



Collection Information:

Item: Letter from John Adams to Elkanah Watson, June 21, 1820.

Collection: Jonathan Carver land grant-related deeds and papers.

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Montezilla June 21st 1820

Dear Sir.

Your favour of the 10th is received. I remember that a Woman, came to me in London, with a book she wished me to buy - It was Carver's travels - she said she was his Widow that he had left her the Property in this book - and that she had little else to support her - with much Equivocation concerning the veracity of her intentions as well as in the historical facts as in the work itself - I thought it a clever rangan at a Crown - but she asked a guinea - and I gave it - without asking many questions - I knew the Name and Character of Carver - as a partisan Officer - and a Captain of a Company of Rangers in the French War - in which the reputation of his services was fair - The book purporting to be the production of an American - though I had little faith in it - I wished to possess it - I may have been too uncharitable both to Carver and his Deceit - but I did not then believe in the sincerity of either - she received the guinea with an arch look of exultation - which appeared to me to imply as much as if she had said I have made a handsome profit by a very clever trick upon the credulity of a simple American who knows nothing of the World - What I said to you upon the occasion I do not remember - but I certainly thought Carver had picked up many of his anecdotes from wandering and Romantic Indians I have not looked into the volume since that time and remember very little of its contents -

Your history of Canals and modern Agricultural

Society will be very acceptable by what ever Channel
it arrives - it may come by the mail as certainly and
as conveniently as by any private hand -

Dear Mr. Weston I am filled with pleasing
recollections of our former intercourse in various
Countries - and with much Esteem

your friend and humble

Servant

J. Adams

Elkanah Weston

Mr. Adams
at the Bar -
I will be well to
glance at this
in private