LETTERS OF THE FRANKS FAMILY (1733-1748)

[Abigail Franks to Naphthali Franks, May 7, 1733]

Dear Hertsey,

My last by this Vessle was friday Just Sabbath Since wich by the Post I have received two of yours by Via boston bearing Date ye 26th Januarry,

Hertsey or Hertseyre, the opening salutation to most of the letters written by Abigail Billoth Franks [= A.F.] to her son Naphthali [= N.F.], which A.F., and others frequently wrote as Naphthali, was of course a term of endearment. Naphthali, one of the twelve tribes of Israel, had as a symbol a stag or hart, hence Hertseyre. Among Ashkenazim, the name customarily occurs in its dual form — Naphthali Hirz or Naphthali Herz. "Hirz" or "Herz" is an older Judeo-German form for "Hirsch" (= hart or deer). It is also possible A.F. meant "Dear Heart" in Judeo-German Herz. That she sometimes writes "Hertseyre" would seem to convey the latter possibility, with none of the biblical reference. In any case, N.F. was named after his grandfather, Abraham Franks, "A Jew late of London Broaker," Con. Lib. 26, ep. 411. Abraham's Hebrew name not used for business and social purposes was Naphthali. Jacob Franks [= J.F.], Abraham's son and N.F.'s father is listed in the Minute Book of the Congregation Shaarith Israel as Jacob ben Naphthaly Franks, Jacob son of Naphthaly, Minute Book, pp. 12 and 13. See also Samuel Oppenheim, "Genealogical Notes on Jacob Franks," PAJHS, vol. XXV (1917), pp. 71-80.

N.F., born in New York on or about July 1, 1715, was two months short of being eighteen years old at the time of this letter. He probably left the family for England no more than one year before. It appears that N.F. did not return to New York and probably never saw his parents again. See the deposition made on August 5, 1731 by Mary Clarke, wife of John Clarke, mariner, Miriam Hart, wife of Moses Hart, and Elizabeth Holland as to the birth of N.F., as well as his brothers Moses, David and Aaron in Con. Lib. 32, ep. 41. This affidavit was given in support of the citizenship of the Franks' male children.

The status of Jews in England and in her colonies was never clearly stated. Under the Act of 1740 [11 George IIi], aimed at encouraging the settlement of colonists in British America, it was stated:

That and from and after the First Day of June, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand seven hundred and forty, all Persons born out of the Ligeance of His Majesty, His Heirs, or Successors, who have resided, or shall inhabit and reside for the Space of Seven Years, or more, in any of His Majesty's Colonies in America, and shall not have been absent out of some of the said Colonies for a longer Space than Two Months at any one Time, during the said Seven Years, and shall take and subscribe the Oaths, etc.

The Act set down certain conditions as to the period of residence in British America required of those seeking naturalization. This was intended to encourage a certain measure of permanence to the settlement of Jews, Quakers, and others, favored by this Act, in British America. The Jews in taking the Oath of Allegiance were exempted from declaring that it was being done on "the true faith of a Christian." Jews, like the Franks, to reaffirm more cogently the civil status of their children who were born in British territory carefully recorded their births and necessary supporting statements, including those of the midwives who had tended them at their birth.

Undoubtedly A.F. referred to the ninety-ton ship Albany which sailed from London with William Bryant, master, and registered at the Customs House on May 4, 1733. It was the only ship arriving from England in the latter part of April or first week of May. Bryant sailed from New York on a return trip to London on May 23th, probably carrying this letter to N.F. Robert Livingston, Jr. and Henry Cuyler of New York, and Samuel Storke of London were the owners of the vessel which was often used by the Franks to carry mail and cargo. Entries of May 4th and May 21, 1731 NOL, CO 3, 1225. For material relating to litigation involving the Albany, see Ship Albany Misc. MSS. NYHSL.

Perhaps the letters came via the Boston Post Road, between New York and Boston, which was
AMERICAN JEWISH COLONIAL CORRESPONDENCE

& ye 20th Feb[ruar]y and All Soc. Some from your father of Several date's they All Comform the then Injoying A happy State of Health In Company of all friends my Wishes Will be Complacit If this finds you Still in the Same Agreeable Situation

You will find Some Postage to pay by this Every one being willing to Assure you yourselves of theire good Will Could I have my Other two Letters back Again I Would put all the Contents in this One Not that I think you will be Uncassy at the Charge but Still its to Noc purpose to have Soc many Letters About nothing

established in 1672 and was used as the principal overland route for travel between the two points.

Mail delivery in the eighteenth century was a fairly haphazard affair but with all its faults worked quite well. A.F.'s letters could be sent and delivered in a number of ways, but because this was a commonly used procedure, not so much because there were no postal fees, but because the method was more convenient and more efficient than regular post. Mail pouches were frequently found in Coffee Houses and Taverns which places not only served necessary beverages, but also the official or unofficial offices of many merchants. See Letter III, note 7 for further but also were the official or unofficial offices of many merchants. See Letter II, note 7 for further discussion of Coffee Houses, infra, p. 9. Tom's Coffee House, Cornhill, London, served N.F. inns.

As early as 1680, the British Government attempted to provide a regular mail service in England. In 1711, an Act was passed that all mail be sent through the post for the colonies and British Isles. In 1711, an Act provided that all mail be sent through system for the colonies and British Isles. In 1711, an Act provided that all mail be sent through the system of the post offices administered centrally by the Postmaster of London who was named the Postmaster General of the Empire. Ship masters were instructed to deliver letters to the nearest Master General of the Empire. Ship masters were instructed to deliver letters to the nearest

Post Office upon their arrival, although they often did not. Rates of postage were established. Post Office upon their arrival, although they often did not. Rates of postage were established. Post Office upon their arrival, although they often did not. Rates of postage were established. Post Office upon their arrival, although they often did not. Rates of postage were established. Post Office upon their arrival, although they often did not. Rates of postage were established. Post Office upon their arrival, although they often did not. Rates of postage were established. Post Office upon their arrival, although they often did not. Rates of postage were established. Post Office upon their arrival, although they often did not. Rates of postage were established. Post Office upon their arrival, although they often did not. Rates of postage were established. Post Office upon their arrival, although they often did not. Rates of postage were established. Post Office upon their arrival, although they often did not. Rates of postage were established. Post Office upon their arrival, although they often did not. Rates of postage were established. Post Office upon their arrival, although they often did not. Rates of postage were established.
LETTERS OF THE FRANKS FAMILY (1733-1748)

Really Sincere I think its the greatest happiness a Person Can Injoy Next to the having a good Conscience for As Addison Says A good Conscience is to the Soul with health is to the body.13 I have Just Now Sent for the box from Burling pray make my thanks

Chap. 7) in 1740 allowed for procedures in naturalizing Jews, *Imagery of Manhattan Island* (New York, 1895-1928), vol. IV, p. 553; an unpublished manuscript entitled “The True Story of the Relation of the Jews to the Contested Election for Representatives in New York in 1737,” Oppenheim Collection, AJHL. For a contemporary view of the political status of Jews, see letter of Rodrigo Pacheco to James Alexander, Jan. 14, 1737/8, James Alexander Papers Box 6, NYHS. The Dutch seemed as a group most openly hostile to Jews. A.F.’s later remarks about the “ignorant Dutch” (Letter VI, infra, p. 25) gives some clue as to these relationships. See also the letter of Henry Beckman to Henry Livingston, March 3, 1744 for reference to “Jew Doctor one Mr. Mark,” Beckman Miscellaneous MSS., NYHS and reference to Phila., as the “Jew Vaylo.” See Letter XXXI, infra, p. 117n. Peter Kaln writing in 1748 found that Jews “enjoy all the privileges common to the other inhabitants of this town and province.” Peter Kaln, *Travels into North America* (London, 1772), vol. I, p. 191. In 1747, on the other hand, Jacob Franks advertised for the culprits who defaced the Jewish cemetery — *Post-Buy, July 2, 1747*. Acts of this kind, however, were rare.

In the liberalizing and more tolerant *Gentlemen’s Magazine*, which Abigail Franks read (see supra, p. xxi), the problem of the rights of non-Conformists, Dissenters, Quakers, foreigners and others discussed, particularly their legal status. In *Gentlemen’s Magazine*, vol. VI, no. 4 (April, 1736), pp. 218-219, Solomon Abrahams’s letter requests that Jews be granted the same rights as Dissenters. He asks:


14 A.F. probably refers to Samuel Burling who witnessed the will of Simja De Torres, Will, p. 81. There was a Burling Slip, fronting on the East River.
due for the first Vol[mum] of Addison\textsuperscript{1} & Let me know Wath books you have made Choice of for your Uncle's Lib[ary]. My Respects to all friends Coz[he]n Colly\textsuperscript{2} is in Raptures to think of going home I wish him Very Well & hope it will be to his advantage I Salute You with my blessing and Am

Dear HrSey your Affectionate Mother

Abigail Franks

New York [Monday] May ye 7th 1733
to Nap[hral] Franks

\textsuperscript{1} There were a number of multi-volume works of Joseph Addison published prior to this date, including the Miscellaneous Works of Joseph Addison (London, 1726), 3 vols. and a second edition in 1730. For her interest in Addison, see infra, p. 5.

\textsuperscript{2} Colly was the pet name for Coleman Salomons [Solomons] (d. 1767), the son of Abigail Salo-
mons, sister of J.F. He was in New York in 1729 and had been living with J.F. and A.F. since 1732 and possibly earlier. He returned to England in 1734, but in December of that year was in
1733. For his interest in English law, see supra, p. 5.

\textsuperscript{*} Courtesy of Mr. Bryant Lillywhite (London, England).

\textsuperscript{3} N.F.'s uncles in England at the time were on his father's side, Isaac, Aaron and Abraham Frankes, and on his mother's side, Asher and Norman Levy. Isaac Frankes, a wealthy merchant, was reported at his death in 1736, to have been worth £300,000. Gentleman's Magazine, vol. VI (1736), p. 685.

DEAR HERTSEY

The Arrivall of the Acceptable bearer of your Letter gave Me Inexpressible Joy your Presence would have bin a Vast addition but As the pres[ent]t must give way to the futer and that the hopes of your Stay will in All appearance be Soe much to your advantage I cant Say but that it in a great Measure Mitigates the Uncassiness I might Else have bin Under but As I Allways taught my Self that Vauluable Lesson of Rissionation I have the Consolation to attend this in the hopes of Your Carefull Observance of a due Gratitude and respect to the Admonitions of Your kind Uncle's they have all favoured me with th[eir] Letters wherein they Speak Soe Favourable of you and with Soe much Tenderness that tho' I've all the Gratitude Possible my words fall short of wath I think.

Your Uncle's Messrs: Isaac & Aaron have Assured me of there Endeavours to put you forward but that they Had not Come to a Determination yet in wath Method, but wathever they Intend I imagine will be Soe well Considered that the Consequence gives me noe Uncassy thought.

I have Soe Often recommended You to be Wary in y[ou]r conduct that I will not Again make a Repetion but this I must recom[mend]d to you not to be Soe free in y[ou]r Discourse on religion and be more Circumspect in the Observance of some things specially y[ou]r morning Dev[otion]s for tho' a Person may think freely and Judge for themselves they Ought not to be to free of Speach nor to make a Jest of wath ye multitude in a Society think is of the Last Consequence and As You Observed to me some time agoe you wondered Any one Could Take amiss if his Neighbour did not goe the Same Road, pray why are You Soe Intent by your Discourses to think Anyone will follow you It Shows in one of your Age a Self-Opinion with Quality I would have you Carfully avoid for it will grow open you with time if not Nipt in the bud. You wrote me Some time agoe you was asked

1. Abigail Franks to Nathaniel Franks, July 9, 1733.
at my brother Ashers to a fish Dinner but you did not Goe I Desire you will Never Eat Anything with him Unless it be bread & butter nor noe where Else where there is the Least doubt of things not done after our Strict Judicall method for whatsover my thoughts may be Concerning Some Fables this and Some other Foundementalls I Look Opon the Obscrvence Conscientiously and therefore with my blessing I Strictly injoyn it to your care.

I rec[eiv]ed a Letter by the boston Post Last night dated ye 19th Apr[i]l I observe your Complaint on Accoun[t] of my not writing but for this time I hope you will be Satisfied that It did not Proceed from negligence but because there was Vessels at the Same time going from hence for Since I was ascertained of your Stay I have wrote you many Letters. I have Justly the Same Complaint for you have neglected writing by Some boston Ships however Wee will pass this and take more Care for the futer. Mr. Cope Sailed Last fryday for Antigua with Col[one] Gilbert with whom he is to Live It was with Some pains before he Could Gitt Leave of Mr. Hosmendon he gave his kind Love and Service to you and Desire you would by All Oppertunities Let him hear from you your Sisters thank you for your Pres[en]t and Richa in Peticuler who Intends you a Letter by Downing your brothers Joyn with e'm in their Love & Service to you in mine to Mr. Isaac Franks. I forget to thank him for his Picture pray Soe you doe it for me I think it a Very handsome Picture tho' every one that knows him Tells me it falls Short of the Original. I have nothing

Asher Levy, A.F.'s brother, returned to the colonies after this letter was written (see Letter XVI, infra, p. 72), and died in Philadelphia in 1742 (see Letter XXVII, infra, p. 107). He appears to have been in New York in 1718. Power of Attorney made by Moses Levy to Asher Levy and Jacob Franks, dated Aug. 8, 1718. Con. Libs. 28, op. 511-514.

Probably Frederick Cope (1710-1739) who held several administrative jobs in Antigua including Clerk of the Assembly and Justice of the Peace. Vere L. Oliver, History of the Island of Antigua (London, 1896), vol. I, p. 61 and vol. III, pp. 92 and 458. The only vessel for Antigua at this time was the eighteen-ton sloop Rembrandt, Gilbert Beach, master. Its owners were William Smith of New York City and Henry Bonin of Antigua. It sailed about June 2, 1733. NOL, CO 1/1225.

Col. Nathaniel Gilbert (d. 1761) was a veteran of the Flanders war and colonel of the militia and member of the Antigua Assembly in 1734 and from 1750 to his death, Oliver, op. cit., vol. I, pp. xcix and cxxi; vol. II, pp. 12 and 14; vol. III, p. 137. In March, 1732, he and Daniel Horsemendon were sworn in as attorneys to the New York Supreme Court and to Distinguish themselves at their first Entrance Did on Fryday Last move for and had a mandamus to the Corporation to restore Mr. Kelly to practice in the Mayors Court... [James Alexander to Cadwallader Colden, March 23, 1732, Colden Papers, vol. II (New York, 1919), p. 59].

Daniel Horsemendon (1694-1778) was a lawyer, merchant, politician and Judge who was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in March, 1763, Calendar, pp. 21, 41, 57 and 59.

Capt. Dennis Downing arrived from London early in June, 1733 on the ship Alexander and returned there later that month. Gazette, June 18 and 25, 1733.

more to add Soe Shall Conclude this with my Prayers to the Allnighty to have you in his Porrection I am My Dear Child

your Loving mother

Abigail Franks

New York [Monday] July ye 9th 1733
Mr. Naphtale Franks

[Address]

To
Mr. Napthale Franks
To be left at Mr. Tom's Coffee House & behind the Royal Exchange
In
London
Via Dover

QDGC

1 Tom's Coffee House was one of many congregated on Cornhill near the Royal Exchange. It was located at 31 Cornhill. In this area, also, were a number of bookshops, such as Ashley, Walthoe, Sralam, Bretheron, Meadows, and Willock's, where N.F. could have purchased the literature his mother so often requested. There was another contemporary Tom's Coffee House on Birch Lane, near Lomlard Street, which was nearby and which led into Cornhill. The entire area, including the Royal Exchange and both Coffee Houses were destroyed by the great fire of 1747 (see illustration). Coffee Houses were at their height of popularity during the eighteenth century, as centers of trade and lodging. Seventeen of the letters included in this volume were sent to Tom's. It is possible that N.F. lived there at times, prior to his marriage, but more likely he used it as did many other merchants as a business and mailing address. Private mail was deposited in the pouches located there, much to the chagrin of the post office. Tom's was the "usual rendezvous of young merchants at Change time..." Littywhite, op. cit., pp. 18-22 and 581-583. The Royal Exchange, dating from 1686, was a world famous emporium of trade. The Exchange was noted for its "Walks" which displayed goods from such distant places as New England and Carolina, as well as goods of Scotch, Irish, Jewish and Spanish traders. For an interesting floor plan, see plate 4, ibid.

For a description of London and the Royal Exchange, and Cornhill Street during the early part of the eighteenth century, see The Voyage of Don Manuel Gonzales (Late Merchant) of the City of Lisbon in Portugal to Great Britain... Translated from the Portuguese Manuscript, pp. 2-20, in A Collection of Voyages and Travels, Volume VII (London: Thomas Osborne, 1712). Don Manuel Gonzales is the author's pseudonym and his work has been attributed to Daniel Defoe. On pages 118-119 appear a ground plan and a statement on the importance of Cornhill Street. We have reproduced the ground plan showing the location of the ambulatories (see illustration). As for Cornhill Street we read:

' Cornhill Street may, in many respects, be looked upon as the principal street of the City of London; for here almost all the affairs relating to navigation and commerce are contracted, and here all the business relating to the great companies and the Bank are negotiated.

The short title of the book is The Voyage of Don Gonzales to England and Scotland. It was repub-
DEAR HEARTSEY

You have bin Very Carefull of Late to Remove all my Complaints of Omission and it gives me a Vast Deal of Pleasure to ASSure you of the receipt of several of yours & two in Particular of the Largest Size I note All the Contents And your Intelligence has bin as agreeable As it [is] Various I dont suppose you expect I shall answer every Particular Paragraph further then wath Justly relates to your self in the first place then I thank god to hear you was Well And in the favour of your Friends with blessings I hope may long attend you & tho' the first is not in your power to preserve the latter is wish I am persuade you will not Neglect in gratitude to their Goodness & your own Intrest I dont expect this will find you at London & therefore as you are now launch out amongst strangers you must be exceeding circumspect in your conduct be affable to all men but not credulous nor so soon be led away by fair speeches of friendship be likewise a very just observer of your word, in all respects even in ye most trivial matters, for ill habits to soo soon is grown into customs I am not at all unassy on the score of your conduct and I allowee believe you have hadd caution and advice enough but still I look upon it as a discharge of my duty to put in my mite for I shall say noe more at present on that subject but pray ye good god to take you under his peculiar guard.

I expect to have your lett[er] by Mr. houseman this week a stop being expected Col[onel] morris writes but Very Seldom to his family with makes it blewe here things dont goe much to his likeing for that party have exulted in every small matter they could lay hold on to excess and their silence now makes it think they have noe great success party rage has bin carried on with such violence that for my part I hate to hear it mentioned if the governor has had his fault the other side have

1 In the previous letter of April 11, 1735, A. F. mentions that N. F. is “going abroad.” It is not clear where he went.

2 There were several sloops arriving in New York at this time. They came from North Carolina, Antigua, Barbados, and Boston. A. F. most probably referred to the sloop “Barbara,” William Griffith, master, carrying goods imported at Boston from London which arrived on June 26, 1735. NOL, CO 3/1222.

3 Members of the Morris’ family were quite concerned over the lack of news from Lewis Morris. The effect of this on the political scene is best expressed in a letter of Richard Ashfield to Robert not bin without their failings. Capt[ain] Norris I fancy by your letter discourse could wish he had medled so far and heartily wishes a reconciliation and I dont think the governor would not be backward if a medium could be fixt upon to make it bear without seeming to see if it soe you find its not so easy to git friends as to fall out.

Your sister Richa has begun to learn on the harpsicord and plays three very good tunes in a month teaching her master is one Mr. Pachell he went over with the late duke of Portland to Jamaica he is allowed to understand music he is excellent in his kind, Moses has a very good mind to learn but the charge is too much—he professes very much in his drawing and has begun to learn to paint upon glass with he does very well he has don half doze[n] pictures for Miss Fanny Moore his friend with Richa subsist with a vast deal of sincerity & Indeed Richa is like’d by all her acquaintance that know her. And I hope she will always have that happiness. Your brother Moses begins to make a figure he is a lad of very good sense and very ingenuous & alway’s merry.

Your friend Mr. Livingson was soe Civil to bring me the letter

H. Morris, June 2, 1735, Morris Papers. See also in the same collection letters written to Robert H. Morris by James Graham on Feb. 4, 1735, by Sarah Keeny on Jan. 6, 1736, and by Isabella Morris on April 8, 1735.

4 Charles Theodore Pachelbel (1653-1706), a noted harpsichordist and musician, was very much a part of New York’s musical scene. For an example of a public performance, see the advertisement in the Gazette, Jan. 6, 1736, advising that on Wednesday the 21st of January instant there will be a Concert of Musick vocal and instrumental, for the benefit of Mr. Pachelbel, the Harpsicord Part performed by himself. Concert will begin precisely at 6 o’clock in the House of Robert Todd Vintner. Tickets 4s. Tod’s Tavern was at Broad Street between Pearl and Water Streets. “Miscellaneous,” vol. IV, p. 544. See also Weekly Journal, Jan. 12, 1736. Another concert advertisement for March 9th of that year appeared in the Weekly Journal on March 8, 1736.

In addition to concerts, Pachelbel obviously taught some of his income. This reference is one of the few to music instruction in the colony. Malcolm’s opinion was respected since he also taught music to Moses, as well as to others. He and Pachelbel were one of the few and among the earliest of music teachers in New York. See Richard Ashfield to Robert H. Morris, June 2, 1735, Morris Papers. See also Letter III, supra, p. 13, note 8.

Pachelbel had been in Boston and Newport during the early 1720’s. He later settled and died in Charleston, South Carolina. Oscar Thompson, ed., The Internationale Cyclopedia of Music and Musicians (New York, 1964), p. 1450; Brinbaugh, Cities in the Wilderness, pp. 425 and 462.


6 Perhaps Moses took lessons from Gerardus Duuyckines, a noted New York limner active in this period. See Letter VI, supra, p. 25, note 17.

7 A. F. refers to Peter Van Brugh Livingston (1710-1792), who arrived early in May, 1735, after a “Tiridious Passage” from London. Peter V. B. Livingston to Henry Van Rensselaer,
You Sent by him the Very Eavening he came I have not Seen him Since being he went to Albbany almost as Soon as he came and is but just returned I shall tomorrow pay his brothers wife a Visit with whom he Lodges they being Our Neighbours for they dwell in the house next to th[at] wch was young Tellers.

I bleive you think wee have abounded in wonderfull Marriages but Especially david Hays and Mrs. Grace Levy Must be Something Surprising for my part I Shall hereafter think nothing Imposible.

If Anny thing Occurs in the part of the World You Are an Inhabitant in At pres[en]t I hope you will Communicate it I forgot to Tell you Mr. Livingston Gave me an acc[oun]t of the Masque[nera][c] before I Opened my Letter, Mr. Polack, And his Wife Goe home by this Opportunity I dont know how Collys being Sent to holland will be Approved of but in short he Would have bin a Continuall plague to Us. It was my Perswa[sions] to his Uncle and himself that got him off I bleive he will always be Miserrable and I am Sorry for it, bryant Talks of Sailing tomorrow If he Tarrys any Longer & I receive y[ou]rs by Via bost[o]n I Shall write

May, 1735, Van Rensselaer-Fort Papers, NYPL. This letter was sent from Allbany, for, as A. F. indicated, Livingston went directly to that city.


...David Hays (d. 1778), a merchant made freeman of New York City on September 16, 1735, married Grace Mears Levy, A. F.'s stepmother, later in that month. It was a second marriage for both. Oppenheim Collection, Case D, Box 5, Row 4, AJHSL; Hays vs. Cazeter (1733) MCP, file 1730–1740, July, 12, 1735; Portraits, pp. 225–226. He was elected Constable of the Dock Ward the following year, MCC, vol. IV, pp. 346 and 353.

...Probably A. F. refers to Zachariah Polock and his wife, who in 1734 lived in the South Ward. He was referred to by James Alexander in a letter to Cadwallader Colden, dated Feb. 4, 1730, as a Jew who had only a wife and one servant and who "came last Summer and took Capt. Pierces house." NYAL, South Ward, Feb. 18, 1734; Golden Papers, vol. III (1919), pp. 6–7. See also note made by Moses Lopez de Fonseca and witnessed by Zachariah Polock on July 10, 1734, Con. Lib. 12, ep. 42. Zacharia, whose name often appears in the Minutes of Shearith Israel, is not referred to during 1734–1739, indicating perhaps that Polock was not here and had returned to England as A. F. indicates, Minute Book, pp. 21–25, 31 and 41–42. Evidence of his going to London is also found in his advertisement in the Gazette, June 3, 1734, that he "being bound for London...has sundry dry goods to sell..." There is also an Isaac Polock, a merchant, who was in New York as of 1737 and 1739, Minute Book, p. 38; Jay Day Book, p. 205.

...The ship Albany, William Bryant master, had arrived from London on May 5, 1735, and cleared for departure on June 19, 1735, NOL, COS/1225; Weekly Journal, June 16, 1735.

...See supra, note 2, p. 90.
Dear Heartsey,

My wishes for your Felicity are as great as the Joy I have to hear You are happily married. May the Smiles of Providence waite allways on you. Inclinations and your Dear Phila's with me. Salute with tender affections your kind Heaven to be propitious to your wishes in making her a happy mother. I shall think the time tedious until I shall have that happy information for I dont expect to hear it by the return of these ships and therefore must Injoy your care in writing by the first opportunity (after the birth of what ever it shall please God to bless you with) either by Via Carrolina or badoz or any other. I am now retired from Town and would from my self if it were possible to have some peace of mind from the severe afflication I am under on the conduct of that unhappy girl. Good God with a shock it was when they acquainted me she had left the House and had been married six months I can hardly hold my pen whilst I am writing it. I wish I could have imagined specially after what I heard her Sose often say that no consideration in life should ever induce her to disoblige such good parents. I had heard the report of her going to be married to Oliver Delancey but as such.

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1 Flattush, Brooklyn, was the site of a country residence of the Franks, although there is no record of their owning property there. They may have rented or been summer guests. A. F. may have been living away from town and not using her Harlem residence in order to obtain privacy as a result of Phila's marriage (see infra, pp. 117-118, note 4). The city was also the scene of a yellow fever "epidemic," which spread along the docks facing the East River. See Caidwallader Golden's account in Letter XXXIV, infra, p. 134, note 5.

2 I am at Flattush with family...we ride, shoot & dance & sing & live as Merry as possible. [George Clinton to Robert Hunter Morris, Aug. 18, 1751, Morris Papers.]

3 Years later in 1781, Rebecca Franks, daughter of David and granddaughter of A. F., resided in Flattush where her neighbors were the Van Hornes, her close friend being Cornelia Van Horne. Rebecca Franks' letter, dated Aug. 10, 1781, HSP.

4 See Letter XXVIII, supra, p. 108.

5 A. F. was probably referring to Capt. John Griffith on the Britannia or John Bryant on the London, both of whom were reported cleared for departure on June 27, 1743, in the Weekly Journal of that date.

The marriage on September 8, 1742 of Phila with Oliver Delancey (1718-1785), son of Stephen Delancey and youngest brother of Susanna Warren, is something of a mystery. Scarcely the event should have been the talk of the town, yet contemporary journals, diaries, newspapers, and letters are strangely silent. A rare notation of the marriage is found in a letter of Henry Bokenman to Gilbert Lightening, dated March 20, 1743:

'It is reported that Oliver Delancey is marry'd to Mr. Franks daughter, Varnish a Jewess.

The marriage was a shock to A. F. It was the one event she dreaded most. Intermarriage was a favorite in the colonial wilderness. Although not specifically referred to in the extant letters, her son was written. See Letter XXVIII, infra, p. 129, note 3.

Oliver may possibly have married Phila for the legacy left by her uncle Isaac, but more likely it was for affection since he must have realized that the family could have refused to give her the marriage with his own family for marrying a Jew. On Phila's part, the number of eligible Jewish young men in New York was small. Even A. F. had little regard for them. See Letter XXVIII, infra, p. 110. Moreover, many, if not most of A. F.'s friends, were non-Jews. Phila may have directly adjoining the Franks (see infra, p. 118, note 5). Phila who was born June 19, 1722, was twenty-four years old, and lived in Delancey's country seat, near present the area by Alexander Hamilton, an itinerant traveller, who on June 22, 1744, wrote:

Art twelve o'clock we passed a little town, above Greene Village, consisting of eight houses, with an avenue fronting the river. A correspondent of Colonel Delancey was the correct note, p. 3, a typescript in NYHS.

If contemporary reports are to be believed, Oliver was something of a "tough." He was indicted shortly after his marriage on November 1, 1742, for assaulting Judah Mears, the brother of James, who wished Oliver and his friends had attacked a poor Dutch Jew and his wife, they warned the couple not to bring charges since they were members of prominent families. In 1749, Clinton reported that Oliver had stabbed and killed a Dr. Colburn, a drunken brawl. Delancey had his...
prison. Ever since I had not heart enough to goe near the Street door, its a pain to me to think of going again to Town. And if your fathers business would prevent him to live out of it I never would goe near it again. I wish it was in my power to leave this part of the world I would come away in the first man of war that went to London. Oliver has sent many times to beg leave to see me but I never would see him now he sent

two Bulletts, Peter and Oliver, to frighten those that his artfull Conceitation & Dissimulation could not persuade to vote their conscience [George Clinton to Robert Hunter Morris, Aug. 29, 1750, Morris Papers].

Of course, it must be remembered in evaluating these reports that Clinton was a bitter enemy of the Delanceys and these letters may have been written to embarrass them. Peter Warren, writing in 1750 to Oliver, informed him you must give me leave in confidence to tell you that the name of Delancy has been so injuriously and scandalously represented that there is nothing of possibility of doing you any service in a Public Way [Warren to Delancy, Aug. 11, 1750, Peter Warren Papers, NYHS].

The note obviously refers to the Delancy-Clinton controversy.

Oliver also appeared to be something of a "dandy" spending considerable time and money on the wigmaker and barber. See William De Witt Day Book, 1739-1752, NYHS. On April 2, 1741, "Mrs. Dence" (probably Phila) paid 10 shillings for a "tow" and £1 for a "wig for her selfe." Ibid.

For genealogical material, see John Watts notes, Delancy Papers, MCNY. The marriage produced seven children, two sons and five daughters: Ann [Mrs. Henry Cruger], Susanna [Lady Draper], Stephen, Oliver, Phila [Mrs. Payne Galway], Charlotte [Lady Dundas of New Brunswick] and Maria [Mrs. Robert Dixon]. Phila was the godmother of the daughter of Pierre de Joncourt and Jeanne Cuillotet, born May 26, 1749, who incidentally, was called Phila. Collection of the Huguenot Society, vol. 1 (1886), p. 224.

Oliver not only was a merchant with a store in the house of Mynett Schuyler but also was a land speculator. G/AM. nos. 37, 73 and 138, Peter Warren Papers, Sussex Archaeological Society. Lewes, England; Gazette, May 16, 1748; Jay Day Book, p. 312: Stephen and Oliver Delancy Papers. Bound Volume 1647-1804, items 20, 24, 28, and 39, NYHS; Index, Grants of Land under Water Bureau of Topography, Room 2040, Municipal Building, New York City: Request of Richard Lush for location of Oliver Delancy land in Otsego County, Jan. 20, 1792, Commission of Forfeiture Papers, Clerk's Office of the Court of Appeals, Albany, N. Y. He served in the British Army during the Revolution as an officer, and had a distinguished military career. Prior to the War, Delancy served as a member of the Provincial Assembly. Valentine's Manual (New York, 1864), p. 571.

Samuel Myers Cohen and Rachel, his wife, deeded two adjoining houses to J. F. and his wife. The property located on the north side of Duke Street had been deeded on Aug. 4, 1727, to Rachel who was then the widow of Samuel Levy [A. F.'s uncle] by Jacob Bratt and Nicholas Ayers. The property was bounded on the east and west by Lawrence Wessels and Abraham Splinter and on the north by Sylk [Mill] Street. Con. Lib. 12, cp. 356-358, Office of the Secretary of State, Albany, New York: Con. Lib. 31, cp. 185-191. This property located in the Dock Ward was close to the Synagogue on Sylk or Mill Street. Leo Hershkowitz, "The Mill Street Synagogue Reconsidered," AJHQ, vol. LIII (1964), pp. 404-410. Franks' residence in the Dock Ward in 1733-1734 was close to that of Robert Livingston, Abraham Depeyster, Adolphus Philips, Frederick and Jacobus Van Cortlandt and Stephen Bayard, all wealthy and influential men in the community. NYAL. Feb. 24, 1733 and Feb. 18, 1734. This was probably his residence and his place of business which was at Queen Street for an advertisement in the Weekly Journal of March 17, 1735 mentions that the house of the goldsmith, James Heister, is opposite to Mr. Franks merchant in Queen Street.

In 1740, J. F.'s property is described in the Will of Jacobus Van Cortlandt as occupying the westermost position of a double house (probably the two adjoining houses referred to in the Cohen deed) in the Dock Ward bounded by the house of Samuel Bayard and Peter Delancy. The rear lots were divided by a partition wall which went down to the wharf, probably Coenties Slip. The double house is now 80-82 Pearl Street. Will Liber no. 13, pp. 552-561, New York Surrogate's Office, 31 Chambers Street, New York City; NYHS, vol. III (1895), p. 310.

From 1744-1770 Franks residence and/or business address is placed in Dock Street by newspaper advertisements. Revid Weekly Post Boy, May 7, 1744, Gazette, Dec. 24, 1750, March 21, 1760, Aug. 15, and Oct. 3, 1763, Feb. 20, 27, April 9, and May 14, 1764, Mercury, May 9, 1757, and May 12, 1766. New York Journal, May 10, 1770. No other deeds have been found either into or out of J. F. to indicate more specifically his residence.

Phila, as this letter and David's of April indicate, lived at home for six months after secretly marrying. She left home in the latter part of March, 1743, and probably went to Delancy's home in Bloomingdale. Henry Beckman to Gilbert [Livingston], March 20, 1743, Beckman Papers, NYHS.

Aunt Isaacs, see Letter XV, supra, pp. 67-68, note 7.
Favourites receiv'd from him. And it gives me pain to express my gratitude because whatever I can say falls short of what is due from my family and myself; tho' I'll try to bring my mind into any due state of ease I shall write him by this I wish I could find any thing agreeable to send to my dear Phila Mozes Sends her a pot of sweet meets and mordehoy Gomez's wife has given me a small pot for you, which I dare say is exceeding good. And I hope you may use it with pleasure. All friends say many kind things to you and wish you a great deal of joy, I shall take care and send some quails next fault and secure them better than ye last. Make my compliments to uncle Abraham Frank with thanks for his kind letters which I shall not answer by this and therefore desire you would make an excuse for me your brother david I hope will do very well. The ship is not yet arrived at Philadelphi, as to what you say concerning my brother Nathans marrying your reasons are perfectly just but then on the other hand it is a great disadvantage for a man to keep house without a good mistress so that a wife to him is a necessary evil. My brother m[a]chell keeps his health and good character with which is to me a great satisfaction. Solomon has been in very unhappy circumstances in his wife and child is with "about two words made illegible by the fold" which is all they have got for the honor of being allied to M H[are] its commonly said the rich man is god's steward. M H[are] is a very saving one who will let a brother perish when such a trifling as £200 might make him happy. The married sister wrote him she had some tickets in the lottery and if

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She got a good price, she would send him a present of if the prayer of the poor prevails, she may have success. If solomon, harry puts up prayers now, let me say something for the distress we are more nearly concerned in, and that is poor good Moses Solomons is that unhappy youth to spend the best part of his life as it were in a goal for such may be termed the confinement. He lies in a part of the world where he is surrounded by piety, pitiously of the ill treatment he meets with from his friends, who he hardly hears from and when he does never let him know, what will be the consequence of his detention or where he may be cleared. It is very severe that he must be the victim of others. Villany the manner in which he committed his errors was that a person of greater penetration in business might have fell into his letters. Mr. Levy came off as was expected, because Mr. Levy's pretense was to come in order to make up his own affairs that he might be able to assist in discharging these debts: which I am afraid he has not much in his power to persevere. Your father will give you a farther account of this melancholy affair with which I wish may be some

drawing took place on November 21, 1741, but was apparently no act of help to Solomon. Gentleman's Magazine, vol. XIII (1743), pp. 161 and 611. Moses Hart had previously won a lottery and Solomons sister may therefore, have had hopes of winning. See letter XX, supra, p. 84, note 5.

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8 Rebecca DeLucca married Mordecai Gomez on May 5, 1741, after his first wife Hester Campos had died. Mordecai held considerable property in the city and had an extensive mercantile business. For Mordecai and Rebecca's marriage contract dated April 30, 1741, see Con. Lib. 32, cp. 205. For Will of Mordecai and further biographical information, see Wills, pp. 84-91.

9 Nathan Levy's first wife may have been Bila who died in September, 1741. See Letter XXII, supra, pp. 91-92, note 6. This is a reference to Nathan's second marriage to someone whose first name was Michal.

10 Solomon Hart, a merchant and shalhe [ritual slaughterer] of Congregation Shearith Israel, married Rachel Izaacs sometime late in 1740. As A.F. indicates he ran away in 1743, and, by the following year, he still had not returned. Peter Jay sued Solomon in Mayor's Court in 1744 and the records indicate that the defendant was not found. See, Letter XV, supra, p. 67, note 6, and Letter XVI, supra, p. 72. Jay vs. Hart (1744), MCM, vol. 1742-1746, p. 81. The M. Hart, whom A.F. mentions, was undoubtedly Moses Hart, a wealthy London merchant and Solomon's brother. A Solomon who is known to have been the brother of Moses Hart died in England in 1768. Moses Hart was the father of Simah Hart Frank, N.F.'s mother-in-law, and therefore N.F.'s grandfather by marriage. At his death, he did not leave a legacy to N.F.'s wife or any of her brothers or sisters. This led to a complicated legal case that eventually reached the House of Lords. Norman Bentwich "Anglo-Jewish Causes célèbres." Transactions, vol XV (1946), pp. 112-120. A printed copy of the judgment is in the archives of the American Jewish Historical Society.

11 The government lottery of 1743 had among its prizes, two of £10,000 and four of £5,000. Eighty thousand tickets were sold at £10 each. A total of £90,100 was to be awarded. The
Measure be Happily Terminated: My Compliments to Mrs. Compton & Capt[ain] Riggs I beg they will be Soe good to forgive me that I dont Answer there agreeable Favour by this: my Spirets is too Dpresse to write It is with reluctancy I doe write to Any one at present therefore who Ver I Omit You must Excuse me to them I think I’ve Spurn this to a Considerable Lenght and shall Conclude with the Repetition of my prayers for Your Health and Happyness I am

My Dear Son
Your Affectionate Mother

Abigail Franks

P. S: Nap[truly] Hart myers goes on Very well he had noe View but the Discharge of His duty when he Offered his Service to Come over to be with that poor Unhappy Youth whoe I Harty wish may be Reinstated to his health both of body & mind.12

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12 A. F. here reflects her sentiments with regard to Moses Salomons. Her reference to “Hart” and “Harty” is another example of her play on names and words.