



Collection Information:

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

Collection: Jonathan Carver Land Grant-Related Deeds and Papers.

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

Montezillo, 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 Carvers 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 Pyrrhonism concerning the veracity of her intentions, as well as in the historical facts as in the work itself. I thought it a clear Bargain 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 Doxy, 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 handsom 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

[page 2]

Society will be very acceptable, by whatever Channel it arrives. It may come by the mail as certainly and as conveniently as by any private hand.

~~I am certainly~~ I am Sir with pleasing
Recolections of our former intercourse in various
Countries – and with much esteem.

Your friend and humble
Servant
/s/ J. Adams.

Elkanah Watson.

[Recipient's docketing on reverse]

John Adams abt. Carver

It will be well to
glance at this
reputable source.