[hole in paper]> aspect but it has been done <[hole in paper]> Street from the <[hole in paper]> application to buy <> for my part that Seth <[hole in paper]> continue with me on <[hole in paper]> If I should be taken away <[hole in paper]> that knaeds any thing concerning my business more than the gratest stranger in the world.

After we return from Poughkeepsie we shall <commit> on something; myself or he will hereafter write you our determination. I wish for the mean time that you would write your pleasure respecting his continuing in this Country as he has informed me relative to your business at home. I sometimes fear that I have been the means of depriving you of his assistance when it was most needed. If so I wish you to write & if most agreeable to you for him to return no dout he will comply with your request. Otherways he will continue with me unless we should find some place more lucrative and agreeable to him. He appears to be well contented at present and I assure you is a fine young man.

March 22d three weeks after the foregoing was written, myself Seth & all our friends are well. Seth is at Doct Baileys. Doct Bailey has just gone from here. The mortal diseas mentioned in my former letter continues & has recently entered my own hous. One of my blacksmiths lays a lifeless Corps. One 2 & 3 burried in a day in this Town & has been for some time past. When God will withdraw his afflicting hand I know not. If I or Seth is sick I will write immediatly. Be not to mutch allarmed. Answer the above without delay & remember that I am & hope to be to the last day of my existence your dutiful & affectionate Son

W B Howard

NB. The person mentioned in the bottom of this who is dead is John Boyce Twin Brother Dr Abraham Boyce both of them lived with me - aged 28 years  
WB Howard

Yok Town Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> - 1812

Dear Parents

I embrace an other opportunity to inform you that I am in good health and likewise our friends in this country - I rec'd a letter from <sup>some</sup> last evening announcing the good tidings of health and happiness among you which gave me great pleasure to hear he also inform'd me that you had heard that Seth was in the Army which is true I write this particularly in answer to his with respect to Seth's situation Seth on commencing business in Poughkeepsie attached himself to the company of Infantry called Fuzileers the 15<sup>th</sup> of Sept. that company together with two more from that town & also one or two companies from Albany & others selected from the villages on the river were ordered to be in readiness to march at a moments warning the laws in this state place all the Independent Companies under the particular direction of the Governor liable to be called on by him 3 months in every year - these Companies were selected by him for the defense of New York City and ordered on the 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> of Sept. to repair to a beautiful place called Fort Richmond in the County of Richmond at the Narrows below New York about 12 miles

they left their homes property and  
business and with general satisfaction  
accompanied their Governour to their  
place of destination - they are all young  
men of the first respectability and all  
particular favourites of the Governour he treats  
them with the politeness of an Officer  
concerned with them with the civility  
of a Soldier & the friendship of a brother  
Everett expressed a wish that Seth could  
have had an appointment - I assure you  
he does not want one in the first place  
he has not a turn for an Officer & in the  
second place he is happier without it,  
I rec'd a letter from Seth on his imboarking  
for New York which gave me great satisfac-  
tion with respect to his wellfare & that was  
not all I felt troubled on account of  
being the cause of separating him from the  
best of Parents & should any misfortune befall  
him I might be stamp'd with the guilt of  
ingratitude; I verted very uneasy and as  
soon as I concluded that <sup>they</sup> had arrived at  
their place of destination I left my business  
and went directly to the spot where I found  
him in health & good spirits & much pleased  
with his situation I assure you it is the  
most delightful & healthy place I ever saw  
or that can be found on the sea board from  
Georgia to the main - his duty is easy  
he is call'd out in the morning & evening  
an hour at each time & on <sup>the</sup> yard once in  
ten or twelve days the intervalls of time

he can improve as he pleases he carried  
with him a handsome collection of books which  
he peruses at Leisure - His temporary  
hire of three Negro Cooks in New York &  
furnished themselves with a cooking stove  
their provision as good as New York & they  
market produces & on the whole they  
fair more like Congressmen than soldiers  
many clerks that are part of business in  
the City are eager to take their places  
I asked Seth if I should send some one  
as a substitute for him his answer was  
no if he could not serve his Country  
three months at this delightful season  
of the year & on so beautiful a situation  
as that (from which the Governor ordered  
them they should not be removed) under  
these auspices he said if he could not serve  
his Country three months he should never  
with ~~to~~ see his relation again - under the  
appellation of a Republican - I then took out  
of my pocket better than Two Hundred dollars  
& told him to take what he pleased for his  
happiness was my own & he should share  
with me as I had no other brother in the Country  
he informed me that he had money enough for  
the present should he want hereafter he would  
write to me as he had an opportunity Every  
day - I parted with him cheerfully & shall  
go & see him again in a few days & you may  
rest assured that he is in as much safety and as  
well provided for as tho he was in his fathers house  
his companions & soldiers are all Gentlemen many  
things I have omitted in my letter respecting myself  
our friends here in order to give you a correct  
account of Seth for fear of your uneasiness  
my love to my brother & sister & all friends W. B. Howard



20

Capt. Seth Howard  
Leeds -  
County of Kennebec & State of  
Maine



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2 9/27/1812 *From:* W.B. Howard

*To:* Captn Seth Howard

RBH-0e10

York Town

Leeds

County of Kennebec & State  
of  
Massachusetts

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*Source:* Bowdoin

York Town Sept 27th 1812

Dear Parrents

I imbrace an other oppotunity to inform you that I am in good health and likewise our friends in this Country. I read a letter from Everett last evening announcing the good tidings of health and happiness among you which gave me grate pleasure to hear. He also informed me that you had heard that Seth was in the Army which is true. I write this particularly in answer to his with respect to Seths situation. Seth on commissary business in Pou-se attach'd him self to the company of Infantry called Fusyliers the 15th of Sept. That Company together with two more from that Town & also one or two companeys from Albany & others selected from the vilages on the river recd orders to be in readiness to march at a moments warning. The Laws in this State place all the Independant Companays under the partiular direction of the Governer liable to be called on by him 3 months in every year. These companies were selected by him for the defence of New York City and ordered on the 20 or 21 of Sept to repair to a beautiful place called Fort Richmond in the County of Richmond at the Narrers below New York about 12 miles.[Staten Island]

They left thare home property and business and with general Satisfaction accompanied thare Governer to their place of destination. They are all young men of the first respectability and all particular favourites of the Governer. He treats them with the politeness of an officer, converses with them with the cheerfulness of a Soldier & the friendship of a brother. Everett expressed a wish that Seth could have had an appointment. I assure you he does not want one in the first place he has not a turn for an officer & in the second place he is happyer without It.

I recd a Letter from Seth on his embarking from New York which gave me grate uneasyness with respect to his wellfare & that was not all. I felt troubled on account of being the means of seperating him from the best of Parrents & should any misfortune befall him I might be stampd with the guilt of ingratitude. I rested verry uneasy and as soon as I concluded that they had arrived at their place of destination I left my business and went directly to the spot where I found him in health & good spirits & mutch pleased with his situation. I assure you it is the most delightful & healthy place I ever saw or that can be found on the sea board from Georgia to the mane. His duty is easy. He is called out in the morning & evening and hour at each time & on guard once in ten or twelve days. The intervells of time he can improove as he pleases. He carried with him a handson collection of books which he perruses at Leasure. His Componey hired three Negro cooks in New York & furnished themselves with a Cooking Stove. Their provission as good as New York flye market produces & on the whole they fair more like Congressmen than Soldiers. Many Clerks that are out of business in the City are eager to take their places. I asked Seth if I should send some one as a Substitute for him. His answer was no. If he could not serve his Country three months at this delightful Season of the year & on so beautiful a Situation as that from which the Governer assured them they should not be <remoogd> under there auspices. He said if he could not serve his Country three months he should never wish to see his relation again, under the appellation of a Republican. I then tooke out of my pocket better than Two Hundred dollars & told him to take what he pleased for his happyness was my own & he should share with me as I had no other brother in this family. He informed me that he had money enough for the present. Should he want hereafter he would write to me as he had an opportunity every day. I parted with him cheerfully & shall go & see him again in a few days & you may rest assured that he is in as mutch safety and as well provided for as tho he was in his fathers hous. His companions & soldiers are all Gentlemen.

Many things I have omited in my letter respecting myself & our friends here in order to give you a correct account of Seth for fear of your uneasiness. My love to my brothers & sisters & all friends.

W.B. Howard

[ENVELOPE]

[STAMP] PEEKSKILL N.Y.

Captn Seth Howard  
Leeds  
County of Kennebec & State of  
Massachusetts