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7-28-1785

### Eliza Livingston to Susan Livingston, July 28, 1785

Elizabeth Livingston

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At last thank heaven our journey is com-  
pleted. I almost wonder that fatigue & pain have not exhausted  
me, but tho' I passed last night in more intolerably pain than I have  
sincerely ever before experienced, & have had no repose today yet am  
I now quite calm & easy. I wrote you on Monday morning & told  
you that we then expected to leave M<sup>r</sup>. S. that afternoon but after we  
had mounted the waggon Aunt thought it unsafe & we concluded to  
wait untill the next day & procure another. Yesterday morning we  
bid them adieu, & after riding about eight miles we were obliged to take  
shelter from a violent shower. This we did in quite a common farm house  
but you know what an observer I am of the appearance of the rustic class of  
people, I always seek to read something in their simple countenances & was  
quite pleased at the tidy air appearance & civil reception given us by a hand-  
some middle aged black eyed woman, but her children quite delighted me so pretty  
so neat & well behaved, & the names of Lavinia, Electra & Cynthia so unlike the  
uncouth appellations by which most the farmers children are called, that I was

instantly persuaded the parents were superior to the common herd, & this sup-  
position was soon justified by the appearance of <sup>the</sup> father who returned <sup>the field</sup> from to welcome  
us with all the politeness we could wish, or expect from those in a more exalted  
sphere. Refreshments were ordered, & so well conducted that curiosity was more awak-  
ened, particularly as the language & conversation of our host was quite ~~in the~~ <sup>in the</sup> style  
that I should expect to have in good society. But as he was naturally open  
to some leading questions I was quickly informed of his having served as an officer  
in our <sup>army</sup>: & at the conclusion of the war he had entered into business, & we might natur-  
ally suppose in that he had failed from his present circumstances. But you can feel  
no interest for the poor man, so why do I tell you all this? We laid ~~last~~ <sup>last</sup> night  
at a M<sup>r</sup> Coles a neat Dutch house & got here at noon today - We went to  
M<sup>r</sup> Jones but upon Aunt's request, that we might have rooms & live by our-  
selves he made many difficulties & we found he did not wish to receive us on those  
terms: his price too is enormous in my opinion. Three dollars for each room  
besides an allowance for the use of the Kitchen. The inconveniences too were  
numerous, the rooms open on the piazza, & there was no way of doing any thing  
necessary without being subject to the inspection of a crowd of men who are  
incessantly traversing the Piazza. We have therefore procured rooms at  
M<sup>r</sup> Cheney's, we have two bed rooms & a sitting room entirely separate from  
any of the family, as we have a door opening to the road. These we have  
altogether for two dollars including the use of the Kitchen. The appear-  
ance is certainly far inferior to Jones's, but there is no comparison either in point  
of conveniences or with respect to price

I wou'd have address'd this letter to my father but I suppose he  
is still absent. As soon as we are settled I shall write to all the girls  
at present I am in great haste yours  
Elizabeth

Lebanon Pool

July 20<sup>th</sup> 1785

Miss Susan Livingston

P. V. B. Livingston's Esq<sup>r</sup>

N<sup>o</sup> 3 Hanover Square

New York