

OK  
COLO. JOHN HASLET TO GENERAL RODNEY

Dec. 1776

Dear ad Worthy Sir:

When I last wrote, God knows, I do not, this I can affirm that I have received no answer.

After a long retreat from a full conviction of the enemy's superior number, but performed in order, with a firm determined countenance, we at last ~~X~~ stopped on ye banks of the Delaware. There we were stationed. Thank you says Gen. Rodney.

On Christmas aa3 oclock we repassed the river- A party off Virginians formed the Van Guard and did the most of the fighting - Lord Stirling's Bri- gade had the honor of fighting 1000 Hessians to a surrender. We should have gone on, and panic struck they would have fled on before us, but the inclem- ency of the weather rendered it impossible. We repassed the river rested one day and then were ordered back. I am sorry to inform the General that Capt. Holland Ensign Wilson Doctor Gilder & myself are all who have followed the ~~AM~~ American cause to Trenton, two privates excepted: on Gen. Washington being informed of this he declared his intention of having officers and men bound neck and heel ad brought back as an example to the army.

I told the Gen. the truth but not the whole truth. The last I reserved for you and you will blush with me. Seven Philadelphia light horse, yesterday brou ght in 9 horsemen and one horse who were sent to express wagons, we just now hear that the bridge on this side Princeton is cut down ad the enemy retiring.

A sufficient number of troops are ready to drive them out of the Jerseys we hope to greet you well on our victorious return from Trenton. I fell into the Delaware up to my middle have had the pains and swelled legs ever since but ~~no~~ matter if we drive them to New York. If I return it will be to salute you if not we shall meet in Heaven. Your goodness will give Mrs. Haslet such news as you think proper, I have Gen. Washington's leave to return and superintend the recruiting service at home but cannot go for a few day longer. Hope soon to ~~X~~ lay my-self at your feet and am with great esteem and sincerity

Yours

John Haslet

Note- This letter was copied from the original that was in the possession of Mrs. Wm. M. Hall (nee Jean Agnew Crawford) and is supposed to be the last letter written by Col. Haslet

Copy of Autograph letter written during Christmas week 1776, by Col. John Haslet of Washingtons army to Gen. Rodney.

Col. Haslet was killed in the battle of Princeton, Jan 3d 1777, and this is believed to be his last letter.

The original belongs to Mrs. Wm. M. Hall (nee Jean Agnew Crawford) a great great grand daughter of Col. Haslet.

Dec. 1776.

Dear and worthy sir:

When I last wrote, God knows. I do not, this I can affirm that I have received no answer.

After a long retreat from a full conviction of the enemys superior number, but preformed in order, with a firm determined countenance, we at last stopped on ye banks of the Delaware. <sup>o</sup> Where we were stationed. Thank you says Gen. Rodney.

On christmas at 3 oclock we repased the river \_ A party of Virginians formed the Van Guard and did the most of the fighting - Lord Stirling's Brigade had the honor of fighting 1000 Hessians to a surrender. We should have gone on and panic struck they would have fled on before us, but the inclemency of the weather rendered it impossible. We repas<sup>s</sup>ed the river rested one day and then were ordered back. I am sorry to inform the general that Capt. Holland Ensign Wilson Dofter Gilder & myself are all who have followed the American cause to trenton, two privates excepted: on Gen Washingtons being informed of this he declared his intention of having offic<sup>ers</sup> and men bound neck and heel and brought back as an example to the army. I told the Gen. the truth but not the whole truth. The last I reserved for <sup>you</sup> ~~you~~ and you <sup>will</sup> ~~to~~ plush with me. Seven Philadelphia light

horse, Yesterday brought in 9 horsemen and one horse who were sent  
to empress wag/ons, we just know hear that the bridge on this side  
Princeton <sup>is</sup> cut down and the enemy retiring. A sufficient number of  
troops are ready to drive them out of the Jerseys we hope to greet  
you well on our victorious return from Trenton. I fell in <sup>to</sup> the Dela-  
ware up to my middle have had the pains and swelled legs ever since  
but no matter if we drive them to New York If I return it will be  
to salute you if not we ~~will~~ <sup>shall</sup> meet in Heaven. Your goodnes will give  
Mrs. Haslet such news as you think proper I have Gen Washingtons leave  
to return and superntend the recruiting service at home but cannot  
go for a few days longer Hope soon to lay my-self at your feet and  
am with great esteem and soncerity

Yours

John Haslet.

3/21/1703.

Pardon the appearance of the copy.  
It was done by our 12 year old son,  
Allan Crawford Hall, a great, great  
great grandson of Col. John Haslet.  
M.M.H.