

Bridgewater November 2^d 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]



Monday morning I put away the horse and got
another white Mare I think I have made a
fine bargain I see Doct^r ~~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 ~~the~~ expect to sell her to uncle Lloyd
but have not yet made or finished the bargain
I find it very difficult getting rid 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 & pass
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

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Capt: Seth Howard

Leeds County of
Kennebec District of
Maine

Via post office in Grand

Caught up in March 26th 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 ^{has} been a friend to me ever since my first
acquaintance with him - then if Gen^l 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

Wth of Charlotte has got home & will
be gone to Charleston - 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 Furnaces 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 bestow'd
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 rec'd 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 blest 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



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POST OFFICE
26 MAR 18

Capt^m 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 Doct & Mrs Badley were here the last of June
and now with the Doct said that Coritt had got
some better and thought it odd he was not for him
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 so think of his returning
so fast I think it impossible but your Mother
will not leave him so I thin 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 sell and move 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 stand so
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 Sandy 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 Mrs 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 1st 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 Paup keepers 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 ^{plan} 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 sure but I have it

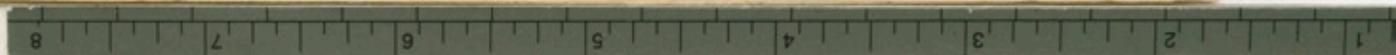
in my
by help
moment
It is not
start in
with a little
note in so
has ^{been} done
provision
on the business
that tells of
me on some
taken away

reward him
ness 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 your

from W B Stone

in great haste



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

To: Dear Parents [Seth Howard]

RBH-0e09

Source: Bowdoin

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. 29th - 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 ^{some} 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 15th 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 20th or 21st 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 ^{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 & 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 ^{the} 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 City
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
withhold 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



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



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

To: Captn Seth Howard

RBH-0e10

York Town

Leeds

County of Kennebec & State
of
Massachusetts

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 Citty 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 Citty 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 <remooogd> 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 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 brothers & sisters & all friends.

W.B. Howard

[ENVELOPE]

[STAMP] PEEKSKILL N.Y.

Captn Seth Howard
Leeds
County of Kennebec & State of
Massachusetts