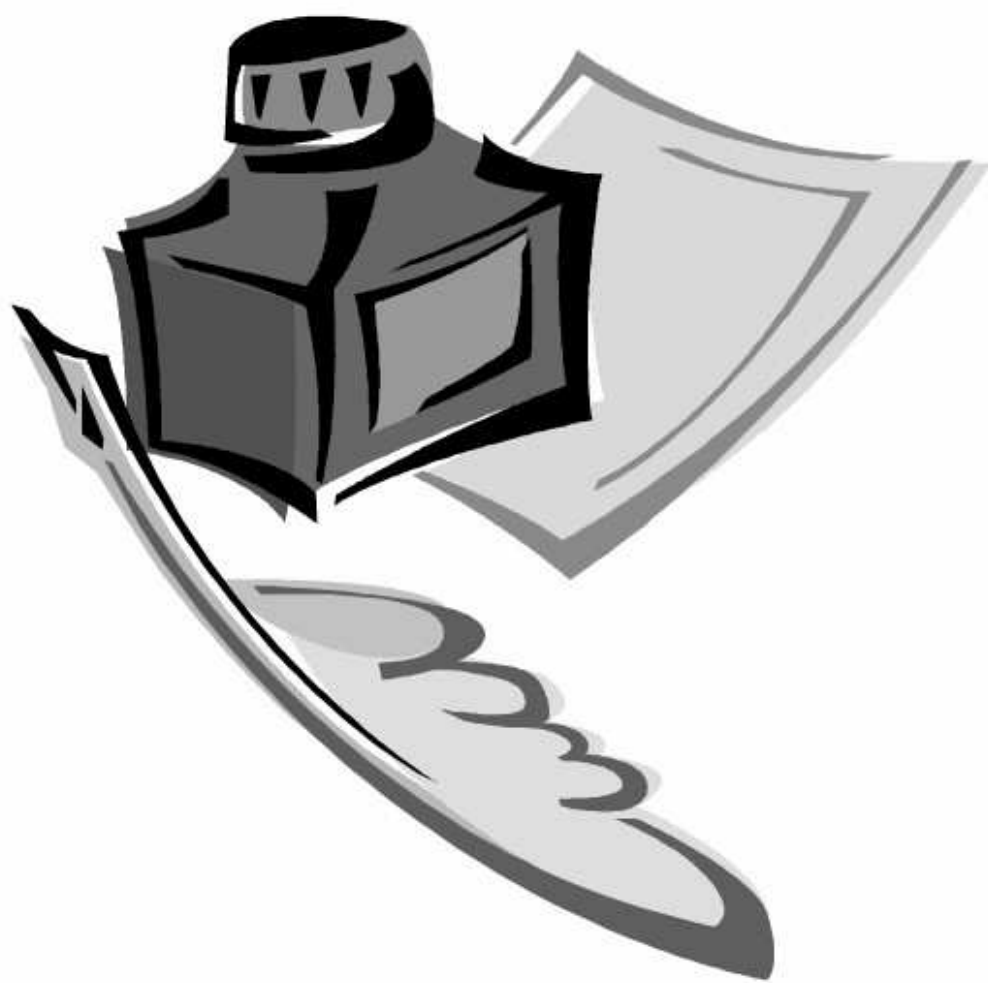


Letters from the Frontier:
A Sampler of the
Correspondence of Ethan Allen
and his family



Acknowledgements

The Allen Letters are Presented here with the Permission of:

The University of Vermont

The Vermont State Archives

Support for the Transcription of the Allen Letters has been provided by the Chittenden County Historical Society, the American Philosophical Society, the Windham Foundation, the A.D. Henderson Foundation, and the Vermont State Archives.

The Vermont Council for the Humanities supports the Allen Letters Project's presentations and workshops in Vermont during 1994.

Sylvia Bugbee transcribed the Allen Letters.

FOREWORD

Perhaps the most significant feature of the Allen Letters is the fact of their survival. A destructive fire during the late nineteenth century at the house of Ira Allen's descendants in Irasburg, Vermont, incinerated boxes full of Ira and Jerusha Allen's letters and financial documents. In 1911, an immense fire in the New York State Library at Albany burned or rendered illegible thousands of Allen documents in the collection of Vermontiana sold to the New York library in the mid nineteenth century by the collector Henry Stevens. Yet today in collections at the Bailey Hoe Library of the University of Vermont and the Vermont State Archives of the Office of Vermont Secretary of State, nearly 4,000 letters and other documents, either in original manuscript or photocopy, written from, to, and about Ethan, Ira, and Levi Allen and their families and associates are preserved from further loss. Smaller batches of Allen Letters reside in the Vermont Historical Society, the Library of Congress, the National Archives of Canada, the British Public Record Office, and the Notional Archives of Foreign Affairs in Paris.

While many of the papers and records of the eastern seaboard, and often urban, political leaders of the colonial and revolutionary eras have survived and, indeed, been published, including the papers of Washington and Jefferson, the papers of late eighteenth century frontier figures such as Daniel Boone and William Blount have long since disappeared. Thus the letters and records of the Allens constitute an invaluable record of family life, politics, commerce, and social history on the northern frontier of New England and Canada from the 1760s into the early nineteenth century.

LETTERS FROM THE FRONTIER is a sample selection from 1,000 letters to, from, and about the Allen families and associates. These sample letters are literal transcriptions. The Allens observed few rules of spelling and punctuation, but their writing can be lively, even witty, and sometimes charming. Their plain style evidences solid intelligence applied to the practical aims of communication. A few silent emendations have been committed in these transcriptions, but brackets and ellipsis, i. e. [...]. have been used to indicate unreadable parts in fire damaged holographs.

Ethan Allen to Jonathan Horner

May I, 1767

Sr

Please to Deliver to ye Bearer Hereof Mr Robart Sanders Such Articles as He Desires out of Your Stores & Charge ye Same to Mr Israel Bronsons Account & You will Oblige Yours Mr Bronson This

Pr Order of

Ethan Allen Clerk for ad Bronson____

PS One of our Miners is Dangerously Sick & I Desire in Special You would Let ye Bearer Hereof Have such articles as may be Sutable for Him as fresh meat Sugar & the Like for ye man is a Manly Man & A Good Hiner & Deserves our Best Care

EA

Abigail Palmer to Polly Newton

Litchfield

February 13, 1772

Dear Sister

I Received your Letter yesterday and Rejoice to hear *you* and yours is well as I am and
Hy Children Except Ame and She is Like to have n Broken Brest her Child is well
which is *a* Son

I Determin to Pay *you* a visit in the Spring and when Brother allen Comes up I will
conclude how and when I Shall go Down

I have the offer of Setling again

Capt. Bewel of this town hes Paid me Several Visits who hes a fullness of the Good
things of this world and it is the advice of my friends in General to Except his offer
Which after a Sutable time I intend to Do which I think is *Hy* Duty to Do In as much by
all Probibility I may be made Comfortable the Remaining port of *my* Days

So I Conclude these Lines with *my* Love to your Husbon your Self and Children and am
your Loving Sister

Abigail Palmer

Ethan Allen to Benjamin Ferris
Salisbury
May 10, 1773

Sr

I Have to Acquaint You that My Brother Heman that was at New York at the Time waited on You at Your House succeeded in Purchasing Land on Onion River in OreBt Measure to our wishes and relying on Your Honour and friendship for Procurement of More Lands in Charlotte Shelburn and Saint George Have Already formed a plan of Settlement

Capt Baker and Two of my Brothers are Already Gone to Cut a roade to the premises and Build a picket Fourt their Party Consists of Fifteen Able Affective men and the Day After this Date I Shall set out with another Detachment

my Compliments to Mr Prindle and Hallock and also to Mr Eduard Burling and all the friends to Newhampshire Grants and Inform Mr Burling that the cost of Settlement Purchase & etc. runs so High it will be Diffolcate for me to pay the Money on the obligation I Gave him for Ten rights of Land Altho I would be Glad of the Land and Desire You would Use Your Influence with him to Postpone the Payment Till Some future Time as You and he shall judge reasonable I think Sir if You and he are Friendly to the Cause of settling them Lands You will Not Straiten me on Account of Present Money as I have a Costly Settlement on Hand

The Consequences Must be to both our Interests if Succeeded but if Not the risque is Not Yours but Mine I Shall therefor Expect Your Intire Friendship- - I Expect to be at Your House by the first of September Next if Not Before and remain

Your Faithfull Friend

Ethan Allen

Ethan Allen to the Albany Committee of Correspondence Ticonderoga

May 11, 1775

Gentlemen

I Have the Inexpressible Satisfaction to Acquaint you that at Day break of the Eleventh Instant (Pursuant to my Directions from sundry Leading Gentlemen in the Colonies of Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut) I Took the Fortress of Ticonderoga with About one Hundred and thirty Green Mountain Boys

Col. Easton with about Forty Seven Veteran Soldiers Oistinquised themselves in the Action

Col. Arnold Entered the fortress with me Side by Side the Guard were So Supprised that Contrary our Expectation Did Not fire on us but fled with Precippitancy we Immediately Entered the fortriss and Took the Garrisson Prisoners without Bloodshead or any Opposition they Consisted of one Captain and a Lieutenant and forty Two man

Little More Need be said

You Know Governor Carlton of Canada will Exert himself to retake it and as Your County is Nearer than any Other Part of the Colonies and as Your Inhabitants have thorowly Manifested their Zeal in the Cause of their country I Expect Immediate Assistance from You Both in men nnd Provision You Cannot Exert Your Selves too much in So Glorious a cause the Number of Men need be More at the first Till the Other Colonies Can Have Time to Muster I am Apprehensive of a Suden and Quick Attack Pray Be Quick to our relief and Send us five Hundred men Immediately Foil Not From You Friend and Humble Servant

Ethan Allen Commander of Ticondarogo

Ethan Allen to the Indians of Canada

Head Quarters of the Army at Crownpoint

May 24, 1775

By Advice of Council of the Officers I recommend our Trusty and well Beloved friend and Brother Capt Abraham Ninham of Stock-bridge as our Imbassador of Peace to our Good Brother Indians of the four Tribes Namely the Hocnawago's, the Swagaches, the Canesadougan's and the Saint Fransawa's,___

Loving Brothers and Friends, I Have to Inform You that George the 3d King of England has mode war with the English Colonies in America who have Ever Till Now been his Good subjects and Sent his army and Killed Some of Your Good friends and Brothers at Boston and in the Province of the Massachusetts___Ye Know my warriers must fight but if You our Brother Indians Do Not fight on Either side we will still be Friends and Brothers and You may Come and Hunt in our Woods and Come with your canoes in the Lake and Let us have Veneson at our forts on the Lake and have Rum Bread ... and be like Brothers...I Hope Your Warriors will Come and see me So I Bid all my Brother Indians farewell

Ethan Allen Col. of the Green Mountain Boys

Ira Allen to Benedict Arnold
Onion River
June 20, 1775

I Have to inform You, that on Sunday Night arrivd Here. But Some of the men I wanted
Could Not find so as to Set Sail Till Near Night

on Monday the wind Being High in the North made But Slow Headway. at about Eliven
OCock at Night in a Squall Lost our Tender & Ran under Juniper Island for Harber

I then found my Plan much Broke There-fore as it was But Little out of our way Returnd
Home & have got an other Bark Cannow & Have Added four Days allowance to make up
this misfourturn: Shall Proseed on my Scout as fast as May be: But have one Request to
Make to you: (which I Hope & Expect will be agreeable as I Send a man on purpass) it is
that You send no scout after me: or at Least Not under Nine Days from this Date

I shall Go Principally in the night so as to Get Down undiscoverd to them I Take men
with me that are well acquanted Both by Land & Water

They would Not Know the make of the Country So well as we Do and might be
Discoverd that would flustivart our Plan: if there Dont None Come -- I'll Loose my Life
or See St. Johns & Know their Numbers and motion and Whether there is any Canadians
or Indians joind them: Thee is Creeks & Places that we Know of that we can Hide our
Botes in & Go as many as is Proper & Vew their motion

Till Shall Be fully satisfyd in Hast from Yours to Serve

Ira Allen

Ethan Allen to Philip Schuyler and Richard Montgomery

September 6, 1775

Gentlemen

The Day Dawn'd Sooner than we Expected the Night after we Left You

Soon after we Took Land the Savages pursued us but we Escaped them after Extream fatigue we arrived at the river Six miles from Saint Johns at 9 of the Clock the Second Day which we Spent Boldly in the Neighbourhood

Rallyed a party of fourteen Canadians a med who Escorted us to Chamblee we found the Canadians Very Curtious and Delivered General Schuylers' Manifesto to Mr Livingston who forwarded to the Several Parishes with all speed, the General Policy of the Canadians is that of Nutrality there is No Danger of their Takeing up arms against us you may rely on it.

We Procured Twenty Canadians to Escort us to Saint Johns which they Did and Verily Believe they would have fought Valiantly for us had we Needed but there having Intelligence our army had retired Two Leagues from the Enemy or to the Isle Enoix this we had from Capt Hazen from the mouth of a canadian we Confide in this Event contrary to our Expectation Nonplussed us and the Canadians with which we returned to the southermost Houses in Chamblee on the third Day at Two of the Clock afternoon

we Cannot Conceive why our army has Not Enviorn'd Saint Johns we have Seen the Carpenters who fled in Great Consternation to Chamblee they Inform there are Not more than three Hundred of the King's Troop at Saint Johns that they are Not forehanded with provision that they must Starve in Two or three weeks if resources uere Cut off, we are apprehensive our army are Not retired from the Siege of Saint Johns Tho' we could Not hear them cut Timber &c. Yesterday the savages Killedand Scalped a frenchman on the west Side of the river the Canadians Guard us Night & Day and Took Great Courage at Hearing of the Siege of Saint Johns

Capt Benedict and his Boat Crew Killed four Indians which uere Buried at Saint Johns ue hear. the rumor of our army's retiring from Saint Johns is matter of Great Speculation by the canadians We Confide in the Wisdom of the Generals & field officers of our army and Expect Shortly to hear that they are raising fotifications against Saint Johns mean while we Determine to risk our Selves in Canada and hope on the certainty of our armies Infesting Saint Johns to be able to Bring a Hundred or Two Canadians if Not more to Your Assistance to cut off the Communication to the Chamblee there are not one Hundred Savages in the Interest of the Crown. One of Sir Williams Indian Sons were in the Number of the four Killed, The Indians as Tribes have Not Engaged in the war as the canadians tell us You Need Not fear the Canadians will rise Agains us their Cunning is to fight on Neither Side but as we have worked our Selves Into their Affections they we apprehend will fight for our Safety and we hope to Excite a Number to Cut of the Communication betueen Saint John Montreal and Chamblee be this as it will Nutrality on their part with Gods Blessing and a Competency of Oeconomy and Courage we

Should think would Insure you Saint Johns we are Told the Indians Murmer Against the
regulars on account of their slain as they urged them Into the war, the more You Kill of
them the Better, Exchange of Life for Toys they find to be unequal.

I am &c

[Ethan Allen]

Levi Allen to George Washington

Salisbury

January 27, 1776

May it please your Excellency:

I have rode some hundred miles in consequence of my brother Ethan Allen (commonly called colonel Allen) being taken prisoner near Montreal, 25th September last, waited on your Excellency at Head-Quarters, in Cambridge, in December last; since that waited on General Schuyler, on the some business. He read me a paragraph of your Excellency's letter, directing him to inquire what was become of Colonel Allen, and desired me, if possible, to get some evidence of the treatment he met with after being taken prisoner. Accordingly have spared neither trouble nor cost to accomplish the same. One affidavit only have been able to obtain, which here enclose.

There is a number of Ministerial troops in this and the neighbouring Colonies, prisoners, but few of them have seen my brother since a prisoner; only those token on board the Gaspee, brig, and, it is next to impossible to get any of them to say Allen or any other prisoner was used ill, for fear of retaliation, besides they have been charged by Prescott, and all the officers, not to mention Allen's being put in irons on pain of death.

The soldier that made the affidavit here enclosed, was very loath, and I should not hove obtained it, but he had previously dropped words to the same import of the affidavit. I then brought him before proper authority, and told him he must declare on oath whether Colonel Allen was put in irons or not; then he declared on oath what the affidavit soya, at the same time begged none present would mention his name.

Have some thoughts of going to England, incognito, after my brother, but am not positively certain he is sent there. though believe he is. Beg your Excellency will favoure me with a line, and acquaint me if any intelligence concerning him, and, if your Excellency pleases, your opinion of the expediency of going after him, and whether your Excellency would think proper to advance any money for that purpose as my brother, was a man blessed-with more fortitude than fortune. Your Excellency may think, at first thought I can do nothing *by* going to England; I feel as if could do a great deal, by raising a mob.in London., bribing the jailer, or by getting into some servile employment with the jailor and over-faithfulness, make myself master of.the key, or at least be able to lay my hand on it some night, I beg Your Excellency will countenance my going; can muster more than one hundred pounds, my own property; shall regard spending that no more than one copper.

Your Excellency must know Allen was not only a brother, but a real friend, that sticketh closer than a brother. Have two brothers in the Continental Army, one a Captain the other a Lieutenant -- the latter with the army before Quebeck. Whether he is there now or with General Montgomery, in Heaven, cannot tell. We look up to your Excellency as our political father, and head of a great people.

Your Excellency's most obedient, ever faithful, and very humble servant,

Levi Allen

N. B. If your Excellency chooses I should wait on you personally, I only wait your commands. Cannot live without going to England, if my brother is sent there. Beg your Excellency will not discover this letter, lest the adverse party know my design. LA

Ethan Allen to Stephen R. Bradley

June 8, 1779

Sir,

the bearer Mr William Stewart one of the old Green Mountain Core haveing an action at Rutland Superior Court in June, instant respecting the title of his Gun which I am very certain he has a just right to, and as he is a poor Man I desire you will plead his case, and charge it to me. my Warriars must not be cheated out of their Fire arms --

I am in haste Your Friend and very Humble Servant

Ethan Allen

To cause at his request for William Stewart £ s 2:10:0

Ethan Allen to Governor Clinton

April 14, 1781

Sir

This with the Intelligence of Capt Putnam will give your excellency to understand that Col. Ebenezer Allen[...] Capt Jesse Sawyer Lieut Nathaniel Horner and my self are put out of Military Comm. in the State of Vermont

we are so Conceited as to Imagine that Vermont have not Timber to supply our places

However this is a Task which belongs to Those Gentlemen in power to determine. In the mean time I propose to your excellency for not only *myself* but Those Gentlemen before mentioned to Engage in the Service of the State of New-York --- We think the proposal to be Honourable whether Complied ith or not and notwithstanding the heretofore Disputations which have subsisted between us and the Government of New-York we would Esteem it the greatest hapiness of our lives lastly to defend the State of New-York against their Cruel Invaders

I am Sir with due Respect,

Your Excellency's

Most Obedt and Humle Sert

Ethan Allen

Levi Allen to Nancy Allen

Arlington

May 25, 1784

Dr. Nancy

You will please to exert Yourself in Trading with the Stock put into Your hands If you don't git Quite five pounds on a hundred dollars, You need not Stand on Trifles Especially if *you* can git anything you Stand in Need of for yourself or Our Lovly little daughter, Mr. Knickerbackor will be your councillor on whose Judgment *you* Hay Safely rely, --- Mr. Ozi Baker Mr. David Stanton Hr. Jno. Stannard Hr. Reub. Pitcher or any Other Man you know to be Good pay or that Mr. Knickerbackor knows May have public Securities by giving a Receipt to return if not Sold, if Sold to Acct. with me for &c.

horses Mr Knickerbackor is a Competant Judge of and any Other Matter of Temporal Nature,

Shew this letter to Hr. Knickerb. Present My Most Respectful Compliments to him, and let him know every favour done You is done to me, and the Some Shall be greatfully remembered and Rewarded by

Dear Nancy

Your Sincear friend

Levi Allen

Levi Allen to Betsy Allen

December 7, 1784

Dr. Betsey

last night returning home from Arlington under the influence of half *a* pint my horse fell about three rods into a Mudhole, much Doubled my flesh and bruised my Spirt; have been going to canada all Summer & now am going all Winter. I wish you would Oblige me with a Small Scrabble of nonsense just as your Ideas run without being Studied or labour'd, let little Honey know I love her a full peck & her Momma at least loves her half a bushel.

I wish the little pretty Girl as well as her Mamma Can but it is imposable to love her So Strongly, indeed few if any fathers have that perticular attachment for a child as those that bear them, neither is it Necessary, the author of Nature has wisely Order'd that no well as Other Matters, for a Mothers fondness often neglects proper correction.

I Mention this in the Manner I desire you to write me, ot the Some time it may Serve as a hint not to humer the Child to its dammage,

I wish to know how uou all do in perticular I want a line from Capt. Allens Own hand and I beg he will not think I Shall never want him to go to Sea because have So long been talking of it ___I desire him to write whether he has a desire to go to Sea or not, let Mamma know I love her because She is a good woman & loves me.

Dr. Betsey Farewell

Levi Allen

Ethan Allen to Matthew Griswold

Wyoming

30th of April 1786

Sir.

The 28th Instant, I arrived to the Hostile ground and found *a* territory which has been distressed, by Britons. Tories, Savages, and the more Savage and avaracious land-jobbers, (I had almost said Government) of Pennsylvania. Every exertion of Government, in its consequences, has hitherto been attended with cruelties, and Injustice, very similar to the cruelties perpetrated by the Spaniards, towards the peruvian Indians, or that of the British in the East Indies, towards the natives. Law, Order, and Government, are the Hobby Horses of the Pennsylvanians, with which they alias their land schemers, design to dispossess the Connecticut Settlers, and obtain and accumulate to themselves, their lands and labours. ...Ethan Allen

Nancy Allen to Ethan Allen

Montreal

June 29, 1787

Dear Brother

have just time to inform you of your Brothers Safe arrival at Quebeck with the small quantity of lumber, he wrote me he had reason to believe Should be Successful, Wish to God he May, for repeated Misfortunes have almost turnd my brains, have often wish'd myself on Some of your Vermont Mountains, would have prefer'd it much to my Situation at St Johns however at present am in better Spirits, am with my Dear Friend Betsey at Vaxhall which makes time pass imperceptably along,

Oh had like to forgot my Furniture can assure you am out of all patience am in great want my tables Chairs and bedsteds, Do be kind enough to get them made as Soon as possible, Sopose you have little time to Spare dare Say you have enough to do to take care of your business and your large Famely of Children for I hear you have at least one Dozen, Well done old rogue, Shall have but a poor opinion of you after this, I wish you a Spady reformation

Nancy Allen

NB if you Bring any letters from the Southward pleas to forward them Emediately for i wish much to hear from my friends, and write yourself if you pleas Should be hapy to perruse a letter from you if it wont take your attention too much from your Old Maids Miss Franks Compliments wishes you prosperity with your Sons and Daughters

NA

Ethan Allen to Stephen R. Bradley

Burlington

November 16, 1787

Sir.

I have lately arrived at my new farm of 14 hundred acres in one body, in which are three hundred & fifty acres of Choice River Intervale a quantity of swaley and rich upland meadow inter-spersed with the finest of Wheat land and Pasture land well watered and is by nature equal to any tract of land of the Same number of acres that ever I saw. I have about forty acres under Improvement. The Country settles fast and I wish that you was well settled in it, little is said about Philosophy here our "talk is of Bullocks and our glory is in the god," we mind Earthly things

As to business I never was dissatisfied with your management of my affairs at Westminster but for some reason or other or without any reason Mr. Wall was very urgent to have Mr. Norton to settle Brushes Estates and I hated to have him and Mrs. Wall uneased with me about the matter and as you were from home I acted as I did in the Nomination of Mr. Norton and Esquire Townsend as Executors, undoubtedly it was in Some respects impolitic in me yet it will give satisfaction to Mr. Wall and his wife though they have not nor are they at all likely to settle the Estate and consequently the Settlement of it will return to its former channel, and with respect to ony conjectures respecting your making to yourself any Interest in doing the business it matters not. Wall has blown out in his own scheme ond I must confess that was it not for your advice I never should have done any thing about the Estate. Finally it is a business which demands talents to manage it and if there can be anything made in finishing the Jobb I am willing and expect that you will share liberally with me in it. You will see the letter I wrote to Norton & Townsend and then seal it and cause it to be delivered to Norton and consult with Mr. Harrington and West my attorneys with you and do anything and everything, in the premises that may be adjudged best for my interest,

I am Sir with due respect rour friend and humble servant

Ethan Allen

Levi Allen to Ira Allen

St. Johns

April 25, 1788

Sir

Recd your favr. by Gimpson forward the Same to Quebec, in haste have put up a few Articles Shall bring Some more when I Come, am almost Runing Mad that I Cannot Come with Bingham, But for Gods Sake let Every preparation be made for Rafting, The water was never higher & probably will not be higher this season, mean to leave this in 2- or three days at furthest & Shall make all dispatch to O.R. Give my Compts to Sailing Master Heath & let him know I depend on his Exertions in my absence, & that a Separate Command is the time for an Officer to distinguish himself. the Topsail loose Signal for Sailing

Good bye

L Allen

Sally B. Allen to Anna Allen

St. Johns

June 31, 1788

My Dear Mamma

I have long Waited with the greatest impatience for an oppertunity to write and have never found one till to day Mr Buel is here from Litchfield and will no doubt deliver this safe I arrived safe in this place the 15 day after I left home and a fatiguing time we had as ever I saw Nancy stood the cold like a Heroine Mrs Allen was at Montreal she heard of our arrival and return the next day with Miss Franks which then was but has now the name of Mrs Allen they staid here one day we then all return'd back to her fathers where we spent six weeks very merry Miss B. was maried three days before we came back they are here att present but talk some of going to quebec Mr Allen is gone down with n large raft set out friday last and when he returns shall know whether they go or not: I, have been unwell almost ever sence I have been here Owing I belive to a cold I took: the weather was very severe and the Lake intolerable I spend my time as agreable as expected have not much to do beside going abroad or riding for my pleasure we have three good horses saddles and bridles plenty and Carriaques likewise: have not been home sick sence I have been in this province but at the same time have had many a disaqreable feeling on your acount I long to hear how you do and how you live but I flatter myself you meet with better usage now we are are all out of the-way I should think you could live with Polly a while as well as not I am shure was I in her place I should think myself very happy to live with so good a Mamma as you have allways been I wish you would get Reuben to write or write yourself and let him inclose it I shall feel uneasy- til I know affairs is: as for Levi I cant say what he will do but I very well know his intentions is as good as ever & if he makes out well att quebec which I have but very little doubt of he will be in as good a way of living as any boddy & if any misfortune should take place he is worth as much in land as half New Milford that has tried- to.do him so much hurt I defy them all to hurt him or any of the family altho they have done their best. Nancy is better in health than he has been she is no ways inclin'd to the consumption her sickness was ocasioned by the great colds she has taken in her late tramps she is weakly but as likely to live for what I see as I am: She is very glad I have come and does every thing in her power to help me I have had near twenty pounds in clothes & Dont think Thirty will excuse me when Levi returns from quebec and you may depend on haveing a very good present from Nancy and your new daughter the first oppertunity: we cant send from here half as often as you can from there I had Had like to forgot to say a word about our new sister she is very Clever and will make a very profitable wife I dare any she understanda all kinds of business and is one of the best cooks in the world I expect Nancy Will go to Montreal or three rivers very soon to school which is about 60 miles from this: Lucy Allen is a going to be maried to one Hitchcock a very likely man they say Genl Allen & Ira expected here every hour to go to quebec: I have wrote all the news I can think of. Please to give my politiest-Compliments to Capt Bostwick & family and the rest of my friends My Love to Brother Reuben & sister Polly little Jimmy and Sophia

tell the dear babe her aunt longs to see her and thinks of her every day of her life My
Duty to my Father and give me leave to subscribe myself Your affectionate daughter

Sally B Allen

NB Nancy says give my love to my grand Ma Grand Pa uncle Reuben Aunt Polly little
Jimmy little Sophia & every one of them & tell them I intend to come and see them as
soon as I have been to school and Learn'd to be a Polite genteel Girl

S B A

Joseph Allen to Samuel Allen

St. Johns

July 1. 1788

Honored Parents,

Have the pleasure of informing you that we arriv'd safe at this place in fourteen days from the time we left N. Milford, we set of immediately for Montreal (as Nancy was there) we was there untill some time in April & made a Very agreeable visit, & Betsy had the oppertunity of seeing more in that short time than she had done in her Life before, we attended at the Churches every publick day, the Nuneryes, Hosbitals, &c. of which there is no small number___Mr. Allen is now on his way to Quebec with a Large raft of Timbers & boards to the amount of 1500 Pounds this Currency, when he returns which will be the first of August, I expect to set out for Quebec to Settle then & when I shall be at N Milford again I Can't say, but should I prosecute my business equal to my exPectations perhaps I may make you a Visit sometime in the ensuing winter as Hr. Allen or myself or boath will Provide for you, by that time at fortherest & before if it is a posible thing_

I can assure you I should be very happy to have you with me & I dare say Hr. Allen would be as willing as myself but business has not been quite to his expectations owing to the waters being so low & Col. Allens Mill dams being carried away, that he was not able to git any timber to Quebec Last spring, but all is going well once more___ Little Nancy sends her love and says she wishes to see you very much also her uncle Bostwick, ant. Jimmy, Sophy &c. she says she wishes you to take good core of Hiss citty___ make my compliments to Mr. R Bostwick & Family Capt. Bostwick & Family & Friends in General,

I am with Esteem your dutiful Son Jos. Allen

Levi Allen to Ethan Allen

Clarendon

January 21, 1789

Dear Sir

am Imbarked on a large plan whether Shall Succeed or not Time alone must determine be that as it may the attemp is brave, the Most that troubles me is Nancy's Situation which is truly bad, and Except She goes a little into Comp and rides Out once in a While

am really afraid she will go to Hell Viz the Valey of the Son of [...]unnom, meaning the burying place; was much pleased to See Fanny make You and every thing Easy hope She Yill continue to whom make my Respectful Compliments & to Hiss Lucy My. Ann & Pamela, the latter I hope Will go to School with my little daughter,

In great Haste I am Dear Sir

your Humble Servant

Levi Allen

Constantine Alonzo (Levi) to Ira Allen and Miss Snivel

London

May 3, 1789

Friend

I am most crudely mortified and laid it so much to heart for two days could not write you or Miss Alonzo a letter, but its a folly to be cast down, tho' I find there is little dependance on polite gentn at Court, it is not certain I should git the contract if had been here in time Yet it is unpardonable not to have attended in a matter of so much consequence, but what could I have done? to come without money would have been redicalous, besides I could not git here...the Capt, last fall, would not nor dare take me, Yithout my name being Safe in the Secys office 30 days, or procuring bonds which I could not do, I asked Mr. Cull, who refused, for reasons you are acquainted with, then I raised a dead weight by purchasing wheat I did & at great risk proceeded; it is the devil to be poor and in sted of friends to have a whole country against one, and destitute of friends or at least of all such who are able to give any oasential assistance, the Brigtn. Mary Simon Master Sprang a leak Twice which I suppose You have been made acquainted with by some of my letters, was as unforeseen as if the Equinox gale had sent us all to the bottom, one misfortune commonly make an Other so the Brig springing a leak delayed us till the east wind Set in Just as we made the Irish channel to expedite the business I landed at the S.W. of Ireland & traveled to Cork, from thence in a passage boat to Bristol & then London by the male Coach; Ariv'd the 23d. Apr. o.Clock P.M the next day visited on Evan Nepene Esq under Secy. of State, deliver'd my letter, had an interview graciously recv'd. and found the Other letter Ld. Dorchester wrote or Order'd never came to hand, a piece of Court deception, after a long confab got a note to Sir Charles Middleton at the head of the navy office (this being fryday) Mr. Nepene appeared friendly advised to loose no time, I call'd a coach & in ten minutes as at the navy office, Sir Charles being out Of town no more to be done till Monday, I cal'd on monday was politely receiv'd by the board, found the contract as made the 8th. of Apr, Sir Charles was amasingly cleaver Said in case of a war greater Supplies would be ganted gave me Soothe words in round flowing periods, and except he is put in mind of it, Suppose will never think more of the matter have had an Other interview got a Copy of the Contract or rathar two contracts the first was made ye 31st. Decr. last. by Alexdr. Blair of London & James Glenie of Gouldsborough in the province of New Brunswick, ye 2d. ba James Hunter & George Robertson of Greenach North Britain, & Wm Forsyth of Halifax ye.8th Apr, I cnl'd on Col. P. Skene; Our first Govr. & complimented him by the title of Govr. he received me with great professions of Friendship, have dined with him & I believe that is all I Shall make of him Except an Other dinner he adopts the Court Stile, in fine it is a tite match between Skene & myself. he wants me to recommend his former American Estate & I want to have it Said I am at home with Col Skenes. frequently dining with him & c. So much for the past now for the futur, I intend calling on those gentn. in London conserved in to contracts, to ingage sport ith them. or under them; and as fast as mar 11 make acquaintance with the Merchants, tho' I labour under some imbsrrisment not one of my bills being paid or as yet Accepted, ...except a great probability of a war

hinders or detains me to make a contract Shall push hard to git into the river St. Lawrence before the equinox gales 21st Sept; but one thing against me if I had been here in time and that is favouring their new Settlements in N. Brunswick It appears to me Government would be glad to have Vermont but not at the expence of a War, so I think you must manage matters as well as you can with the United States, have already found a number who appear Very friendly and in Order to keep them so we can try not to be troublesome. Mr. Nepene asked me if my Brother was dead, which shocked me much, but for political reason answer'd I left him well tho' I had receiv'd the same report gave no Credit to it Pray Send some good bills if possible & Soon. would write you a volume but must not Exceed the bounds of a Sheet on acct. of Exspence

What remains is for my Sweet Heart

Dear Miss Snivel

I wish you was here, that is to say I was their, The Devil take you for me if I have Seen So good a girle nore merier a wane I liked not so mouch in all Dear Ireland, Dublin Corkdy Corkey's own dear Self, Bristol or London, & by my Shoule cannot taste Supper for thinking of it, Tho' to own the truth the deal a thing have I to ate, and plenty of cold water to drink, Excellent for people in love, & by my troth its well I don't make my Exit like the Earl of Charth [...] whose fate you will See in the public Papers. my love to your Sisters Tuppeney Pot, that little Spirits of activity, & don't let her loose one moments time in useful improvement, a proper tie to record permanently in the memory necessary education. kind & Respectful compte to your Sister madame Friskabout; Tell Esq. o. Flarity . the Recorder. I hope his worship is well, I am afraid you have broke your neck a runing horses for I dream'd the Other night you had commensed female rake and was dashing all over the Country with the Moroco Prince as Servant

I am Dear Miss Snivel yrs.

Constantine Alonzo

NB. the more I find Out here of the practices the less uneasy I am about the Contract, for I really believe the Same could not have been made Except I had been here a long time with plenty of Cash and made Connection with a Member of parliament & prime Minister for the minister thereby Secures the Note of the member, Every thing here is conducted by an Indirect method, quite Contrary to the Ostesible appearance

Nancy Allen to Alexander Davidson

Colchester

August 22, 1789

Sir

my Sister ie dangerously ill with *a* fever, am very much in want of a little more wine. if
you can Spare me two bottles I Shall esteem it as a particular favour

Yours &C

Nancy Allen

Nancy Allen to Levi Allen

Colchester

December 31, 1789

Dear Alonzo (Levi)

this is the third time have wrote you within two weeks wish I could Speak my mind freeler, but the uncertainty of your reaceiving it Prevents my wrighting and would wish, your letters gives me uneasiness, tho they apear to be wrote with an aparant Good Glee of Spirits. but close examination convinces you ore otherways, which gives a check to my Spirits that are already two much depress'd, am truely Sorry you ever undertook this last tour. if Successful you will not enjoy your Self better than you might at St. Albans and depend on it Nancy cannot form to herself a situation more agreable provided you were of the same opinion. I am quite weary of liveing in the manner I have for ten years past. the half of London would not tempt me to Spend another twelve Months as unhapy as I have the last. you have mode me compleatly wretched by being So much absent, tho am very Shure it was not your intention which is great consolation, I was never more anxious for your return than at present, there is many things that require imediate attention. the settlement of St Albans in perticular ought to be attended two. except you are present it will not be done Should have built a small hose there last Summer but the Scarcity of provisions in this quarter and other things &c has prevented, am now more engage'd than ever as I find the same would meet with your aprobation but am affraid Shall not accomplish the Some as I cannot collect one farthing out of the large number of Obligations left with me, have given the greatest part of them to Mr Hitchcock your attorney, sopose the Same will be collected in time but that will not answer present purposes, your letter not arriving in time has prevented our giveing you the information you would wish, which I fear will give you uneasiness as there is nothing can create more dissagreable feelings than suspence, have nothing to take up my attention but a continual Samness take place from day to day which make me weary of Sollitude for it is never Sunshine with me except you are present Oh pity my dispair was ever one so compleatly misarable, come quit at once the deceptos of a flattering world and retire to Albans, and there Spend the remainder of our days in peace and tranquillity a reflection strikes me it is that I must weary your patience, I tell you roy thoughts ae they rise, and Heaven knows they contain nothing amuseing God give you success and a Safe return is the the ardant wish of your Friend -----

Nancy Allen

Ira Allen to Stephen Pearl

Boston

December 7, 1795

Sir.

I have been some Days in the Place & find money beyond all Calculation Scarce I have sent some to Mrs Allen for you & others & as soon as Gooda can be Sold more will be sent on if not before by Genl Spafford who has Informed me that he shall be here on the first of Spring I am Unfortunate in Cash yet Permit me to assure you I have been fourtunate in Every other Matter I sail for London on Wednesday next with Capt Scott you will think it Haisty yet I assure you it is a Calculation I have had in contemplation for some years But Different figures in Europe & at Home have Detained me I omitted to Inform my frends & did not choose to acquaint my Enemies yet I am well Prepared I have the Best of Laters & Documents froVermont Stateing my Property &c I have also Letera from the first Charactors in this Vicinity to the first in Europe Besides I have Procured Bills on London Payable in thirty days to a Learge amount these will Insure my success in Different parts of Europe Indeed I am as certain of it as of my Exiatance I feel myself beyond the reach of my enemies poor D--n-d S---s any Statements they can Send will appear Like Envy & Calm Deliberations will not Govern me I am not Elated with Success nor Cast down in adversity this world is n Stage & Each one have a Part to act & in some measure choose their Part for myself think I have taken the Long Scale & if I Live Long Enough Shall accomplish it on my Arival in Europe shall Loose no time in Indeavouring to find what consistant measures will Contribut most to my Honor Interest & future Prosperity and amongst all other objects Shall without Delay make Some Aranqmenta that will to Advantage Discharge all Demands Against me & think I can do it I write in hast & make some Black markes yet I tell as many Han[...] truth as common the atlantick appers to we Like a Small Lake that might be Easily crossed in any Ship Yet Prudence & a satisfaction to Mrs Allen has Dictated to me to go with Capt Scott who has the best Ship that sails from this Port & has Crossed the Atlantick 114 times without anr mintake or missfourtone. that Being that has Preserv'd me through so many Stormes in Life will I am confident yeald his Protecting Arms to waft me from & to my native shore when it will be in my Power to rejoice with my frends & Laugh at my enemies. this is Looking into times yet to come as a Child reads a Horn Book_____ as to Business shall Depend on you to take Charge of my farming Business in Burlington & Leave it all Descretionary with you for the Insuing year____any Matters that Respect me as Executor or aministrator if the Creditors Choos Lands they may have their Pay in lands if they want other Pay I shall be amply Prepared to Pay them on my Return and if I find Business is Licke to Detain me Long in Europe shall send Property Back for such Payments at any reate Shall as soon as Possible Pay all Demands against me & where any have waited on me and it has been to their Disadvantdge I will make them compensation above the Interest of their money till Disinterested men Shall say I have done Honourable I do not feel auch anxiety for Property as to be Unhonourable But you Know it has not at all tiems Been in my Power to do as I would you are not Insensible of the Combinations that have formed against me

& my contact for some years Past it will therefore be Needless to make any further comments on this Subject

you may be Assured that in Case any bills of cost &c are made against you or any of your Deputies on my account that such Cash will be Paid by me & that Right Shall be done on my Arival in London shall Write you aqain. Pleas to Give my Best compliments to Mrs Pearl with my Good wishes to Mrs Allen & She may have soma Aqreable Person spend thier time Plesantly till the Return of your old friend and Verry

Humbl Servt

Ira Allen

Ira Allen to Talleyrand

St. Pelagie Prison, Paris

July 21, 1799

To Talleyrand Perigord Minister of Foreign affairs in Paris

Citizen.

Necessity Compels me to address you once more which I must Consider Conclusive for I cannot add to Previous Statements & this; Delacacy forbids me to Write two often to one whose Elevated Situation adds a Multiplicity of Business of the first maqnatude

By Extraordanary Exertions I hove in spite of Captors & Prejudices in Great Britain by the Last information Provented the final Condemnation of the Cargo of the Ship olive branch since fourteen Months Detention in this Republic first by Writing a Memoreal to the Director while Detained at Grivilens & Sending the Copy thereof to Messers Bird & Savage of London who Oave bail for S'd Cargo When a Violent motion was made by the Captors for Condemnation Mr. Savage Gave his Deposition with others of s'd Memorial Proving my Detention in sd Grivilens _____after my Release from the Temple I wrote Duplicates of MY memorial to the Lords of appeal &c in Learning on the 25th of October Last as aluded to Which aqain Procrastinated a Desition and Caused my Proctor & frends to send Mr. Buffington to the United States to Procure Proofs which with my Letter of the 17th of may to R. Slade Esqr of London with the Depositions of the Bearers thereof will no Doubt Continue my Cause till the Return of S'd Mr. Buffington with Proofs then will be Pending the original Cargo & I suppose I may with Propriety Estimate the Whole Costs at four thousand Pounds Sterling which If Determined in my Favour would be secured to me and I Should Expect heavy Dammage for my Contract Cargo Ship & Crew was in Every Proticular Consistant with existing Treaties Between Great Britain the United States Laws of Nations & Customs of the Powers of Europe___ But I Cannot Count on this success however many Proofs may be Prodused from the United States If I am Detained in France for this I have one Recent example in Point while my Cause was Pending before the Lords of appeal to imbaris me a suit was Commensed in favour of a Marcantile House for 2,000 Dollars with which I never had the Least Dealings I was Necessitated to Procure Bail in consequence of two fals witnesses [...]my Detention in France a conclusive Judgement of Court has been sought against me If the evidence of [., .]& .W.P.G. are Good in the [...]in the Courts of Great Britain they will be Converted into on inexhaustible [...] Evidence for Swindlers Captors &c [., ..]waits the arival of_____

By Contracts four fifths of the Purchas money for s'd Cargo will be Payable to this Republic in 1803 what influence. that ought to have on a Retrospective Vew of the Contracta Between this Republic & me under Existing Circumstances I submit to other to Determin.

I must therefore for the Reasons aforesaid Request the favor of being Restored to my Liberty If this Cannot be Granted that some manner of a Speedy Desition be Taken Consistent to the Constitution and Laws of the French Republic that I may Know the Cause of my Detention and have on Oppotunity to Vindicate my [...] & Cause or suffer the Consequences

I am with High Consideration

most obedient Humble Servt

Ira Allen

The Restoration of my Health Requires Exercise on Horaback baithing &c

The Allen Letters Project

The Allen Letters Project is a non-profit organization formed for the purpose of gathering and publishing a fully annotated edition of the correspondence of Ethan, Ira, Levi Allen, their families and associates.

In 1995, the Allen Letter Project will also produce a CD-ROM transcription of approximately 1,000 of the Allen letters which will be available through the Vermont State Archives, Office of Vermont Secretary of State.

Information on the Allen Letters Project can be obtained by mail or phone to:

**The Allen Letters Project
Box 200
Isle LaMotte, Vermont 05463**

Telephone: (802) 928-3008

The editorial staff of the Allen Letters Project includes:

John Duffy, Project Director, Johnson State College

J. Kevin Graffagnino, University of Vermont

Ralph H. Orth, University of Vermont

Michael Bellesiles, Emory University

The Allen Letters Project

Advisory Board

Betty Bandel, University of Vermont

T.D.S. Bassett, University of Vermont

Charles Bunting, Vermont State Colleges

William Doyle, Johnson State College

Connell Gallagher, University of Vermont

Samuel Hand, University of Vermont

Kristin Peterson-Ishaq, University of Vermont

Gregory Sanford, Vermont State Archives

Michael Sherman, Vermont Historical Society

Scott Stevens, Ethan Allen Homestead Trust

Jennie Versteeg, St. Michael's College