

Clue 1: Vital Records and Family Genealogy

HISTORY

OF THE

TOWN OF LEXINGTON,

MIDDLESEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS,

FROM 1728

FIRST SETTLEMENT TO 1868,

VOLUME A

GENEALOGICAL REGISTER

OF LEXINGTON FAMILIES.

Genealogy 551

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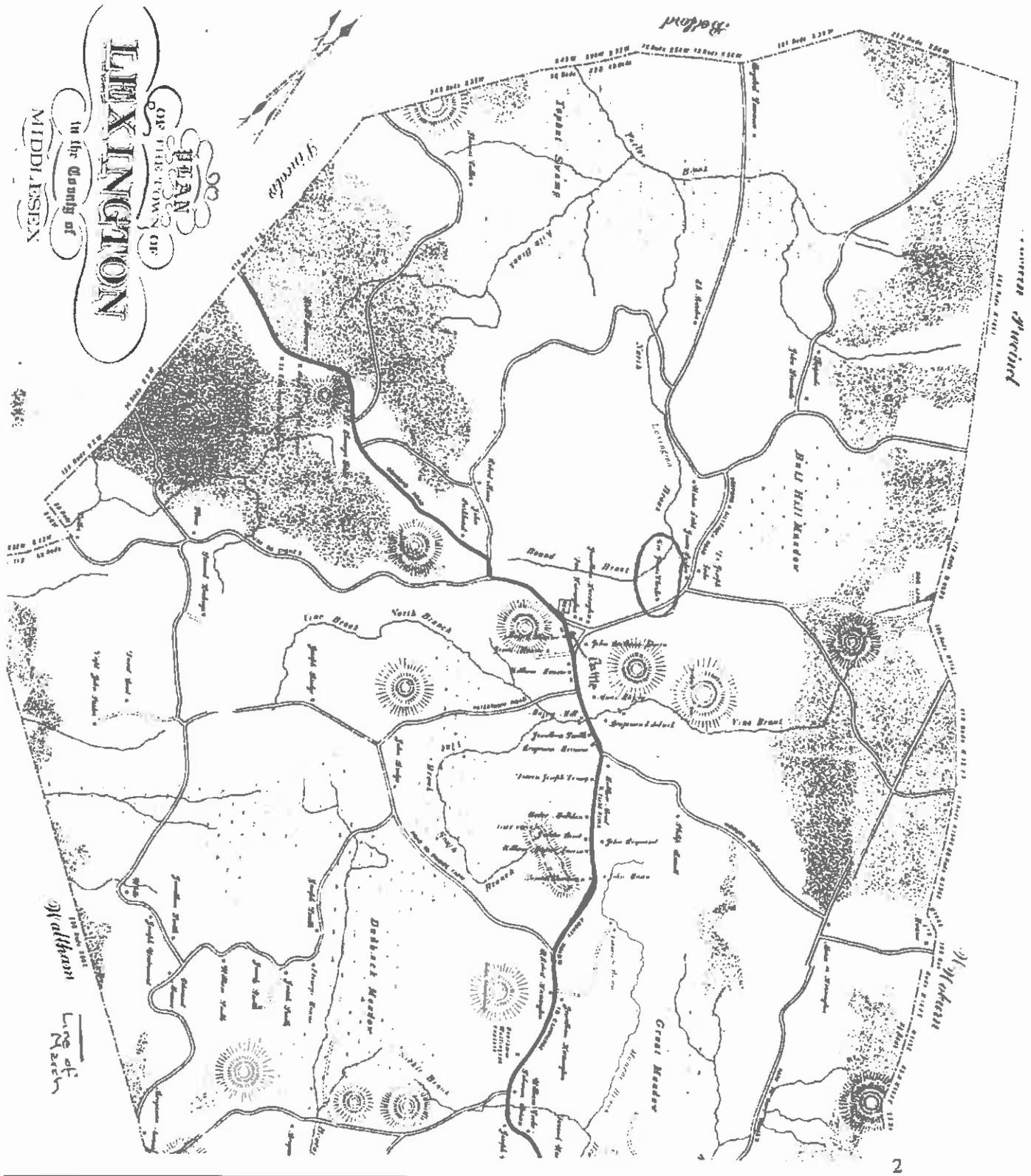
5. *Jonas Clarke* (Thomas, John, Hugh), born 14 Dec. 1730, died 15 Nov. 1805.

He was graduated from Harvard 1752. The church of Lexington extended a call to him to become their pastor. 10 May 1755, and he was ordained 5 Nov. 1755. Afterwards his life was interwoven with the history of this town, and Hon. Edward Everett thus eulogized him: "Mr. Clarke was a man of high rank in his profession — a man of practical piety, a learned theologian, correct, and pointed, beyond the standard of the day, and a most intelligent, resolute, and ardent champion of the popular cause. He was connected by marriage with the family of John Hancock. To this circumstance no doubt may properly be ascribed some portion of his interest in the political movements of the day; while on the mind of Hancock an intimacy with Mr. Clarke was calculated to have a strong and salutary influence."

He married 21 Sept. 1757 Lucy Bowers, died 6 Apr. 1789, daughter of the Rev. Nicholas and Lucy (Hancock) of Bedford. Children, all born at Lexington:

- i. Thomas, b. 6 July 1758; d. 9 Nov. 1788.
- ii. Thomas, b. 27 Sept. 1760; m. (intention dated 7 Nov. 1782) Sally Co-
NANT, and moved to Boston.
- iii. Jonas, b. 27 Nov. 1760; moved to Kennelbunk, Me., where he m. July
1789 Sarah Warren of Portland, Me.
- iv. Elizabeth, b. 2 June 1765; funeral "from church" 29 Apr. 1844.
- v. William, b. 10 June 1764. He was appointed consul to Funchal, the chief
seaport of the Kingdom of Hannover, and died at Porto Rico, about 1820.
- vi. Peter, b. 25 Nov. 1765; m. (1) Bernice Harrison of Portsmouth, N. H.,
who d. 1 Mar. 1793, aged 21; m. (2) Ann or Nancy Harris of Concord,
N. H.
- viii. Lucy, b. 2 Mar. 1767; m. 17 June 1789 Rev. Theodore Emme of West
Cambridge, now Arlington, who d. 14 Nov. 1855, aged 89; d. 9 Mar.
1826. He was for many years a clergyman of that town.
- ix. Lydia, b. 20 May 1768; m. 19 Aug. 1780 Rev. Benjamin Green of Ber-
wick, Me.; d. 28 Feb. 1830. He subsequently left the ministry and en-
tered the legal profession, moved to Maine, and was there appointed
judge of one of the courts, and afterwards marshal of the district.
- x. Martha, b. 28 Oct. 1770; m. 5 Nov. 1791 Rev. William Hastings, D.D.,
of Salem, a clergyman of the Episcopalian church. He was called to the
city of New York, and finally made president of Columbia College.
- xi. Sarah, b. 10 Nov. 1774; d. 20 June 1843, R. S.
- xiii. Isaac Bowers, b. 29 June 1779; d. 10 Aug. 1800.
- xiv. Henry, b. 20 Nov. 1780; m. May 1812 Susan Garrow of Salem, who d.
25 Sept. 1846, aged 66. He went to Kennelbunk, where he was a bank
cashier, and afterwards returned to Boston. He held a commission as
justice and notary. Children: i. Henry Grafton, b. 14 May 1814; stud-
ied medicine, and resided at Boston. ii. Jonas Jensen, b. 10 Jan. 1816;
grad. from Dartmouth 1839; entered the ministry, and resided at
Swampscott.

Clue 2 - Map



A. Evidence for Jonas Clarke's Family and House

Clue 3: Image of Clarke Parsonage

The Parsonage survives. We know that it is a two-over-two (two downstairs rooms with two upstairs rooms above), with an ell off the back that houses the kitchen and a small study below and a garret sleeping and storage area above.



Here is how the Hancock-Clarke house appeared in 1885 when the Babcock family lived here.

Clue 4: Household Furniture listed in the Probate Inventory of Jonas Clark, 1805

[These items were the furniture that outfitted the Clarke's best parlor, sitting room, kitchen and study on the first floor, two bedchambers above, and the garret (used for sleeping & storage)]

15 flag [woven seat] chairs; 6 green bottom chairs; 4 chairs 2 arm chairs, 1 small chair, maple table, mahogany table, tea table, pine table, 2 round tables, 1 pine table, 1 small oval table cupboard

writing desk, ink stand, 1 pine desk, light stand

small looking glass, 1 small looking glass, 3 large looking glasses

one clock

1 chest of drawers, 1 walnut chest of drawers, one chest, 1 trunk

2 bedsteads & cord, , bedstead and underbed, bedstead, one cradle

5 beds with bolsters [beds are mattresses, while bedsteads are the wooden bed frames]

bed curtains and quilt, 4 bed quilts, 2 rugs, calico curtains

two spinning wheels

B. Evidence of Jonas Clarke's Farm

Clue 1: Interleaved Almanac of Jonas Clarke

Jonas Clarke kept an "interleaved almanac" – a small printed booklet with almanac information for each month on the left-hand page, and a blank page to record the weather, work, or events of each day on the right-hand side. Below are summaries by month from that almanac that record Clarke's typical work, 1766 to 1775

January - Getting wood and Butchering

- getting wood from swamp, sledding wood
- killing hog(s)

February - Getting Wood, Butchering, Odd Jobs

- cutting, getting, sledding wood
- killing calf
- tapping cider

March - Town Meeting & Mud Month (Few farm chores)

- sledding rocks

April - Gardening, Plowing

- began to garden, gardening, finished gardening
- men here with teams plowing; breaking up; plowing [he did not own his own team]
- making soap

May - Plowing and Sowing Garden and Grains

- men here with teams plowing; breaking up ground
- planting/sowing: peas, garden seed, flax, corn, oats, barley, potatoes; sowed garden; finished planting
- getting out dung [manure]

June - Weeding and Odd Jobs

- weeding corn
- moving dung to yard; carting dung and ashes
- fishing; building/making walls;
- began to mow

July - Mowing, Reaping, Threshing

- began to mow, bad hay weather [rain]
- began to reap, got rye
- threshing wheat; threshing, cleaning up barley
- hilling corn, moulding corn
- sowing rye

August - Haying, Mowing, Flax Pulling

- mowed meadow, , haying, finished haying, men finished haying, fetching hay

September - Making Cider, Processing Grains

B. Evidence of Jonas Clarke's Farm

- making cider
- spreading flax, threshing rye, cutting stalks
- fetching mud from pasture
- making soap;

October - Corn and Cider

- getting in cider/making cider
- gathering corn
- repairing house clapboards, painting house, repairing/laying hearths,

November - Getting in Vegetables, Carting Dung

- took up carrots and vegetables
- carting out dung
- begin to bring my wood
- killed cow/hog

December - Butchering, Getting Wood, Carting Dung

- killing hog(s)/cow/ox
- began to bring wood, bringing wood
- carting dung
- cleaning chaise

Clue 2: Farm Stock and Tools in the Probate Inventory of Jonas Clark, 1805

Grains:

English hay, meadow hay in the barn; two stacks of meadow hay [in the field]
Indian corn 22 bushels; rye, 10 bushels

Livestock:

Two red cows, one ditto [ditto means "the same"], three pigs, one old horse
Horse cart & harness, one old chain and harness

Farm Tools:

Cider mill, cider shovel, 14 barrels
Plough, two manure forks, two hoes, two shovels, hay forks, one hook & rake, two rakes
grindstone, three ladders
Corn husker, scythe & snath [for reaping grains], grindstone

C. Evidence of Jonas Clarke's Political Observations

Clue 1: Jonas Clarke's Interleaved Almanac

Jonas Clarke kept an "interleaved almanac" – a small printed booklet with almanac information for each month on the left-hand page, and a blank page to record the weather, work, or events of each day on the right-hand side. Below are excerpts from Clarke's interleaved almanac that record his observations of and reaction to rising political tensions, 1766-1775.

5-16/17-66	New of Repeal of Stamp Act arrived [new of repeal arrived by ship from London]
5-19-66	Rejoicing at Boston [over impending repeal of Stamp Act]
7-23-66	Stamp Act Repealed
3-18-67	Rejoicing and Commemoration at Boston
6-25-68	Met Mr. John Hancock, Mr. Burr, etc. at Mr. Cookes' [Arlington minister & mentor]
6-30-68	The General Court prorogued! [adjourned by royal prerogative; without dissolving the legislative]
7-5-68	The court dissolved!!!!!! [considered a royal violation of provincial rights & customs]
9-20-68	Fast at Boston [Fasts were held in difficult times to prayer for God's intercession/relief]
9-28-68	Fast at Notomy [Notomy is Menotomy, now Arlington]
9-29-68	Fast here on account of the Times. Mr. Cushing and Mr. Jones preached. Fears on every side.
10-1-68	Troops landed at Boston!!
10-2-68	A Day of Darkness [on account of the occupation of Boston by Troops]
10-5-11	Fast at Concord
10-6-68	Fast at Woburn
10-15-68	Gen'l Gage came to Boston from NY
4-11 to 15-69	[Attends Concord Council for 4 days – the Council is a form of provincial cooperation between towns, without royal sanction or authority]
10-24-69	Training [Militia training in Lexington]
11-7-69	Training
2-22-70	A boy murdered at Boston by one Richardson, a famous informer
3-5-70	5 men murdered at Boston by the Troops! Several others wounded! [Boston Massacre]
9-10-70	The castle given up to Col. Dalrymple by Gov. Hutchinson!!
10-3-70	General Court held. Fast at Cambridge
10-23&24-70	Went to Concord Council
1-6-71	Read Concord Result
3-14-71	Gov. Hutchinson & Lt. Gov. Oliver's Commissions published
6-23-72	Concord Council
12-31-72	Town Meeting to oppose oppression measures
1-5-73	Town Meeting
7-22-73	Boston Convention
12-10-73	Town Meeting, Tea, etc. [Meeting at which town discusses the Tea in Boston Harbor]
12-13-73	Town Meeting [Meeting at which Lexingtonians vote to destroy their tea in a bonfire]
12-18-78	Tea destroyed Thurs. night [Boston Tea Party]
5-10-74	News of the Act to block up the harbor
5-13-74	Gen. Gage arrived in Boston. Gov. now
6-13-74	Regiments landed at Boston
6-20-74	Meeting about covenant not to purchase Eng. goods [Lexington citizens pledge not to purchase any English imports]
6-23-74	Meeting to sign covenant [on Non-Importation]
6-26-74	Appointed a fast for July 17 [fast requested by 2nd Continental Congress]
7-14-74	Fast on the Times
9-1-74	Powder seized [13 tons of gunpowder seized by British Regulars at Charlestown]

C. Evidence of Jonas Clarke's Political Observations

- 9-15-74 Showing Arms [Militia training]
10-5-74 Training
10-10-74 Hon. John Hancock and Dr. Warren here
10-11-74 Provincial Congress at Concord [Provincial Congress formed; Hancock elected president]
10-17-74 Congress at Cambridge
12-27-74 Town Meeting
1-9-75 Lexington sent 61 loads of wood to Boston poor and some money. [effort to relieve suffering of those blockaded in the city of Boston]
2-1-75 Provincial Congress met at Cambridge
2-9-75 Lecture on the Times
2-16-75 Militia officers chosen in Lexington 2nd time
2-26-75 The Regulars attempt to seize some canon at Salem but are frustrated
3-14-75 [Our militia] Training, showing arms
3-16-75 Public Fast at Lexington
3-30-75 Mr. Hancock and Mr. Adams here
4-2-75 New [---] from England to enforce acts
4-7-75 Lady Hancock, Mr. Hancock, etc come here
4-19-75 Regulars fired upon our Men in Lexington. Killed 10 of this town and 30 of other places and wounded many, burnt houses, etc.
4-21-75 Boston shut up!
4-24-75 Committee taking Depositions concerning the fatal action in Lexington
4-26-75 Pres. Langdon here [perhaps John Langdon of NH, patriot and NH representative to 2nd Continental Congress; later President of the US Senate at its first session]
5-1-75 Went to Roxbury with team, carriage, etc to fetch [his wife's] brother Nicholas Bowes and family [who live in Boston and are now threatened by the hostilities], but was disappointed. [Clarke's son Thomas is with the Bowes in Boston at this time.]
5-5-75 Jonas went to Cambridge with Capt. Parker and part of our company. [Jonas Jr is a young teen and is accompanying the militia to battle/camp.
5-11-75 Public fast
5-15-75 260 Regulars came in
5-17/16-75 Mrs. Bowes and children and Thomas Clark came here... on their way to Shirley
5-28-75 Our men took Hog Island
6-12-75 More regulars arrive
6-17-75 The Troops had a battle, forced our Intrenchments [sic] and burnt Charleston
6-19-75 Sent wife, children and bed to Hopkinton [where his father lives]
6-30-75 My father died!
7-20-75 Public Continental Fast
7-30-75 Light house burnt
July-Oct Epidemic of dysentery kills many in Lexington [camp fever?]
8-17-85 Brother Nicholas Bowes out of Boston
8-18-75 Mr. Hancock here
9-13-75 Thomas and Jonas [Clarke's 2 teenaged sons] to Cambridge [to join troops?]
9-16-75 Sent cider to Cambridge [for troops?]
9-17-75 Capt. Parker died
10-1-75 Gen. Gage superseded by Howe.

D. Evidence of Events at the Clarke Parsonage on April 19th

Clue 1: Rev. Jonas Clark's Battle Narrative, April 19th, 1776

(Given on the first anniversary of the Battle of Lexington)

Excerpt:

“On the evening of the 18th of April, 1775, we received two messages; the first verbal, the other by express, in writing, from the committee of safety, who were then sitting in the westerly part of Cambridge, directed to the Honourable JOHN HANCOCK, Esq., (who, with the Honourable SAMUEL ADAMS, Esq., was then providentially with us) informing, ‘that 8 or 9 officers of the king’s troops were seen, just before night, passing the road towards Lexington, in a musing, contemplative posture, and it was suspected they were out upon some evil design.’

“As both of these gentlemen had been frequently and even publicly threatened, by the enemies of this people . . . with the vengeance of the British administration . . . it was not without some grounds supposed that under cover of the darkness, sudden arrest, if not assassination might be attempted . . .

“To prevent any thing of this kin, 10 or 12 men were immediately collected, in arms, to guard my house, through the night . . .”

Clue 2: Dorothy Quincy Hancock's Relation of Events, as told in person to Samuel Sewell

“ I was a guest with others on the night of April 18th, at the Lexington parsonage, being particularly interested in John Hancock, a relative of Mrs. Clark. Samuel Adams was also with us, a guest. I was not a little anxious, for I was aware of the hatred that existed among the leaders of the Regulars for both Mr. Adams and Mr. Hancock.

“I was easily awakened when the warning messenger came to the house. I made a hasty toilet, and was soon ready for the discretion of the officers. After much reluctance it was decided that we go over to the parsonage in the Woburn precinct, where were trusted friends of the Lexington minister. We were driven there in a coach and four, and found a welcome, -- Madam Jones, the widow of the deceased minister, being the hostess. . .

“Preparations were soon begun for a meal, and no pains were spared. A fine salmon, given to Mr. Hancock in the morning at Lexington, was sent over to our stopping-place, and it was prepared for the table. We were all sitting down to the tempting feast, when a messenger from Lexington rushed in and told the story of the carnage there, and that we were hotly pursued. The coach, a telltale indeed, stood in the yard. This was secreted by Cuff, the negro slave in the family; and the family and the male guests were conducted away through the woods to the home of Amos Wyman in an obscure corner of Bedford, Burlington, and Billerica.”

Clue 2: Letter of Miss Betty Clarke, Daughter of Rev. Jonas Clarke, written April 19, 1841.

[This letter, written by Miss Betty Clarke to her niece, Mrs. Lucy Ware Allen, of Northborough, Mass., was found among Mrs. Allen's papers in the old Allen parsonage at Northborough, in 1907, by Mrs. Allen's grand-daughter, Mrs. Harriet H. Johnson, and was by her presented to the Lexington Historical Society. The extracts here printed were read by the Corresponding Secretary before the society at its February, 1908, meeting.]

LEXINGTON, April 19th 1841, *not* 1775.

My dear niece Lucy Allen:

Miss Cotton offers to take a line to you, and, as your little girl did not stay or come to this house only to give us your letter which, with the sincerest joy we read and have lived on the hope you gave us that you would come up to this old House and look on us old Beings, a house and Happy, *Happy* home and many worthy men and women have been the Inhabitants and oh! Lucy, how many Descendants can I count from the venerable Hancock down to this day which is sixty six years since the war began on the Common which I now can see from this window as here I sit writing, and can see, in my mind, just as plain, all the British Troops marching off the Common to Concord, and the whole scene, how Aunt Hancock and Miss Dolly Quinsy, with their cloaks and bonnets on, Aunt Crying and ringing her hands and helping Mother Dress the children, Dolly going round with Father, to hide Money, watches and anything down in the potatoes and up Garrett, and then Grandfather Clarke sent down men with carts, took *your* Mother and all the

D. Evidence of Events at the Clarke Parsonage on April 19th

LETTER OF MISS BETTY CLARKE

children but Jonas and me and Sally a Babe six months old. Father sent Jonas down to Grandfather Cook's to see who was killed and what their condition was and, in the afternoon, Father, Mother with me and the Baby went to the Meeting House, there was the eight men that was killed, seven of them my Father's parishoners, one from Woburn, all in Boxes made of four large Boards Nailed up and, after Pa had prayed, they were put into two horse carts and took into the grave yard where your Grandfather and some of the Neighbors had made a large trench, as near the Woods as possible and there we followed the bodies of those *first slain, Father, Mother, I and the Baby*, there I stood and there I saw them let down into the ground, it was a little rainey but we waited to see them Covered up with the Cloths and then for fear the British should find them, my Father thought some of the men had best Cut some pine or oak bows and spread them on their place of burial so that it looked like a heap of *Brush*.

Now, dear Lucy, only think that the hand who holds the pen to relate the above, did six years ago, see them same bodies gathered up, placed in a handsome Coffin with Urns, the names of the Eight men that was killed that Mon. and again buried in a handsome tomb made by the side of the Monument where they are now to remain untill they are called by the *Last Trumpell* to take their Last Rest in Heaven.

The extraordinary circumstance that I should be the only one of this Family who should witness the first Burial of the first slain of the war between Great Britain and America and Be not only continued in Life but on the same spot of Earth and in the same house where the first Patriots in the Country was at that period, Hancock and Adams and Father who was known as a superior *W'igg*, superior minister, a Highly respectable Man, uncommon in

LETTER OF MISS BETTY CLARKE

his intellectual faculties and, above all, a *Christian*, who served his Lord and Master, was faithful to his People, gave his strength to labour for his Family, his hours of Rest to his pen so that his People's souls should not be neglected, but Lucy, I shall tire you with my relations, many, many sorrowful relations in this my long Life I could relate but I will also say I have had many years of comfort and, formerly, had good society and great assistance. Many are Dead, many have fallen off, *but*, BUT, God's name be praised, some are still left for my comfort and assistance. My dearest and *most* constant, *most* true, most considerate are from the Descendants of my oldest sister, Mary, and the very nest of Allen Her Husband...

(Signed) YOUR AGED AUNT ELIZA.