



Maud Hart and Delos Wheeler
Lovelace Family Papers.

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3849 Pleasant Ave. South,
Minneapolis, Minnesota,
Feb. 24, 1933.

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:-

Yours received and was very glad to hear from you. Enclosed are the copies of the letters I promised to send and am sure you will find them very interesting.

It seems to me that if a person could gather more information of Little Wiley and his family it would make rather good material for a book. I would someday like to make an attempt.

Will you kindly let me know when you are to be in Minneapolis again. Also you need not return the copies. Hoping to hear from you soon again,

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Richard R. Sackett

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

3849 Pleasant Ave So.

Jan 19, 1933

Dear Mrs Lovelace: -

First I want to introduce my self. My name is Richard Sackett am twenty three years old, an artist, a student of Minnesota history, a collector of antiques and historical matter and the owner of an antique shop here in Mpls.

Second, I want to tell you just how much I enjoyed the book of yours which I just finished. "Early Candlelight". I just can't explain how much I enjoyed it as I read the book probably in a different light than the average reader. You see I have two old letters in my possession which were written by a great, great, great uncle of mine who came out to this part of the country from New York around the years 1815. His name is little Wiley

These letters are his letters which he wrote home to his Mother and Sister. The accounts in these letters are so much like your book. So you see Jasper Page is so very much like little Wiley as they were both fur traders. He also speaks in his letters of the six men who are his helpers on the trail. It certainly gave me quite a sensation. These letters were written from the Falls of St. Anthony and other points mentioned in your book. In the near future I shall send you copies of these letters. I have two and my aunt, Mrs F. B. Norris of Brooklyn N. Y. who by the way was introduced to you a few weeks ago, have the other four.

The next time you are in Minneapolis I would like you to see them and discuss them with you.

I suppose you will think me very bold but I wonder if you would please write a little note or comment signed by you that I could paste in the front of my copy of "Early Candlelight". Hoping to hear from you soon I remain

Yours very truly

Richard R. Sackett

Michilimackinac 4th Aug. 1815

Dear Mother:-

When I last wrote you it was on the eve of my departure from Detroit for this place; our passage was long and tedious; the vessel in which I sailed was headed for Drummond's Island, the farthest North West British out port. We arrived in sight of the fort on the 5th of July but was driven off by a wind from the east land into the lake where we beat off and on until 3 P.M. when it became a gale and we were obliged to put a boat before the wind run for the nearest harbor which was eighty miles, this we reached at one o'clock in the morning; it being dark the pilot ran us aground on a reef of small rocks at the entrance of the harbor, which was where we lay three days and was obliged to carry all our cargo on shore before we could get the ship off, after clearing the vessel from the rocks we took in the cargo, set sail and arrived in the bay of Drummond's Island on the 10th. This is a new settled place occupied only by a few troops. The next day I procured from the Indian agent a birch canoe and seven Indians to take me to this place (40 miles across the head of Lake Huron). We started at 6 o'clock in the evening and paddled all night; at sunrise the next morning we arrived here. The Island of Mackinac is eight miles in circumference and at the widest part about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in breadth. It lies very high above the lake, the ground on which Fort Homer is built is seven hundred feet above the water and from the round house you can see the three great Western lakes, (Huron, Michigan and Superior) the climate is remarkably healthy, the inhabitants chiefly Canadians and Indians. My time has been chiefly employed in the studying of French and Indian language which I begin to understand and speak so as to make myself understood in either. I expect to leave this in two or three weeks for the head of the Lake Superior where I shall winter among the Indians, and where I shall not see a white person until I return to the source of St. Mary's which will be in July next. I take two boatloads of Indian goods for the purpose of trading with the natives for furs. I have got an Indian, an English and a French interpreter with fourteen men. The ground where I contemplate to winter is 1500 miles North West of this place. Should I be fortunate enough to have my life and health spared me I have no doubt of making something handsome for myself, but the privations are great, the principle part of our food will be fish and wild rice but this I can cheerfully endure can I but once again see my native home and enjoy the society of those who are most dear to me. I enjoy perfect health and pray God continue it during the hardships that I must undergo. The prospects of again returning to where I shall meet the embraces and smiles of unaffected friendship and love buoys up my spirits and is a sufficient stimulant to carry me through every difficulty. Give my best respects to all my friends from the oldest to the youngest, tell them that though I am far distant from them my thoughts are with them. In my nightly dreams I am with you and enjoying the sweet converse of parental love and pure friendship. I can no more. My friend Daniel. L. Van Antwerp, tell him that I frequently enjoy his society in my nightly slumbers and hope again to enjoy it personally. I shall write you before I start from this and could wish to receive an answer to this but that is impossible. I must therefore content myself with praying this may find you all well and that health and happiness may attend you until I again have the pleasure of seeing you all again.

Your affectionate son,
Little Wiley.

6th of May, 1818.

Dear Susan:-

I have but a moment's time to inform you I am well. I have written David Hearsey who will let you know my situation. Should God in his providence have suffered my mother still to exist, I enjoin it on you to protect and nourish her. Keep Margaret Jane at school, let her education be good, she is mine and shall enjoy whatever I may possess. Time will not permit me to write you any particulars from here. When I arrive at Mackinaw I shall communicate to you my views and prospects, till that time rest satisfied. I wrote you from the falls of St. Anthony last winter. I described to you my then situation. My returns from furs will be good and I shall meet a fresh importation of goods at Mackinaw to be taken into the Indian County the coming fall.

Preserve my script that I left you of the share I hold in the library, pay any arrearages there may be and it shall be refunded to you.

Your affectionate brother,

Little Wiley.

Little Wiley was born in 1785 and died the year this letter was written 1818.

Albany, November 29th, 1804.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of the 29th Inst. reached me this morning. My not writing to you must neither be taking for neglect or bad memory as I have written once to you and delivered my letter to your favorite stage driver Lovett. I regret that the neglect of Lovett has given cause in your mind to harbor so hard a thought of your correspondent and friend.

My mother indeed has been very ill, but at present she is somewhat easier. The same cause that did not permit you to write must be an excuse for me.

Remember my compliments to Dr. Anderson and Peter Sanders.

I remain yours affectionately,

J.S. Rennselaer.

This letter was written to little Wiley.

Michilimakinac, 23rd Sept., 1815.

Dear Mother:-

I avail myself of another opportunity of writing you this season. When I last wrote I had no idea of addressing you this year but Providence has so ordained it that I am again cast on this Island, where I shall remain for the winter and trade with Indians.

I started a few days after in the company of Lord Selkirk who was at this Island and was going to the same place I intended. We went as far as the source of St. Mary's when we met an express canoe informing Lord Selkirk that the North West Company had come down to his settlement and massacred eighty of the inhabitants and destroyed the fort, upon which he abandoned his present object, took three hundred troops and went up the other side of Lake Superior from which we intended, whereupon I returned to Mackinac. A few days since we have an account that Lord Selkirk had arrived at the principal port of the North West Company, besieged and destroyed it, taken all those prisoners that were not killed and is in possession of all the Hudson Bay and North West Company's territory.

It is possible I may go to Green Bay, Chicago, or St. Louis on the Mississippi this fall and winter at one of these ports, but that is still uncertain, the next arrival will determine me. I wish you to write me immediately on receipt of this and direct to this place where it may arrive by the last vessel from Detroit and should I have left here, directions will be left at the office to forward yours to me which will be a great pleasure to me to hear from all my friends at home. I send this by MR. Payne of Albany for whom the vessel is now awaiting and I have no time to write to any of my friends at present being much engaged in business, the vessel only arrived this morning from Detroit.

You will inform them that same and wish them health and happiness. Tell Susan to write me. I hope Margaret, Ann, and little Will is well. I shall soon send them some Indian presents. My best respects to all friends and relatives.

Your affectionate son,
Little Wiley.

Laprerie du Chames 8th Sept.

Dear Sister:-

I avail myself of the present opportunity of again writing you by a gentleman who goes direct to Philadelphia by which means you cannot help receiving this. The day I left Mackinaw I wrote to mother stating to her the route I intended to take and the business I was engaged in which letter I presume you have received ere this, should it unfortunately not have reached you I shall briefly state to you what my object is at present. I am bound for the head waters of the Mississippi about five hundred miles above the falls of St. Anthony with a boat load of Indian goods for the purpose of trading with the Souix and Chippeway tribes. I left Mackinaw on the 7th. Aug and coasted around Lake Michigan to the head of Green Bay from that ascended the river to its source. We then crossed a portage of 2½ miles to the Owisconsin river which we descended until we fell in the Mississippi and arrived at this place on the 4th of this month, the distance from Mackinaw is called three hundred leagues. I shall remain here until the 15th, having a thousand weight of balls to make and corn to buy for my men, their whole substance in the wintering ground is a double handful of corn and two ounces of tallow which they boil into a kind of soup and on that light diet they are healthy and active and will work and sing from daylight until dark. I have five boatmen and two interpreters who speak different Indian tongues and one speaks good English the others are all Canadians who understand no English. At this place I provide myself with my winter supply of provisions. I take a thousand weight of flour, two barrels of pork with the other necessities for the use of myself and the interpreters.

You have altogether forgotten me as I have received only one letter from you since I left home but that is not the case with me I have written you dozens but this will be the last until next summer when you will hear from me from this place. I wish you may write me and be particular in giving me all that may be interesting. You cannot imagine how anxious I feel to hear from you. Direct your letters to this place as I shall return here about the first of July.

Capt. Owens of this place will write to his correspondents at St. to forward any letters that may arrive at that place for me it being the last post on the Mississippi. Give my best respects to all my friends and acquaintances; in all probability it will be two years before I see you again.

I remain

Your affectionate brother,
Little Wiley.