

Recd. 14th Aug. 1812

Mr. John Lefferts

Hempstead

Long Island

Delivered by
David Hellen

Dear Brother,

Beaufort July 20th 1812

Thro' the long continued permission of a kind Providence I am permitted once more to enquire after the welfare of my distant but much esteemed friends.

As I have received no Letter from any of you since October last, you may reasonably suppose that a favour of that kind would be very acceptable; during the winter and spring I have indulged hopes that if health and opportunity permitted I should have made you a visit this summer but altho' my health and strength are no way impaired yet as no good opportunity has offered before the declaration of war I have little hopes of ever seeing you again, it is therefore necessary if we mean to keep alive the spark of friendship to cherish it by a regular epistolary correspondence, which may be best effected by post as the Mail comes here regularly once a week and a Letter from New York is usually recd. here in 14 or 15 days. I send this by David Hellen who is able to answer all inquiries which your friendship or curiosity may induce you to make both with respect to himself and your relations here. I commend David to your friendly attention - his Case is truly singular - he was bound apprentice to a Carpenter & House Joiner of the first respectability with whom he wrought till within a few months of the end of his term, giving general satisfaction and sustaining a good character, at this time he was visited with a painful and wasting disease which terminated in what was termed ^{by} Physicians & others to be a confirmed Consumption, which progressed untill it was thought to be in the last stage of the disorder, when he seemed to be relieved from the very jaws of death by a speedy & severe salivation, after which a change took place - he recovered gradually and for 3 months past no symptoms of a consumptive nature have appeared - but altho' he has recovered his flesh and appears to be in health yet I fear he is so much debilitated by inward decay that he will never have strength sufficient to go through the laborious part of his calling - As times are dull here at present

David has determined to take a trip to New York in hopes
that he may find some kind of employment suitable to his
strength by which he may earn his bread until he knows
how matters may terminate with respect to his future
prospects. Any assistance that you or any of our friends
can give him will be gratefully acknowledged by me
and I believe his character as to sobriety and honesty
is unexceptionable. I have to request you to give
my most friendly regards to George and let him know
that his sister Sarah was married last fall to Wm
Brooks a brother to James Brooks and that she has
a daughter born whom she calls Susanna Leffers.
It seems to be a general time of health at present
and crops are flourishing so that there is a prospect
of plenty. The alarm of war is amongst us and
a Battalion of the new raised militia are to be
posted here and at Fort Hampton which is at the
Inlet point opposite the Town.

Please to remember me to all enquiring friends
and accept the best wishes of your aged brother

Sam. Leffers