

Dear Brother,

Beaufort April 16th 1804.

I rec^d. your of the 5th of Jan^y last and have had no chance of conveyance since till now. I'm a general time of health but there is great complaints of hard times, the season in these parts was unfavourable last summer and the crops were likely to be short if no disaster had happened and I believe at a moderate computation one half of what was growing was destroyed by the storm, consequently a scarcity of breadcorn and fodder must ensue: and as these disasters have been followed by a cold & tedious winter great numbers of cattle have died for want of food and there are great complaints among the poor people of the scarcity and dearth of breadcorn and other provisions and the difficulty of procuring money to purchase with. And altho' I have reason to be thankful that I am not pinched with cold and hunger, yet I compassionate those who are, without having it in ^{my} power to relieve them. Business is very dull for as the expence of the necessaries of life is much greater than usual and many people complain that they cannot get work as usual and money is scarce the chance of selling goods is greatly diminished. But notwithstanding these discouragements as I want to put Sam^l. to business I propose to go to New York in the month of June next, life, health & opportunity permitting. As it is uncertain whether I can get a passage from this place at the time when I should wish to go I have sent George by the present opportunity who is the bearer of a number of letters to our friends, I hope if he arrives he will meet with a favourable reception and that he will answer the end proposed. My wife and Daughters desire to be remembered. Please to remember me to all enquiring friends. I am your ever loving brother.

Sam^l. Leffers

1804

Mr. John Lefferts

Hempstead