

GMIV TO JOHN MASON  
Gunston Hall June 18th 1792.

John,

Since yours of the 30th of May, I have had no letter from you, nor heard anything of you; except that your Brother George tells me, you are loading another ship, in conjunction with Mr. Alexander. Your first, I presume, is by this time ready to sail.

I hope your business upon James River will not detain you there much longer; as I think it high time we shou'd do something with respect to our intended town at Rock Creek Ferry; more particularly as I wish to have the plan completed, & the Business in some Forwardness, before the meeting of our Assembly next Fall; as a means of defeating their Application to condemn the river ground on this Side for their projected Bridge at the Rocks. By what I can understand, Mr. Ellicot will be the properest person we can employ, to plan and lay off the town.

know

Pray let me if you have heard anything, & what, from Mr. J. Brent, about the Cypress Scantlin, & whether you have any certainty of it's being sent up soon; for if we don't get it shortly, Vaughan, & all his workmen will be out of employment. I am really apprehensive that Mr. Brent is too careless & inattentive a man, to place any manner of confidence in.

I am anxious to hear how your Brother Tom is going on, whether he attends diligently to business, & avoids the Dissipation of the Town; whether he is learning French, & what progress he is like to make in it; and what sort of company he keeps, at his leisure hours. and if you find him guilty of

\* GMIV: SLAVES - HOLDINGS  
• GMIV: FERRY OPERATIONS - ROCK CREEK  
• GMIV: MISCELLANEOUS  
• MASON, THOMSON (1759-1820); HOLLIN HALL  
(LETTER NOT PUBLISHED IN RUTLAND)

GUNSTON HALL

I beg him  
any imprudent or improper conduct, you will talk with freely, & advise him  
upon the Subject It is at his time of Life, that young men stand most in  
Need of the Consel & Advice of their nearest & best Friends.

Slaves

We have lately inoculated, at Gunston (in two sets) 49 of our negroes;  
mostly children: the first set (consisting of 27) are now recovered from the  
Disorder; which they had in the most favourable Manner I ever saw; except one  
negroe child, of about eight months old; who was very full, occasioned by his  
mother's keeping him constantly in her Arms; he did not appear, however, to  
be in any Danger from it, until the late sudden change of wheather; which  
happening just at the time of Eruption, struck the pocks in; & the child  
died? the Day after; the other Set has not yet broke out. No Doubt  
your Brother George will inform you, that his three eldest children have  
had the small pox very favourably, & are now quite recovered: his youngest  
child has not been inoculated, but was carryed down to Chotank, out of the  
way of Infection. Mrs. Mason is in a far way of Recovery. The Bone  
seems to have been properly set, and the Fracture is now united; tho' she  
is still confined to her Bed. She desires to be kindly remembered to you  
& Tom.

I am, dear John, Your affecte Father

"

G. Maso n tear

P.S.

I endorse You an Account settled with Mr. David Ross, when I was upon the  
Virginia Convention in 1788; with an order on him for the Ballance, which  
you will please to receive for me.