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## Israel Shreve Letters

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## M-104 ISRAEL SHREVE, LETTERS, 1771-1804

### SCOPE AND CONTENT

Correspondence of Colonel Israel Shreve, who served with Washington during the Revolutionary War; provides information on battles, conditions, etc., during the Revolution, including Ticonderoga, Valley Forge, Brandywine. 3 boxes.

BOX	FOLDER	DESCRIPTION
001	001	"Two Black Boxes and General Washington's Letters" by Coburn Allen Buxton.  Genealogical chart of the Buxton family.  Letter from I.H. Shreve to Mrs. John Armstrong, Mar. 22, 1879, discussing descendants of Israel Shreve, mentions Henry Shreve and his contributions.  Photocopies of pictures of John Armstrong, John Leathers, Annie Leathers, Stuart Leathers, 1894.
002		Deed for land to Israel Shreve, Feb. 22, 1773.  Marriage license, Samuel Scotten and Jean Hall, Mar. 20, 1775.  Marriage license, John Hind and Rebecca Turner, Apr. 18, 1775.  Marriage license, Josiah Clard and Phebe Easley, May 1, 1775.  Receipt from Israel Shreve to George Haughton, Nov. 29, 1775.
003		Receipt for gun and bayonet from General Maxwell, Feb. 20, 1776.  Letter from Israel Shreve in Albany, New York to wife Mary, Mar. 27, 1776; contains money sent to Mary and expresses concern over being able to provide for family.  Letter from Shreve to wife Mary, Apr. 16, 1776, concerning the family.  Letter from Shreve at Fort George to wife Mary, Apr. 16, 1776, describing the encampment and military strategy.

Letter from Shreve at Fort Ticonderoga to wife Mary, Apr. 19, 1776; son John and all his officers are well.

Letter from Shreve in camp 25 miles below Montreal to wife Mary, May 25, 1776; complains of lack of food, lost 5 or 6 inches "in thickness".

Letter from Shreve at Ticonderoga to wife Mary, Jul. 18, 1776; had opportunity to read the Declaration of Independence, which inspired the officers; expresses desire to continue to serve his country.

Letter from Shreve at Ticonderoga to wife Mary, Jul. 29, 1776; son John has been appointed ensign.

Letter from Shreve at Mount Independence to wife Mary, Aug. 25, 1776; he and the 10,000 troops are ready for battle.

Letter from Shreve at Mount Independence to wife Mary, Sept. 17, 1776; encourages her to wait patiently for his return; mentions the recovery of Bob Wright.

Letter from Shreve at Mount Independence to wife Mary, Sept. 17, 1776; inquiries about his mother-in-law; this is the first day of rest in ten weeks for the soldiers.

Document from Congress, Oct. 2, 1776. [Original copy.] Provides rate of pay for officers, calls for re-enlistment, and promotions for distinguished service, clothing and pay for non-commissioned officers. Signed by John Hancock.

Letter from Shreve at Ticonderoga to friend John Stilley, Oct. 27, 1776; describes battle with British; comments about various American officers; expects enemy attack soon or go to Canada.

**004** Letter from Shreve at uncertain location [probably Princetown] to wife Mary, Jan. 2, 1777; tales of cruel treatment of women and children by British soldiers.

Letter from Shreve at Princetown to wife Mary, Mar. 30, 1777; son John after experiencing a brief illness goes to Burlington instead of Philadelphia; one of his regiment is executed for desertion.

Letter from Shreve at Princetown to Gov. Livingston of New Jersey, Apr. 2, 1777; requests appointment of James Paul as ensign (first lieutenant) and John Shreve as second lieutenant;

cites their accomplishments. Approved by George Washington.

Letter from Shreve at Princetown to Capt. Yard, Apr. 3, 1777; orders the Captain to move his troops to Princetown under the command of Gen. Marnell.

Letter from Shreve at Short Hills to wife Mary, or Polly, as he often calls her, Apr. 18, 1777; describes skirmishes with the enemy; dines with Maj. Gen. Stevens, Gen. Maxwell, and Col. Bland; expresses pride in his son John and his military appearance; writes another battle with the enemy, Apr. 19, 1777.

Letter from Shreve at undetermined location to friend Jonathan Branson, May 21, 1777; describes recent skirmishes with the enemy; continues the letter on May 22.

Letter from Shreve at Turkey Gap to Doctor Bodo Otto Esquire [?], Jun. 29, 1777; describes battle at Short Hills between Gen. Maxwell's brigade and British General on Jun. 26; continues the letter on Jun. 30; mentions Ensign James Paul wounded in battle.

Letter from Shreve at Turkey Gap to John Stilley, Jun. 29, 1777; describes battle at Short Hills on June 26.

Letter from Shreve to brother [William or Thomas Curtis], Jul. 19, 1777. [Original is in poor condition and hard to read.]

Letter from Shreve in camp to wife Mary, Nov. 20, 1777; he is ordered by Gen. Washington to return to New Jersey.

Letter from Shreve at Trenton to wife Polly [Mary], Nov. 26, 1777; refers to brother William, and preparation to fight Gen. Cornwallis; hopes to see wife in one week.

**005**

Letter from Shreve at Valley Forge to wife Polly [Mary], Jan. 19, 1778; sends money to his wife; has little news to tell her.

Letter from Shreve at Haddonfield to wife Polly [Mary], Mar. 26, 1778; his brothers William and Thomas Curtis have secured a new home for Israel and Polly; instructs her to move; mentions he is in charge of the camp.

Letter from Shreve at Haddonfield to unknown person, Mar. 28, 1778; describes British treatment of prisoners (men, women,

and children); mentions the capture of a Negro man suspected to be a British spy.

Receipt for goods by Shreve, May 5, 1778.

Letter from unknown person at Valley Forge to Commodore Hazelwood, May 7, 1778; discusses securing arms to be released to Shreve.

Letter from Shreve at Valley Forge to Gen. Maxwell, Jun. 12, 1778; describes contents of supply shipment.

Letter from Shreve at Elizabethtown to wife Polly [Mary], Jun. 29, 1778; describes battle against the British; American troops led by Gen Washington.

Document signed by Charles Brooke, Aide de Camp, Sept. 14, 1778; allows passage to New Jersey. [May have been used by Mary Shreve when moving.]

Letter from Shreve at Elizabethtown to wife Polly [Mary], Sept. 29, 1778; describes encounter with British near Bergan County; complains of lack of sleep; hopes to see his wife as soon as battle is over.

Letter from Shreve at Elizabethtown to wife Polly [Mary], Dec. 4, 1778; troops have been reviewed by Gen. Washington; plans to request leave for the winter to return home.

**006**

Pay Roll of Col. Shreve's Company, 2nd New Jersey Regiment, Jun. 1779.

Letter from Shreve at Newark to wife Polly [Mary], Jan. 12, 1779; tells of his brother Joshua's offer to bring Polly to see him; hopes to see her within ten days.

Letter to Shreve from friend John Wilkins at Woodberry, Mar. 2, 1779; describes completion of a trial for several prisoners.

Letter to Shreve from Col. Housen at Elizabethtown, Mar. 23 and 24, 1779; refers to letter from Maj. Howell; replies to Shreve's letter about problems of troop distribution.

Letter from Shreve at Elizabethtown to Gen. Washington, May 27, 1779; requests permission to change orders from marching to Boundbrook instead to Rarilem.

Document of enlistment for James Thomson, Jun. 12, 1777;  
received by Shreve.

Letter to Shreve from Josiah Foster at Trenton, Jun. 13, 1779;  
replies to Shreve's request for the appointment of his officers  
by the New Jersey Legislature; Congressional action is  
needed first; promises immediate action as soon as  
legislature reconvenes.

List of supplies given on back of letter.

Letter from Shreve at Camp Easton to wife Polly [Mary], Jun. 15,  
1779; mentions Lady [?] Washington's visit to the camp;  
Shreve and others accompanied her to visit religious groups,  
Brother Hood and the Moravians; expresses desire to see  
his wife soon.

Letter from Shreve at Camp Wioming on banks of Susquehanna  
River to wife Polly [Mary], Jun. 21, 1777; comments on his  
good health; tells her of law to provide financial support for  
widows and children of soldiers.

Letter from Shreve at camp on the banks of the Susquehanna River  
to wife Polly [Mary], Jun. 25, 1777; hopes to spend the  
winter with his family; son John is in good health.

Letter from Shreve at Camp Wioming to Timothy Pickening,  
President of the Board of War in Philadelphia, Jun. 27, 1779;  
requests approval for the commission of his officers, one of  
which is his son John, to Lieutenant. Letter Shreve at Camp  
Wioming to wife Polly [Mary], Jun. 28, 1779; longs to be with  
family, yet bound by sense of duty to serve his time in the  
army; continues the letter on Jun. 30 by mentioning the  
hanging of "two tories" for spying.

Letter to Shreve from R.L. Hooper at Easton, Jul. 4, 1779; mentions  
paying for Shreve's subscription to newspaper.

Letter from Shreve at Camp Wioming to wife Polly [Mary], Jul. 22,  
1779; to let her know he is thinking of her.

Letter to Shreve from R.L. Hooper at Easton, Jul. 8, 1779;  
publication of the [Pennsylvania] newspaper has ceased.

Letter from Shreve at Camp Wyoming [spelling has changed] to  
wife Polly [Mary], Jul. 22, 1779; latest news from the camp;  
no action in past few days.

Letter to Israel Shreve from D. Brearley at Trenton, Aug. 2, 1779; informs Shreve about law passed by legislature to provide pay to widows of all officers; mentions French capture of the island of St. Vincent in the West Indies.

Letter from Shreve at Camp Wyalusing to wife Polly [Mary], Aug. 6, 1779; have traveled 54 miles from Camp Wyoming on the way to Tioga; reports he and son John are in good health; hopes to be home in 60 days.

Letter from Shreve at Fort Sullivan at Tioga to wife Polly [Mary], Aug. 20, 1779; in pursuit of the retreating British; anxious to see his wife yet bound by duty to serve his country.

Letter from R.L. Hooper at Brinkers Mill to Shreve, Aug. 24, 1779; willing to be of service to Shreve and his men, and not to think they are troubling him.

Letter from William Pierce, Aide de Camp, at New Town, Aug. 31, 1779; instructions about the delivery of correspondence.

Letter from R.L. Hooper at Easton, Sept. 5, 1779; is sending a copy of a manifesto from the king of Spain, who has declared war against England; details of supplies sent to Tioga.

Letter from Shreve at Fort Sullivan to wife Polly [Mary], Sept. 7, 1779; expects to see wife by Nov. 5; describes effects of combat on him.

Letter to Shreve from [signature uncertain] at Easton, Sept. 8, 1779; informs Shreve of goods to be distributed and of Congress' decision to discontinue certain types of supplies to the army.

Letter to Shreve from A. Traill, Aide de Camp, at Easton, Sept. 10, 1779; requested to forward to Gen. Clark; contains account of surrender of Detroit.

Letter from Shreve at Fort Sullivan to wife Polly [Mary], Sept. 15, 1779; he will be home in 30 days.

Letter to Shreve from an aide [name unclear] at Fort Reed, Sept. 26, 1779; discusses disbursement of supplies and the journey of Colonel Butler.

Letter from Shreve at Camp Wyoming to wife Polly [Mary], Oct. 8, 1779; news of British withdrawal from different battles along

the coast; concerned that he has not heard from Polly recently.

Letter from Shreve at Camp Wyoming to wife Polly [Mary], Oct. 9, 1779; received orders from Gen. Washington to march immediately to the coast of New York; joining forces with Count De Estaungh to fight Cornwallis; needs to have new clothes sent, old clothes are worn out completely.

Letter from Shreve at Easton to wife Polly [Mary], Oct. 16, 1779; hopefully expects the war to end soon; again mentions he has received on letter from Polly.

Letter to Shreve from Maj. Ross at Mount Holley, Dec. 13, 1779; wants to see his friend Shreve; asks for help to secure food.

**007**

Letter from Shreve to New Jersey Legislature, Mar. 1780; requests new commissions for his officers, including his son John.

Letter to Shreve from Maj. Ross, Mar. 18, 1780; about Shreve's request to see Gen. Dayton; reason for meeting is not clear.

Letter to Shreve from F. Barber at Camp [?], Mar. 18, 1780; replies that Gen. (or Col.) Dayton has not been found; provides instructions about harboring deserters and traitors.

Letter to Shreve from Maj. Ross [unknown location], Mar. 25, 1780; provides instructions for recruiting soldiers for the army.

Letter from Shreve in camp to wife Polly [Mary], Apr. 26, 1780; Shreve to be in command of brigade during Gen. Maxwell's absence; mention his pay will increase due to Congressional decision to compensate for depreciation of currency.

Letter from Maj. Ross at Mount Holly to Shreve, May 21, 1780; plans to bring money for wages to pay soldiers; offers to trade horses with Shreve.

Letter to Shreve from unknown person on Long Island, May 21, 1780.

Letter from Shreve on farm near Elizabethtown to wife Polly [Mary], Jun. 12, 1780; describes a battle with the British on Jun. 7 at Elizabethtown.

Letter to Shreve from Joseph Biddle at Trenton, Jun. 15, 1780; expresses relief that Shreve and his men were not killed



during the battle at Elizabethtown; discusses plans to recruit more soldiers.

Letter from Shreve at Front Line of Main Army to wife Polly [Mary], Jun. 19, 1780; wants to be at home with his family, but the need for officers and soldiers continues to be great; looking forward to military assistance from France at any time.

Letter from Shreve in camp to wife Polly [Mary], Jun. 24, 1780; describes recent skirmish with the British; has no money to send home.

Letter from Shreve in Bergan County to wife Polly [Mary], Jul. 7, 1780; desires to fight with or without the French in order to end the war; "better for his children to be fatherless and free;" cannot think of leaving the army though times are difficult.

Document showing new recruits and dates of enlistment, Sept. 7, 1780.

Letter from Shreve [in Orangetown?] to wife Polly [Mary], Sept. 1780; discusses Benedict Arnold's betrayal; plans to send son John home with delivery.

Letter from Shreve in camp at Orangetown to wife Polly [Mary], Oct. 1780; mentions the hanging of Maj. John Andre for being a spy with Benedict Arnold; asks Polly not to name their child until he sees them.

Letter from Shreve at West Point to wife Polly [Mary], Oct. 26, 1780; Colonel Dayton is sick and may not return to camp; Shreve hopes to see Polly in two or three weeks; has not heard if new child is a boy or girl.

Letter from Shreve at West Point to wife Polly [Mary], Nov. 8, 1780; cannot come home because he is in command of the New Jersey Brigade; has no money to send home; has not heard from Polly since September.

Letter to Shreve at Mount Holly from Maj. Ross, Nov. 28, 1780; he is retiring; tells Shreve he has a newborn son and that Mary is doing fine; offers to help Shreve's family in any way possible.

Letter to Shreve from unknown person at Trenton, Dec. 9, 1780; explains shortage of provision for the winter; offers some supplies in Morris town.

Letter to Shreve from Maj. Ross at Mount Holly, Dec. 13, 1780; discusses persons recently jailed for trading with the enemy; no change in availability of supplies.

Letter to Shreve from unknown person at Trenton, Dec. 25, 1780; has relayed Shreve's request to Chairman of the Joint Meeting; discusses a soldier's request for leave, appears to disapprove it.

Letter to Shreve from unknown person at Princeton, Dec. 25, 1780; letter accompanies partial supply of clothing for soldiers; businesses in Philadelphia would not accept military's (government's) new currency for payment of goods, thus the incomplete shipment; officer goes to Philadelphia tomorrow to try again.

Letter to Shreve from supply officer at Ramabough, Dec. 27, 1780; promises immediate delivery of supplies per his letter to Gen. Wagner.

Letter from Shreve at Pompton Clove to Gen. Wagner, Dec. 27, 1780; provides location of the camp.

**008** Letter from Shreve at Pompton to wife Polly [Mary], Jan. 18, 1781; has requested a few weeks leave for [?] Gen. Washington; a commission is due to arrive to settle the soldiers' pay due to the depreciation of the currency; compliments wife on her good economy; refers to new child as "little nameless."

Document pledging payment to John Haines William, Sept. 4, 1781.

**009** Marriage license, Jacob Nailor and Hannag Jones, Jan. 14, 1783; ceremony performed by Shreve, Jan. 11, 1783.

Deed pledging payment of bond to Michael Devalt, paid Mar. 8, 1783.

Marriage license, Elijah Chapman and Achsach Borden, Mar. 27, 1783; ceremony performed by Shreve, May 12, 1783.

**010** Marriage license, James Hall and Elizabeth Stockton, Apr. 6, 1784; ceremony performed by Shreve, Apr. 7, 1784.

Original copy of indictment against John Jones for disturbing the peace and threatening the Justice of the Peace; convicted and fined, Aug. 12, 1784.

Letter to Shreve from M. Curtis at Black Horn, Aug. 10, 1784; relates fight between Whig and Tory sympathizers over payment of taxes; expresses concern over the effects it may have on the country.

Marriage license, John Phillips and Nancy Rossell, Oct. 5, 1784; ceremony performed by Shreve, Oct. 10, 1784.

- 011** Marriage license, S. Winner and Mary Garhill, Sept. 14, 1785; ceremony performed by Shreve, Sept. 15, 1785.
- Inventory of Samuel Knapp taken to Shreve's house, Oct. 29, 1785.
- Receipt signed by Shreve for clothes from Lawrence Vandegriff, Nov. 7, 1785; to satisfy the debt of Samuel Knapp.
- 012** Letter from Shreve at Jersey Camp to wife Polly [Mary], Mar. 10, 1788; informs Polly of his safe arrival.
- Deed, transfer of property from Levi Stephens to Francis Irwin, Nov. 5, 1788; signed by John Shreve as witness.
- 013** Receipt for one hog from Israel Shreve to A. Bryan, Jul. 23, 1791.
- Letter to Shreve from John Hones, Dec. 23, 1791; requests 1 1/2 gallons of whiskey.
- 014** Letter to Shreve from John Bever at Barter Mills, Apr. 12, 1792; instructions for payment and delivery of supplies.
- Letter to Shreve from John Bever at Barter Mills, Apr. 24, 1792; requests receipt in order to settle account for requested supplies.
- 015** Letter to Shreve from son John at Lexington, Kentucky, Jan. 28, 1793; writes of journey to Kentucky; travel by boat was long because of frozen river; hopes to return in ten weeks.

Letter to Shreve from Valentine Cook at unknown location, May 9, 1793; requests Shreve to represent him at debate over certain views of the Methodists because he cannot attend.

**016**

Poor Will's Almanac, 1788.

Israel Shreve's Journal, 1777.

Mary Shreve's note for an order, May 31, 1804.

Unknown fragment - Israel Shreve documents.

Note about receipt of newspapers by Israel Shreve, [date unknown].

Receipt for Mary Shreve, [date unknown].

Order for goods by Israel Shreve, [date unknown].

Instructions or lists of grievances to be presented by Israel Shreve and Colonel Dayton to the New Jersey legislature, [date unknown].

Grievance of Israel Shreve, [date unknown], for military pay and benefits to soldiers' widows and children; map of area near Pennsylvania border.

Fragment of a letter from Israel Shreve to wife Mary, [date unknown].

Letter from Israel Shreve to George Washington [date and location unknown]; presents complaints on behalf of regiment to Gen. Washington about using troops in battle and providing orders in a timely manner.

Document by Israel Shreve of killed, wounded, or missing troops; Battle of Brandywine, 1777; list sent by Gen. Howe.

**017**

Shreve papers; negatives of Israel Shreve letters.

**002 001**

Map of Delaware River on New Jersey side from Howell's Ferry above Trenton to Dunk's Ferry above the Ancocas Creek, date unknown.

03 001

Transcribed letters donated from the University of Houston,  
Houston, Texas.

General Philip Schuyler to Shreve, Albany, N.Y.

Lieutenant Colonel Tench Tilghman, aide to General Washington,  
to Colonel Alexander Scammell.

Major General Israel Putnam to Shreve, Putnam.

Brigadier General William Maxwell to Shreve, Westfield.

Account of illness in camps and hospital by Shreve, Chimney Rock,  
opposite Crown Point, New York, Poem or song.

Adjutant General Timothy Pickering to Major General Lord Sterling,  
or, in his absence, to Brigadier General William Maxwell, in  
camp.

General Staff of the Army, as of Nov. 1, 1777.

Governor William Livingston top Shreve, Trenton.

General George Washington to Shreve, Headquarters, Valley  
Forge.

General George Washington to Shreve, authorization for the court-  
martial of William Seeds, Head-Quarters, Valley Forge.

General David Forman, Chief of Washington's Secret Service in  
New Jersey, Barnegat, to Shreve.

Colonel Israel Shreve to General George Washington (draft),  
Mount Holly.

Colonel David Rhea to Shreve, Freehold.

Major General Philemon Dickinson to Shreve, Trenton.

Major General Philemon Dickinson to Shreve, Trenton.

Major Richard Howell, with note added by Captain John Peck.

Hand-drawn map of Fort Sullivan at Tioga.

Alexander Hamilton to Shreve, Headquarters, Middlebrook.

James McHenry to Shreve or the officer commanding at  
Elizabethtown, Headquarters, Middlebrook.

Colonel Israel Shreve to General George Washington (draft),  
Elizabethtown.

Colonel M. Furman to Shreve, Pitts-town.

Major Richard Howell to Shreve.

Colonel Israel Shreve to Mary Shreve, Wyoming [Valley].

Peter Scull to Shreve, War Office.

General Edward Hand to Major General John Sullivan, Nesquepee Falls.

Caleb Shreve to Colonel Israel Shreve, Mansfield.

Colonel Israel Shreve to Mary Shreve, Fort Sullivan at Tioga.

Benjamin Bruen, Secretary to Major John Sullivan, to Shreve, Headquarters, Newtown.

Colonel William D. Hart to Shreve, Newtown, account of the defeat of the Indians at Newtown.

Colonel Zebulon Butler to Shreve, Wyoming [Valley]

[Major John Ross], Headquarters, Kanadasegea [Canadaigua]

Colonel Zebulon Butler to Shreve, Wyoming [Valley]

Robert L. Hooper to Shreve, Easton.

Major General John Sullivan to Shreve, Head-Quarters, Connawolowhalley.

Major John Ross to Shreve, Fort Reid.

Captain William Shute to Shreve, Camp Fort Reed.

General George Washington to Shreve, Headquarters Morristown.

General Henry O. Lee to Shreve, Burlington

Colonel William D. Hart to Shreve.

Colonel Israel Shreve to Mary Shreve, Jersey Camp, Bergon County.

Colonel John Stark to Shreve.

(Assistant Adjutant General) John Stagg, Extract from General Orders, Headquarters, New Windsor.

Colonel (Adjutant General) Alexander Scammell, transcript of General Orders, Headquarters, New Windsor.

General Anthony Wayne to Shreve, Mount Kemble, with note to Shreve.

P. Peres to Shreve, Ramabough.

Colonel (Adjutant General) Alexander Scammell, transcript of General Orders, Headquarters, New Windsor.

Jacob Arnold to Jersey officers, Morristown.

General Anthony Wayne to the officer commis. The Jersey Brigade, Mount Kemble.

Ebenezer Elmer, Brigadier General New Jersey Militia, to Shreve, Camp near New Windsor.

John Combs, N.J. Captain in Revolution, to Shreve

John Beatty, member of the Continental Congress, Major, sixth Penn. Regiment in Revolution, to Shreve, Annapolis.

John Cox to Shreve, Bloomsbury.

Colonel William Shreve to Colonel Israel Shreve, Westmoreland County.

Colonel William Shreve to Colonel Israel Shreve, Alexandria.

Colonel Israel Shreve to Mary Shreve, Pittsburgh.

Colonel Israel Shreve to Mary Shreve, Fort Harmar, Muskingum.

Colonel Israel Shreve to Mary Shreve, New Madrid.

Hand-drawn map of "Lancelegrace", possibly in the hand of Colonel Israel Shreve.

Caleb Shreve to Colonel Israel Shreve.