

Frances Gratz Etting to Rebecca Gratz

July 31, 1799

~~August~~ July 31th.

My dear Sister Becky _ sweet affectionate Epistal is so consonant to my wishes and gratifying to my vanity that I cannot sufficiently thank her _ the one received by B _ Phillips with every other you ever addressed to me awaken sensations undiscrivable _ indeed my dear girl your letters are to me most pleasing to write to you more frequent is absolutely my wish but be assuring my time is very much engaged _ although I do not intend to persuade you I am as great a [slave] to the caprice of my children as our dear Richea is to Isaac _ no Becky, much attention is paid them without a great deal of uneasiness on my part, oh my [Sister] could I but anticipate the extreme happiness of embracing you _ you flatter me by mentioning an Idea but do not ascertain the period _ when I do, I expect you in Baltimore let the intreaties of my children who be assured will divert you and be happy to see you _ Isabella calls papa and is sweet indeed _ gratz says [Been] is gone home his daily talking of our dr. parents and uncle [Been] he improves much

I am distressed to think our dear father

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received no benefit from his Journey almighty grant he may speedily be reinstated to health and happiness then would my most fervent be heard _ indeed my dear Becky my father appears [...] so entirely to enrage my imagination that he is never absent from me and oh my god [thou] painful in the reflection how is our dear our exemplary mother [sweet] woman I hope she enjoys good health in a much greater abundance than with me how much did I suffer from her affliction please tribute a great deal of Love to our Blessed parents for my dr. Reuben & self to the girls I will address a few lines return many thanks to my dear Mother for my Ring which I very much value tis very handsomely executed my shoes are [pretty] and fit I will be much obliged to my dear Becky if you will [acquaint] me the price of them Richea says she cannot inform me do my dear with to me soon and often I will endeavour to be a more punctual correspondent and by studious endeavour collect something entertaining _ A diu my sweet girl may the almighty

Protect & Bless you in constantly the work of Frances Etting
[end of page]

My dear Reuben gives a great deal of Love to you

[Address:]

Miss Rebecca Gratz

[Citizen? Moline?] Philadelphia

[Note: Rebecca notes that she answered this correspondence on August 6th].