

## An Absent Captain Letters from Captain George Keepports

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**Letter, January 5, 1777**

### RAW TRANSCRIPTION

Four Lanes End January 5<sup>th</sup> 1777

Dear Sir

I congratulate you on your Recovery and am very Glad to hear you have Found the Company I am Sorry I had the Misfortune to be so weared and unwell that I could not be with my Comp<sup>y</sup> and am Very unhappy that I cannot come at Preasent for I am in a Perfect State of health at Preasent but my orders of Col<sup>o</sup> Haussagger was to stay with the Baggage and If any thing should be Lost that he Woud look to me for It, which is the Very Reason I now stay hear and I am fully Determined Let the ~~Con~~ Consigunce be what will to Stay with the Baggage untill I have an order in Writing or from a superior officer; I shou'd be Glad to know what Number of my men you had with you over the River and what number their is missing if any and how they behaved etc: I shall be much obliged to you if you will let me know with the first opportunity where or how you left my books and if my Chest was sent to Baltimore or what is become of it for I am Very Disirous to know what is become of my Chest and Leather no more at Preasent then Begg to be Remd to all Acquantances to Dada Graybill & his Officer in Particular I am your Very Humble Servt  
Geo. P. Keepports

## MODERNIZED TRANSCRIPTION

Four Lanes End January 5<sup>th</sup> 1777

Dear Sir,

I congratulate you on your recovery and am very glad to hear you have found the Company. I am sorry I had the misfortune to be so wearied and unwell that I could not be with my Company, and am very unhappy that I cannot come at present, for I am in a perfect state of health at present but my orders from Colonel Haussegger are to stay with the baggage. If anything should be lost, he would look to me for it, which is the very reason that I now stay here and am so determined to let the consequence be what will to stay with the baggage until I have an order in writing or from a superior officer. I should be glad to know What number of my men you had with you over the River, and What number there is missing, if any, and how they behaved, etc. I shall be much obliged to you if you will let me know at the first opportunity where or how you left my books and if my Chest was sent to Baltimore, or what is become of it since I am very desirous to know what is become of my Chest and Leather. No more at present other than to beg to be remembered to all acquaintances, to Dada Graybill & his officers in particular. I am your very humble servant,  
George P. Keepports

## An Absent Captain

### Letters from Captain George Keepports

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**Letter, January 14, 1777**

#### RAW TRANSCRIPTION

Four Lanes End Jany 14<sup>th</sup> 1777

I Take this Oppertunnity to Inform you that I am in Perfect helth at Preasent and hope this will find you all in the Same States Col<sup>o</sup> Haussagger Arrived here this day from New York he was Taken prisonor the Time he Left the Regimt at prince Town and Now is on parole but he is not to act till he is Law-fully Exchanged; he says he Saw 12 of our Regt. that was Taken Prisnors and a Sergt. Of Captn Burkharths Compy a Corporal of Cap Bunnars Compy and one of my men had Dilivered them selves up and Taken Arms Against us by his Disscription of my man I Think it must be John Brown or James Burk I Shall be Glad if you will send me the Names of the [hole] you have with you the Col<sup>o</sup> Says he knows Nothing of any [hole] of our officers that was Missing. I sent the Barer here of Corp. [hole] at his Request [rip] the Reqt.. for his Baggage Moppes is to Return Again Immediately and the Col<sup>o</sup> Request Col<sup>o</sup> Stricker to find Jacob Etter along with his Baggage I have Nothing New to menshion to you but Shall be Glad to hear of you all and Shall be much oblidges to you to Send Me the key of your Chest for I Intend to Go to Philadelphia for my Papers as I Think I have Time to doe Somthing that way at Present at the Col<sup>o</sup> Request Please to Ask Captn Graybill to Send the key of his Chest the Col<sup>o</sup> wants his Receipt out of it. Pray Let me knows if Captn Bunner and the other officers that was Missing is heard of. and if the Regimt is Exspected this way Again or wether you are to Stay in the Jerseys this winter; Let Col<sup>o</sup> Stricker know that I have 30 odd of our Regt here but None fit for Service at Present Except

Two or Three all for the want of Cloath There is Two of our Regt. Died at the Hospital and Two more are very bad there is 3 and four buried out of the Hospital here Dayly there is Now Two Hundred and 40 off Sick here, I am Very Happyly Situated here at Present and Often wish You Could Partake & share with me, Give my best Respects to Col<sup>o</sup> & Maj<sup>r</sup> and all The other officers in Particular Capt<sup>n</sup> Graybill and his Subalterns I

Your Very Humble Sert

Geo: P Keepports

NB. Col<sup>o</sup> Haussagger Tells me it may be Depended on that upwards of 1700 of our Prisonors at New york have died within this Six week all out of Perfect want and house Room

### **MODERNIZED TRANSCRIPTION**

Four Lanes End, January 14th, 1777

I take this opportunity to inform you that I am in perfect health at present and hope this will find you all in the same state. Colonel Haussegger arrived here this day from New York. He was taken prisoner the time he left the regiment at Princeton, and now is on parole, but he is not to act until he is lawfully exchanged. He said he saw 12 of our regiment that were taken prisoners, a sergeant of Captain Burkhardt's company, a Corporal of Captain Bunner's company, and one of my men had delivered themselves up and taken arms against us. By his description of my man, I think it must be John Brown or James Burk. I shall be glad if you will send me the names of the [hole] you have with you. The Colonel says he knows nothing of any [hole] of our officers that are missing. I sent the bearer here of Corporal [hole] at his request [rip], the request for his baggage. Moppes is to return again immediately, and the Colonel requests Colonel Stricker to find Jacob Etter along with his baggage. I have nothing new to mention to you but shall be glad to hear of you all and shall be much obliged to you to send me the key of your chest for I intend to

go to Philadelphia for my papers as I think I have time to do something that way at present. At the Colonel's request please ask Captain Graybill to send the key of his chest. The Colonel wants his receipt out of it. Pray let me know if Captain Bunner and the other officers that are missing are heard of, and if the regiment is expected this way again or whether you are to stay in the Jerseys this winter. Let Colonel Stricker know that I have 30 odd of our regiment here but none fit for service at present except two or three all for the want of clothes. There are two of our regiment that died at the hospital, and two more are very bad, there are 3 and four buried outside of the hospital here daily, and there are now two hundred and 40 off sick here. I am very happily situated here at present and often wish you could partake and share with me. Give my best respects to Colonel and Major and all of the other officers in particular Captain Graybill and his subalterns.

Your very humble servant,

George P Keepports

NB. Colonel Haussegger tells me it may be depended on that upwards of 1700 of our prisoners at New York have died within this six week. All out of perfect want and house room.