January 20, 1781

RAW TRANSCRIPT

6th
Garisson West Point January 20 1781
Dear Brother having an opportunity to write to you I gladly embraces it Hopeing these few lines will find you in good health as by the Blessings of God they Leave me at this Presant time News I dont know what to write it is a hard time amonge us here we have not drawn any wages this 13 months & no talk of drawing any & if we dont draw soon we Shall go out of Camp without Leave & forget to return half of the time we draw our Bare pound of beef and Bread a day remmemeber my kind Love to father & Mother Brothers & Sisters & all enquireng Friends
A line from you would Oblige me very much if you would take the Paines to write I have not heard from you Since July Last I dont know but half the folks are dead Dorchester folks are better in health than good Condition I am in haste so I Conclude I am in haste so I Conclude I am sir with respect your freind & Brother
James Davenport
Saturday 11 Oclock look like for snow it has been a very open Winter as yet
MODERNIZED COPY

Garrison at West Point, January 20, 1781

Dear Brother,

Having an opportunity to write to you, I gladly embrace it, hoping these few lines will find you in good health, as by the blessings of God they leave me at this present time. News, I don’t know what to write. It is a hard time among us here. We have not drawn any wages these past 13 months, and no talk of drawing any, and if we don’t draw soon, we shall go out of camp without leave and forget to return half of the time. We draw our bare pound of beef and bread a day. Remember my kind love to father and mother, brothers and sisters, and all inquiring friends. A line from you would oblige me very much if you can take the pain to write. I have not heard from you since July last. I don’t know but half the folks are dead. Dorchester folks are better in health and good condition. I am in haste, so I conclude.

I am, sir, with respect, your friend and brother,

James Davenport

Saturday, 11 o’clock: looks likely for snow. It has been a very open winter as yet.