

can be of here; in advising & conversing with the Indians: She wou'd go down to Canada with her Family. She desires Mr. Taylor to inform you the Manner She lives here is pretty expensive to her: being obliged to keep, in a manner, open house for all those Indians that have any weight in the 6 Nations confederacy. We have told her we will not see her in want. We conclude in Haste

Sir

Your Most Obedt. Hble. Servts.
Taylor & Duffin

[To] Daniel Claus Esqr.

3. Daniel Claus Assesses Molly Brant's Influence, 1779

Montreal 30th. Aug. 1779

Sir . . .

As soon as Molly heard of my arrival she paid me a Visit and gave me a full Detail of her Adventures & Misfortunes since the Rebellion but in particular in fall 1777 after our Retreat from Fort Stanwix when she was robbed of every thing by the Rebels & their Indns. for giving Intelligence of their Motions by wch they were surprised & defeated when She was obliged to leave her home & flee for her & childrens safety to the 5 Nats. wherein she was assisted by her Brother Joseph and proceeded to take Assylum among the five Nations every one of which pressed her stay among them but she fixed upon Cayouga as the Center & having distant Relations there by whom she was kindly recevd. After Genl. Burgoynes Affair she found them in general very fickle & wavering in particular the head Man of the Senecas called *Cayengwaraghton* with whom she had a long Conversation in Council reminding him of the great friendship wch. subsisted between him & the late Sr. William whose Memory she never mentions without Tears, wch strikes Indns. greatly and to whom she often heard him declare & engage to live & die a firm Friend to the King of Engld. And his Friends with other striking Arguments wch. had such an Effect upon that Chief & the rest of the 5 Nations Sachems present that they promised her faithfully to keep up to the Engagements to her late friend for she is in reality considered & deemed by them as his Relict & one word from her goes farther with them than a thousd. from any White Man with out Exception who in general must purchase their Interest & Influence at a high rate. After Majr. Butlers Return from Montreal in fall 1777 hearing she was at Cayouga he sent her repeated and very pressing encouraging Messages to reside at Niagara wch. she at first did not know how to comply wth. being so well taken care of by her friends till at last she brought it abt. so as they could her leaving them not take amiss & parted in friendship. Her departure from Niagara now was greatly regreted by all the Indns. that heard of it and would be more so when the Campaign was over & they all be acquainted wth it as she is their only confidant to whom they communicating every thing of Importance & desiring her

Daniel Claus to Frederick Haldimand, 30 August 1779, Public Archives of Canada, MG 19, F1, vol 2: 131-133. This document can also be found in Maryly B. Penrose, comp. *Indian Affairs Papers: American Revolution* (Franklin Park, N.J.: Liberty Bell Associates, 1981), 232-234.

Advice & she prevented many at mischief & much more so than in her Brother Joseph whose present Zeal & Activity occasioned rather Envy & Jealousy with for his last Excursion was greatly damped on that Accot. having had near 300 Indns. ready to join him wch. on his setting off was brot. abt. to be stopped & countermanded, and he obliged to set out but with a small number. Molly seems to me not to be well contented with her present Situation having left her old Mother brother Relations & Acquaintances among the five Nation who she regrets & they will miss her on Accot. of her friendly conversation & Advice.

[Daniel Claus]

4. The Patriot Esther DeBerdt Reed Describes the "Sentiments of an American Woman," 1780

On the commencement of actual war, the Women of America manifested a firm resolution to contribute as much as could depend on them, to the deliverance of their country. Animated by the purest patriotism, they are sensible of sorrow at this day, in not offering more than barren wishes for the success of so glorious a Revolution. They aspire to render themselves more really useful; and this sentiment is universal from the north to the south of the Thirteen United States. Our ambition is kindled by the fame of those heroines of antiquity, who have rendered their sex illustrious, and have proved to the universe, that, if the weakness of our Constitution, if opinion and manners did not forbid us to march to glory by the same paths as the Men, we should at least equal, and sometimes surpass them in our love for the public good. I glory in all that which my sex has done great and commendable. I call to mind with enthusiasm and with admiration, all those acts of courage, of constancy and patriotism, which history has transmitted to us: The people favoured by Heaven, preserved from destruction by the virtues, the zeal and the revolution of Deborah, of Judith, of Esther! The fortitude of the mother of the Macchabees, in giving up her sons to die before her eyes: Rome saved from the fury of a victorious enemy by the efforts of Volumnia, and other Roman Ladies: So many famous sieges where the Women have been seen forgetting the weakness of their sex, building new walls, digging trenches with their feeble hands, furnishing arms to their defenders, they themselves darting the missile weapons on the enemy, resigning the ornaments of their apparel, and their fortune, to fill the public treasury, and to hasten the deliverance of their country; burying themselves under its ruins; throwing themselves into the flames rather than submit to the disgrace of humiliation before a proud enemy.

Born for liberty, disdaining to bear the irons of a tyrannic Government, we associate ourselves to the grandeur of those Sovereigns, cherished and revered, who have held with so much splendour the scepter of the greatest States, The Batildas, the Elizabeths, the Maries, the Catharines, who have extended the empire of liberty, and contented to reign by sweetness and justice, have broken the chains of slavery, forged by tyrants in the times of ignorance and barbarity. The Spanish Women, do they not make, at this moment, the most patriotic sacrifices, to encrease the means

of victory in the hands of their Sovereign. He is a friend to the French Nation. They are our allies. We call to mind, doubly interested, that it was a French Maid who kindled up amongst her fellow-citizens, the flame of patriotism buried under long misfortunes: It was the Maid of Orleans who drove from the kingdom of France the ancestors of those same British, whose odious yoke we have just shaken off; and whom it is necessary that we drive from this Continent.

But I must limit myself to the recollection of this small number of achievements. Who knows if persons disposed to censure, and sometimes too severely with regard to us, may not disapprove our appearing acquainted even with the actions of which our sex boasts? We are at least certain, that he cannot be a good citizen who will not applaud our efforts for the relief of the armies which defend our lives, our possessions, our liberty? The situation of our soldiery has been represented to me; the evils inseparable from war, and the firm and generous spirit which has enabled them to support these. But it has been said, that they may apprehend, that, in the course of a long war, the view of their distresses may be lost, and their services be forgotten. Forgotten! never; I can answer in the name of all my sex. Brave Americans, your disinterestedness, your courage, and your constancy will always be dear to America, as long as she shall preserve her virtue.

We know that at a distance from the theatre of war, if we enjoy any tranquility, it is the fruit of your watchings, your labours, your dangers. If I live happy in the midst of my family; if my husband cultivates his field, and reaps his harvest in peace; if, surrounded with my children, I myself nourish the youngest, and press it to my bosom, without being affraid of seeing myself separated from it, by a ferocious enemy; if the house in which we dwell; if our barns, our orchards are safe at the present time from the hands of those incendiaries, it is to you that we owe it. And shall we hesitate to evidence to you our gratitude? Shall we hesitate to wear a cloathing more simple; hair dressed less elegant, while at the price of this small privation, we shall deserve your benedictions, Who, amongst us, will not renounce with the highest pleasure, those vain ornaments, when she shall consider that the valiant defenders of America will be able to draw some advantage from the money which she may have laid out in these, that they will be better defended from the rigours of the seasons, that after their painful toils, they will receive some extraordinary and unexpected relief; that these presents will perhaps be valued by them at a greater price, when they will have it in their power to say: *This is the offering of the Ladies*. The time is arrived to display the same sentiments which animated us at the beginning of the Revolution, when we renounced the use of teas, however agreeable to our taste, rather than receive them from our persecutors; when we made it appear to them that we placed former necessities in the rank of superfluities, when our liberty was interested; when our republican and laborious hands spun the flax, prepared the linen intended for the use of our soldiers; when exiles and fugitives we supported with courage all the evils which are the concomitants of war. Let us not lose a moment; let us be engaged to offer the homage of our gratitude at the altar of military valour, and you, our brave deliverers, while mercenary slaves combat to cause you to share with them, the irons with which they are loaded, receive with a free hand our offering, the purest which can be presented to your virtue,

BY AN AMERICAN WOMAN
[Esther DeBerdT Reed]

5. Thomas Jefferson's Slaves Join the British, 1781

DEATHS ETC.

1781.	Hannibal. Patty Sam. Sally. Nanny Fanny Prince Nancy	fled to the enemy & died.
Elkhill	{ Flora. (Black Sall's) Quomina (Black Sall's) Black Sall Jame. (Bl. Sall's) Joe. (Sue's.)	joined enemy & died. joined enemy, returned & died
Cumbl ^d .	Lucy [erasure] [erasure] Sam.	joined enemy.
Elk-hill Shadwell.	Jenny [erasure] Harry	
Monticello.	Barnaby. run away. returned & died.	
Elkhill.	York. Isabel. Jack Hanah's child. Phoebe's child	caught small pox from enemy & died.
[note Judy & Nat of Elkhill, Will & Robin of Shadwell joined the enemy, but came back again & lived. so did Isabel, Hannibal's daughter. aftwds given to A.S. Jefferson.]		
Elk-hill	Branford sue. Sue's daur.	caught the camp fever from the negroes who returned: & died
Monticello Elk-hill	Old Jenny Phoebe (Sue's) Nanny (Tom's)	1782

6. Sarah Osborn, a Camp Follower, Recalls the Revolution, 1837

That she was married to Aaron Osborn, who was a soldier during the Revolutionary War. That her first acquaintance with said Osborn commenced in Albany, in the state of New York, during the hard winter of 1780. That deponent then resided at the house of one John Willis, a blacksmith in said city. That said Osborn came

Edwin M. Betts, ed., *Thomas Jefferson's Farm Book* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1953), 29. Revolutionary War Pension Files, National Archives. This document can also be found in John Dann, ed., *The Revolution Remembered* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980), 241-246.