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Title: Letter from Charles Gardner to Thomas Gardner and “Mother”

Date: December 7, 1809

Location: O-DannJ-1973-1

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Cameron at Carlisle Penn.
7th Decem. 1809.

Dear Grand,

We arrived the 13th of last month. I enjoyed but few days that were agreeable with respect to weather, from N. Brunswick to this place, tho' all was gratifying to that curiosity which scenes, towns, and Country that were new to me, excites - I have entered, and was satisfied - as far as the places can impart a knowledge of them - the following - In the morning we sailed Governor Bloomfield with Drums and Colours - and crossed a bridge so magnificent - 5 miles beyond this we encamped on the ground which was the Encampment of our troops in 1777, the same place where the Hessians were taken at Trenton: Newtown next - celebrated for its filchings in its antiquated stone buildings, similar to Kingston, Attury: Norristown - a flourishing place on the Schuylkill - just below which we crossed: Downingtown - Lancaster - said to be the largest inland town in the N. States: Middletown - a delightful village: Cent. Harrisburgh - situated beautifully - where we crossed the Susquehanna, with a promptness and expedition admirable to the Natives and the Officers, alike. Of our transportation up the River I think I spoke in my letter from N. Brunswick. We lay encamped at that place from Monday till Wednesday - wet! and disagreeable! - all the Officers ordered to encamp with the troops there, and during the march excepting one - not Lieut. Col. Constant - but myself, who was the only favoured one - Col. Constant set this example, while Col. Smircos and I were quartered snugly in town. And during the march the Lt. Col. took command of the Encampment at every halt - broke it up for ever - never leaving it - till our arrival - while Col. Smircos with us were feasting at an adjacent, generally public house. The Col. quite an improved opinion of the Lt. Col. for his unremitting and defatigable attention. Don't suppose that I had nothing to do to house myself with the Col. as soon as we made a halt - though

halted early in the day, I scarcely ever joined the Col. till late supper
time. He always waited my arrival to eat with me. I had to super-
intend - placing the sentinels - pitching the tents in order, and arrange-
ing the Baggage Waggon in the order of the Companies, at a certain
distance in the rear of the line. When things - except the guard, with the
heads of the troops - belong to the Quarter Master - but to me the Lt. Col.
looked for them correctness - the Q^r Master being engaged frequently in
getting food and straw - which last I had sometimes to portion my-
self. The Quarter Master was newly appointed, and conse-
quently could not find it in himself, with ease, to take at once an
active command and direction. I was generally at the Camp
- break - busy immediately in having the men up to fire their
tents with straw - to eat their morsel - and as soon as it was light
to inspect the guard - give the officers and non-com^d. off. their instructions
- and move them off. We generally marched at 8, sometimes
at 7, and as we passed the Colonel's lodgings - he joined us
and led the van. The Col. was right I think in putting this duty
on his Lt. Col. so much younger than himself in years. -
I ate but two meals a day - my breakfast on the road - riding on
before, with the Colonel's bear, 4 or 5 miles for that purpose. -
My charge was a beast large - but I cannot say stately - in very good
order. I hired him in Brunswick very reasonable, and borrowed a
saddle of the friendly Contractor. Of our Platoon officers, 5
gave out in the march. 4 of our companies have been without
officers - from resignation - some time since; and of the other 4 -
Cherry has not been with us, since taken by civil process, at
Cambridge - another, Cook has been in arrest awaiting his sentence from
the President - the two others Bennett and Brooks - were too sick

P.S. I have received no letters, by the by, since that with the
Hannet

Mr Thomas Gardner & Co

Newburgh

N.Y.

CARLISLE
DEC 8



Garrison at Carlisle Penn

7th Decem. 1809

Dear Parents,

We arrived the 13th of last month. I enjoyed but few days that were agreeable with respect to weather, from N. Brunswick to this place, though all was gratifying to that curiosity which houses, towns, and country that was new to me, excites. I have entered and was satisfied as far as that [illegible] [torn off] of places can impart a knowledge of them - the following [torn off] when we saluted Governor Bloomfield with banners and cheers - and [torn off] Bridge so magnificent - 5 miles beyond this we [illegible] on the ground was the encampment of our troops in 1775 [torn off] the Hessians were taken at Trenton: Newtown next - celebrated for its [illegible] its antiquated stone buildings, minutes to Kingston: attorney: Norristown Flourishing place on the Schuylkill - just below which we crossed: [Downingtown?] Lancaster - said to be the largest inland town in the U. States: Middletown - a delightful village: last Harrisburg - situated beautifully - where we crossed the Susquehanna, with a promptness and expedition admirable to the Natives and the officers, alike. Of our transportation up the Raritan I think I spoke in my letter from N. Brunswick. We lay encamped at that place from Monday till Wednesday - wet! and disagreeable! All the officers ordered to [encamp?] with the troops there, and during the march excepting one - not Lieut. Col. Constance - but myself, who was the only favored one. Col. Constance set this example, while Col. Simmonds and I were quartered snugly in town. And during the march the Lt. Col. took command of the encampment at every halt - broke it up for every move - never leaving it - till our arrival - while Col. Simmonds with me were feasting at an adjacent, generally public, house. The [Colonel?] [torn off] quite an improved opinion of the Lt. Col. for his [mere?] writing a [illegible] defatigable attention. Don't suppose that I had nothing to do [torn off] to house myself with the Col. as soon as we made a halt. Though

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we halted early in the day, I scarcely ever joined the Col. till late supper time. He always awaited my arrival to eat with [him?]. I had to superintend - placing the sentinels - pitching the tents in order, and arranging the Baggage Wagons in the order of the companies, at a [certain?] distance in the rear of the line. These things - except the guard, with the [torn off] of the troops - belong to the Quarter Master - but to me the Lt. Col. looked for their correctness - the Q. Master being engaged frequently in getting, wood and straw - which last I had sometimes to portion myself - [tear] Our Quarter Master was newly appointed, and consequently could not find it in himself, with ease, to take at once an action command and direction. I was generally at the camp before

break – busy immediately in having the men up to fill their canteens with water – to eat their morsel – and as soon as it was light enough instruct the guard – give the officers and non-com. officers their instructions - and then were off. We generally marched at 8, sometimes ½ after 7, and as we passed the Colonel's lodgings – he joined us and led the van. The Col. was right I think in putting this duty on his Lt. Col. so much younger than himself - in years. I ate but two meals a day – my breakfast on the road – riding on before, with the Colonel's rear, 4 or 5 miles for that purpose. My charger was a beast large – but I cannot say stately – in very good order. I hired him in Brunswick very reasonable: and borrowed a saddle of the friendly contractor. Of our platoon officers, 5 gave [out?] the march. 4 of our companies have been without [torn off] – from resignation– some time since; and of the other 4 - [torn off] cherry has not been with us, since taken by civil process at [torn off] – another, Cook has been in arrest awaiting his sentence from the president – the two others Bennett and Brooks – were too sick

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to come on with the detachment. Of our subalterns a due proportion were absent – sick and in arrest – and of those remaining I have mentioned, 5 dropped off on the march. The 2 companies marched the two last days without an officer. [All persons?] commanded one company from the commencement. I will say nothing of the magnanimity that this denotes in the officers of our little [torn off] - But of their finesse in enduring fatigue and of their [torn off] fortunes, I expect no European army ever took to creating a [illegible] by the extreme hardships of the worst case – as to the first qualification: - and as to the last – rarely [ever?] in the most sickly climate by the ravages of an epidemic I have scribbled on, without making, what I intended, next to first, to have made, an apology for not writing before this. But brief must be my plea – which I will tell of, in my next. My finances are in a state not far from desperate – the old [torn] saves me – loan liquidates loan. Though I never [torn off] suffer for the want of a friend – yet, on my most valued in the army (for however are so) it is disagreeable to be dependent. Don't suppose that I am lavish: I must say, to be frank, that I know not of an unnecessary expenditure of a shilling – except for a few play [torn off] – for the last four months; and that frugality has been always with me, and with the prudence I could admit have influenced me from the most trifling to the most important expenses.

With my love to Julia and to William and to all – for all [torn off]
And for my affectionate father and mother I write my [torn off]
and rare accounts of myself – and with my own love and [torn off]
to them – I am – Cha. K. Gardner

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P.S. I have received no letter, by the by, since that with the [flannel?]