

83 the 18th of October 1820

1820
Beaufort N.C.
4th March '20

25
Mr John Lefferts
Hempstead
Long Island N.Y.

recd. 7th May

Even Dear Brother,
Straits near Beaufort April 16th 1820
As I was not permitted to die when I most ardently desired it
& when the thread of life seemed to be spun out to the extreme
end, and as I did not meet the fate I anticipated afterwards
I think it a duty I owe to you to let you know that I still sur-
vive, and am adding more days to my wearisome pilgrimage
on earth, and, thro' divine mercy, enjoy a tolerable degree of
health and comfort. After I recovered from my sickness and
found I had still to live I thought it might be most for my
comfort to have a home of my own in a retired situation to spend
the remainder of my days without being beholden to others,
I therefore purchased a house and small farm at the Straits
about 6 miles from Beaufort where I have lived better
than 2 years, Samuel and his family consisting of himself
his wife three children and 2 slaves live with me at present,
My only surviving child Sally Brooks lives about a half mile
from me, she has 7 children and a kind husband and they
seem to live as comfortable as their neighbours. My daugh-
ter Mary Ann died about 3 years ago, she left 8 children but
her eldest son William Dill died lately of a consumption,
my grandson John Hellen is also dead, the rest of my de-
scendants here I believe are in health, and it has ^{been} remark-
ably healthy here during the year past, the crops of grain
along our sea coast have been abundant the two last sea-
sons, and as there has been less call for it abroad than
usual it is plenty and provision in general much cheap-
er

than they have been for many years past.

In your Letter of July 1818 you gave me a very pleasing acct of George's affairs, please to remember me to him and tell him that I wish him success and advise him to pursue his calling where he is, and by no means to think of coming to Carolina in hopes of bettering himself, there are many instances of young tradesmen who have come from the northern States with this view, and after working at their trades a while have been led by the example of those who are supported by the labour of their slaves into such habits of dissipation, as must prove injurious to all, and finally ruin many. If you should ever favour me with another Letter I should be glad to know how brother Lefferts succeeds in his new undertaking, and whatever else may have happened to any of my friends since your last, my will is good to write more Letters but writing which was formerly a pleasing amusement has now become a burdensome task, I therefore request you ^{to} answer my purpose by remembering ^{me} in the most friendly manner to all who may interest themselves in my welfare, and more particularly to Sister Abigail, my nieces Betsey and Mary Titer and their husbands, My Daughter Sally and Samuel desire to be remembered, I am dear brother with unabated affection and a heart felt friendship your aged brother.

Mr. John Lefferts
by Post

Saml. Lefferts