

Thursday
April 2, 1947

Dear Stu,

Well my room is now clean again and quiet and I've settled back into the old routine of drawing every day. My work is still improving steadily and I've completed 3 more drawings. I missed you greatly and was depressed for minutes after you left but now I'm in the groove again.

Yesterday Ronald and the family took us, ^{Mr. McCordell too} down through South Jersey on a sight seeing trip and brother did we see some old houses. One town called Greenwich is the oldest I've seen with houses (all dated) going back to 1686. Some were really beautiful, some small like the wooden houses on Dauphine street. Many were dated 1734.

But down at Hancock's Bridge was the best, an old house, Hancock's House had stories through it and a wonderful story behind it which I shall endeavour to relate to you kind readers.

Washington at Valley Forge was stalling - about done for and he knew of the Quaker attempts to smuggle cattle from Hancock's Bridge across the Delaware to Valley Forge. Most of these attempts had been futile because of the large concentrations of British forces in the area. He realized that a large force would be necessary to bring the cattle over. (Now mind you, the Quakers, being anti-militant could not resist openly, but since Hancock's Bridge was a prosperous little town and since most of the colonists there were sympathetic with the American cause they decided to help them in other ways, perhaps the most vital of all ^{being} food.)

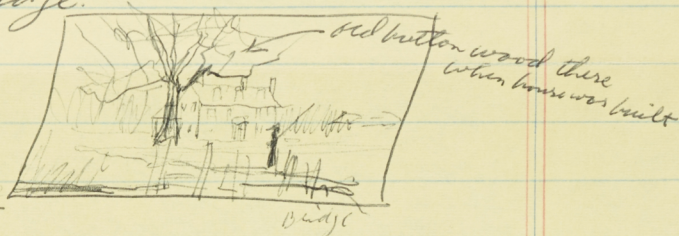
So Washington knowing of these desires and supplies sent an able man Gen "Mad" Anthony Wayne with a detachment of 500 men to get the cattle (300 in number). They crossed the Delaware on the ice (by the way the reason the Delaware doesn't freeze these days is that it has been dredged.)

(over)

And after various vicissitudes they reached Hancock's Bridge

The town is on an island separated from the mainland by a small bridge perhaps a hundred feet long. The Quakers took up the bridge every night so the British couldn't cross it and take the town. Now to do this 30 men were required to be at or near the Bridge at all times. They stayed in the Hancock House (1740) which is only about 50 yards from the bridge.

Anthony Wayne came and got the cattle and wagons of fodder and struck out north going clear up to Trenton to cross at



one point they literally had to hack their way through a woods in order to avoid an encounter with Cornwallis's 2000 British regulars at Trenton. Anyway they made it back to Valley Forge - the cattle were skin and bones and good only for soup or stew but it was food and Washington's deserting Army was saved. You may not realize it but do you know that those cattle and General Wayne's perseverance and bravery made possible a spring and summer campaign and ultimately an American victory? ~~Didn't the~~ Well the British did know and reprisals were in order. They were astounded that the Quakers would do this and they were burning mad about it, so they sent one of their best and cruelest young colonels (26 years of age) with 300 men all mercenaries - some Hessians, some Scotch, ~~and~~ but mostly American mercenaries who wore green uniforms with silver braid to distinguish them from the British, down to ~~Hart~~ Hancock's Bridge. In the dead of night they landed ^{from boats} and surrounded the house after bayonetting the two guards, stationed at opposite sides of the house.

The order was then given to put everyone in the house to the bayonet. Not a shot was to be fired. He wanted them to die like animals and since the Quakers carried no weapons, this was accomplished with relative ease. In a desperate ^{struggle} the Quakers tried bawling the doors but they were knocked down ~~the~~ the men in that room killed. And so it went from room to room until they chased them up into the attic and finished the job. Then all was silence and not a shot had been fired. (end)

(next page)

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Now honestly Stuart wouldn't that make one hell
of a good movie. The violence is there so all you'd
have to do was throw in a little sex and you'd have
quite a show. I gave it to you in capsule form and
the story is really great. The woman who took us through
the house told the story with ~~very~~ passion a real
history buff she was. ~~And~~ And she knew every detail.

Up in the attic I found on an old Hanger a "great"
coat worn by men at about 1800 - the most
beautiful coat you ever saw. I made a very quick
crude sketch of it and I am determined to have
one made. I ~~had~~ handled it - even put it on and
did I feel great. The colours were beautiful - a
warm tan colour with a coffee brown velvet collar
below is a sketch of it.

The coat is supposed to
come almost to the
floor. I might
just go back down
to Hancock's bridge
and get a pattern
of that thing. You
gotta admit it's
got the gism and
with a big straw
hat or black bluish
hat it couldn't be beat.

Well Stu, I hope
I've entertained you.
Write soon and I'll keep
it up.

Sam



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STRIKE B.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

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1964

Mr Stuart Gentling

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I just left from
my spring visit
to Seattle where I
drew in Nellie's Prunella

(TRIP TO HANCOCKS BRIDGE with Ronald + Family + Nellie)