


1775

2: 1775 November 19: Margaret Dunbar (Elgin) to William Dunbar, "My Dear Brother" ("Planter in Richmond Settlement on the Mississippi")

Margaret Dunbar (Elgin)

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Copy Letter from Bazaar Buntar
to her mother from in America

Elgin 19th Nov^r 1775

My dear Brother

I have taken this opportunity
of writing you by Mr James
Robertson. Nama & I think
it a pluse conveyance as you
& Mr Robertson corresponds -
It made Nama & I extremely
happy when we saw him to
hear that he had a letter
from you a little before he left
Jaindaa, and that you was
in perfect health, as we had
heard some time agoe that you
was ailing - My dear William
it is very disagreeable to me
to communicate a thing to any
Person that will affect them, &
much more so to my dear
Brother, who I know has a tender

compassionate feeling heart for
every body, and feels in a more
particular degree for his own
Relations, but I think it's better
that I should acquaint you than
that you should hear it abruptly
by any other means - Our sister
Kelly came from London this
summer in a very bad state
of health, six weeks after she
had brought to bed of a son, with
an intention to see her friends &
to return to London in winter, but
alass - God almighty had ordered
otherwise, after a lingering illness
she died at Pitgarnie the 27th of
October. Dear soul, she underwent
the keenest pain & affliction, with
the greatest composure & resignation
to the will of Heaven. I trust in
God, she is much happier than
this world & all its riches & pleasures
could make her. It gives Mama

& a great deal of pleasure & satisfaction
& I dare say, will give my dear William
the same. When he hears it to think
that we were in the greatest love and
friendship with her. I think it proper
to inform you that upon her arrival
at Elgin - Mama & I went & saw her,
in a day or two after, she went to
Duffus & resided there - Mama & I
went down to see her - she recovered in
a few ~~months~~, & every Body thought
her in the way, to get the better of
all her complaints, but this was but
flattering empty hopes - her ~~distemper~~
was too far gone for that, by her own
confession, she had a bad cough
for eighteen months & a pain in her
left side & a shortness of breath, after
she recovered the fever at Duffus, she
came twice to Elgin & saw us - when
she was thought in danger - Mama
went often to see her, & I stayed almost
constantly, as she told me, she could

not want one out of her sight - she
grew vastly fond of Mamma & often
said to her, that she was her steady
friend on Earth - Our Brother Sandy
only went twice to see her, after she
left Suffus - Mrs Sumbar never went
she was at Pitgarnie between two &
three months, before the fatal event -
she was buried in the Tomb at Suffus
by her earnest desire - she has left
a son & daughter - Pitgarnie intends
sending them to Elgin in the Spring
Mamma I mean to take great notice
of them, which I dare say you'll
approve of - some time ago - there
happened some differences between
Sandy & Kelly and ^{Robert} Innes, & after
Kelly came from London Kelly
Innes went to Suffus, but she
did not see her, nor could not bear to
see any of the family - you see my
dear Willie, how many different
& various things happens in Life
to make us think on the divine
hand of Providence Thom is

now advanced to a Lieutenant, but
not without purchasing - he paid
a Hundred Pounds Sterling,
for it - I think its very hard in
the time of war, when their
honour, & their lives is at stake,
to pay for a bit of preferment.
I'm happy to think that you
are at a distance from this
troublesome war. I wish it may
end well, but it has a very bad
look - we are now beginning to
find the cold of winter, the frost
& (- worn out -) advances fast -
everything looks chilly & bleak.
The ground begins to wear quite
a different livery from what it
did some months past. Your
friend Mrs Robertson, honest woman
seems quite happy with seeing
her son James, she is certainly
vastly lucky in her children,
they seem all to be in a very thriving
way. I hope you have got the

boy with your Linens before
now - Mr & Mrs Kay & family
are very well & begs to be remembered
to you, as also does Mrs
Sutherland, who still continues
to stay with Mama, & all your
other friends in Town send
best wishes to you

My dear Willie
yours with affection
Margaret Dunbar

To
Mr William Dunbar
Planter in Richmond Settlement
on the Mississippi