

**LETTERS BY AND TO GEN.
NATHANAEL GREENE
WITH SOME TO HIS WIFE**

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Letters by and to Gen. Nathanael Greene with some to his wife by George H. Richmond & Nathanael Greene

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GEORGE H. RICHMOND & NATHANAEL GREENE

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LETTERS

By and To

Gen. Nathanael Greene

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THE GREENE COLLECTION

THE letters described in the following pages present a graphic picture of the stirring times in which they were written. Pathos, humor, comedy and tragedy are as strangely intermingled as in life itself; and these documents convince by their very simplicity. No one can rise from their perusal but must say "This is history." General Greene was careful to preserve letters, and so seems to have been his wife, his much adored "Caty." In spite of this, comparatively few have been printed—see the *Cyclopædia of American Biography*, edited by James Grant Wilson and John Fiske, in which an extended notice of General Greene's life concludes:

"A selection from his despatches relating to the Southern campaign is preserved in two folio volumes in the State Department. Some of his letters may be found in Force's 'Archives,' and others in Sparks's 'Correspondence of the American Revolution;,' but the bulk of

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his correspondence still remains in manuscript."

I doubt if there is extant any such series of letters to his wife as is here presented, and the letters to Mrs. Greene written by such men as General Knox, Edward Rutledge, General Wayne and General Varnum are indeed remarkable. One letter of especial interest is that of General Wayne's, in which he announces that he has named a village in the Ohio country "Greeneville." Time has shortened this to Greenville. But where almost every letter is of historical value, there is little profit in re-indenting the descriptions which will be found in this pamphlet. The extracts from the letters are brief, and barely more than hint at the contents. This was done purposely so that the buyer should have the opportunity to print them in full and in such shape as best pleased himself.

I can truthfully say, however, that after a somewhat extended experience in buying and selling autograph letters I have seldom seen such an interesting series as the present.

I am prepared to sell the collection as a whole at a moderate sum. The letters may be seen and price furnished, on application to

GEO. H. RICHMOND,
358 Fifth Avenue, New York City,
N. W. Cor. 34th Street, Centre Store.



I

LETTERS OF GENERAL NATHANAEL
GREENE TO HIS WIFE, 1779-1785

1. A. L. 8 pp. folio. West Point, Aug. 30, 1779.

Charming letter. Is extremely solicitous as to her health. Gives account of Col. Duer's home and says that Lady Duer "looks charmingly, much handsomer than ever I saw her and appears infinitely more happy. See the happy efforts of a good bedfellow; but this you know by experience."

Contains other humorous matter. Last page lacking.

2. A. L. S., with initials. 4 pp. folio. "Camp at the Iron Works near Guilford Court House, March 18th, 1781."

Important letter. "We have had a very severe general action with Lord Cornwallis in which we were obliged to give up the ground. The action was long bloody and severe * * * It was one of the longest and most bloody actions I was ever in. I had not the honor of being wounded but was very near being taken having rode in the heat of the action full tilt directly into the midst of the enemy, but by Col. Morris calling to me and advertizing me of my situation I just had time to retire.

"Our Army tho' obliged to give up the ground, we retired in good order and the enemy suffered so severely

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In the action that they dare not move towards us since * * * He [Cornwallis] has great pride and great obstinacy and nothing but sound beating will induce him to quit this state which I am in hope of effecting before long * * * The force coming to the Southward and the situation of General Arnold in Virginia opens to us more flattering prospects to go Southward. But how uncertain are human affairs. I should be extremely happy if the war had an honorable close and I on a farm with my little family about me. God grant the day may not be far distant when peace with all her train of blessings shall diffuse universal joy through America."

THIS LETTER WAS WRITTEN THREE DAYS AFTER THE BATTLE.

3. A. L. S. 2 pp, 4to. "Connecticut Farm, June 9th, 1780."

"The enemy are still at Elizabeth Town about four about four miles from the place they first took post. They fell back the night before last and we were amused by various reports all day yesterday that they were crossing their whole force, but at night it was found out, that nothing but part of the horse and some of the waggons had crossed.

"This morning they are still in the same place they were in last night. What their further intentions we know not and therefore have to wait the motions."

4. A. L. S., with initials. 3 pp. folio. Camp Precaness, July 11, 1780.

"I have got up from dinner to write you a line * * * General McDougall and Knox with many other General officers are at the table waiting for me * * * I am in want of a black and white feather to wear, the General Officers being directed to wear them by way of distinction * * * The Tories in this place have hunted Governor Livingston so closely that he is obliged to fly to the Army for protection."

WRITTEN FOUR DAYS AFTER THE BURNING AND EVACUATION OF THE VILLAGE OF CONNECTICUT FARMS BY KNYPPHAUSEN.

GENERAL NATHANAEAL GREENE

5. A. L. S., with initials. 2 pp. folio.
"Camp Precaness, July 19th, 1780."

"Your letter of the 12th * * * reached me last night after I was in bed. Nothing could have been more welcome than the writer. * * * The Marquis La Fayette does me the honor to convey this letter to your hands."

6. A. L. S., with initials. "Camp at Tapan, Aug. 14, 1780."

A highly valuable letter.

"I have been so hurried and employed since I came to this ground that I have forgot whether I have wrote you since I left Ver Planks Point at Kingsferry. Our prospects and intentions were frustrated there by the return of Sir Henry Clinton after which we concluded to cross the North River and take post at this place.

"I wrote you from Precaness that I had sent in my resignation as Q. M. General in such a way as obliged Congress to accept it. They were very angry at my refusing to act under their new system and have appointed Colonel Pickering Q. M. General. They are so vexed with me that they are about to suspend my command in the line of the Army as I am informed. Should they take this step and I verily believe they will, it will be one of the most high handed and arbitrary measures that ever disgraced the Annals of a free people * * * Mr. Washington says he was made very happy at meeting you in Newport and is a great admirer of Miss Varnum." Also speaks twice of Lafayette.

7. A. L. S. 2 pages folio. "Camp near Hackensack, Sept. 16, 1780."

"General Gate's defeat to the Southward and the report prevailing of a French Fleet being upon the coast from the West Indies prevents my being explicit upon the subject of your coming to camp."

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8. A. L. S. 3 pp. folio. "Camp Tappan, Oct. 7th, 1780."

"I am this moment going to begin my march for West Point which place and the Troops on the East Side of the North River I am to have the command of. * * * Perhaps I may spend the winter here and perhaps not. The situation is not much to my liking there being little prospect of glory or comfort, and therefore I am almost afraid to give you an invitation to come and see me. However if you think you could be happy in this dreary situation with me I shall be happy to receive you to my arms."

9. A. L. S., with initials. 4 pp. folio. "Mr. Mandavill's, Oct. 20th, 1780."

A note on the letter states that Mr. Mandavill's house was opposite West Point. The letter itself commences: "I am rendered unhappy beyond expression in that fatal necessity obliges me to take my leave of you in this way * * * Nothing should have torn me from you but the General's absolute orders to come on and not to let any thing detain me — not even ill health." After detailing his route to the South and explaining that it will be impossible for Mrs. Green to join him the General continues:

"Besides this Mrs. Washington is the only acquaintance you have in that part of the World and she will be at Camp this winter in New Jersey." He concludes "How and when I shall return God only knows."

10. A. L. S. 2 pp. folio. Mr. Mandavill's, Oct. 21, 1780.

"I am this moment setting off for the Southward having kept expresses flying all night to see if I could hear nothing of you. * * * If heaven preserves us until we meet our felicity will repay all the painful moments of long separation."