

New York August 14 1776.

Honoured Father and Mother

I send to inform you that I am well and quite lively as I hope this will bring news to all the Family. Our Maryland Battalion is encamped on a hill about one mile ~~out~~ out of New York where we lay ~~at~~ in a very secure Place there is about 200 ~~men~~ Sail of the Frigate there Lay close by us 2 of

our Forts ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Channel~~ ^{Channel} to keep them from coming down a Gair which by the help of our Royalist and Floating Batteries we expect to have them for our own use in a little time. Yesterday the Enemy had a Reinforcement of that Damned Rascal Dummer's Fleet as we expect. There was about 40 Sail. we are ordered to hold our selves in readiness we expect an Attack soon by we have Lost a great many of our Troops they have deserted from us at Philadelphia and Elizabeth Town. and a great many Sicks in the Hospitals there is Rations given out at New York for 6000 Men pay day. John Anderson is in a Company of 800 Men Stationed close by us. I should be Glad if you will Write to me the first Opportunity and let me know the News if there is any in that part of the Country. we expect Please God to Winter in Annapolis those that Live of us

Killed on Long Island
August 27th 1776.

William Sands