JOHN BEATTY, M.D.
Member of the Continental Congress.

Ino Beatty
LETTERS OF THE FOUR BEATTY BROTHERS OF THE
CONTINENTAL ARMY, 1774–1794.

BY JOSEPH M. BEATTY, JR., PH.D. (HARVARD).

The following letters, written by four brothers to one another during the Revolutionary period and immediately thereafter, form an interesting commentary upon the times. They record the hardships of the camp; they reveal in a very intimate way the gossip of a colonial family; they throw illuminating side-lights upon the life of a soldier in old Philadelphia; and they indicate in no uncertain manner the difficulties that beset the early legislators in state and nation.

The four brothers, John, Charles Clinton, Reading, and Erkuries Beatty, all officers in the Continental Army, came of fighting stock. They were the sons of the Rev. Charles Beatty, a noted Presbyterian clergyman, who, in spite of his profession, was a veteran of the French and Indian War. He was the only son of John Beatty, an officer in the British army, and Christiana Clinton, the daughter of a line of soldiers and sailors extending far back of Edward Clinton, Lord High Admiral of England under Elizabeth, to John, first Baron Clinton who fought for Edward I in Scotland and in France. With such a heritage, it is not
strange that the four brothers volunteered their services in 1776.

The mother of the family, Ann Reading Beatty, daughter of John Reading, Esq., Provincial Governor of New Jersey, had died in Scotland in 1768, leaving ten children. Four years later, Rev. Charles Beatty died in the Barbadoes while on a mission for the benefit of Princeton College, from which he had received the degree of A. M. in 1762, and of which he was a trustee. His death left John the eldest son, the chief adviser of the other children, who were, in addition to the above mentioned: Mary, who married the Rev. Enoch Green; Christiana; Elizabeth, usually referred to in the letters as Betsey, married first to the Rev. Philip Vicars Fithian, and secondly to his cousin, Joel Fithian, Esq.; Martha; George, who went to sea and was not heard of after 1785; and William Pitt, for some time Secretary and Treasurer of the Columbia Bridge Company of Columbia, Pennsylvania.

Our interest is merely casual, however, in the children other than the writers of the letters. Since the biographies of the four brothers will clarify certain points in their correspondence, I shall give them in some detail.

I. John Beatty was born 10 December, 1749, and graduated at Princeton in 1769—his sword was recently presented to Princeton University. During the two years following his graduation he studied medicine with Dr. Rush of Philadelphia, and in 1772, began to practice at Hartsville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. On 22 March 1774, he was married to Mary, daughter of Richard Longstreet, Esq., of Princeton. On 5 January, 1776, he was commissioned Captain in the 5th Pennsylvania Battalion, and leaving his wife with her family, joined the army.

On 12 October, 1776, he was commissioned Major in the 6th Pennsylvania, and a month later was taken
prisoner at the capture of Fort Washington, 16 November, 1776. Although he was allowed some liberty on parole at Flatbush, Long Island, he was not exchanged until 8 May, 1778. During this period he was again commissioned, 1 January, 1777, Major, to rank from the preceding 12 October. On 28 May, 1778, he was appointed, with the rank of colonel, to succeed Elias Boudinot as Commissary General of Prisoners. He retained this office until his resignation 31 March, 1780.

In 1780 he retired to his home near Princeton, called Windsor Hall, and there began again the practice of medicine. He had by no means finished his services to his country, however. He was a delegate from New Jersey to the Continental Congress, 1783–5: several of his letters are dated from Annapolis while the Congress was in session there. He was a representative in the Congress of the United States, 1793–5; a member of the State Convention on the Constitution, 1787; a member of the State Legislature of New Jersey; and the Speaker of the Assembly. He was Secretary of State for New Jersey, 1795–1805.

In addition to holding these political offices, Colonel Beatty acted as a Brigadier General in the Militia and held various offices of trust in the community. For nearly twenty years he was one of the Trustees of Princeton College. He was President of the Trenton Banking Company and also of the Trenton Delaware Bridge Company. In this last capacity he laid the corner stone of the first pier, 24 May, 1804, and at the completion of the bridge, led the great procession formed for the first crossing. It is said to have been the finest structure of its kind in the United States at the time.

In 1815, Colonel Beatty’s wife died, and three years later he married Mrs. Katharine Lalor of Trenton. He died 30 May, 1826. Among his descendants is the Rev. John Beatty Howell, of Philadelphia, who owns the oil
II. Charles Clinton Beatty, born 10 February, 1756, has a short and tragic history. After preparing for College with his brother-in-law, the Rev. Enoch Green, of Deerfield, he entered Princeton, and graduated there in 1775. In a letter written from Princeton, January 1774, he gives an interesting account of one of the patriotic demonstrations there: "Last week to show our patriotism, we gathered all the Steward's winter store of Tea, and having made a fire on the campus, we there burnt near a dozen pounds, tolled the bell, and made many spirited resolves. But this was not all. Poor Mr. Hutchinson's Effigy shared the same fate with the Tea; having a Tea canister tied about his neck." Although he had been planning to enter the ministry, he obtained, 5 January, 1776, a commission as Second Lieutenant in the 4th Pennsylvania Battalion. While in the service he accompanied General Wayne into Canada, and was later stationed at Ticonderoga. While he was near Chester, Pennsylvania, he purchased a very handsome rifle; one of his friends in jest pointed it at him, and saying, "Beatty, I will shoot you", pulled the trigger. The gun was loaded, and Lieutenant Beatty fell dead. He was buried in the Burying Ground in Chester.

III. Reading Beatty, born 23 December, 1757, was educated at Mr. Green's School in Deerfield, and had expected to enter Princeton, but giving up that purpose he began the study of medicine with his brother John and later with Doctor Moses Scott of New Brunswick, N. J. Writing to Mr. Green in 1775, he says: "Have you any Tories in your part of the country? We have too many of them here; and indeed some that are worse than Tories, viz those that when they have put on their Regimentals are pretended Whigs, but as soon as they
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put them off are detestable Tories; and are therefore
Hypocrites. Does Mrs. Green drink tea yet? I hope
not. If she does, and you allow her, you will perhaps
fall under the denomination of a Tory. Poor Mrs.
Peck is gone; or she would have had a whole chest laid
up in store, against a rainy day."

Upon the outbreak of the war he enlisted first as a pri-
ivate and was at once appointed sergeant. On 5 January,
1776, he was commissioned Ensign in the 5th Penn-
sylvania Battalion, and 10 August, 1776, 2d Lieutenant.
He was taken prisoner at the capture of Fort Wash-
ington, 16 November, marched through the streets of
New York with great indignities, and confined on the
Mersey or Myrtle Prison Ship. He was permitted to
live on parole in Flatbush with his brother John until
8 May, 1778, when both were exchanged. After this he
studied medicine in Philadelphia under Doctor Ship-
pen. He then joined the 6th Pennsylvania as Surgeon’s
Mate, and on 1 May, 1780, was commissioned Surgeon
to the 11th Pennsylvania. In the following year, 10
February, 1781, he was transferred to the 4th Conti-
nental Artillery in which he served until June, 1783.

He married, 20 April, 1786, Christina, daughter of
Judge Henry Wynkoop of Bucks County, Pennsyl-
vania. Doctor Beatty died 29 October, 1831. Among
his descendants are Samuel Moore Curwen of Phila-
delphia, President of the Brill Car Works, and Joseph
Moorhead Beatty (father of the writer) a member of
the Standing Committee of the State Society of the
Cincinnati of Pennsylvania.

IV. Erkuries Beatty, born 9 October, 1759, was in
many ways the most interesting of the four brothers.
In 1775, when only sixteen years old, he assisted in the
capture of a British transport, and at about the same
time enlisted as a private in the Continental army. He
was commissioned Ensign, 2 January, 1777, in the
Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment, and 2d Lieutenant,
2 May, 1777. On 5 May, 1777, he joined the main army with his company, and in September was engaged in the battle of the Brandywine. At the battle of Germantown he was severely wounded in the thigh, and was carried to the house of one of the Society of Friends who took him in and cared for him until his relatives could be notified.

The wound healed rapidly, and he was able to spend the winter at Valley Forge. During the next year he fought at Monmouth, and wintered at Schoharie. He was commissioned 1st Lieutenant, 2 June, 1778. In 1779 he accompanied Van Schaich against the Onandagas, and later, Sullivan against the Indians in western New York (For his Journal on this expedition, see Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, vol. xv, pp. 219-253). He was Regimental Paymaster 1 June, 1779 till 17 May, 1780, and also 22 May 1783 till 3 November, 1783.

Unlike his older brothers, Erkuries continued in the military service of his country after the cessation of hostilities with England. He had not been prepared for any particular profession except that of arms. After several months of service with the War Office in Philadelphia, he obtained a commission as Lieutenant in the U. S. Infantry, 12 August, 1784, and Captain, 1st Infantry, 29 September, 1789. During the years 1786-8, he was paymaster to the Western Army, and for the following two years, Commandant at Vincennes. He was commissioned Major, 5 March, 1792, and was in the 1st Sub-Legion, 4 September, 1792. He resigned from the army, 27 November, 1792.

Upon his retirement from the army, Major Beatty bought a large farm near Princeton, N. J. He held a number of offices in his community. He was a Justice of the Peace and Judge of the County Court, a member of the Legislature of New Jersey, and Treasurer of the State Society of the Cincinnati of New Jersey. He is
now represented in the Society of the Cincinnati by Charles Clinton Beatty of Ontario, California, a descendant of Doctor Reading Beatty, and the owner of most of the following letters.

Major Beatty married on 21 February, 1799, Mrs. Susanna Ewing Ferguson of Philadelphia (widow of Major William Ferguson who had been killed in St. Clair’s defeat, 4 November, 1791). Their son, the Rev. Charles Clinton Beatty, D.D., was a noted Presbyterian minister. There are now no living descendants of this branch of the family.

Reading Beatty to Erkuries Beatty.

Neshaminy November 4th. 74

Dear Brother,

As Charles sets off on Monday next, I thought I should be to blame, if I neglected the Opportunity; therefore I now set down to write you a Letter.

Nothing strange has happened since you went away, therefore I cannot tell you much News, but you must take what comes uppermost.

Charles and I one Afternoon we went down to Hendersons' Young Orchard to get some Apples but they had gathered them all in, so we could get none; but the Chestnut Tree there being very full of Chestnuts, and Nobody near, Charles he got up the tree, and shook a most concerned sight down, and I gathered up as fast as ever I could 'till he came down; directly after came a fellow and began to tell us how we should not take the Chestnuts so, & that Robert was very angry with us for shaking them down; we never minded but picked up as fast as ever we could and he went away. Presently after came the little Fellow, and began to hollow

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1 Robert Henderson, of Warminster, yeoman, whose will was proved 25 April, 1775. Reading Beatty was apparently at the Beatty homestead near Hartsville, Pa. Erkuries was at school in Deerfield, N. J.
away (for he durst not come near) that if we did not go away, & let the Chestnuts somebody would make us, we made fun of him till we got them all picked up, and then went away. We got I believe very near, or quite a peck, which we dried and eat.

We had fine fun one night a whole heap of us at a Husking Frolic at Rob's Millers with old Alex. Smith who was drunk, we would push one another against him, and down he would go, at last when we had done he sat down among the husks, and we all sat round him for a good while, then he got up and Staggered away at one side, and told any of us to come out and fight him if we dared, but we would catch hold of his legs and throw him down; we plagued him so a good while, and then he set off to go home, then we brought him back again, then he set off again, and we brought him back, so we plagued him a great while, at last we let him go home. He threatens now to have Chas, me and good many more before the Justice, tho' I believe that will hardly be.

I was out Rackoon Hunting the other Night with 10 or 11 more, and we caught nothing but 2 Cats and a Scunk, and another night I was out, but got nothing at all.

John Poak had a husking Frolic on the Stalk not long ago, and there was very near thirty at it, I did not go till almost night, for fear I should be tired Working, and we had a fine Frolic, he got it all done (16 or 17 Acres) and hauled in except about 4 Acres.

Presbytry sat here last Week to ordain our Minister, and there were a great Concourse of People especially on Thursday when he was ordained: I went but could not get in and so came home again and did not go again at all.

Folks about here all well at present, I had a slight

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touch of the Flux not long ago but am got pretty well again now.

Yours

R. Beatty.

*Philip Vicars Fithian, first husband of Elizabeth Beatty, was born 29 December, 1747, graduated at Princeton, 1774, and, according to Heitman’s Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army during the War of the Revolution, was killed on the retreat from New York 15 Sept. 1776, while serving as chaplain in the Continental forces. The Beatty Family Record, however, says that he died in camp at Fort Washington, 8 October, 1776. His experiences as a tutor in Virginia are recorded in his Journal and Letters, 1767–1774, edited by John R. Williams, Princeton, 1900.*

*Mrs. Howard, the wife of Captain William Howard, an officer in the British army before the outbreak of hostilities. He was a strong Whig, but because of illness could not take part in the war. He owned the Castle Howard farm near Princeton, later the property of Colonel John Beatty, and had inscribed in large letters on the wall of one of the rooms, “No Tory talk here.”*
ably situated as I could wish for; but still complains loudly of my absence. Mr. Fithian has doubtless informed you of our situation, with regard to military matters, I shall only add that our army is young and inexperienced; our enemies numerous and formidable, and unless Providence miraculously interferes, I fear the consequences. Believe me dear sister,

Yours, affectionately,

John Beatty.

Charles Clinton Beatty to Rev. Enoch Green.⁵

Ticonderoga Sep 10th 1776.

Dear Sir,

I had the great pleasure to hear of your welfare some time ago by a letter from New York informing me that Mr. Fithian was attending some of the Militia Regiments as Chapl—a—I have often wished both to hear from you & to write to you since I have been to the Northward, but I never met with an opportunity that could be depended on,—The Soldiers life begins to sit more easy upon me than it did at first—We had many hardships and fatigues to undergo which before I knew nothing of—My Health, through the favour of a kind Providence has been preserved so well, that I have almost always been able to do my duty in the Regiment, Yet the Army in general has been sickly—After all my wishes and expectations I had not the happiness to see the famous plains of Abraham and Walls of Quebec—When we joined the Army they were at the Sorell, a few days after we were ordered to attack the Regulars down at Fair Rivières, where we experienced the great

⁵The Rev. Enoch Green, b. in New Jersey, 29 December, 1734, O. S. He was minister of the Presbyterian church at Deerfield, N. J., and taught a classical school there. He married, 7 June, 1770, Mary, eldest daughter of Rev. Charles Beatty; several of her younger brothers were among his pupils. He served for a short time as chaplain in the Revolutionary Army, and died of camp fever, 2 December, 1776.
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mortification of a defeat, there I saw a little of fighting and but a little for we were soon forced to make the best of our way up to Sorell, since that time we have retreated till we came here during which time we had no peace or rest—We have here thrown up works which I think will be able to withstand their force—Ticonderoga fort which is out of repair and but of little use at present is situated on a point of Land very high which is formed by Lake Champlain & a narrow river leading out of Lake George,—about 3/4 of a mile behind the Fort on an eminence commanding the Fort we are encamped, with 2 Brigades—Our Lines here extend from the River to the Lake and are strong—on the Lake we have a redoubt, commanding down it 3 miles, with 2—18 Pounders & 2—12 Pr. & on the highest part between the two waters a redoubt with 8 Pieces of Cannon commanding all the high Ground—on the Opposite side of the Lake on a high piece of Land called Mount Independence, we have near 30 pieces of Cannon mounted, heavy metal, some commanding the Lake, others the old Fort & other Places—all these besides several other redoubts are finished, good & strong since we came here—On the Lake down Near St Johns lies our Fleet, consisting of 3 or 4 Schooners & 8 or 10 Gondolas, each Gondola carrying 3 Guns, 2—9 pounders & one 12 pr.—this fleet is well manned and Commanded by General Arnold—The Number of Troops is near 15,000, but not many more than the one half fit for service. We expect the Regulars will attack us daily, it has been reported that our fleet was attacked by the enemy, as a considerable firing has been heard by some of our men who lie at Crown Point. Boats have been sent down but are not yet returned—The Army are in good Spirits now though much discouraged on their retreat—We do not agree very well with some of our neighboring Troops, otherwise we should do well enough—they are as much displeased with our ways
as we are with theirs—I have since I entered into the Service been obliged to shift for myself as well as I could, for I found I had no one as usual to apply to for assistance I cannot complain much, for though I have had hard living & ill lodging for a long time yet my health is good & able to bear with any thing almost that happens—I met with several acquaintances when I joined the army—Captains Howel* & Shute* & Lieu* Bowen* all of your Country. Cap* Howel has been a good deal unwell but is now recovering—I also found Parson McCalla,* who is since taken Prisoner & Nath. Donnell* a Lieu. in the Artillery, who was down in Cohansy some time with you—He is well & sends Compliments to Sister Betsy* others,—We have had an account of an attack at Long-Island but cannot as yet learn the Particulars, if they meet with ill Success there, we shall hardly be attacked here—We long to return that way, being all willing much rather to fight in our own country than abroad—I imagine we shall return the Latter end of Nov* or December when I will endeavour to make a trip to Deerfield—I must Conclude by assuring you that I am & still remain your’s as ever.

Clinton.

John Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Bethlem 24* Sept. 79—

Mrs. Dubois has sent her Son up for a Vomit for the little Child who is ill of the Whooping Cough—please

* Capt. Howell of New Jersey.
* Capt. William Shute, 2d. New Jersey.
* Lieut. Seth Bowen, 2d. New Jersey.
* Chaplain Daniel McCalla, 2d. Pennsylvania Battalion.
* The Fithians lived on the Cohansy, in Cumberland County, N. J., some of them in the town of Greenwich, where, 22 Nov., 1774, the young men of the town, including Philip Vicars Fithian and his cousin Joel, dressed as Indians, destroyed a supply of tea in what was known as the Greenwich Tea Party. A monument has been erected in the town to commemorate this event.
to send with him what is proper—Anthony is somewhat
Better—has but little Fever, but complains much of his
throat—if you have any thing which may be of Service
to him I shall thank you for it—

I am to inform you, that there is a distribution of
Cloathing (in Mr. Brook's hands), to be delivered out
to-day & to-morrow—By the Generals order—You and
the other Surgeons of Hospitals are included—I know
your wants in this way, & would therefore advise you
to set out to Newburgh immediately—as delays in this
case may be dangerous—Will you call here, going
there, or on your return—With Compliments to the
Fraternity, I remain

Dr. Reading
Yours &c.,
Jn° Beatty.

Erkuries Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Camp near Morristown Dec. 22, 79.

I just this moment Rec'd. your letter dated Smoky
Cabin, and I am very sorry for your Disagreeable Sit-
uation, but I think if you saw my Situation and way of
living you would really Pity me, for colder weather
I never saw in this time of year, and we are yet in our
cold tents, we have just got the men in their Hutts, and
it is so cold we cant get ours built, and what is worse
than all we scarcely got anything to Eat,—I have not
seen the Col yet and I think he dont want to see me
for I hear he lives or quarters about 4 miles from Camp
and he has never been to see me yet, but I intend not
making myself any way uneasy about him, for I think
he has a better opportunity of coming to see me than
I him—I intend going home in about two weeks or
three. I would go sooner only as I am Pay Master to
the Regt. I have the Cloathing to give out and money to
pay the Men which will take me that time, if you have
any secret Commands to send to Princeton or elsewhere I shall be very happy in delivering them safe if they come before that time—You mention that "you suppose before now that I am acquainted with Cap' Bucker—Indeed I am—and I’ll tell you how—As soon as we join’d the main Army him and one Mr. Stoddeford apply’d for their Rank in our Reg, which would have been before all the Sub in the Reg we thought it was rather hard treatment, and we Remonstrated to Head Q’r begging that they will not be put in the Reg at the same time saying if they do the Sub now in the Reg will Immediately Resign, which will be the Case certainly if they do come; but we have Rec. No answer as yet, nor the two gentlemen have not got any order to join, altho they say they are very certain they will, and I am afraid it will end with bad consequences for we have gone so far that we can’t get out any way but by Resigning which I expect will be the case but I dont intend doing any thing Rashly, but what we have done we will stand by—Cap Tudor has his Compliments to you, I believe I forgot telling you that he & I has always messed together since he joined the Reg—Cap Sproat send his Compliments he is now A. D. Camp to Gen’l Hand & expects to go to Penn in a few Days,—I am very sorry you cant go to Penn this winter as I expected to spend some time with you this winter, but I think I am born to hard fortune but, perhaps I’ll come & see you before Spring, I think my letter is just about as long as yours and I’ll stop with the expectations that you will write always as long and frequent

Adieu

E. Beatty.

P.S. I have heard nothing from home.

12 Capt. George Tudor, 3rd Penna. Battalion; taken prisoner at Fort Washington; Captain 4th Penna. Line; Major 5th Penna. Line April, 1780; retired January 17, 1781.

Eruries Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Camp near Morristown Christmas Day Dec. 25th 79.

D'r Brother,

Which I believe I forgot to mention in my last, but however you'll Excuse me for I was in haste & burnt my letter which you'll see—Well, I must acknowledge you are one of the best brothers, and best Correspondents that ever I knew. I Rec'd your letter Dated Nov. 28th, and I imidiately returned an answer which I hope you Rec'd, the next evening brother J. Came to see me and I Rec'd another letter Dated Dec. 6th, which you mentioned you sent by Dr. A. Baird 4 but I had not the Pleasure of seeing him. The next Day I Rec'd another letter Dated Dec. 20th, which I believe I will take in hand to answer, you think I am grown something lazy in not writing to you, I am Determined to convince you of that for I'll bother you with long letters and a great many of them & Perhaps chief of them Nonsense, the next thing you Desire that I should give you Advice about quitting the service—Indeed you apply'd to the wrong person for I am in the same predicament as you will see by my last letter, and it is now settled that I will quit and you may use your pleasure, but if you Resign call on me & we will both go together—but first I must consult brother J. on the occasion as he is now gone to Princeton to eat his Christmas Dinner but will be up again in a few Days, but I am almost Certain he will not be of my Opinion nor I dont suppose you will either, but as I said in my last, I have gone so far I cannot recant with any honor at all—I am just down from dinner about half Drunk, all dined together upon good roast & boiled, but in a Cold hut, however grog enough will keep out cold for which there is no Desiring, tomorrow we all dine at one with the Colonel, which

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will be another excellent dinner and I think you may call that fair living, but Ah! I am afraid it wont last many Days—The huts about four miles from Morris-town near a place caller Mendham. . . . Cap¹ Sproat is here and Desires to be Remembered to you. . . . . I am very busy in Delivering the mens Cloathing in about two weeks I'll set off for home I hope—Damn the Nonsense I was going to say but I will quit and Re-main your

Affectionate Brother
Erkuries.

John Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Com² Pris³ Office
Jan² 24, 1780.

My d² Brother,

Your Favour of the 9th Ins³. is before me—You are welcome to the advice my last contained & I shall be fully rewarded, provided it has been of any service to you—I expected some time since to have paid a visit, to our Friends over the Mountains, & was upon the Eve of setting out, but was put in Mind from HeadQuarters, that my time was not my own—How sweet is liberty & the indulging our inclinations as we please—this thought with the great decrease of my little all, has at length determined me to forsake the Soldier & become the citizen—You will perhaps be surprised, but believe me 'tis true—perhaps the lancet, the glister pipe, may afford me a more comfortable Subsistance. This or some other Business you will find me employed in should you do us the favour of a visit—I am glad to find you are better reconciled to your Lott, than you at first expected—I wish it may prove agreeable to you—as I see the appearance at present for you coming into the line in the way of your profession, which I would advise you by all means to pursue—a Lieu⁴ in the Artill⁵. I could procure you—but think it would
not suit—of this give me your opinion—I am sorry to hear of Mrs. Clinton's Death, but it was no more than we expected—she was old & very infirm, when we left there—Should you go to Bethlem you will please to make my Comp* to all Friends & tell them my best wishes attend them—& remember Love & a Kiss to the Girls—Mrs. Beatty has been with me this three weeks—She & little Dick are well, & beg their Love to you—She returns toMorrow to take care of her pig & chickens—a secret—Sister Betsy is to be married, the second week in next month—wont it possibly be in your power to come down—She would be very desirous of seeing you then—Mr. Joel Fithian a widower from Deerfield, or Cohansie is the man for her Money—a tight Match you will say—however it is so—Her partiality for that Country may have been one inducement—a good Fat farmer another—& probably a Husband at any rate, the leading one—Come down if you can—if not write me frequently—Comp to Brooks is he dead or married

As ever yours—
Jn°. Beatty

Erkuries Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Camp January 25th. 1780.

My Dear Reading—

Your Favour of the 9th Instant came to hand a few Days ago, and obliged to answer it from Camp, which is very Disagreeable to me, but how can I help it,—I

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Mrs. Charles Clinton, m. n. Elizabeth Denniston d. 25 Dec. 1779.
Joel Fithian represented his county several times in the New Jersey Legislature; d. Nov. 1821.
John Brooks, Adjutant 6th Penna. Battalion 1776; Assistant Commissary of Issues 1777-1780. John Beatty was formerly in this battalion.

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must tell that I have lately involved myself in the
greatest trouble I believe I was ever in, which is this,
after we came off the expedition there was no Pay
Master to the Regt. the officers thought proper to ap-
point me, when we join'd the Army I found I had to
do the Duty of Regiment Clothier to, which is the Cause
of all my trouble, for I have lately drew Cloathing for
the Regt & it is almost all to make up from the Cloth
all which I must oversee, which keeps me very Close
confined—If you was just now to step into my Hutt
(which is only a very small Room if it ever got finished)
I will tell you just how you would find me, for to give
you a small scrap of my trouble—You'll find me sit-
ting on a Chest, in the Center of Six or Eight Taylors,
with my Book, Pen & Ink on one side and the Buttons
and thread on the other—the Taylors yo'll find some
A Cutting out, others sewing, outside of the taylors you
will see maybe half Dozen Men naked as Lazarus,
begging for Cloathing, all about the Room you will see
nothing but Cloth & Cloathing, on the floor you'll find
it about knee deep with Snips of Cloth & Dirt—If you
stay any time you'll hear every Minute knock-knock at
the door & I calling walk in, others going out, which
makes a Continual Bussle—presently I begin to swear,
sometimes have to jump up blundering over two or
three taylors to whip somebody out of the house—
othertimes Tudor and my Mess Mates they begin to
swear, & with our Swearing, and the taylors singing
(as you know they must), and the Men a grumbling
. . . . makes pretty Music for your Ear, and thats the
way from morning to night, & from Weeks End to
weeks end, & I am sure I need not complain for want
of Company as you do such as it is—and what makes it
a good Deal worse I think of nothing but getting a
Change which makes me a good Deal fretfull—

Yesterday I rode out as far as our Brothers quarters
and spent the day with him & his wife who came up
from Princeton to see him, which is the only agreeable Day I have had this 4 Weeks—I inclose a letter from Brother John to you, in which he tells me he has written very pressing for you to come down to Princeton for what I suppose he has told you, as yesterday was the first I heard of it, and expect to see them enter into their vows, and I flatter myself that I shall have the pleasure of seeing you at the same time or before—as you come Down your nearest way will be by Camp, you will find my hutt on the Right of Gen' Hand’s Brigade, you will know by the soldiers running in & out—and if you come we will both go together, and if we Ride over will go first to Princeton & then to Penn—Now my Dear Reading I hope you will leave no Stone unturned if you can Possibly get away . . . day & night, or as you advised me when I lived with Winneiry if no other way would do to Run away, for I'll Never forgive you if you dont come, if you have it in your power, but if it is an Impossibility for you to Come be sure write me before the latter end of Next week for about that time I will go, or never—As for the Disturbance in the Reg’ the Gentleman is not yet come in but I believe he will, I hav’n’t advised Brother John about it yet, but it is time enough when the gentleman joins the Reg’ but you may Rely on it I intend doing nothing inconsiderately or unadvisedly but I flatter myself that I have served so far in the Reg’ with honour, and rather than be guilty of any thing Dishonourable I want to quit the Service—but I am in hopes it will be settled yet amicably & with honour to both parties—I am very sorry you are so lonesome, but when you get acquainted with those accomplished Ladies you talk of you will spend you time more agreeable I am in hopes; and if long letters is any satisfaction to you, I’ll warrant this shall be long enough for I intend filling it full—

You talk as if in the Spring you had a Notion of
quitting the Service, and to settle yourself for life, and you seem to talk of being blest with some fair one who would hush all your cares to Rest—I should be glad to know if you have fixed upon any one of those Northern ladies, that you think you could make your life happy with. If so fetch her Down to Princeton, let us have two Weddings in the Family at once which will save great expense & trouble—I send this by L't. Gn. Dennison who says he will deliver to you in person, if so I beg you would not treat him like a Stranger, as he is a person of my intimate acquaintance, and what you may call a pretty clever fellow & I know that your group of Hospitals is very seldom wanting a Glass of wine or a good Draught of grog, & I think what is good for sick people cant be very bad for well—Oh that I was there one Evening I would shew you what drinking wine was,—I'll warrant I'd give it a sweat if I got hold of it—There is one L't. Tapp 19 likewise of the York line I understand lives in Fish Kill, a Gentleman of my acquaintance, and a very Clever fellow if you see him give my kind Compliments to him—as for Brother George 20 I have heard nothing from him at all, and am very uneasy about him, thinking he is on a very fair way of ruining himself—Bill 21 I understand is learning to be a tailor. Did you ever hear the like? to think that Messrs Erwin & Wynkoop 22 could not find a gentiler occupation for the boy than a D—d Snyder

20 He went to sea at an early age, and when last heard from in 1785, was about to sail for North Carolina.
21 William Pitt Beatty, did not continue in the trade so obnoxious to his brother, but often engaging in several business ventures, went to Columbia, Penna., when he was Secretary and Treasurer of the Susquehanna Turnpike Co., and also of the York and Susquehanna Turnpike Co. He married 8 Nov. 1799, Eleanor Polk, daughter of John Polk and Rebecca Gilbert of Neshaminy, Penna.
22 Samuel Erwin Esq. and Judge Henry Wynkoop, the executors of Rev. Charles Beatty's will.
and without ever consulting Brother John about it, do write me your sentiments of the matter—I believe I will conclude with the most sanguine expectations of seeing you here in twelve days from the date hereof, I am Dr. Reading

Your very affectionate
& loving brother
Erkuries

To
Doctor Reading Beatty
Fish Kill.

Erkuries Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Camp March 13th 1780.

My dear Reading

I dont doubt but you will be somewhat surprised when you see me write from camp and no news from Penn but I can soon give you a very good reason for it, and that greatly to my mortification, in a very few words, that is, I could not get home, I have made frequent applications to the Genl but as oftentimes refused, till I was quite tired and mad, and then I thought I might as well submit to my hard fortune and endeavour to spend my time in camp as agreeable as I could which if it would not be too tedious for your ear, I would relate the most material circumstances which happened since I wrote you last, but I suppose of late you are so taken with the agreeable company of the young ladies that you cant scarcely devote one minute to my service—this I take from your long silence for I never received no answer to my last which is a great while ago—I believe I informed you of Capt Tudor & I going to Princeton to see sister Betsy married and was disappointed for in about two hours after we came away the groom came and was married that evening, and next day went off for Cohansie which is the last I
heard of them, a little while after that, I got leave of absence for three Days to go see Aunt Mills\textsuperscript{23} and Uncle Read\textsuperscript{24} who lives about 12 Miles from here it was excessive bad riding and it was near night when I got at Aunt Mills where I found them all well, Aunt Hacket\textsuperscript{25} being gone to Sussex I had not the pleasure of seeing her, that night Cousin Polly\textsuperscript{26} and me set off a Slaying with a number more young People and had a pretty Clever Kick-up, the next Day Polly and I went to Uncle Reads who lives about 4 Miles from Aunts, here I found Aunt Read and two great Bouncing female cousins and a house full of smaller ones, here we spent the Day very agreeably Romping with the girls who was exceeding Clever & Sociable only every once in a while they would have a stretch upon Toryism, (you know the family is that way) but I always endeavoured to evade it by changing the discourse; in the afternoon the whole bunch of us went out a Slaying, and about Dusk returned, when I found Uncle Read had come home, he treated me exceedingly kind, after spending a hour or two, we came home, my time being expired I had return to Camp the next day, after a very agreeable J'ant—afterwards I was at two or three Dances in Morristown, one in particular at Cap' Binneys who made great inquiry after you, and I believe you have been a very great gallant when you lived here as the young ladies makes very Strict inquiry about you, likewise I have been at a Couple of Dances at my

\textsuperscript{23} Aunt Mills was Mary Reading, bapt. 8 Aug. 1736, daughter of Governor John Reading of N. J. She married the Rev. William Mills, and died 4 April, 1794.

\textsuperscript{24} Uncle Read was Augustine Reid, who married Sarah, daughter of Governor John Reading.

\textsuperscript{25} Aunt Hacket was Elizabeth, daughter of Governor John Reading, and the wife of John Hackett, Esq.

\textsuperscript{26} Mary Mills, b. 20 Feb. 1763, married 1 Oct. 1787, Doctor Robert Halsted, a prominent physician of Elizabeth, New Jersey.
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Brother John's Quarters at Battle hill where I spend the evenings very agreeable, and when I can frolick no where else I do it at home with some of my friends, as I am Determined to Drive all care away, and be contented with the thoughts of ever spending any time from Camp with my friends or Relations—

I suppose you heard of Brother Jo's being arrested for trading with the Enemy,* and was tried and Received a very severe Reprimand from H' Qr* in Gen orders, the next Day he sent in his Resignation to Head Quarters, but they told him he must go to Congress to Resign, and I believe he has wrote them, he is now down at Amboy with Commissioners from our Army and from the British settling a Case—I have heard nothing from Penn lately one of my Serg* a few Days ago Returned from furlough and says George** has been in Philad* bur never went home and is gone to sea again—I shall expect you down agreeable to promise this Spring, When yo'll find no taylors about me, as the Reg* is Clothed but in as good a hutt as any in our Brigade—Pray Excuse haste, as the bearer will go off in about 3 Days, and I will remain your ever loving & affectionate Brother,

Erkuries.

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* From an Orderly Book kept by Colonel Francis Johnston of the Second Penna. Regt.: "In the early part of the month of February in the year 1780, one John Beaty, esq'r 'commissary of prisoners,' was tried by general court martial on a charge of 'improper intercourse with the City of New York,' in having written there for and introduced sundry articles from thence contrary to the resolve of Congress. Beaty was found guilty. Washington in speaking of Beaty's offence, says: 'The general thinks Mr. Beaty's Conduct in this Instance exceedingly reprehensible; in his situation he ought to have observed a peculiar Delicacy; the whole tenor of the Evidence Introduced by himself show that he was well aware of the Impropriety of the Intercourse, & though he may have generally discountenanced it, it is not an excuse from the present deviation, etc.' Mr. Beaty was, however, released from arrest."

** George Beatty, brother of the writer.
My Dr. Brother

I was happy to find by Majr Van Waggenen,29 that you were well in Health, altho you did not think it worth while to give me a line—I cannot say however, I could reasonably have expected such a favour, considering the Ballance against me in this Case—I am content, if in my retired situation, you will now & then think of Windsor Hall near Princeton—I left Mrs Beatty & Dick well a few days since & am now here, with a View to close my affairs in my late Department. New troubles I find, arise on this score also, and there is the utmost difficulty in doing a little Business with these great people so much Ceremony & Form is to be gone thro, that I was Eight days in Philad. and could do nothing more, than barely lodge my acct. with a promise, that perhaps in a Month a leisure hour might arise, in which they could be attended to—I grow out of all patience with such dilatory conduct, & am daily more & more happy in the reflection of being disingaged from all public Buisness—My little Farm affords me much amusement & some Profits—I hope to cultivate it to more advantage this year— I find the repairs expensive, but feel the more reconciled from the Prospect of future Gains—I shall not attempt the beginning of the practice of Physic, untill towards the Fall—My affairs will not admit of it & besides I feel extreamly awkward in the way of my profession & shall require some reading & brushing up—I have been attempting to procure you the Care of a Regiment in the Pen Line, but some uneasiness prevailing among the Surgeons & a Prospect of a reduction of some of the Regt.

29Major Garret H. Van Waggenen, of New York, Deputy Commissary of Prisoners.
Letters of the Four Beatty Brothers.

render it impracticable at present—perhaps you may have also, some other schemes in View—a good Wife, with a little fortune, will prepare the way exceedingly well, for sitting down in the Country to Business, if this is your View. I should be very sorry to break in upon your plan—advise me what I can do for you & nothing in my power shall be wanting.

Our public affairs at present look but gloomy—we are anxious to hear from the Southard & yet afraid of disagreeable News from that Quarter—our latest acct*. are the 8th ult°. a Number of the Enemies Vessels had pass’d the Bar & are supposed to be in full possession of the harbour. The natural situation of the place & the difficult Navigation of the Channel were I confess the grand Bulwarks on which I had founded my hopes of Success at that Port—and my fears are much increased, since the latter has failed us—Genl. Clinton has every thing to stimulate him, in the reduction of the Garrison, having before been foiled there & you may rest assured the Conflict will be warm & bloody, our troops being determined to sacrifice every thing in their opposition—I hope for the best, but dread the Consequences—a Reinforcement of 15 Sail of the Line—Frigates &ca—with 10,000 Men, have certainly arrived at Martinique, & perhaps some Gale, favourable to the Cause of America—may waft some of them to these Coasts—this indeed would be great, & relieve all our doubts & difficulties—But I must stop, or I shall tire your patience with my scribling—I shall return the latter end of this week & have only to say, we shall be glad at all times to hear of your wellfare & to see you at our little Hermitage at Princeton.

I am with great affection

Dr Reading,

Yours

Jn°. Beatty—

Please to have the inclosed delivered safely & Kiss all
Letters of the Four Beatty Brothers.

the Girls for me—Comp* to Brooks & other Acquaintances—

Erskuries Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Camp May 1st 1780.

My Dear Reading,

It is with the greatest Pleasure Imaginable that I embrace this Opportunity by our Cousin Capt^a. Gregg^a of informing you that I receive your letters very Regular by the Post and am always happy to have it my Power to answer you, in hopes that you will continue your letters every week, and at the same time rest assured that I will write every opportunity—

What I wrote you in my last concerning being Surgeon to the 11th Regt is not gone yet much farther only Capt^a Tudor spoke to Colo. Hubely who said he had no objections, but Brother J. (whose Resignation is accepted of) I expect up every day and then he will have the Matter settled—As for Stidderford and Bukers coming in Regt I'll tell you they are here without any Commissions & we wont let them do duty till their Rank is settled; but I believe they will come in spite of us, which I shall be very sorry for, as I am afraid it will Kick up a Rumpus—As for News I will refer you to Capt. Gregg, such as about the French Ambassador^a being at Head Quarters, & the army behaviour on the occasion, & the Spanish Noblemans^a Dying here & his

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80 Captain James Gregg, son of James Gregg, Esq., and Mary, sister of Rev. Charles Beatty. He was commissioned Captain in the 3rd New York, 21 Nov. 1776, was wounded and scalped by Indians near Kingston, New York, 13 Oct. 1777. He was transferred to the 1st New York, 1 January, 1783, and served until 3 June, 1783.  
81 The Chevalier de la Luzerne.  
82 Don Juan de Miralles, representative of the Spanish Court before the American Congress. "The style in which he was buried is said to have surpassed in magnificence that of any other burial ever occurring at the county seat of Morris. His coffin was covered on the outside with rich black velvet, and lined with fine cambric. For burial, he wore a scarlet suit, embroidered with gold lace, a gold-laced hat, a wig carefully curled, white silk stockings and diamond shoe and knee buckles."
Burial, and news from southard & every other thing you please, as he knows as much as I do & may be more—but I must tell you about the D". of the Penn" Line, sometime ago they Petitioned to the Governor about I believe not allowing them half Pay and some other things, a few days ago Gen'. Hand rec'd. a letter from the Governor in which he has snub'd them very much about it & put them all exceeding angry. Yesterday the D" of the Line had another meeting but what they did I dont know, & I think by the Governors writing, the Hospital Surgeons has been Petitioning, in which they have got nothing, for he says, when a surgeon enters into a Hospital they are not considered to belong to one State more than another—if I had Paper I would tell you about a sort of a... dance I was at two Nights ago when we kicked up a Hell of a Dust. But stop

E. Beatty.

Erkuries Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Camp May 29th, 1780.

Dear Reading,

The York troops this Day march for the Northward by whom I send this letter, I beg you will excuse for the Shortness of it, al tho I am sensible you deserve a whole sheet yet the Duty is so hard, that both Officers & soldiers has not above one Night in bed as for my Part I did not sleep one Wink last Night—I rec'd yours

On his fingers appeared a profusion of diamond rings, and suspended from a superb gold watch were several seals richly set with diamonds. The honorary pallbearers were six field officers, and on the shoulders of four artillery officers in full uniform, the actual pallbearers, he was borne to the grave. The chief mourners were Washington and other officers of high rank, and several members of the American Congress. A procession extending over a mile, composed of army officers and representative Morristown citizens, followed the remains to the grave, while minute guns were fired by the artillery. A Spanish priest performed the last rites at the grave."
Dated May 22d but have not yet seen Dr. Shute nor Rec'd that letter, but if you will continue to write as frequent as you have heretofore done, and it shall ever be acknowledged by your brother Ark—You wrote me about a Vacancy that was in the 7th Regt. I have not had time yet to enquire about it, but will make it my Particular busiNESS, one of these Days and will Report to you the first opportunity—I now hear a very heavy firing of Cannon and Musquetry which is four Battalions Maneuvering at Morristown before Marquis De La Fayette, and I am very sorry I had not the Chance of seeing them—I have nothing Particular to write you, there is a great deal of News in Camp about French fleets, and French troops coming to assist us, but I had rather see them than hear tell of them—our affairs to the Southward goes on very well—I suppose you heard the honour that the French King has conferred'd on his Excellency Genl Washington—No news lately from home—

I am in expectation of seeing you every Day, I am Dear Reading with the greatest love & affection Yours &c

E. Beatty.

*John Beatty to Reading Beatty.*

Windsor Hall
16th Aug. 1781.

My Dr. Brother,

Your favour of the 4th Inst. reach'd me Yesterday & I feel myself indebted to you for this second letter, since I wrote you—indeed it is but seldom we find opertunities directly to your place & they may lay a Month in Philad before they would find a passage to

*The title of Field Marshal of France, about which much controversy raged.*

*Windsor Hall was the residence of Col. John Beatty, near Princeton, N. J.*
Letters of the Four Beatty Brothers.

Lancaster—I am happy to hear the Officers wounded in the late action are in a state of recovery, more especially Crosby, whom we had reason to fear was mortally wounded—I look upon him to be a promising young man & of an agreeable, easy disposition—I like not your separation of the Dutch Girl from the Conostoga Waggon, as you say you mean shortly to make a spirited attack upon one or other of them—the former is in my opinion the only safe road to the latter (exclusive of the delicate enjoyment of a fine ruddy face, . . . . ) unless (as you say Congress are wanting in the Materials to make the One thing needful) you do yourself this Justice & with a Gallantry & Address irresistible, you sally forth Don Quixotte like & attack & plunder a Conostoga Waggon—Money is certainly a Necessary Ingredient—in human Happiness & from the general pursuit of it by all Mankind, we have reason to believe it is the principal—I have often heard the old proverb, “that Money makes the Mare go” You can verify it, if we only substitute the Horse, for the Mare, but we flatter ourselves, this will not long be the Case & that we shall have the pleasure of seeing you about the last of Sep'.—the family & all friends are well & desire their love to you—adieu—Be Merry & Happy—Yours affectionately

J. Beatty.

Unsigned letter from Reading Beatty to his brother John.

Dear Brother—

I received your’s of ye 20th Inst. inclosed in one from Mr: Riddle, & I am glad to hear of the Welfare of you, & your little Family—Yes, we are sent here on the business of recruiting, & would they only supply us with

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*Captain-Lieutenant Jesse Crosby of Pennsylvania Artillery wounded at Green Springs, July 6, 1781.

**The date of this is fixed by that of the preceding letter, as August 1781; and the place Lancaster, Penna.
a sufficient Quantity of hard Money, we should not be here so long, as perhaps you imagine, but at present we have but dull prospects of filling our Regt.—I have never seen a prettier place than Lancaster,—except Philad— the Streets are very regular, & some of the houses are neat, tho' there are others the contrary—The Inhabitants being generally German, puts sociability out of the Question; tho' there are some very genteel English Families, & they say the young Ladies of the place, are in disposition, quite contrary to the Gentlemen.—Since my arrival here, I have kept myself very retired, & formed no acquaintance, except Moylan's Regt There is a Detachment of Horse going off to the Southward in a few days, under the Command of Capt. Heard.87—I cannot say I will follow your Advice respecting marrying a Dutch Girl, with a good Plantation & a Conostoga Waggon, tho' if I could get the two latter, without the Incumbrance of the former, I should hardly pass them by; but as that is not very likely, I must give over all thoughts of either.

The Convention Troops are on the March to N^th. England—The Hessians passed through here a few days ago, in number, I believe about 1100—The British halted in this Town—there have been now confined in the Barracks, of British & Refugee Prisoners near upon 1500, tho' part of them will march to the Eastward, as soon as a proper Guard can be procured.

Erkuries Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Quarters near York Town Augst 19th 1781.

Dear Reading,

When I wrote you last by Mr Bloune, I believe I informed you that I was going to York and expected to have seen you here, but find now I shall not, without you can come up and see me which I don't much expect,

87 John Heard, of New Jersey, Captain 4th Continental Dragoons.
however I arrived here this Day week ago, with Mr. M'Cullam, and upward of thirty men, which I am commandant of, and was Billetted about a mile from town on Quakers, I have took my quarters in one of the best houses, to appearances, but owned by a Rigid old Quaker and of course a Damn'd Tory, but as I intend never to enter on Politicks with him I hope he and I will not fall out but we have frequent disputes on Religion but all to little purpose as I believe there will be no conversion on either side. When we came here he gave me one of the best rooms in the House, with a good bed in it, and we live with the family not as I would wish, but as I can, since McOullam returned to Carlisle which was two or three Days ago I am left all alone; and find myself very lonesome as I dare not go to town, for I have neither money nor yarn as the saying is, and I chiefly sit all Day in my room, either reading or seriously reflecting on my past happiness, which I am afraid, I shan't soon again experience. As I was saying, I had a good deal of time on my hands, I would willingly devote part of the Day to your pleasure, if I had any subject worth while writing on, but as nothing else is in my thoughts only Carlisle that of consequence must be the subject. Well, perhaps you may have occasion to go there some time in your life, and perhaps have not me there or some other good friend to introduce you to those agreeable fair sex. Suppose now I give you a character of them each individually, to the best of my Knowledge, will you have patience to hear me out and laugh at my folly when you have done! and if it don’t be amusement to you consider it will be passing away an hour or two of my time. 1. Miss Betsy Miller pretty much inclining to an old maid, not handsome, but very sensible, a great reader, and a great favourite of Jack Hughes, perhaps before this

*John M'Cullam, 1st Lieut. 4th Penna. Line.*
married. 2d is Miss Sally Posth a pretty young lady, possessed of a great deal of sympathy, friendship, and good nature, but believe her heart is engaged to a Citizen. 3d you will find the three Miss Montgomerys, 1st is Hetty, about four or five & twenty, and midling handsome, rather given to too much pride, and backbiting, but her favourites will find her very agreeable, next is Sidney, not quite so handsome, but very affable, friendly and good natured and more industrious than any of that family—the other is Jinny, outruns the other two in beauty, but is puff'd up with affectation, yet some think her very . . . . 6th in going down Street you will find Miss Nancy Stevenson about 5 or 6 & twenty, very engaging look and extremely Genteel, is sensible & satirical, but very good Company and kind—7th is Miss Jinny Holmes, altho her father is a tory, it makes her none the worse, She is very merry, and reckoned handsome, on account of beautiful dimples she has got in her cheeks, is a very agreeable partner at a Dance, and got an elegant head of hair. 8th is Miss Bekky Miller, rather got a sourness in her looks but is very good Natured, and industrious, has had a good many suitors in her time altho possessed of no pride, and is about 19 or twenty, her father will be able to give her a very good fortune if he pleases, and I think she will make a good wife. 9th is Miss Neely Poak, by no means a pretty girl, but a very good one, has good sence, industry, Friendship &—I believe will soon be married to a Citizen—9th [He apparently made an error in counting. Ed.] you must now step over to the works, where you will find the two Miss Serjians, 1st is Sally very genteel and Dressy though not very handsome, thinks herself much of a Lady, and would always wish to be in very genteel company, 2d Molly is much handsomer and more sociable and genteel, but both of them have had good educations, and been politely bred, as they formerly lived in Amboy, Jersey, till the Enemy
drove them away and I believe destroyed chief’ their fortunes, but they are as polite, and fashionable girls as they have in town. 11th if you look sharp hereabouts you will find one Miss Nancy Irish, very pretty & delicate, but is much on the Reserve, keeps very little company, therefore I know but little about her. 12th now you must go one Mile up the spring when you will find Miss Jenny Blair a ministers Daughter, a wild rattling harum-scarum young girl yet possessed of natural wit enough, but very passionate, and midling handsome, she has got an elder sister as much in every thing to the contrary, but have no acquaintance with her. 13th now you must go to the country, about 3 Mile from town, above it, this is Miss Nanny Auter (?), a pretty modest discreet well behaved girl, very reserved & hard to be acquainted with, but don’t doubt she will get married to a young fellow living in the house with her, as she never associated much with us—14th four mile higher up you will see Miss Sally Sample, midling handsome, and genteel person, very lively, witty, sociable and kind, possessed of a great deal of love and friendship, she is about 18 years old and not possessed of a very good fortune, tho’ Dresses very genteel—15th about four mile across the country from there you may see Miss Polly Smith, her perfections is her engaging Eyes, sensibility, and friendship. Her father is very Rich and she has had a great many Courtiers, and am informed she is a little of a Coquette, but she is thought to be a very good girl which I believe she is. She is now at the warm Springs in Virginia, as her Constitution is weakly.

All these attended our Assemblies, besides a buxom Rich widow, two old maids, three or four young Girls that have got married, with a number of married ladies in the town—I could enumerate a great many more young ones to you between the ages of 18 and 15 but as we were never admitted into the company of those above mentioned being too young it is not worth while;
but some of them are very handsome and agreeable, likewise there is one Miss Nancy Armstrong Neice to Gen' Armstrong, but happened to be illy. . . . She is thought by every person that ever saw her to be the prettiest girl in town, and I think she is very handsome, goes extremely Genteel, and is very sensible, but Reserved—keeps but very little company.

I think I have given you their characters as correct and impartial as I possible could, and now I would be glad to know from them who you would most admire and as I have a favourite among the ones mentioned try if you can guess which of them it is.

Last evening I spent in town with some young ladies, hearing them play on the Spinet, being my first introduction among the Ladies here, but I believe I shan't improve it much as I don't enjoy their company with much satisfaction—

your affectionate brother,

Erkuries.

Erkuries Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Quarters near Yorktown 27th August 81.

Dear Brother,

Not so clever a fellow neither as you think perhaps, at least he has not treated you nor me very well, for when he came here he left your letter of the 17th at Colo. Hartleys,39 and went down to Baltimore, returned here, & set off again to Lancaster or Philad4 and the Day before yesterday Doctor Rodgers,40 happened to see it at Colo. Hartleys, and sent it out to me, which made it a mere accident that I got it at all, I suppose you form your acquaintance like Billy Gray, at first sight if they give him a drink of Grog and chat with him midling sociable, he immediately says, "they are Damn'd clever fellows," but after he comes to be better acquainted

39 Thomas Hartley, formerly Colonel 11th Penna. Line.
40 Surgeon John R. B. Rodgers, 1st Penna. Line.
with him, or them, find 'em no great things, altho' I can't say but Mr. Hatzinger may be a clever fellow enough, as I never yet have been introduced to him, but have to his sister, and spent some little time with her & find her not very handsome, but I believe a good sensible girl—So the Parson\(^a\) has outgeneral'd his wife at last, and caught her in a Dirty act indeed, and I think Mr. Fenton has suffered his share in the Squabble to, but I think he may be glad he escaped with his life, for I'll warrant the parson was full of Resentment, and there never was a better congregation to publish such a thing than his own, I suppose it has reached the ears of his friends in Faggs Manor before this, therefore I think he need not be at the trouble & expense of publishing it, in the Newspapers, for People in general in the State will know it very soon—Oh, poor 'shamin (Neshaminy) what are you reduced to, I think you are at a low ebb indeed, to have your minister wearing a pair of Horns—I am yet all alone, but expect Bevins\(^b\) & McCullam here tomorrow with upwards of forty more men, and then I shall be able to spend my time more agreeable—I Rec'd yours of the 21st, and am very anxious to have an answer to mine of the 19th. till then I am silent, but yet your affectionate & loving Br.

Erkuries.

John Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Windsor Hall,
10\(^{th}\) Sep' 1781.

My Dr. Brother

M'. McConaghy affords me the agreeable opertunity of writing you, altho' his Stay will admit of but a short letter.

The late movements of the Army & the Scene of

\(^a\) Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, minister at Neshaminy, Penna.
\(^b\) Giles Bevans, 4th Penna. Line.
operations about to open, seem to have absorbed every other idea, it makes up the whole Subject of conversa-
tion & indeed is the Ultimatum of every Body. The
Enemy in New York, not having the most distant
thought of such a stroke, have been kept in the most
perfect Ignorance & Security, binding their whole
Force & plan of defence in the protection of New York,
& indeed if we succeed (as I have no doubt we shall)
to the Southard, History will represent this as one of
the most masterly strokes of Policy in the Com'r in
Chief—exhibited this war—Sir Harry I believe is so
panic struck, that he will remain an idle spectator to all
that is going forward—altho' some movements give us
to Understand he means to make a lodgement some
where in this state—others go so far as to threaten
Philad but I fancy they are only Manuevers in the
Cabinet & wholly speculative Deal—I wrote you not
long since but have received no answer—Mr. B. & Dick
are well, as are all other Friends & be assured you have
ours & their best wishes—

Adieu

Yours sincerely

Jn° Beatty.

John Beatty to Reading and Erkuries Beatty.

Philadelphia, 16th July, 1782.

Dr. Brothers,

With a view to do a little Business, but principally
to see this great Raree Show, I am at this place, where
I have not been for more than two years before. You
will expect of me, I presume, some description of this
great Entertainment—it is impossible to give you the
particulars. Suffice it to say it partook more of Ele-
gance than of pleasure & satisfaction. The largeness

48 A reception given in Philadelphia by the French Ambassador in
honor of the birthday of the Dauphin of France.
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of the Company, together with the Heat of the Season, conspired not a little to this purpose. The profusion of Dress, however, made ample amends for every thing else. I am bold to say this city will vie with the first Courts in Europe for dissipation, luxury & extravagance, & sorry I am so young a Country should have so ill a precedent set them, as that of last evening, where inclination is already ripe for the utmost stretch of ambition. Many ladies went to the expense of 75 for the evening & few gentlemen appeared in less than Silk & Embroidery. We poor Mohair Gentry were obliged to stand aloof.

I write this in the midst of Company, and interrupted frequently by the circulation of the punch bowl. You will conceive this then as an apology for my many omissions as well as commissions, & I am to desire you will separately & alternately read this letter (if legible) as time will not admit my writing both of you. Mrs. B. & Master are tolerably well, as are most other Friends in our Village.

I return this afternoon & shall be glad at all times to hear from both or either of you.

I am, with much affection

Yours &

Jn° Beatty

Erkuries Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Quarters near York Town 12th Sept' 82.

Dear Reading,

To convince you that I am neither lazy nor my attention too much engaged, with one particular object, I send you the inclosed which I wrote and intended to have sent by L' Puisy but sent it in town too late, but you may read such parts of it now as you see proper, and I will begin at the latter end of it—A few Days after I wrote the inclosed I began a much more agreeable life than I had for many Days past, the receiving
of your long letter (which I return you sincere thanks for) kept me sufficiently amused for two Days, then the arrival of Cap1 Campbell, Lr2 McCullam & Bevins, exalted my Spirits to a great Degree, and to compleat my happiness, in a few Days after was ordered to Carlisle, where I spent six Days in the greatest felicity, except being at the burial of Gen' Thompson,4 a man universally beloved and generally lamented.

We have been under marching orders this ten Days, therefore I think it hardly worth while to answer your long letter as fully as I would wish as I expect to see you very soon but think proper to inform you as well as Billy Gray is quite mistaken in the person I had in view, the Reason I wrote to Billy in that way was only to shagrine him as I knew she was his favourite—But the last letter you wrote of the 9th Inst. which I Rec'd yesterday quite amazed me, you have let your Imagination run to a quite greater Degree, than I would have wished, from my late stile of writing—Can you think I am bereft of my Senses, or run stark staring mad? Or can you conceive I had the least Idea of marriage in my head, to any Girl in Carlisle? Or at least do you imagine, even if it was the Case, do you think, that I would treat you who was so near, so excessively ill, being a elder Brother, and one that I love beyond expression, not to consult you, and inform you of it, a long time, No, for Gods sake never harbour such an ungrateful thought of me, as I flatter myself you will never find me Deserving of it—Well, I bought myself a German flute, with a full Determination of learning to play on it, beg you will by the first Opportunity that is safe, send me up one of your first books of instructions, with your necessary orders, and you shall see what improvements I make, when I see you which I hope will

Letters of the Four Beatty Brothers.

be soon—Lieuts Bevin & Prat" has their kind Compliments to you, Campbell is absent with his affairs. Please make mine to Officers of the 6th Reg't and likewise of yours of my acquaintances and ever believe me to be Dear Reading

Your affectionate Brother
Erkuries.

Erkuries Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Philad*. Barr* 31st Dec. 82

Dear Reading

You were not at home on Saturday night agreeable to promise and I was at your house this morning & cannot find you, am now a setting out for Mr. Erwins where I will dine tomorrow with Mr. Pratt, and shall set out from there on Wednesday, (perhaps in the afternoon) on my way to Yorktown and Carlisle, should be happy if it is in your power to come out tomorrow, as I want to see you very much

I have left at Cap' M' Connels* for you, your case, Bottles Pistol Holsters and a small portmanteau lock which if you please to accept of, as I have got another one

If I dont see you pray write the first Opportunity and let me hear how Sister Betty is, and you shall find me as good a correspondent as usual.

I am Dr Reading yours affectionately
Erkuries.

Erkuries Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Philad* March 2d 1783.

Dr. Br.

I first receieved yours of the 23d & then of the 17—But halt—I have told you all this already, tho' not

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* John Pratt, Lieut. 4th Penna. Line. Served to the end of the war and then entered the U. S. Army, and resigned Dec. 5, 1793.
* Captain Nathan McConnel of Pennsylvania, who was transferred from Hazen's Regiment to the Invalid Regiment, 12 February, 1781, and served till June, 1783. He died 11 March, 1816.
answered either, as much to your Satisfaction I suppose as you could wish therefore to begin methodically I first shall answer your of the 17 Ult. and dont doubt in the least but you had a very agreeable jaunt with your favourite Lasy—I would wish if it did not too much interfere with your dispositions already formed, to lead me a little further into your amours with this Lady, & at the same time tell me how the next in Rotation of that family stands affected, for old Squire Erwin says, he has allotted her for me, but two such Rattlebrain creatures coming together I dont know when we shall find a house able to contain us—this is rather varying from the Subject I began upon—You say you left friends all well, got home safe & was very well satisfied, then I have to tell you that I sent two half Joes by Reeves to Sister Betsy—Inclosed is a Certificate how long you drew Subsistence money, make out your Amount for forage agreeable to it, & if any wood is due you within that time, make out it also, send them down & I will endeavour to transact the business for you—The Committee you mention on our Land affairs, & the several more which has been appointed since has done nothing but this day a Bill was read the third time & is to be published for Consideration, to open the Land Office, in which is mentioned that our Depreciation Notes Arrearages of pay & Commutation, Commis. . . . notes & every such thing, is to be taken in payment—that is all they are like to do in our way—I send you up with this some sort not of stuff to make you a pair of Breeches which cost a French Crown a Yard, as for the white stocks I never thought of them till this moment—I would rather advise you off getting any, however if you persist I will send you Stuff some time else—The tongs you mentioned I also send which I believe completes the answer of the first Letter—Now for the Second dated the 23dult, & here let me congratulate you again on the
happy Evening you spent in dancing with that sweet nymph—I know if it is not incompatible with your duty or rather Courtship you will lead me a little farther into those sweets—But alas, I am sorry to tell you, that no Surgeon whatever gets more Commutation than a Cap' of Infantry, & every Surgeons pay throughout the Army was alike in late years—I this day called upon Parnel about the Seal, it is not quite done but he says it will be done on Friday, So I will send it up on Saturday if an oportunity presents—Christie was in town about a Week ago, or ten days & I gave him 100 Dollars of the Notes to exchange, but have not heard one word of him since and now I think I have answered both your letters (which is all I have received) except to apologise for not writing sooner—indeed I intended to have wrote last Saturday but unavoidable accidents prevented me—whether I shall get an opportunity to send this tomorrow morning or not I cant tell, am rather afraid I shall not as the Night appears to be a little Rainey—I Rec'd a letter from B' John Dated 20 ult in which he desires his love to you nothing else particular—These few days past we have had Cap' John Steel with us, who on next Thursday night is to be joined in the holy bands of Matrimony with Miss Bailey, Sister I believe to Bailey the printer—at present I dont Recollect any thing more to tell you, but I will leave this letter open till tomorrow morning to see if I get an opportunity to send it & perhaps I will put something more in it—Good Night—Saturday morning, Mar. 6.—In continuation—as the Novels says—I searched all town last Market Day & not a single opportunity could I find, I again intend to sally out & see what this day produces—I Rec'd your letter of the 2 Inst. yesterday, & believe have answered your proposition respecting the Land in the beginning

*Capt. John Steel, of Lancaster, Penna. Francis Bailey was the well-known printer of Lancaster and Philadelphia.
of this—I having nothing more to say I believe in addition to this,—I delivered your inclosed Letters and send you one inclosed from Billy which I have had some time—I hear Congress is coming Back to the City in a Month or two and intends making it their permanent residence in future. . . .

Your Brother

Erkuries.

Erkuries Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Philad*. 20 March 1783.

D' Brother

A few reduced Continental Officers, Captains of Ships, Irish Volunteers, Hatters prentices including as many other trades of the same likeness as there was people almost—Sexton & Bell ringer, Psalm singer & Clerk of Christ’s Church & Doctors Mates on Stages, Damn'd droll sinners to be sure—in such a mixed company did I spend the evening of Patrick’s day in a Dirty noisy tavern low down in Water Street—where we held out till 1 o’clock, and behaved exactly in character—A picked & select company it was too—I was obliged to think myself highly honored in getting introduced into it about 8 o’clock—but say nothing, I am now very thankfull I am clear of it without my head being broke, & if I dont hold my tongue I suppose I will yet—I intended to have wrote you a long letter last evening but Mr Erwin coming & staying with us all Night prevented—Jimmy McMichial who positively sailes for Ireland this day 11 o’clock came in had to go borrow money for him and give my Note for it, which indeed has put me in a very bad humour, and will make the Letter still shorter—. . . . a pleasant journey I wish you to make to Jersey—my Compliments to the people there,

Yours affectionately,

Erkuries.
Dear Reading,

Last Monday I evidently received your letter of Dated 14. by Cap' Howell who picked it up at Funk's, & Delivered it me, after some person had put a u between the A & T & made Cap' Beauty of it, which caused a laugh all thro town, so I will be obliged to you to be a little more carefull, & send them some place I shall get them—likewise I got yours & Mr. Erwins by Capt Bradford I send this by Mr. Ramsay one of your Holy Neighbours, with a pair of Andirons, Shovel Tongs & a Stick Blackball, all which Cost me money & not Notes,—burn 'em I can't get them off my hands—however I hope the things will please you, they are a pretty genteel fitt, if they are not too small—was at the Temple of Apollo last Monday Night when Mr. Ryan gave us some Excellent Music, ke'p us to almost ten oClock. By Eleven I may say & then he said he was sorry the law would not allow him to Act a play, & so we went home with Rochesters reflection "a fool & his money is soon parted"—Miss Hide sung two or three very fine songs, as she has an excellent voice, & we had two or three from Miss Wall I am in a very

* Probably Henry Funk, at the sign of the Bear, Second between Race and Vine Streets.


* John Ramsay, an Elder in the Neshaminy Presbyterian Church.

* Mr. Ryan was prompter of the company and appeared occasionally as an actor at the theatre in Southwark.

* Durang says, Miss Hyde, of the company, came to Philadelphia from the West Indies. She sang "Tally Ho!" between the play and the farce.

* Miss Wall made her debut in 1782, as the Duke of York in Richard III.
bad humour for writing, believe will quit after inform-
ing you I have not inquired any thing about the Forage, nor the Sword, nor the Receipt, & now it is full time for me to be at the office, which engages me so much I have not a moment to myself, but perhaps the Next will be longer—in the meantime you write which will oblige your affectionate
Brother
Erkuries.

*John Beatty to Reading Beatty.*

Annapolis 5th Mar: 1784

Df Brother

It is a question of no importance, who wrote last; I find I am obliged again to open the Correspondence; and from whatever Cause, your silence may have arisen; I now demand, you to stand forth & declare it, that I may at least have the oportunity of Exorcising the Evil Spirit, or Demon of Sluggishness that seems to pervade you—I was sorry I had not the pleasure of seeing you in Philad*. you had left it but two or three days before I passed thro it, on my way to this place—In a letter from Archy of the 25th ult°. I find you are well & that you had lately paid a visit to Sister Green, who was also well; but he makes no mention of your having seen Mrs. B. Sure this was not kind, when you were at the distance only of 12 Miles—I hope if your Business will admit, you will call on her soon.

Writing from this place & in the Character I sustain; you will no doubt expect a political Correspondence f°. me—Information of what is taken place at foreign Courts—the Connections & alliances, forming between the diff°. European powers—the Intrigue & Chicanry of British Ministers, counteracted by the refined policy of the Court of Versailles, the principles of the Armed Neutrality by which the Ballance of power is to be pur-
sued—State of the Negotiations between their High
Mightinesses the States of Holland & their High Mightiness the Congress of the U. S.—State of our National Debt & the Schemes of Finance, proposed for discharging of it—Cession of the Western Territory & the plans devised for disposing & settling that valuable & Extended Empire—Arrangement of our Foreign affairs—what Ministers are to be sent abroad & who are to be called home—State of Commerce & the several Treatys to be Entered into to cherish & protect it—& in short a succinct Narrative of what has been done, is doing & is about to be transacted in Congress—a very pretty piece of Buisness to be sure—But as I cannot enter upon all these points at once I must beg you will inform me, where I am to begin; & how Minute a detail will be agreeable to you—& perhaps some future letter may gratify your wishes—

Our Situation here is tolerably agreeable, will be much more so, when the severity of the Season abates & we can take more exercise on Foot or Horseback—The Inhabitants are polite & Hospitable—Balls, routs, assemblys, Tournaments, Concerts, plays, Fandango's, & every species of Amusements prevail here—& I know not whether thro the all powerfull influence of Fashion, we Congressional republicans or plebians, may not shortly assume the Dress & Manners of the Patricians or Nobles—of Annapolis—at present there are nine States on the floor of Congress & as chief of the Business pending before them, require by the Confederation the assent of Nine, to give efficacy to a Measure, things succeed slowly—we are however daily in Expectation of N. York & Delaware—& Maryland. when we shall make a more rapid progress—I am to beg I may hear from you soon, thro the channel of Archy—& that you will present my affectionate regards to my Numerous Friends at Neshaminy—

Yours with much Esteem

J. Beatty.
Erkuries Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Philad* 12 March 1784.

Dr Reading,

A large Packet indeed have I collected within this five Days—I believe people think I have nothing else to do, but run about on Market mornings, looking for conveyances and forsooth, some is so particular, & assumes the liberty of telling me it must be sent immediately—tell your innumerable correspondences, none of their insolence or all goes in the fire—I will send any letters or packets that may come into my hands for you (if they are not to unconcievable large) when I write myself & have an opportunity, but I think if your extensive correspondence continues you had better establish a Post office here & keep a rider continually going, with a handsome Salary perhaps I will undertake the charge of your Office here, as people seem to be well acquainted with me, and at present supplys me with a good deal of business that way, attending with a good deal of trouble and not any profit—Now it is ten chances to one after ransacking all the Market and four or five taverns, tomorrow morning, that I find an opportunity to send this bundle to you & if I dont, after being obliged to rise very early in the morning & trapesing thro’ the very Dirty Streets, it will be a rare chance if they escape the flames, however never mind it, any thing that is pleasurable to you, ought & I hope ever will be perfectly agreeable to me—I want very much to hear your answer to my letter I sent by Mr Jn° Kan last Saturday, and how you like the Stuff for the Breeches—Stock Materials I have purchased none nor no money which is still worse—What do you think Parnell charged forty shillings for engraving your Seal which I made out to pay, but it is now in the hands of Mr Silversmith Holinshead to clean & make somewhat better, when its done shall send it to you.—1 of April I get three Mo. Salary, the 10 my In-
terest on my depreciation & expect something from the QM for forage wood & Christy I hope will have all the Notes changed by that time, so if I can by any way collect all these sums into one of my Breeches Pockets I shall again be set afoot—but what a Letter of Non-sense I am writing—I have nothing else to say, except I tell you that Lancaster County is to be divided and an Elegant town to be built at Harris's ferry, which J. Harris has talked and made more noise about than any other ten men, I think, could possibly have done—the Land Office affair stands just as it did when I wrote you before—Miles's affair is not entirely cleared up, but all seems to be in his favor—Great debates in the house of Assembly about incorporating the New Bank, all the Proprietors in the old Bank strenuously opposing it, and to wind up the whole of the news, the transparent paintings is finished, only waiting for the order of Council to have them exhibited—do pray come down & see them—they are much more elegant than before I am informed, & I shall endeavour to give you Notice when to come—pray let one thing more come in & I will conclude—that is that Congress has appointed Gen' Greene, Gen' Clark, Gen' R. Butler, Mr Wolcott & Mr Higginson Commissions to treat for a peace with the Indians & perhaps a very large tract of land from them big enough to Compose four or five States—That is all I have to say at present but remain
Your Loving Brother
Erkuries.

John Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Dear Brother

Annapolis 2d April 1784.

The prologomenon of your letter I shall pass over: only reminding you; that I have long since been stiled

*Samuel Miles was an auditor for settling public accounts and Deputy Quartermaster of Penna. He relinquished the latter office in 1782.
Hon.ble & feel no new importance, on my new appointment, or at the great deference & "respect" with which you would seem to "approach" me, & I must beg you will prorogue any further flummery on this Head, but address me as standing on the same ground with other fellow "Mortals."

You speak the language of nature in asking the Question, relative to the State of our Funds, & it does not require the Spirit of Divination, to propound your "interestedness" in a discussion of this Subject. But I fear the "reality" of our Debt when contrasted with the "Reality" of our Means of payment, will not admit of a very favourable Prognosis; and that the "Contents" of our Treasury, will strike you much in the light of my former letter; being only a "Preface" & containing no "Substance"—

Those who know least of the powers of Congress, are generally the most sanguine on this Head. We have neither the power of Resolving money into existence; nor diving in to and drawing it forth, from the coffers of those who possess it—Like the Indian Sachems, indeed, we can consult, devise, & call for requisitions; but it rests with the Executrices of the states alone, to give Efficacy to the Measures recommended—our most ostensible resource is that of an Impost upon foreign Importations—This would constitute no inconsiderable Revenue & tend greatly to alleviate Taxation in the ordinary way—Being founded on the most perfect Equality; a Tax, wholly voluntary & insensible; I cannot but be astonished at the opposition it meets with in the several states—only seven, of the thirteen Legislatures, have yet acceded to the proposition; & were I to hazard a Conjecture, it would be that two or More, never will comply—Cut off from this Hope, I know not where we shall land—the Burthens of a people must be measured by their abilities to sustain the pressure: and when Taxes once become odious; I believe we shall
find too little Energy in our republican Government, to
Enforce a Collection of them—The Sale of our
Western Lands may with good Management be made
to lessen our public (domestic) debt considerably: but
we cannot avail ourselves even of this resource for a
twelvemonth; or at least before we shall have settled a
peace with the Indians, purchased their right of Soil
& fixed Boundaries between them & us—Commissioners
for this purpose have been appointed & will we expect
. . . . . perfect this Business in the Course of the En-
suing Summer & Fall—Congress has Estimated that 4½
Millions of Dollars will be wanted for the Current Ex-
pences of the Year 84 & for the Arrears of Interest due
on Foreign & Domestic Loans, up to the 31st Dec. 84—
a Requisition for this Sum will shortly go out; & I leave
you to say, how far or how punctually it will be com-
plied with—I confess I have my Fears; but I am per-
suaded the States must be Stimulated to make the most
Vigorous Exertions, or our National Credit, must be
anihilated—You will say, this is a dull picture & throws
a dark shade over your pay & Commutation—it is
true, but indeed I cannot flatter you, without doing
violence to my own Sentiments:—how far my Prog-
nosis may be verified, time must determine but I assure
you the Diagnosis is not unjustly drawn—an I should
rather think Industry in the line of your Profession,
will be the surest support. I enclose you a Schedule of
the Expences which form the requisition, as estimated
by Congress. . . . . All Europe seems to have become
Balloon Mad Even D' Franklins Servant, has taken an
aerial flight & not yet returned to Narrate his dis-
coverys—if Monsieur Montgolfier could be so fortunate
as to fall on a Method of giving them a Horizontal as
well as Vertical Motion, I should have no objection to
the Construction of a Congressional one, for the pur-
pose of removing Congress, as you propose: but in the
present improved state of these Machines, I fancy you

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will find few to venture; least we should Explore a Region, where our Independance is not known or acknowledged—As I have already exceeded the limits of a fashionable or polite letter I shall here drop the Curtain & leave the other parts of your letter to some future opportunity.

I pray you will be as good as your word in calling to see M" B. whose widowed State requires more attention. Present my affectionate regards to M" Wm Scott & family & all my other Friends

Yours with much regard

Jn° Beatty.

P. S. You may read this Letter to Mr Scott & I sh£. be happy to hear from him—I inclose you a late Baltimore paper—

Erkuries Beatty to Reading Beatty.


D" Reading,

I was up very early this morning and recieved your Letters and Notes & all Safe—am now sorry you troubled yourself in sending your Cincinnati Book as I found my own throwing about the Barracks this morning—But that is not the worst—My deprivation note is Burnt—Last Sunday I brought it down Stairs, laid on the top of the Stove while I ran to one of the windows to see a pretty Girl M" Stamper was remarking—I behold. When I returned to the Stove in about half minute, I had the mortification to see the Ashes of it in the middle of the fire—I can’t get another till the Assembly meets—nor Interest nor any thing, so you see I am in a pretty Box—There is not, nor has not been since the 10th Ap. one Copper of money in the treasury, so you had better look out to the Excise Officer in Bucks to get yours changed, and if he has plenty of money engage some of it for me, as I have B' Jn’s
Letters of the Four Beatty Brothers.  

interest & several others—inform me of this matter to be sure on Saturday morning that I may send 'em out to you that day if necessary—The Spring Launcet is not quite finished, nor I have not time to get the Jean, perhaps by Saturday, if I dont come out myself I will send these things I write you more fully—at present I remain

Yours in a hurry but very affectionately
Erkuries

I sent you a letter from B' Jn. on Saturday I hope you recd it.

Erkuries Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Philad. May 1, 1784.

Dr Reading

I arrived here in very good time on Monday evening, without hurry, & all safe—found that our Landlady had got a Courtier which stuck to her pretty faithfully for two Evenings, I believe then made his escape—what success he met with I can’t say, but Walker & myself has laughed enough about it—Matters on Saturday last went nearly as I wished & Expected—there was between thirty & forty off™., met at the City Tavern, & unanimously appointed Major Bowen & myself agents for the whole Line—but we thinking as there were not a majority of the Officers there of the Line we had better get our appointment Ratified by Council, for that purpose Maj’ Bowen took a Copy of the proceedings of the Meeting signed by Col. Johnston,™ Chairman, & on Tuesday, we along with Col. Johnston and Mr Pierce, waited on the Governor & Council was permitted an Audience, & had the matter fully decided, they two latter urging the propriety & Conveniency of having only two Agents for the Line, & their approving the Off™. choice, they would not do it but wrote imme-

™ Francis Johnston, Colonel 5th Penna. Line; retired Jany. 17, 1781.
diately to Congress on the subject & desired M'r Pierce to do the same, which has all been done, & myself wrote to B'r John on the subject, & we hope to have it all done in regular order—I dont think I have anything more to tell you,—will send you the Almanac next Week—we have a large addition to our family within this day or two—Maj'r Benson of N. C.—Maj'r Lloyd of Hazens Regt—Capt' Henderson & Wilkey, with the two old hands, at present compose M'r Stampers family—A pretty Jolly set of old Continental Officers say you—I saw Crosby a few days ago, he was sorry he had not gone out with me to see you—how do you come on with Old Wynkoop & the money.—I expect Mr. Erwin in town next week, perhaps you can find the balance by him as I wish to send it to them it belongs—

I am with esteem & affection
Your brother
Erkuries.

Erkuries Beatty—probably to Reading Beatty.

Philad. 5 May 1784

I received your short scrawl my brother, on Saturday last, but wrote to you in the morning & sent it off before I got yours, however it is not much odds—Gen'. Washington came to town on Saturday morning without any fuss or parade, indeed the town seems to be alive with old Officers from one end of the Continent to the other, The Society made a meeting on Monday, but did no business, yesterday they met, did a little business I believe & afterwards dined together—all this at the City tavern—chief of the States is represented, or Lines I must say, either less or more—none has yet came from N. Carol: or Rhode Island, but have wrote that they will be here in a day or two, which is all that is deficient, & every one seems to be in the spirit of it—Major L’Enfant has arrived, & brought
medals for all those who subscribed, & 200 more for sale at 26 dollars a pin—I have seen some of them, but for my part I do not admire them, being too contracted and Confused, and one of the words wrong spelled. Some people say they are very handsome, & some think as I do, & so on—so much for the Society of the Cincinnati all the rest I believe, I will save untill you come to town, which I certainly expect will be on the 20th

Our family increased last Evening by a Miss Shoemaker from Reding, but have not yet the pleasure of seeing her pretty face

Adieu
yours
E. Beatty.

John Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Annapolis 17th 1784

My D'r Brother

I did not flatter you before, when I stated the National Debt, & the Exertions, that would be necessary, to pay even the Annual Interest—a conviction of the Inability, as well as disinclination of the States to pay, their Quota's of a Sum, that would Comprehend the whole contained in that Estimate, & knowing that requisitions not complied with, w'd not only hold up our National poverty in very strong Colours, but w'd argue also the want of Energy in our Executive Departments; were reasons of such weight with Congress, that they have determined to call only for two thirds of the Sum they had first in Contemplation—I inclose you their Act, as amended & agreed to finally—an attentive perusal of this Statement & the Demand in consequence of it, will give you a more adequate Idea of the State of our Finances than is practicable for me to do in the short compass of a letter—I w'd only observe that the Interest for the year 84 is not included in this Estimate, & the Sum called for provided it is punctually paid;
will Embrace but little of the interest that became due in the Course of the last year—because a preference is to be given in payment according to the order in which they are arranged in that Statement—It may be a Question with some, why the whole of the Interest accruing on the Foreign Debt is to be discharged, when so partial a payment is made to our Domestic Creditors. To this it is answered, that in order to establish our Credit at home, it is necessary we should scrupulously observe our contracts abroad—that our pleas of inability, (not to say disinclination to pay Taxes) will be considered by them, rather as proceeding from a dishonest principle; than any real want, that exists in these states, of the Means whereby to furnish the Treasury, with a sum equal to the demands, that they have against it—But our argument which has more weight in my Mind is this—that those states who have the inclination may & will no doubt make more vigorous Exertions in fav' of their own citizens & since Specie will not be wanted, facilities may be made use of, which at the same time that it renders complete satisfaction to the Creditor of the public, will not impoverish the states; by sending large sums of Money abroad—N. Jersey has adopted this Idea and is now paying her Citizens a year interest in Bills or Certificates, which are redeemable every year in Specie within the States—This places the Burthen on those who ought to bear it; I mean those who have neither loaned their Monies, nor rendered personal services to the public—But I have one more word to say on this Subject & I have done—As I glanced my Eye over your letter I find this sentence “I wish the states may be able to pay the Interest on My Arrearages & Commutation” (amounting to some thing more than £200) “Now when I compare this with the former part of your letter, where you speak of the want of Sufficient Authority in Congress”—“The Sacredness of public Engagements”—“the Necessity
of private Interest being subservient to public good," "the retrograde Motion of public Spirit" & "the great Danger our Celebrated Republic is in," I am at a loss to account, how so narrow and contracted an Idea, could have crept into your Mind—while declaiming with more than Roman patriotism, on the "Amazing declension of public Virtue," a spirit of Interestedness appears & you cherish a Sentiment which but the Moment before you had rejected as ignoble and derogatory of the Principles on which a free republic shad be founded—You could have adduced no stronger proof—of the Justness of the remarks your letter contains—Forgive this Freedom—I mean only to banter you—it is no More than what we are all actuated with; altho it meets our greatest disapprobation—'tis grafted in our Natures, nor can we divest ourselves of it—There is no proposition more true, than that Interest binds Nations as well as Individuals. 'tis the Secret Spring & Motive of all our Actions.

I am glad you have been so kind as to visit Mrs. B.— I hope to see her by the tenth of next Month; when we shall be made particularly happy in your Company, for a length of Days, should you be able to spare as much time from your Business—

My Comp' to Mr. Scott—His reply was not unexpected; as he has before given me hints as to the rotundity of my Hand writing—avoid Neshaminy Politics—Detraction often reverberates with two fold force, to the fountain from whence it spread & is always a Mark of a weak & little Mind—Congress have not recinded the resolution, of building two Federal Towns—it is however so absurd and anti-republican a proposition, that I am confident it never will be carried into Effect—I cannot advise you, on the Subject of the Gratuity Lands in Virginia. Perhaps it wad be prudent as the Good Book recommends, to Count up the Cost, before you proceed to the Structure of the Building—The Idea
of trying it by a Federal Court is altogether new, nor am I able to say how far the Consideration will warrant a procedure of this Nature—

You will as usual, inclose your letters to Archy—who will forward them to me, whether here or at Princeton—I must beg your pardon for this long letter but hope that in future you will claim no Balance, in the Epistolary Line, against me—My Comp° to all enquiring Friends

Yours with much regard
Jn° Beatty.

Erkuries Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Philad. 18 May 1784.

D° Reading

Not a word have I heard from you since you left the City, & what is worse than that we have lost our friend Mark Halfpenny at the Cross Keys, & it seems I can neither get, or send a Letter from there now, I had wrote the inclosed for Mr Erwin last Saturday, left at the Cross Keys where Mr. Erwin now commands, & there I found it today, & God knows whether I shall get it up tomorrow or not however I will try—the General Society of the Cincinnati broke up this day, to meet again in three years, if I can raise six pence tomorrow morning, I will send you the pamphlet which has the circular letter in it & the Institution as altered by them,—I think it will be very displeasing to many of the members, & if it dont now please the bawling populace, I hope & pray they never may be pleased in any one thing they may ever undertake.

Inclos’d is a Letter which I found the other day at the Bunch of Grapes in a Corner directed to me—the time it has been there I can’t be accountable for, but

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56 The Cross Keys Tavern, Water between Market and Arch Streets.
57 The Bunch of Grapes Tavern, on Third below Arch Street.
suppose from its appearance that it was no short time—
I believe I have nothing particular to tell you. Bowens
Army affair remains as it was when you was here, hav-
ing not made any application to Council since the Re-
solve of Congress came—Walker talks of leaving us
soon, but believe he does not know where he will go to
yet, which makes me think that his stay must be longer
than he or his friends wishes—How does the money
come on? I have got orders from all the people for it,
Hemp on them for their impudence, they wish imme-
diate payment—My Landlady is up stairs in private
Confab with her Swain—but Hush—or I will not be
your affectionate

Brother
Erkuries.

Erkuries Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Philad 25 May 1784

As you do not address me in Common, neither will
I you, but just begin to tell you that I received your
letter by Cap’ Armstrong, which surprised me to hear
that you had not received a letter from me last week,
which I wrote, delivered to Mr Whitebread,58 who said
he sent it out by one of the Ramsays, hope before this
you have got it, for it contained several inclosed par-
ticularly one for Mr Treat, which I would not wish to
miscarry—There is such a terrible noise and uproar in
our house, has so confused my ideas, that altho’ I have
a great deal to say to you, I dont know where to begin,
for you must know that Mr Stamper is very soon to
be married to Cap’ Wallace, who you know is remark-
able for breaking his parole when prisoner, & there is
a terrible fuss in the house with Mantua-makers,
semstresses, &c & has given her family warning to
move as soon as possible, which I shall do on Monday

58 Probably William Whitebread, who in 1785 was an innkeeper, Second
between Market and Arch Streets.
Letters of the Four Beatty Brothers.

next, to a house in Spruce Street which Major Bowen & me have engaged—You must know that she has made a great Confidant of me—A few evenings ago when I was going to bed with Cap' Walker, she asked permission to speak with me, I readily complied, & we had a very long *confab*—the introduction of it was the very great esteem she held me in, rather considered me as a Brother than any thing else & wished me to give her my serious & Candid advice on a Matter of much importance to her, after promising & passing many Compliments in return, she divulged the whole matter to me, saying, in short that she was courted by Mr Wallace, & did not know what answer to give him, I soon finding from her discourse that she had fixed her mind in his favor previous to her asking my advice, I neither advised her pro, or Con but generally gave her evasive answers, for I dont like the man, however in less than two days after she told *us* the matter was fixed, & they are to be married in 3 or 4 weeks & as I am her Confident, am to be at the wedding but dont say a Word about it,—so much for family news, as you wish to know it, & if I was to record all the scandal, that is practised by Mrs Morris, Mr Stamper & Miss P. Shoemaker at our table & otherwise God knows it would take you a month to read it, & you know I dont keep Company with any young Ladies of this City to hear their smart repartees or their magnanimous conquests—Now I wish to tell you, between you & me, that Bowen & myself intends entering deeply into speculation in these Certificates, & think if we are any ways Lucky we shall make money—it would be too tedious to tell you our whole plans, but I expect to see you before I begin, at the same time if you have any Capital objections why I should not do as the rest of the world generally does, to make money by any means, will thank you to inform me, for perhaps I am going into an error, I am sure, if so, it is undesignedly—Upon my word I never thought
a word about your hat, but depend upon I shall immediately look for an opportunity of sending it up, perhaps tomorrow or Saturday, this I expect Cap' Armstrong will take if I am up early enough in the morning to get it to him, now it is past 11 oClock, every person in bed but myself in the house—

I wrote last night to I was tired, am up very early this morning, & intend now making a Conclusion, after telling you as usual that I am not rich enough to buy you a pamphlet with the Society of the Cincinnati in it, or rather the Institution & Circular Letter, but as the whole of it is in the Independent Chronicle which was published on Saturday last perhaps you may get a sight of it, this I hope will urge you to send me down, the balance which you say you have procured, as I had to advance my own money to the persons that belonged to, likewise if you please send me a order of Hodsson for your forage money, I having waited on him yesterday, & he says he expects money in a few days—I inclose a letter to you from B' John which I have read (begging your pardon) & another from some person else, Adieu for the present

Yours affectionately
Erkuries.

Erkuries Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Philadelphia Sept' 4th, 84.

Dr' Reading

Yesterday we received an order from the Executive Council which we have thought was rather a degree of arrogance & unconstitutional therefore immediately shut up our Office,* returned them an answer declaring ourselves "Free Citizens of Penn. & not public Officers, and was ready to comply with the Resolution of Congress of Nov 3d 1783 to deposit them as they should

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*Erkuries at this date was acting as a clerk in the War Office, engaged in settling the accounts of the Penna. Line.
direct, and prayed that some of their Officers might be appd. to receive the remaining Certificates from us, as we was determined to proceed no farther in the business’ how this matter may turn out I can’t determine positively but at present we think we are doing very right, am only sorry that it will keep the officers & soldiers who has not yet sec theirs, a long time before they do—

I have had Bennet preying on Col. Proctor every day since you left me for the money on Your Note, but the Devil a farthing of it I have yet got. Still promises fair, and if I find an opportunity that I can trust this morning I will send you Forty five dollars, then there will yet remain due to you thirteen dollars & 11/50 which you must have a little patience for the rest, for I shall be entirely bare myself—Was out at Camp last evening for the first time, & now intend to pay particular attention to that business—If you don’t move before next Market day, I hope I will be able to send you the whole, if you do, God knows how I will ever get it to you—

Your affectionate Brother
Erkuries.

Erkuries Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Fort Mac Intosh 24th Jan’ 1785.

Very well my dear Reading, you have treated me kindly indeed, sent me your cold Compliment thro’ D’ Delany and Cap’ Douglass, and such a good opportunity to write,—I can forgive but perhaps I may never forget, & you will find in the long run you will gain nothing by it, for my budget it is now as full of Indian treaty &c as ever your head was full of love &c, & I intended to give you a full detail, but I can’t find in my heart to do it. Know, therefore I will only give you a

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*Col. Thomas Proctor, 4th Continental Artillery, resigned 18 April 1781.*
few of the out Lines of what I know & have seen, and you may remain in Suspence for the rest till you see it published or see me—The treaty commenced on the 9th & continued from day to day till the 21st when the Articles was signed & the treaty concluded yesterday they reciev'd their Goods & today the Chiefs are shining about with their Gold lace hats & Jackets which about as much becomes them, as a Jewel Does a hoges nose. I wish I could picture to you an old Ottawa Chief sitting close by me, half double, with a Coat Jacket & hat covered over with Gold Lace & a Breech Clout & leggings on, & about a dozen of his Nation attending on him with the Princess of Chippeway & we like fools giving them rum & so it has been all the treaty, our house continually full of these devils till we are heartily sick of them, but God be thanked we will now soon get rid of them—now to return to the subject—There was represented at the treaty the Wyandotts with their Half King at their head—this nation is the oldest & calls themselves the Grandfathers of all the rest in this Country & commands them all—the next is the Delwares, being a great number of them here & their Chief is the Great Pipe with many other Councillors. This Pipe is a sulky dog, and after he heard the proposals of the Commis' was clear for declaring war but his Nation made him sign the Articles—the Ottawas and Chippewas is the other two nations that was represented here 7 the whole, their nations is very large at home but few of them here, & chiefly lives over the Lakes, and they are entirely depending on the other two first mentioned therefore said very little—They Spoke a great deal of Nonsense & our Commiss' spoke very pointed, which brought them to the Conclusion, that we were sole proprietors of the Country, & they obliged to come upon such terms as we pleased, which was that they should leave Hostages with the troops till they delivered up all the prisoners in their possession, then was allotted their
254  Letters of the Four Beatty Brothers.

Country to hunt & live upon, which is very large on Lake Erie reserving Detroit and other trading posts for ourselves, they never made any objections to any thing we said, for I believe they were very much frightened and are generally poor pusilanimous beings, after the treaty was signed they buried the Hatchet by saying, "they took it, & pulled up a great oak, buried it underneath, & planted the Oak on the top, then pulled it up again, took the Hatchet and threw it into a running Stream of water that they nor their Children nor us or our Children should ever know that such a thing happened"—Now I have told you some things that has happened, and as I kept a Journal of the whole and got all their Speeches and the Articles they signed I will shew them to you when I see you, & when that will be I will tell you—It is now settled by Colo. Harmar that I must go to Philad* in the Spring, and without any manner of doubt will be there in April, so if you can with any propriety put off that great and important matter till them, that you told me off, it will add much to my happiness—our situation perhaps may invite your attention, & well it might, for it most delightfull, situated on the banks of the Ohio, upon a most elegant flat, the fort is regular, & built with Squared logs laid on one another the side next the river is equal to any two sides, and the front which is towards the land is half as long as the side upon the river, with four regular Bastions—there is a Sally poet next river and a large Gate opposite, Barracks round the whole and one part of the Barracks formed by the wall of the fort, so I suppose you will be able to lay down a plan of it—I have received two letters from M*Michael in them he informs me that he would wish part of his Certificate disposed off, if Maj* Bush or Bowen should call upon you for them please to let 'em have them—I intend writing to them on the Subject—now all I have to say, is; that if
you can, with any propriety put off that matrimonial matter till April, it will be a very great pleasure to your
Very affectionate Brother
Erkuries.

Conjugate this by the time I see you
Wihoughquenoxee, nemat—Kalastoi nemat—
Cohon—Mataku
Deleware

Erkuries Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Philad* Novemb 29. 1785.

My dear Brother,

At length the fatal mandate is published which at once deprives me of the numerous pleasures I expected to have enjoyed this winter, particularly in seeing you, enter the Hymenial band, blessed with a happy companion for life, and me in a very agreeable Sister, for such I think she will be to us both, & all the family, beg that you will not put it off longer than you can possibly avoid, that is if every thing appears as favorable as at present, I flatter myself that some time next summer I shall embrace you both in perfect matrimonial happiness.

This day Colonel Harmar informed me that there was an immediate necessity for my going to the Westard, and fixed upon next friday for my setting out. Mr Pratt & another Gent. belonging to the troops being in town & going about that time, shall embrace the opportunity of their Company, so Adieu, for God knows when I shall see you again, if the River is passable when I get to Pittsburgh down I go to the Miami, if otherwise early in the Spring.

I have sat down to write to you, & never was in a worse humour for it in all my life, what I have wrote

is scandalous, and what more I don’t know—Yes, now I think to tell you, that I saw Mrs. Beatty safe home on the Evening of the day I left you, found B’ J. well, staid with him a Thursday & returned here with Fridays Stage—Saw Miss S. S. a few minutes, received her letter as is herein inclosed, which is all I know worth relating of my trip to Princeton—Now I wish I could put you in a way of writing to me, for how we will correspond God only knows, Your best way I imagine will be to leave your Letters at the Conestoga Waggon, or if you come to town yourself deliver them in care to Col. Harmar, few indeed do I expect to receive, however they will be more valuable when they come, be assured I will embrace opportuntys in writing to you—Now I am done—what more can I tell you—I wish I knew what you wanted to hear—My head is as empty as a calabash—perhaps I may take it in my head to write you again before I leave town—head—head—head—I say this head of mine is not worth a pinch of snuff to night, & never will I take up my pen to write to you again, untill I get it under better regulation So God bless you, I will trouble you no further only wish you every happiness this world can bestow upon us frail mortals—

And am your very affectionate

Erkuries.

I will carry this down to Mr. Raguets tomorrow morn

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62 James Raguets married Ann, daughter of Judge Henry Wynkoop. He was a French exile.

63 Erkuries Beatty left some account of his travels during the years 1786-7. He says, “July 26th 1786. Stopped opposite the mouth of Little Beaver to see Capt. Hutchins and the Surveyors who are here encamped, intending soon to cross the river, and begin the Survey of the Continental Land. Six or eight miles below McIntosh, met two boats with the baggage of three companies, who left McIntosh this morning for to encamp at Mingo Bottom.” “August 2d—stopped opposite the mouth of Little Beaver, and breakfasted with the Surveyors who are waiting for the troops. Arrived Mingo Bottom, 3 o’clock, where was Capt. Hamtramck’s, McCurdy’s and Mercer’s companies encamped and
Erkuries Beatty to John Beatty.

Pittsburgh Dec 22d 1785.

Dr Brother

I arrived here the day before yesterday after a very tedious & painfull journey, owing to the very badness of the roads. . . . I intend visiting the Brilliant Assembly of this place this evening as it will be opened this Night for the first time this Season—I am very unhappy to hear, that our Indian affairs here wear a very unpleasing aspect—I spoke with a person yesterday, (of a good deal of probity) who is just come in from a number of the Indian towns whom the Commissioners has just been mustered and inspected by Major North. The troops encamped on the bank of the river, opposite the lower end of a small island. 3d—orders were issued for two companies to march to-morrow morning, and join the Surveyors. September 22d—stopped at a small block house, on the Indian shore, which Major Hamtramck had built, for the security of his provisions, while he was out protecting the Continental Surveyors." February 16, 1787—arrived at Fort Steuben. This is a Fort built since I was on the river, by Major Hamtramck, above Mingo Bottom, on the Indian shore, about 47 miles below McIntosh, and 23 above Wheeling. It is about 120 yards from the river, on a very excellent high bank, and on commanding ground. A square with a large Block House on each corner, and pickets between each Block House from the Fort, in this manner (there is a plan of it, regularly and neatly drawn out.) The Big Gate fronting the main on the West, and the Sally Port the river; with the Guard House over the latter. The Block Houses serve for all the men, and the officers' two houses are on each side of the Big Gate, the back part serving as a row of pickets. It is garrisoned by Hamtramck's and Mercer's companies, the former commanding. March 3d—from Wheeling to Fort Steuben, where Major Hamtramck, who was ordered to muster the troops up to January 1st 1787, agreed to accompany us to Fort Pitt. March 28th—early in the morning left Pittsburgh, stopped two hours at McIntosh, and arrived at Fort Steuben in the evening; stayed all night, and set off early in the morning. May 19th—arrived at Fort Steuben about 8 o'clock, with Major Hamtramck, on my way to New York. The people about Wheeling and here all much alarmed about Indians. 26th—left Fort Steuben early in the morning, with Captain Mercer and Mr. Schuyler in a boat. Major Hamtramck has got orders from Col. Harmar, to evacuate his garrison immediately, and take his troops to Fort Harmar." (Beatty Family Record, pp. 84-5.)
intending treating with this fall at Miami, & he says, that they generally absolutely refuse attending, & have sent their reasons in kind of parables, which is very easily explain’d and it seems to be the general opinion of the most sensible men of this place, that the present treaty will by no means have the desired effect, yet strange it is that we here have not received One word of official intelligence, neither from the Commissioners or troops since their being at the Mouth of Miami, but general reports say they are all safe, and but few Indians, chiefly those who were treated with before—We have six full Companies of men this winter on the Ohio that is, three at Fort McIntosh, two at the Mouth of Muskingham and one at Miami with the Commissioners, all of which I imagine would easily fall a sacrifice if the Savages were so disposed, however a soldier has no right to think, therefore I leave that to men in power & hope their penetrating genius’s, will not suffer a handful of men to be sacrificed to their folly—Please make my kindest respects to Mrs. Beatty, & Sister Green when you have the pleasure of seeing her.

I am with the greatest sincerity your affe Br.

E. Beatty.

Eururies Beatty to Reading Beatty.


Dr. Reading,

I received yours 3d Ins’—thank you kindly for your good intentions—better than mine the County treasurer is like all the rest of the world—put me off with vague answers, & just so has Gen’l. Knox & the Board of Treasury, which makes me wish the Devil had them all, & sincerely curse the day that ever induced me again to enter in such a rascally service, when cringing Syco-phants in the midst of plenty, kick the poor worn out
soldier out of door, because he does not debase his feelings with the most rascally servility to upstarts of a day—But my dear Brother it is not worth while to trouble you with my own disagreeable feelings—you are possessed of too much sensibility, & far be it from my thoughts to make you unhappy, & as for myself could be happy with the pattern of your good Lady in a place no larger than a Racoon Box living on the toil of my own hands, so that she was happy, & myself independent of such an ungenerous country—No more —Your Land looks well on paper, & mine dont look bad, if we had any dependance on the rascallity of the World. however lay them by—It may be a last resource to me, when I can do no better, & rather than be dependent, would commit a much more injurious Act—I have an order on Mr. Wynkoop for 400 Dollars, I have wrote him on the subject—tomorrow I must set out for Reading & Lancaster again & expect in about ten days to sett off for the Westward, under almost every disagreeable circumstance. One thing I pray that you will take the earliest opportunity of sending the inclosed Letter to Mr. Arndt for he among the rest has treated me most scurvily—I passed a receipt to him for the whole Amount of my order, & took his Note payable on demand for a balance of upwards of £100/ which he sincerely promised to send me in six days afterwards, & never got one copper of it yet—I returned last Monday from Princeton, after spending four days with B'. John very agreeably, I wish I could spend the same time with you, but my unfortunate stars has ordained it otherwise, & I don’t think you will see me again in a good while—

God bless you, & all about you, is the sincere prayer of

Your affectionate Brother

Erkuries.
Letters of the Four Beatty Brothers.

Erkuries Beatty to Reading Beatty.

Carlisle July 22d 1792

Dear Beading,

I am just setting off for Church therefore have only time to tell you that I am well. . . . since I came home I have employed chief of my time in gallanting the Ladies, as I find them very agreeable, should be very glad you was here, to partake of part of my happiness, but am afraid circumstances will not yet admit of it as I hear Turnbull is yet very unwell—I send this by Mr. John Smith an inhabitant of this place in the Quarter Mr. Department an exceeding clever young fellow worthy any persons acquaintance—No News, Jack Hughes, Tom Campbell, & Jack Pratt has their compliments to you, and please to present mine to any person who think while to inquire for me, I am your very affectionate Brother

Erkuries.

Pray write as soon as possible.

Erkuries Beatty to John Beatty.

Roadstown Dec. 29. 1794.

Dear Brother,

I waited with considerable impatience almost all last Saturday morning at Bridgetown for the arrival of the post, had to go home at last without getting your Letter which was brought to me in the evening by a private Gentleman, indeed if old Timothy knew how the mail is conducted in this Country, I guess he would kick up a rumpus, for sometimes, it is lost & picked up by Waggoners, which I do not wonder at for it is but a few days ago that the man passed here carrying the mail, was so drunk he could scarcely sit on his horse—By post, is in so much disrepute here, that the people in

*Roadstown is about two miles southwest of Shiloh, N. J.
general entrusts their Letters &c, by the Stage,—I have not as yet been obliged to raise the seige entirely, but I have been obliged to sustain several powerfull sallies, which renders my operations very tardy indeed—I have by no means been idle the last week—have made several retrograde manouvers close in the vicinity of the garrison, by amusing myself with a little out work, which will perhaps cause some little jealousy within (as there is by no means a good understanding between the two powers) & perhaps expedite a surrender, or at once oblige me to raise the seige entirely, & there is a good deal of plunder in the out work, it may perhaps fall on easier prey—at present the main work is rather in a state of Blockade, & this week I believe will proceed on your advice to sapping & mining—I am very happy to hear from Princeton, that all is well but am really sorry to hear that D'. L. has not brought his mind to a decison on so important a matter as Matri-mony, for he promised me faithfully before I left Princeton, that he would certainly be about it this winter—Indeed I have not much hopes to give the Doctor from my own success, but pray tell him to keep in mind the Story of "an old Stag of a Batchelor"—also please tell him what has befell me since I am down here, which equally affects him, & has almost knocked me up—a Young Lady told me a few days ago when talking on Love that I had got too old to feel in any great degree that powerfull passion or create it in the breast of a young Lady—She did not doubt but I was worthy of a great deal of esteem & a Lady suitable to my years might possibly be persuaded to think so likewise—there's for you—cold esteem—Nothing but the thought of the Doctor's being as old as me would scarcely have reconciled me to myself—It was a wicked malicious Story, & what made it worse, I thought there was too much truth in it, so put it in my pocket as a loud call to us both, to be up and doing—I am much
Letters of the Four Beatty Brothers.

obliged to you for your News and Newspapers, & pray continue to exercise your goodness in that way. & if you please find me Fenno's papers as we get Bache's here every week by the stage—But pray what has become of the 70 sail of West India Merchantmen carried into L'Orient by the French? and what has become of the Naval Action in the Chesapeake between some French & English Ships?—I have not heard a word about Election from any person since I wrote you last, altho' I have been at the houses of both Elmers & W. F. is intire silent on the Subject—shall go to the Bridge tomorrow to see how they come on—Inclosed is a Letter for B Reading which I will thank you to forward him also one for Billy—but I suppose he is out of town—pray give it him when he returns—they are all well here & send a great deal of Love to you, & we all keep constantly wishing for an expatriation of the rheumatism from your knee,

Your affectionate Brother,

E. Beatty.

Reading Beatty to John Beatty.

Dear Brother,

I had intended, previous to this, to give you a short Letter by way of begging the favour of your Correspondence during the ensuing Winter; but my good intentions have been frustrated for want of sufficient time, as well as from a doubt (if your Letters are not carried by Pork gratis) whether any Epistles by their

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65 Fenno's paper was The Gazette of the United States, established by John Fenno in New York, 11 April, 1789, and removed to Philadelphia when it became the seat of the government. The first Philadelphia issue was dated 14 April, 1790.

66 Bache's paper was The Aurora and General Advertiser, established as The General Advertiser, 1790, by Benjamin Franklin Bache. The title Aurora was adopted 8 November, 1794.

67 Both Elmers were probably Jonathan, physician and jurist, and his brother Ebenezer, physician; prominent citizens of Cumberland County, N. J.
entertainment would compensate for the expence they would be to you. Will you let me know if I may indulge the pleasing expectation of hearing from you sometimes the politics of the day, or if I am to trust to the Newspapers for all the information I am to receive of the proceedings of Congress?—I need not assure you how highly I should be gratified by your writing to me—Will you let me know too if you heard from me by Genl. Cummings, & if you have seen Mrs. Lombaert\textsuperscript{68} since your going to the City?—

We had flattered ourselves with the pleasure of seeing you & sister at Fallsington\textsuperscript{69} before your going to Congress, but we have been disappointed, from what cause we cannot say.—

Would you be able to write to me upon the terms above mentioned, I will direct Mr. Clum, the Post Master at Bristol\textsuperscript{70} to have my Letters taken out of the mail at Bristol, & sent forward to Morton's by the Rider, from whence I shall have frequent opportunities of receiving them.—

Chrissy\textsuperscript{71} joins me in good wishes that you may enjoy health & happiness.—

Yours with much Affection

Reading Beatty.

\textsuperscript{68} Mrs. Herman Joseph Lombaert, daughter of Judge Henry Wynkoop.
\textsuperscript{69} Fallsington, Bucks County, Pa., where Doctor Reading Beatty and his wife were living at this time.
\textsuperscript{70} When the first post-office was established at Bristol, 1 June, 1790, Joseph Clum was appointed post-master.
\textsuperscript{71} Christina, wife of Doctor Reading Beatty.