

Dear sister

A3

Harper's ferry at the Blue Ridge in Jefferson Co.
Virginia Apr. 27-1806

I have not many materials for a letter, but distance
sometimes colours what is barren with interest. Through
tho^t, perhaps you may have heard of ^{me} at Washington, I
believe the day after I wrote him, on the 18th I made an
excursion to Alexandria & M^r. Vernon, and it so happened
that every circumstance conspired to render it pleasant. I
had letters, and dined with Judge Washington Sumner.
he was absent on the Circuit. A day passed as you
may suppose rapidly, in visiting a spot, on which
a thousand recollections dear to an American arrest
& detain the attention. Alexandria is a handsome
town. On the 22nd inst I returned from West^{on} to
Baltimore, where I found some friends and passed four
days agreeably. Its growth has been surprising,
and already it rivals Philadelphia in commerce at the
Sixty years since it was a Tobacco & Wheat Plantation.
Having a strong inclination to see a little of the
interior of the country here, I left Baltimore on
the 22nd in the afternoon and lodged at a romantic
situation called Elliotts Mills about 12 miles distance.
These things however delightful to the traveller, fatigue
in description, I pass over that therefore, to Frederic. T.
an inland place of considerable note in Maryland -

I passed last night there, and arrived this m^t at
 sunset when you find my letter dated. — This
 place was particularly an object of my curiosity, the
~~the~~ description of it called forth the pen of our Par^t
 M^r G. ^{Jefferson} in its most vivid colours, as you will see
 if you will look at his notes on Virginia. To that
 description I refer you for the best idea that you can
 form of it. If this man's political promises, ^{his inaugural speeches & presidential messages} had
 accorded as nearly with truth, as has his historical nar-
 rative in this instance, we should not have to accuse
 him of "Pattering with us in a double sense, to keep"

whom I get in with at Washington, to morrow we
intend pursuing our route about twelve miles west
in Virginia, and then taking a more northerly direction thro'
a part of Maryland & Pennsylvania to the N. West of the
Blue Ridge to Shepherdstown, and then over the Potomac
to Hagerstown, Carlisle, and across the Susquehanna
to Harrisburg, down to Lancaster, & Philadelphia. I
am particular, as I recollect my mother ~~is~~ used to
be fond of tracing out journeys or maps, and has said
this embraces a very fertile country, that contributes
a liberal proportion towards ^{with Flax & Tobacco} brothering the Northern
and shipping of our N. E. States. Every part of the
country here is now bright with ^{the} ~~wheat~~ ^{o'wheat}, the season is
about a month in advance of yours. - I do not find
any essential change of manners in the ~~country~~ people here.
Their habitations are inferior, and I think they clasp beneath
the N. E. farmers, & our common country ^{folks}. This is the
land of whisky, I have drank it with water for a
common beverage this two days. ~~If for the want of~~
~~other is much here to gratify a botanical taste.~~ cyder or beer?
I want some of Hannah's knowledge in this respect.
My paper is done, & it is late your aff^d Brother, James

Pennsylvania

Chambersburg, Pa. { At 9 o'clock I arrived this morning

April 30th

at 1 o'clock I continued my journey

I have a horse & a carriage back of me & a
lot of baggage between the Blue Ridge and what are called
the foot mountains. This place is 150 miles from Philadelphia
and about an equal distance from Pittsburgh or the Ohio, it is
built of such stone & brick that it is known with a number of
other towns for a sample of most of their western cities, for
that many are incorporated. The riding is continually that does
on the road, always in the saddle, and never more than one
pair together, meeting them at every few 1000 feet
the Maryland & Virginia the road was frequent in
I met with some traction from the west but they mention nothing

in the day before yesterday. We were at the same time
enjoying a May day. Their western habitations seem
as it were from another country, so much as they seem coming
in with a feeling of the grandeur of the rock. We have met
to day many what are called settlers, there are wagons of
dumplings with their moccasins migrating to the western territories
even the moccasins they after a long rest themselves with cattle,
that is with horse or mule and something like Baker's horses with
them a few children on each side. Thus you find I have
already noticed the frequency of visiting hearthstone
thru a step forward. Philadelphia, if this were not to
be a step forward, I should suppose for nothing to be said - W. S.

In care of

Philadelphia May 15th

You find me at this city, where I am very willing to rest a few days. The latter part of my excursion went was through a highly cultivated country. The tenements of stone chiefly, very large barns of the same materials, in which they abound and some handsome & regular towns & villages. Lancaster might be considered quite a city. This circuit comprises in distance about 300 miles. Some of the roads are bad, and I doubt whether ladies would find themselves accompanied for the fatigue in a visit of this kind. For we travellers, you must know an art to represent only the alluring parts, and to pass over the numerous variations of expeditions of this nature. A proposal of Niagara. I shall be at Boston about the 20th inst. and if you feel equal to it both, and can obtain necessary consent, I for my own part of nothing impossible prevents should like it sometime in June.

I arrived here the 2nd inst. - yesterday had a pleasant ride in the environs of the city to Germantown, noted in the history of our war, and returned by the Schuylkill, embellished with handsome country seats. There is much to admire, but the vicinity of Boston affords finer situations and a greater variety & extent of prospect.

Very respectfully yours Aff^r Brother

W^m S. Lanyon

Miss Mary Anne Lanyon

Miss Mary Ann Sawyer

at Dr. Maria L. Sawyer

Newburyport

State of Massachusetts