

# SOME SHIPPEN LETTERS.

————— F. R. D .

Several months ago, Mr. Evans W. Shippen, of Meadville, Pa., placed in my hands for examination, and such use as I might deem expedient, a number of letters written by members of the Shippen family of this State. While they were family letters and not of general public interest, yet there is so much relating to persons and things in this locality and the State generally that I deemed their local flavor such as to make it entirely fitting that they should have a place in our proceedings. As Mr. Shippen naturally desired to retain possession of them, I had type-written copies made, and these will be laid before you.

I have also thought that a brief sketch of the Shippen family might fitly accompany these letters, inasmuch as it was one of the most prominent ones in the State for many years, taking a very important part in the affairs of Pennsylvania, both during and after the Provincial period. One of its most distinguished members was for a period of twenty-nine years a resident of this city, where he held important offices and took an important part in all our public affairs before and during the revolution, up to the time of his death.

A very full pedigree of the Shippen family may be found in Dr. Egle's annual volume of Notes and Queries, for 1896, from page 181 to 186, all the facts having been carefully recorded by Judge Jasper Yeates, of this city, as they were given him by Edward Shippen, of Lancaster, on April 10,

1775, six years before the latter's death.

The founder of the family in America was Edward Shippen, born at Hillham, Cheshire, England, in 1639, and died in Philadelphia, Pa., October 2, 1712. He was bred to mercantile pursuits, and emigrated to Boston, Mass., in 1668, where he became a wealthy merchant. He married Elizabeth Lybrand, a Quakeress, and joined that sect. In 1693 he was either banished or driven to take refuge in Philadelphia, where he at once became a prominent citizen. In 1695 he became a member of the Assembly, and was chosen Speaker. In the following year he was elected to the Provincial Council. He was made a Common Pleas Judge, Judge of the Supreme Court, and in 1701 became Mayor of Philadelphia. Later he became the City Treasurer.

His son, Joseph Shippen, was born at Philadelphia in 1678 and died at Germantown in 1741. He was the father of Edward Shippen, the member of the family who removed to Lancaster in 1751, who built the Shippen, Franklin, Reigart, Shroder house on the northwest corner of Orange and Lime streets, now occupied by the Lancaster College, and who was Prothonotary, Register and Recorder of the county from 1753 until the period of the Revolution, and one of the most active spirits in this county during those stirring times. Harris says he was Chief Burgess of the borough in 1763, but Ellis & Evans' history says otherwise, and gives him no place in the borough Councils, either in that or any other year. Mombert, however, says that "Edward Shippen, Esq., then Chief Magistrate, left the church (Episcopal, where he was at worship) and hastened to the quarters of Captain Robinson, etc."

Perhaps it might be as well to leave the historians fight out this question among themselves. The fact that Edward Shippen wrote to Governor John Penn, on December 14, 1763, when the first attack was made on the Indians at Conestogoe town, and again on December 27, when the massacre in the Work House occurred, giving all the details, may have led Harris and Mombert to believe he was the Chief Burgess, but, as Ellis and Evans copy the entire borough record from 1742 onward, I am decidedly of the opinion that they are right in this controversy. Besides, Mr. Shippen was continually in office in the service of the county during that period, and it is hardly supposable that he held the most important borough office in addition.

Edward Shippen was married first in 1725, to Sarah Plumly, by whom he had four sons and three daughters. He contracted a second marriage with Mary Gray, in 1747. There were no offspring from the second marriage.

Through marriages, the Shippen family were connected with many of the principal families in the Province of Pennsylvania. Sarah Shippen, daughter of our Edward, married James Burd. They had eleven children, and these married into the Grubb, the Patterson and Hubley families. With still other intermarriages, the Shippens became connected with the Hand, Yeates, Ewing, Smith and other families of prominence.

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**Edward Shippen, Esq., to His Wife,  
Mrs. Mary Shippen, in Lancaster.**

Shippensburg 10th July, 1755.

I came here last night from Adam Hoopes who had been out with the Cattle, and Waggoners with 16 or 17 men including the waggoners, & they had got as far as Alloguippees an old

Indian town near Chownetta 10 french Indians fell upon the Drovers & 2 men with 7 horse Load of meal and killed 9 men. Adam Hoopes was 4 miles behind with the waggons (which was ill managed for the Company ought never to have been divided) and one man making his escape acquainted Adam & his waggoners with what had happened, upon which they took the horses out of the waggons and made the best of their way towards the Inhabitants. I was at Connecocheeg when Adam came home; but before his arrival I had convened the Justices together with the Sheriff, and orders were issued out, and sent to all the most Substantial Settlers to come to us immediately & notice was given at the Same time that such men as would.....\*I am to return to Shippenburg tomorrow night. I have advised them to keep their dogs always busy, by which means the Indians will be discovered when they little expect it, and will prevent their popping off their Guns at us unawares as our People march along the road, besides it will give us the advantage over them if our folks should choose to force the Indians to a battle. Mr. Burd had but 8 days provisions 3 days ago, and not one ounce of meat and whether he had heard of the Murder of these Men or not; he will Suppose the Indians have intercepted the Cattle &c and so will resolve to intercede with Captain Hog to protect him & his road Cutters in their March Homeward; and the Captain will be obliged to do this for his own Safety for Mr. Burd has the command and they will support

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\*Wherever these breaks in the text occur, they are due to the fact that the old Mss. letters are so much torn and worn as to be undecipherable in places, and these breaks indicate that fact

the Captain.....sending bread to General Braddock by which Stratagem they hope to oblige Him to come away with his army & to Suffer the French to Succeed in their Scheme of Settling & enjoying all the fine Land beyond the Allegheny Mountain; But I hope we shall find out ways to frustrate their vain Expectations. Sally gives her Love to you and Josey and every body at home and thank you for those &c Accept \* \* \* also; not for getting little Sal with the \* \* \*

Your ever Loving & affectionate

EDWD SHIPPEN.

P. S.—I hope that Josey is growing Stronger & Stronger every day, remembering my advice not to be too venturesome I would write to him but my Company waits at the door for me and I have almost overstaid my Time of appointment &c

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**Richard Stockton to Edward Shippen,  
Esq., at Lancaster.**

Richard Stockton was one of the most illustrious of New Jersey's sons. He was early interested in the future of Princeton College. He was a signer of the Declaration of Independence from New Jersey, and on the bench of the Supreme Court of that State.

Edward Shippen was one of the founders of Princeton College, then known as the College of New Jersey, sometimes as Nassau Hall, and his son, Joseph, graduated there in 1750. He was a Trustee of the institution, hence the following notice to attend a Trustees' meeting:

Oct. 29th 1757.

Sir—

please to take Notice that : Meeting of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey is appointed at Nassau

Hall on Thursday the third day of November next at 9 o'clock in the Morning; and as a Matter of high Importance to the Society is then to be considered; your attendance will be very necessary

Your Humble Serv't  
RICHARD STOCKTON

Edward Shippen Esq.  
at Lancaster.

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**Edward Shippen, Esq., to His Son,  
Joseph Shippen.**

Lancaster 27th Sept. 1774.

Dear Son

I have received your favor of the 20th Sepr. with the goods which I am glad to have; and inclosed is 2-6 the cost. Your Mammy sends her love to you both and so do I & thank her for her intention of looking out for the granberries (cranberries?). The box for Your Sister & Niece, which She designed to send, is a Sign of very great respect. We are very glad to hear that She, and the little Christian are So well. Charles is a pretty name for him; kiss him & the rest of the Children for us with our love, whom we long to See, which I am afraid I shall not have the pleasure this Fall, as I have been lame, & my Leg is very tender that I cant ride except as far as the creek, without hurting it. The misfortune happened a month before . . . . . & making too free with it last Sessions, it festered again, so that I was forced to nurse it a second time on my couch; but thank God, it is now quite cured. I am glad to hear that Mr. Hamilton is recovered of his fever. [I pity the poor woman on acct of their trouble in Child bearing, & their danger at last labor. Jenny must expect more Children by and by—but it is too Soon to mention those things to her now, but should it please God

to give you another Son; may be you will name it John. I only mention this as there was one of that name, (brother to William Shippen & Parliament man) from whom I once received a very kind Letter, which I have preserved.] Among other branches of Education, girls ought early to be taught to ride. If Sally Shippen had Stayed a week longer with us, She would have been mistress of that very useful Art. If a woman is used to a Side Saddle She can travel in the worst of roads, as well as men do upon any emergency. I admire Dr. Shipley & his Speech, Spoken in the house of Lords. I hope Lord North is only catching at Straws. If he dont take care of himself, an ax may be his portion, even tho he is the most cunning Minister that ever was born; & if that should be his Fate, he will be convinced before he must lay his head upon the block, that it was for want of Perfection. Did my Lord Dartmouth a Dissenter deliver into the house the Canada bill. Were there ever better & faster.....to the King of Great Britain &c than Dissention. Did not his proud Majesty whom God long.....long since write a most affectionate Letter to the Synod at .....? Surely he did. I was glad to see a resolve of the Congress of the 22d Instant. But to have recommended Exportation to the Merchants, and to have Stopt sending any money to pay our Debts at Home would have put us into the same wretched Situation of the poor Bostonians. Lord.....would have been pleased with this, & would have recommended it to the Parliament if he dont..... I had more to Say, I hope it will please God to give success to the means proscribing by the Congress for our deliverance. Lord North seems to have overshot himself

in carrying this Canada bill. I Say I think he has done too much.

I am Dear Son Your affectionate & Loving Father

EDWD SHIPPEN.

P. S. What Sort of porter beer is (has) Mr. Hawes?

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Joseph Shippen, Jr., to Edward Shippen, Esq., at Lancaster.

Philadelphia 13, May 1775.

Dear & Honored Sir

Yesterday my Brother brought me your Favor of the 6th Instant;—by which it appears probable that you have not received my Letter of the 20th Ult. which I sent by a Young Man who promised to deliver it to you as he passed thro' Lancaster to Cumberland; I do not now recollect his Name. I therefore inclose you a Duplicate of that Letter, & also Mr. Hamilton's Receipt for the Monies which it mentions to have been brought me by the Post for that Gentleman.....I shall take Care to procure you as good a Book for your Mortgage Records as can be had, so as to be sent you the latter End of next Week, if possible.

We have no News just now but what is contained in the Papers. Our Association Companies are very industrious in learning the Military Exercise, they muster on the Commons every Morning & Evening for that purpose and have already made surprising Improvement.....The Congress have met 2 or 3 times to prepare for entering on Business next Week; their proceedings will be kept secret as before. May God grant them Wisdom in their Councils.—

Jenny joins in Love to Yourself,  
Mammy and Miss Patty,—

Dear Sir

Your very affectionate  
& dutiful Son

JOSEPH SHIPPEN, JR

Edward Shippen Esquire.

Patty Gray, or "Poor Patsey," as she is called in one of the letters, was Miss Martha Gray, the cousin of Edward Shippen's second wife, Mary Gray. Patsey Gray died at Lancaster on November 17, 1794, aged eighty-three years.

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Edward Shippen, Esq., to His Son,  
Joseph Shippen.

Lancaster July 2d 1775

5 O'Clock P. M.

Dear Son

I just now received your Letter replete with tidings of Great Joy God's holy name be praised for giving such Success to an innocent people fighting in their own defence, against a Set of men waging an unnatural war against them & all the Continent, by the Instigation of that Great Murderer (a Butcher is too Christian an epithet) Lord North, that great Parricide—Poor Whitefield used to call such men half Beast, & half Devil; but I dont wrong that bloodthirsty Minister when I call him a Whole Devil!

I am much pleased to hear of General Washington's consent to go to New England, especially as he was Solicited by the Massachusetts provincial Convention to be the Commander of their Troops. May God prosper this, & their Godly undertakings. The Great General Howe has done his possible in order to Strike that Gallant people dead at one Shot; but alas how has he failed!—Now Gage's dernier resort is, to send out

that Great Mighty & Invincible dancing General Burgoyne with his 4000 men & Two troops of horse, but I hope that Six or eight hundred of the riflemen now raising for that Expedition will be a match and more for his horse; and if the provincials shall give the Regulars such another drubbing, the Ministry may be very glad to make Peace with us on the Terms proposing by our Most Honourable Mr. Slough. A Company of 60 or 80 riflemen from York County passed through this Borough just now, on their way, via Reading to Cambridge. And tomorrow or next day a Company from upper Paxtan is to march via Reading also. Mr. Yeates hears that Neddy Burd is raising a Company of hunters also: I believe his Parents know nothing of the matter yet: if the report be true, he cannot in honour retract: he is to be here in a day or two—If he goes I fancy that Jesse Ewings (now about two & twenty) will act for him till please god he returns again—Mr. Robt. Strettel Jones & his wife lodged at Mr. Yeates. Your Mammy who is still much affected with Rheumatism & Miss Patty present their kind Love with mine to your Self Jenny & the Children I am

Dear Son

Your affectionate & Loving Father

EDWD SHIPPEN.

P. S.—Some say that Neddy Burd is to be only Lieutenant, but others think that he is to be a Captain.

E. S.

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Joseph Shippen, Jr., to His Father,  
Edward Shippen, Esq.

Philadelphia 21st May 1766

Dear & honored Sir

Last week I was favored with your agreeable Letter of the 7th Inst, ac-

quainting me with the purchase of Clintons places for so low a price as £900. which gave me a very great pleasure as I was extremely anxious, that it should not slip through our Hands, after all our Expectations about it. Your great Kindness to Mr. Burd & my Sister in giving them the Boards & Scantling &c for their House is extremely pleasing to me and I hope their Conduct towards you will be such as to leave no Room for you to repent your Goodness to them. My Brother has acquainted me with all the other particulars relative to Settlement of Mr. Burd's Family, that he knew.....hope they will have a comfortable Habitation.....their own finished by the beginning of next Winter. I have at length the Happiness of most heartily congratulating you on the most joyful News of a Confirmation of the Repeal of the Stamp Act, which was brought us by a Ship on Monday Morning in 7 Weeks from Poole. You will see the Act itself & the particulars in the present Week's Paper. Last Night the City was handsomely illuminated, the Bells rung, & Bonfires made on this ever memorable & glorious Occasion; And this Day a grand Entertainment will be prepared at the State House, at which will be present about 200 of the principal Inhabitants besides Officers of the Army & other Strangers, to celebrate this remarkable Era, and to testify their Joy, as well as Gratitude to their Friends in England, without triumphing over their Enemies. Every thing was conducted with the greatest Decency last Night. I am leaving to go to Dinner. My Love to Mammy & all the Family—I am Dr Sir Yr very affec. Son &c.

JOSEPH SHIPPEN JR.

Edward Shippen to His Son, Joseph Shippen.

Lancaster 8th June 1776.

Dear Son

I think I have answered your several Letters. I wrote you some time ago to inquire of Mr. Joshua Fisher whether he had any more of that Burton ale & the price and if you received my Letter. I make no doubt but that you sent me an answer by a person who forgot to Deliver it.

I am now sending under your care by our Post Barney Wolf £46—4—3 which I desire you to pay to the Gentleman below mentioned viz.

	£.	s.	d.
To His Honor, Jno. Penn, Esq., Governor .....	23	0	0
To Benjamin Chow, Esq., Reg. General .....	18	1	3
To your Self.....	5	3	
Total .....	46	4	3

I answered your brother's two Letters of the 23d Ult. since which he has favored me with another of the 31st Ult. & I have pursued his advice. The County Committee met yesterday, and it was carried by a great Majority for a Convention as its said; but I have not seen Mr. Y.....to-day; neither have I been sent for yet; nor do I now expect it, as they are all very Sensible that no member has given a more constant attendance, both by night and day all last winter, & ever Since, than my Self. Mr. Burd writes me that Mr. Slough was mistaken as to Captain James Murray, who.....Paxtan a very leading man, and a Captain of Colonel Burd's Battalion his brother Captain John Murray is gone Captain of a Rifle Company in the Service. I wrote yesterday to Col. Burd by the Paxtan Post and mentioned your brother's hint.

I just now heard that our Committee have elected the following per-

sons to join others from the Different Countys at Philadelphia in order to choose the 100 Men to represent the Province in Convention &c: Colonel Bartram Galbreath, Mr. Alexander Lowery, Mr. James Cunningham, Mr. John Smiley, Mr. William Brown, Mr. William Atlee, Mr. David Jenkins, Mr. Ludwig Lauman, Mr. Andrew Graff.

Your Mammy joins with Miss Patty & my Self in Love to your Self, Jenny and the Children.

I am Dear Son Your Loving & affectionate Father

EDWARD SHIPPEN

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Edward Shippen, Esq., of Lancaster,  
to His Son, Joseph Shippen, Esq.,  
Secretary, Philadelphia.

Lancaster 13th July 1776

Dear Son Saturday

I answered your Letter of the 3<sup>d</sup> Instant by the Post who takes his departure next Tuesday: and on the 11 I wrote you a few Lines by Billy Foltman, one of my apprentices, a very useful clerk in my office, having about 18 months to serve. In Short They have taken away every one of my Clerks vis. Billey Foltman & Billey Bankman; the latter compleat in the business of Recording of Deeds &c. Just asked Col. Ross to leave me one of them; but to no manner or purpose altho thought advisable by Several members of our Committee, of which I have the honour to be one. Several People have been excused on acc't of immediate dependence on them by the publick, & some other Tradesmen were allowed to stay at Home. I desired you to look out for a Steady Salesman (tho I expect not one under fifty unless unfit to go to war by lameness &c) whom you could recommend; but before you engage with him, know his Terms for 2 or 3 months (as by the blessing of God) I

hope to have my Clerks back again in that time, bringing with them the glorious news of the Defeat of our Murdering Enemys. The new Clerk cant lodge nor visit in my house; but I shall take care that he be well accommodated. The wages must be very moderate or I cant afford to hire him, for I have nothing for him to do except helping my servant boy to record Deeds. There is one Casper Shafner a blue dyer who draws deeds & other writings at leisure hours for the people; and I believe he would be willing to Serve me; but I decline Speaking to him until I hear from you, & then I shall know what I have to trust to. In my letter by Billey Foltman I desired to know, whether it was known that our worthy Friend Mr. Hamilton & other the Prothonotarys would be continued in their offices, & I should be glad to hear the Condition. I informed you that Mr. Daniel Clymer let me know that I was to be continued in my Office, but did not mention the Terms but I hope they will be moderate. I allow Peter £50 per Annum and pay his House Rent £15 per Ann. besides a private present of two half Joes every Year, and 12 cord of Wood at 9s amo. to £5—8—0 & two Cord of Hickory at 14s is 28s more; and as he has been admitted by the Court.....I allow him time to draw one Orphan's..... &c which is so great a help to him, that he could not maintain his wife and three children without. And out of my own fees whether I receive them or not, I pay £50 p an. for the Justices entertainment at Court times, —not to mention £50 p an. for my firewood for 4 fires. As Billey Foltman might forget to Deliver my Letter, I thought proper to mention some things in this, which were contained in that Letter. I was entirely against

Mr. Alston, dealing with Joshua Fisher and Son. May be more careful, Cases of bottled beer, if he has any good Porter, I wish he would send a case of 3, 4 or 5 down as it best suits him. Any clerk to whom you may Speak need not proceed to come to me; for perhaps I may get one here to please; yet I desire you will inquire for one. Your poor Mammy & Patty Gray & my Self present our kind Love to your Self Jenny and the Children. I wrote by the Post to your brother inclosed under my Letter to your Self which you may expect to receive next Wednesday noon

I am Dear Son

Your affectionate & Loving  
Father

EDWARD SHIPPEN.

P. S. You may answer my Letter by the Post if no immediate opportunity should offer.

E. S.

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Edward Shippen, Esq., of Lancaster,  
to His Son, Joseph Shippen, Esq.

Lancaster 5th Oct. 1778

On the 12th Ult. I had the pleasure of receiving your agreeable Favor of the 31—Ult and am Heartily Sorry that ever old England Should fall out with their own American Children. That Conduct puts me in mind of the Fable of the Dog and the Shadow, and the old woman who killed her hen who laid but one golden egg a day, in hopes of finding millions in her body! I dare say that King Charles the first and his ministers were men of as much understanding, as King George the 3d & his Cabinet.....nay of a great deal more, or else, when the Stamp Act was repealed to appease the people; a more offensive act if possible would never have been substituted in its place. There was no

nation in the world so happy.....  
Continent more so than this, & now  
they have ruined themselves, but not  
as I imagine.

I hope when over the times.....  
you will be able to procure a better  
Settlement. Your Plantation is cer-  
tainly too small, but indeed wages are  
as you will observe too Extravagant,  
that it is not worth while to raise  
grain for the Market. I am very  
Sensible you are not able to Support  
your Family: But .....Situation be-  
ing out of all manner of .....but let  
us all hope for better fortune. It is a  
great blessedness that you and your  
Family enjoy your Health so well. I  
received a letter some time ago from  
Cousin Fayeweather, wherein he men-  
tions the Calamities of the Times—  
he says that there are a great many  
Families who had lived in affluence,  
now reduced to a State of want and  
Beggary. And as unfortunate as  
your Self & family were when the  
English Army was at Kennet Square,  
yet it was a great happiness that you  
had some Compensation for your  
Losses. I dont know what would  
have become of us in this Borough if  
General Howe had marched up here.  
Your Situation so out of the way of  
your Relations & Friends must truly  
be very uncomfortable to you, it is  
truly so to us. I would willingly pay  
you a long wished for visit, but am  
afraid the season of the year is so far  
advanced that I dare not undertake  
such a journey, as it may be a little  
too far for one days ride, and if I  
should lodge on the Road in a Cold  
House and bad bed, I might catch  
cold, as I find myself a little tender &  
sometimes a little Chilly and no won-  
der at my Time of Life; tho' I am  
hearty and health as any man living,  
I believe, at my Age of seventy five.

I am sorry we have no opportunity of sending.....mentioned in my last letter to my grand Child Molly Shippen.

I heartily Sympathise with our good friends poor Mr. Allen\* on acct of the troubles now come upon him in his old age (74½) years A Gentleman, who from the Time he left the Temple in 1726 till within those three or four years, had lived & abounded in the greatest ease & plenty, so that he could afford Sometime ago, to take all his hopeful Children to England at the Expense of Twenty Thousand Pounds, is now so overwhelmed by the greatest affliction &c; he first lost his Eldest son Johnny, & now his Son Jeremy and there are Andrew and Billy left him without the least expectation of ever seeing either of them in this world again. Mr. Delaney his Son in Law in England, & Mrs. Delaney with her Children in New York mourning on these Accounts. So there is no Body but Mr. Penn left to Console him and close his eyes, it grief should bring his grey head to the grave. And then there is our other good Friend Mr. Hamilton in great distress; not only on the foregoing occasion, but because his Nephew Mr. Billy Hamilton is indicted for High Treason, and now in Prison liable to be called to the Bar for Tryal every moment. Troubles overtake us and Riches take wings & fly away. And now how thankful ought my Self and Son to be since:

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\*The "poor Mr Allen" spoken of was William Allen, born in Philadelphia in 1703 or 1704. He succeeded his father-in-law, Andrew Hamilton, as Recorder of Philadelphia. He was Chief Justice of the State from 1750 to 1774. He was an ardent loyalist, as were several of his sons. He went to England in 1774, where he died in 1780. After Galloway, he was the most noted loyalist in Pennsylvania.

we have done nothing against the State; and that there is nothing which might involve our Selves in the nature of troubles and anxiety for one another!

If however you think of changing your Situation, I should be glad to know it for my own Satisfaction. Merchandising & Shopkeeping are very precarious at present; but the latter carried out here by Mr. Zant-zinger & a few more go on pretty well. This Borough lying between Baltimore & Philadelphia, can supply our Shops pretty well. Two waggon Load of Salt arrived here from Baltimore this morning. I believe it was sent for because it was cheaper there than at Philadelphia.

I believe I should have ventured to Kennet Square about 2 weeks ago, had not my charming and easy going mare been foundered by an Act of Carelessness, not by my Self, which tho now perfectly recovered, has reduced her so in flesh that I am ashamed to be seen on her back, and I can ride nothing else; and I so very much Dislike a Carriage that I never go with a Friend over to Mr. Cobbs Creek. Mr. Hare the Brewer was here the other day for hops for which he was obliged to pay three dollars per pound or let his work Stand. Still, neither can he Sell his Porter till it is almost a twelve month old. Poor Patty Gray joins with me in Love to your Self Jenny & the Children.

I am Dear Son

Your affectionate & Loving Father

EDWD SHIPPEN.

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**Letter From Edward Burd to Joseph Shippen, Esq.**

Edward Burd, the writer of the following letter, was the son of James Burd, who was born near Ormiston.

near Edinburg, Scotland. Edward Burd married Sarah, the daughter of Edward Shippen, of Lancaster, on May 19, 1748. The letter is therefore to his wife's brother, his uncle by marriage:

Kennet Square, Chester County.

Philadelphia 14 Jan. 1780.

Per favor of Mr. Miller

Dear and honored Sir,

I received your favor last Night by Mr. Miller who will return at two o'clock today. In consequence of your Desire I have inquired the current prices of the Articles you mention but Nothing is more fluctuating than they are at this Instant. I do not mean that they rise & fall but only that they are falling continually owing to the great Number of Arrivals. We have had within these few days 7 or 8 Ships from the french West Indies laden with the produce of the Islands with Sugar & Rum &c. There have been Arrivals to day and Yesterday & more expected from St. Eustatia—I do not know how the french will dispose of their Cargoes as they want articles in Return which I fear we cannot easily supply them with viz. Beefe, Pork, flour &c.

This is an Accot of current prices furnished by Mr. Alricks: Rum £30 per Gallon—I tasted his Rum, thought it tolerable, but I am not a good judge. Coffee £3 per pound, Tea £27.10 & £30 per pound: Muscovado Sugar £180 per ton: Loaf £6 per pound.

Mr. Samuel Taylor's Accot. is, Rum from £25 to £32 per Gall.: Coffee, £3 per lb. Muscovado Sugar £200 to £225 per ton, Molasses £22.10 & upwards but scarce.

Mr. Taylor says there is a very great scarcity of cash in Town and that he does not choose to buy yet as he expects all these Articles will fall

in price. Mr. Robert Stevenson a shopkeeper in a dry goods store says that very good Muscovado Sugar may be bought at a half Joe per cwt.

I intended to have done myself the Pleasure of taking Kennett in my Return from the circuit, But Betsy having been much indisposed with Chilly fits &c, I made Post Haste home—came from Carlisle to Lancaster in one day & returned home with all the Expedition I could—She has had a high Chill & fever since my return. It Keeps her exceedingly thin & she is tolerably well at present tho not quite free from a little swelling which generally preceeds and remains after the Chill. I will attend to what you desire respecting your Rent and ye taxes & paid money &c I shall do myself the Pleasure of riding to see you after ye Court at Chester. I suppose the time for purchasing any Articles you may want to dispose of will be before that time for the sake of the Harvests. It will give me great Pleasure to do anything of that kind for you. I suppose if you should conclude upon purchasing you will be able to send for the things as I suppose it would not be easy to procure a Team for any tolerable Price.

Mrs. Edward Shippen has had the fever & ague & is not yet recovered of it. I saw her a few days ago & she did not seem to have lost her prettiness & flattered herself she had recovered of ye Disorder but she has had a fit since, as we are informed. My little Boy grows finely & is very hearty. He has had the small Pox. He was ailing from sore Gums, he has got well of them tho there is not yet an appearance of a Tooth.—My Grandfather & all our Friends in Lancaster County were very well when I saw them. I shall send off your letter to him tomorrow Morning.

The articles of Capitulation of Charlestown published in Rivington's are republished here by Hall & Sellers—The substance of them is that the continental troops & sailors are to be Prisoners of War and to be conducted to a place to be agreed on there to remain until exchanged—The Militia to return home upon Parole and their property to be protected while they observe their parole. All ye Shipping, public stores &c to be delivered. The officers to keep their swords pistols Baggage &c and not to be searched. The french Consul his papers & other movable property to be protected & untouched & to remove them tho he himself a Prisoner on Parole—That Citizens prisoners on Parole are to have the same Terms as the Militia—The officers allowed to dispose of their Horses in the City & the Garrison to march out with drums beating but Colors Cased & pile their Arms—all ye french officers &c to have the same Terms as the Consul.

The Academy Bell is ringing & I am afraid Mr. Miller is about going. Betsey joins me in love to Aunt Shippen & the Children. I am Dr. Sir

Your very affectionate Nephew

EDWARD BURL.

Neddy just informed me Mrs. Shippen has her fit.

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