

letter, closing with a request to you, dear Mama, that you will have that good Therese write for me the ages of my dear brothers and sisters, so that I shall not forget them. Good-bye, dear Mother, and please give my dear Father a loving kiss for me and tell him at the same time that I thank him again for his pretty gift; and mind, Mama, do not turn your cheek to him as you used to do every night when I went to bed. This must be a kiss on the lips that you give my dear Father for me. Remember me affectionately to my dear brothers and sisters, and believe me, dearest Mother,

Ever your loving and devoted daughter,

Archange Meredith

GRANTS OF LAND TO PETITIONERS

British Niagara 15. February 1797

My dear Sir, I have received your Letter of the 6th January last.

It is unnecessary for you to explain your Sentiments to me, I know they always are for the joint good of the Government & the people. I am in hopes that some steps will be taken to answer the purpose you mention, I have long foreseen the Difficulty & have conceived measures to obviate it, but whether or not I shall be able to effect it, time only can tell. You do me but credit with respect to a knowledge of the Country & the people, I am attached to both & the latter have a claim upon my gratitude. I hope those who have made purchases have taken all proper precautions, because very strictly speaking the Land is not alienable until after the patent issues, & improvement is a Condition. You do wrong to suppose yourself slighted, or not to be of trust. it certainly must be the chimerical production of some of your moments in Ennui; I feel personally your Situation, but you little know how unable I am to promote the objects you heretofore aimed at. more than 1200 acres cannot be given to any individual, unless for purely military Services. I wish it could be extended, but the Extension only remains in His Majesty's Breast. I know why *you* got 1200 acres; the Extent of the King's Bounty. I know why M^{rs} Richardson, your daughter, has got 800, but why the person you allude to has, I do not know.