

Letter from General Henry Knox to his wife, Lucy Knox, December 28, 1776. This letter is describing General Washington's victory at Trenton. Transcription on pg 2.

To Mrs K. (Delaware ^{river} near Trenton Dec^r 28 1776 ^{III 95} 17927 ✓
set New Haven or ^{near} the ^{mouth} of the ^{Delaware} ^{river} ✓ 227 which
Boston

my dearly belov'd friend Trenton 28th

It gives me exceedingly that I think date
my letters from this place & that I am so far
distant from the dearest object of my affections. This
War with all its variety is not able to banish your
sweet lov'd Idea from my heart. whatever I am
employ'd about still you are with me. I often
say to myself no my being out so your happy
view return as soon as the sacred calls of this
Country will permit - will return with the
blessings of heaven and enjoy all the
pleasures of ~~married~~ conjugal affection. I wrote
you a few days past by Mr. Shaw. it was short
as my time being would not allow me to do more
but you will before this have heard of our success on
the morning of the 26th instant against the enemy -
The enemy by their superior numbers had oblig'd
us to retire on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware
by which means we were oblig'd to evacuate or
give up nearly all the forties, even after our
returning over the river the preservation of Philadelphia
was a matter exceedingly precarious - The
Force of the enemy three or four times as large

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...It haild with great violence the Troops march'd with the most profound silence and good order. they arrivd by two routs on roads at the same time about half an hour after day light. [*inserted*: to within one mile of the Town] the storm continued with great violence but was in our backs & consequently in the faces of our Enemy – about half a mile from the Town was an advancd Guard on each road consisting of a Captains Guard – these Guards we forc'd & enter'd the Town with them pell-mell, & here succeeded a scene of war of which I had often Conceived but never saw before. The hurry fright & confusion of the enemy was unlike that which shall be when the last Trump shall sound – they endevord to form in streets the heads of which we had previously the possession of with Cannon & Howitzers, these in the twinkling of an eye cleard the streets, the backs of the the houses were resorted to for shelter, these prov'd ineffectual the musketry soon dislog'd them finally they were driven through the Town into an open plain beyond the Town – here they form'd in an instant – during the contest in the streets – measures were taken for putting an entire stop to their retreat by posting troops and Cannon in such passes and roads as it was possible for them to get away by – the poor fellows after they were form'd on the plains saw themselves Completely surrounded – the only resource left was to force their way thro numbers unknown to them – strongly posted with Cannon. The Hessians lost part of their Cannon in the Town they did not relish the project of forcing, & were oblig'd to Surrender upon the spot with all their artillery...