

Beaufort April 12th 1808

Dear Brother,

As the season approaches in which I have usually heard from you all the agreeable sensations revive which are nourished by a friendly intercourse, — blessed intercourse, which animates every fibre of my heart and calls forth a convivial flow of love which the cold damps of age cannot suppress. — Ye Powers above — Ye Guardians of virtue assist a declining child of mortality once more to attempt to keep up that intercourse which alone can supply the place of personal converse and reciprocal endearments. — Since my last I have experienced various vicissitudes of health and infirmity, but this morn'g my health seems pretty well restored at present, and I thankfully acknowledge the blessing as it gives me another opportunity of writing to you and the hope of receiving an answer from you. — I long to hear from you and the rest of my friends, for as many of them are advanced in years, as well as myself, I have reason to expect that some alterations may have taken place in the course of the year. — I have waited all the spring in hopes that some vessel from this place would go to New York in which case I expected to have sent Saml. but as no opportunity offers I send this by a gentleman who does not expect to return till the fall. therefore cannot expect an answer immediately — nevertheless if you have any thing of consequence to inform me of you can write by Post as there is a post office now established in this place where the Mail comes regularly once a fortnight,

I wish you to send your letter down as soon as possible as the vessel sails this latter end of this week

John Van Hookland

Sony Island

Hempstead

Mr John Lefferts

8081

NY June 13 - 1808

My family all join me in their respects to
yourself, to my sister and all friends and
particularly to George whose welfare we have
still at heart, please to inform him that
his mother died in September last, that his
sister Sally lives with us - that she is a
a healthy well grown young woman - dutiful
and industrious in which I hope he will
follow her example.

My wife tho' 2 years
younger than myself seems more infirm
altho' she is seldom confined to the house
she is often talking and dreaming of your
making us a visit and seems full of hopes
of seeing you here. I heartily wish it might
suit you to comply with our wishes in ad-
vancing her hopes. - All the encouragement
I can give is that when you arrive you
will, I hope, find us pleasantly situated with
a comfortable habitation and a family united
in friendship peace. - I am dear Brother
with unceasing love and esteem your aged
brother,

Saml. Leffers