

TRANSCRIPTS OF 21 LETTERS HELD BY A DESCENDANT OF (WILLIAM) HERBERT MANSEL (1812–1889) son of General Robert Manners and his mistress Mary Ann (Goodchild) Mansel sent to him by various members of his family, and others

The letters in green are transcriptions done by Ann Mansel (whose husband is descended from Herbert Mansel); those in black were done by Anne Ammundsen, (a descendant of Charles Childs, the son of Mary Ann Mansel by General Asgill) and the one in light blue by Dean Crowley, a descendant of Robert Mansel. Comments in dark blue, and emboldening, have been incorporated by Anne Ammundsen (who cannot guarantee all words have been properly transcribed, especially where proper nouns are concerned). There are gaps in the transcriptions because the letters were tightly bundled, folded, for well over 150 years, and so the crease line text was often obliterated. Where appropriate copyright permission has been achieved, but in most cases there are no living descendants. There are three FOUR letters which have been paraphrased because the copyright holders are unknown. These letters appear with yellow highlight throughout.

George is nearly 15 and Robert is 17 years old

Letter from George Mansel to his brother Robert Mansel

22 September 1819

Comment [A1]: From George Mansel (brother) to Robert Mansel (brother)

Dear Robert,

I have received yours, and as you seem to have a wish to know about Hunt, I will tell you all I know. I suppose you know his fortune is rather diminished. So he turns that to a famous purpose. For, at his public dinners, he only drinks water under this idea that he made a vow not to drink malt liquor till he has prosecuted those Manchester butchers, as he esteems them. He assembled about 1,200 people at Islington, but they conducted themselves in the greatest order, so I suppose the water had a good effect on the honourable assembly. It is said that he collected above 30,000 when he entered London. It was told me that there was a brother in Ireland, but I am happy to think it is not so, as you made no mention.

I am most sorry to hear about your little mare's misfortune. I am much obliged to you for your picture. I think you might have a pretty run, if the fox did not take to those horrible hills. I suppose you thought how cruel it was of you to laugh at that young officer of the Blues when he had to salute the Duke of Clarence, when you had to salute your colonel.

There is a great quantity of game. I think you told us you had not good spaniels and pointers, so I think I had better send you Mrs Waites cat, as she caught a partridge the other day in the garden. Dido has gone to the West Indies. A West Indian captain has taken her. All our harvests are taken up and in excellent order, as we have not had much rain.

Today as M. Roland came, he met a regiment coming across the heath (**he must be in Lewisham and referring to Blackheath**). Turned up with yellow and nothing but bugles for their band. At the moment I thought it was the 30th, but it was just coming from Chatham. I have heard there will be a war between Spain and America. And at first, I heard from Fisher that England was going to make war against America. I suppose your party has increased.

I am glad to hear your gout is so fast improving. **I hope I shall soon have the pleasure of seeing Mamma and all at home (who is living in Chelsea at this time) for I shall write a letter to her today, and also a letter to the General (his father)**, so I shall send out a good party which will decrease by degrees as one will stop at Chelsea, the other at Bloxholm, and the 3rd at Gost. But I suppose the General will send one to you the same day he franks mine.

Mr Morice of Portbell desires there be love to you. We are all going to turn soldiers as we are going to learn the single stick and the gun exercise. Mr Rowland asked after you today. He has been very ill so that he could not come for several days, but he is now rather well.

[I have just heard that at Manchester, (after watching King Richard III), the people called for "God save the King" and hats off. Some people in the boxes and pit kept theirs on, upon which two officers beat off their hats, then jumped from the boxes into the pit and did the same.]

I must now conclude by sending mine and Herbert's (*who is seven years old*) love to you.

I am dear Robert

Ever yours

G. Mansel

P.S. Herbert, I am happy to say, is quite well. I forgot to mention that before.



Left is a photograph of The Rectory, Lewisham Hill. Dr Waite was clearly the tutor who taught all the Mansel children. The Rectory is referred to later on in this correspondence. The photo was taken by Anne Ammundsen in September 2002. On the right is an image taken from the internet of Bloxholm Hall.



Master W.H. Mansel
Rev'd Dr. Waite,
Lewisham Hill
Kent.

Bloxholm 10th November 1821

Dear Herbert (*who is now nearly 10 years old*)

Comment [A2]: From Robert Manners (father)

I have just received yours of the 8th which I assure you gave me great pleasure & you may easily believe me, when you experience how promptly I answer it, yet I will give you a still greater reward in commission you to give my best compliments to Dr. & Mrs. Waite & tell them I have a piece of news that I will communicate to them, to you & to most of your Comrade very sincere joy & pleasure. On the 8th at night the very day your letter was written I received a packet from Madras, three letters from your Brother (*George, at 17, is in India*), one to your Mama, one to Robert & the third to myself. You may be sure I lost no time in dispatching them to their destination. George writes in excellent health & spirits he landed with his whole party after their voyage, with the Commander in Chief's particular approbation & since their landing they have not lost their character & continue to deserve the good name they acquired, your Brother marched to a neighbouring Fort where they at present are in barracks, preparing to march to their Regiment. Your Brother had leave of absence for three days to visit Madras, where he found the Post was to set out in one hour, which he employed to write the three letters in question besides since his landing he has not been idle for he has already bought a little horse, he calls him a colt & he has rode him up one of the Mountains & returned safe for he was not aware there was no twilight in that Climate & he was only accompanied by a Brother officer a stranger like himself, however they returned safe & he says the Climate agrees with him, I hope we shall now hear of him more frequently. I had a letter from the Cornet this very day; he is very much confined & fears he shall not be able to visit England this year. He complains his young horse does not behave so well as we could wish & as I have a very fine young one I have offered to change, if he likes mine better. Make my best Compliments to Dr. & Mrs. Waite. I am happy to hear your head is quite well & I hope you will exert yourself to Improve the inside. You are now my Dear Friend (*shame he didn't say Dear son, but this relationship is confirmed later, after his death, by his sister Mary*) reaching the age when you must appreciate your time & almost every minute is of consequence. Your Brothers are entered into the world & they have now plenty of occupations & no more time for improvement, at least their time is so occupied that if they

were dunces when they left Lewisham Hill, Dunces they will remain & through the remaining part of their lives, they must reckon to receive contempt & mortification. But through the same care you are entrusted into, their prospects are brighter & both are respected loved in each situation where they are placed & are a comfort to their friends & all their connections.

Adieu my Dear Herbert, ever yours affectionately, R Manners
(General Robert Manners is Herbert's father. This is the only letter written by him)

=====

No postmark and no seal, so this must have been enveloped from George Mansel, Rear Guard, Secundrabad, 24th August, 1824 to W H Mansel Esq, Chelsea (so Herbert is now with his Mother, Mary Ann, who lived in Chelsea, for his summer holiday having left the Lewisham school and gone to the Rev. Hakes in Derbyshire instead. He is 12 years old and his brother George is in India aged 19)

Comment [A3]: From George Mansel (brother)

Dear Herbert

It is now some time since I had the pleasure of hearing from any of you, therefore I am in daily hopes of enjoying that pleasure. I trust you like your new school and are getting on well with the books. I forget the name of your new Master, but I hope during the Holidays you sometimes visit our old friends at Lewisham. When you do, forget not to make my kindest remembrance to Dr and Mrs Waite with all the family. You have, I suppose, by this fixed on some profession at least. I hope so; what book are you at present reading at school. You never tell me anything about it, when Lucy writes me very good letters indeed and tells me everything. We have had abundance of rain lately and the climate has got very cool, and the lakes and tanks that were quite dry are filling very fast with water so that the country begins to look green !! 10th. The other night Neville and myself were very nearly killing a Leopard but there were so many Rocks we failed in our attempt. We hear, here, you at home have been having high words with Russia – is it the case? and what do you think of it? If so you will be able to get into the navy or army as I think after all things considered those two are by far the best professions in the world, and I think it right for all of us to be either soldiers or sailors.

Your affectionate brother

G Mansel

=====

No postmark and no seal, so this must have been enveloped, or hand delivered from George Manners to Mr Herbert Mansel at the Revd. Thomas Dimma's, South Queensferry, Edinburgh (Herbert is nearly 16 and his uncle and Guardian, George, is 64. He died soon after writing this letter, in 1828, perhaps his last to his nephew?)

Comment [A4]: From George Manners (uncle)

Grosvenor Square
December 1827

Dear Herbert

I conclude by this time you may be got home to Mr Dimma's and have enjoyed the beauties of Biel and very likely you may have seen Archerfield also, the latter place was my most favourite habitation, tho Biel is so much more pretty. The run down to the sea was a much more amusing occupation to me than running up and down the steep terraces. If Mr Ferguson had one of his shooting parties, you would enjoy that much. The game is so plentiful in those quarters that I might as well employ you to kill any cocks, hens, ducks and geese in the farmyard at Bloxholm, with as little trouble as to get at the Biel Pheasants. I had almost said, shooting at the Rooks was as much sport as shooting among so much preserved Game. I hope you escaped shooting a man or boy, and have escaped getting a few shot into any part of your own body. I had a visit from Robert and he got a good days sport at Bloxholm, he was in good spirits for his little girl, as he declared she grew more heavy and he hoped the danger of loosing her life was over (*little Maria sadly died on the 6th of April*)

1828, at just six months old. Your sister seems quite well in Portman Square. I wish very much to recommend to you to enter as much as possible into private easy society with Mr and Mrs Dimma – by this time you must have lost all the shyness that might be upon you at first going into their society, the more you enter into conversation with them the more you will improve your mind, and make your intercourse with those with whom your lot in life may fall with. You must believe much comfort there is in conversation and how happily it passes our time in, and at your age you may improve yourself, and acquire such ease in company as will make your company pleasant in society, and make yourself happy. I understand Mrs Dimma talks French very easily if your joining yourself in her conversation, to which she so kindly offers you, you will find the greatest benefit and indeed you must see and feel how much both Mr and Mrs Dimma wish to improve you and to live on the most perfect friendship with you, so do try Herbert, make yourself quite at ease with them, and thoroughly enter into the kind invitations you have to think and act with them. Make them your intimate friends – listen to their conversations and enter into conversation with them. Do not give yourself up to sit with such friends without opening your mouth during the time you are with them, but join in the talk with them, and with your other friends that take notice of you and especially with those whom you feel your superiors in understanding, they will lead you on to become useful, and pleasant in whatever stage of life you enter in, for the future prospect of your life. My dear lad, I do most sincerely hope you do see the great importance it is to you, at your time of life, to be particularly steady and apply your mind and thoughts to the application of the different studies set before you by your sincere friend and tutor, Mr Dimma.
Wishing you well
I am yours
G Manners (*General Manners' brother George*)

=====

Postmarked January 30, 1828, addressed to Mr Herbert Mansel, The Rev Thomas Dimma, South Queensferry, Edinburgh from his God Father (possibly C Taylor?) at 55 Portland Place, London, January 27, 1828 (Directories would establish who was living at this address at that time. When this letter was written Herbert had celebrated his 16th birthday two weeks earlier). (The original letter amounted to 886 words and has been paraphrased below)

Comment [A5]: From godfather (possibly C Taylor?)

My dear Godson

Herbert's godfather writes to admonish him in the sternest possible terms regarding his behaviour, saying that he had hoped that, after recent events, along with the assurances he had received from Mary Ann, his mother, that he would mend his ways. However, he has taken no heed of the loving support given by Lady Robert Manners, her son Mr Manners and others interested in his welfare. He is looking for some evidence that he will do credit to the memory of his "excellent father" and that he will become a "useful and honourable subject" of the King and a "gentlemanly member of society."

He tells Herbert that with much distress he has learnt that instead of making any effort to improve his ways, and the bad impression Guardians and friends had of him during the Christmas holidays, and in spite of their willingness to impart their advice, and despite his removal to a very respectable tutor, "Mr Dimma at Queensferry", Herbert has continued on a course of behaviour which has been very ungentlemanly. If he continues on this path it will eventually cause disgrace and a miserable life, making him an "object of contempt".

Telling Herbert that this can be avoided, and that he is still young enough to benefit from the guidance of his elders and friends, if he would only listen to them, he says that the choice is his. Does he want to "secure the approbation" of society, or be ostracised in every circle as being a "disgrace", or does he want to become an honourable man. He must remember that there are those whose good opinion he should value and he should cease to mix with those of "inferior status" whose opinion of him seems more important. He must turn his attention to his "religious and moral duties" and the approbation of discerning members of his class and society. The abandonment of which will lead to a "profligate" life. This will be his ruination.

He points out that he urgently entreats him to "mend your ways" before it is too late, and while there is still time to do so. His friends wish to "reclaim" him but they will abandon him if he doesn't listen to their advice. He must stop being so obstinate and turn to the kind support which has been given by his family and friends. Everyone is losing patience with him and he needs to understand that. He also needs to remember that their support is only for his own good and for his "success in life". His education is designed to give him "gentlemanly habits" and a sense of his "religious duties". Without God he will be lost and unable to achieve a happy and comfortable life.

Herbert is urged to show repentance to his superiors who are trying to guide him down the right path, which he seems "incapable of judging" himself. Respect will only come if he transforms his ways. "All will alike despise you although the worthless may flatter so long as they imagine that you may have the means of gratifying their sordid wants". As soon as he no longer has the means of flattering these undesirables, they will flee. He will soon realise he has backed the wrong horse and those who matter will have abandoned him on account of his lack of "honourable character". If he does so he will soon realise the importance of the friendship of those who value him in good times and in bad. Good manners and an obliging disposition are what matters at the end of the day.

His godfather says he has written at "more length than I intended" by his sense of duty as his godfather, and for the "memory of your poor father" and because of his respect for the memory of his grandmother, Lady Robert Manners, to whom Herbert caused "serious distress." He ends by saying that it is down to Herbert as to whether he will heed these warnings, but "I hope you will not disappoint us."

I am (Sir?)

Your sincere friend

And Affectionate God Father (Signature indecipherable, but it might be C Taylor?)

Portman Square

April 21st 1828

(The original letter amounted to 168 words and has been paraphrased below)

Mary Manners sends her "prayers and best wishes" in the hope that Herbert will reflect on his past behaviour and remember that she is speaking on behalf of him who has already passed on from this life (*this means she is speaking on behalf of Herbert's now dead father, her brother General Robert Manners*). She is thankful that his late father knew nothing of his conduct nor the fact that Herbert left Mr Dimma's establishment (*so, Herbert ran away from school – clearly he had not been happy there, perhaps he missed the Rev. Waite?*). She reminds Herbert that Robert Manners "to the last of his health" brought him up well. Mary tells Herbert that she will be praying to God to give him the resolve he needs to repent his ways and the courage "to follow all the good advice & example you now have before your Eyes". If he tries hard, God will give him the strength needed.

She goes on to say that it is only her great interest in Herbert's "moral welfare" that prompts her to write in this manner, especially since Herbert's sister, (*Lucy*), is currently in her care, which heightens her feelings of responsibility and "anxiety" towards her brother's children, her Wards. All she prays for is that they turn out to be respectable citizens and remember all the love and care "my Dear Brother bestowed on you".

M. Hamilton Nisbet (*General Robert Manners' sister, the Hon Mary Manners*)

Comment [A6]: From Mary Nisbet (aunt, sister of his father, Robert Manners)

Mr. Herbert Mansel (*Herbert is now 17 years old*) (The original letter amounted to 173 words At the Rev'd Hakes Ellaston and has been paraphrased below)

Ashbourne
Derbyshire

If gone to Sheffield pray forward there

Nottingham 25th February 1829

Dear Herbert,

Mrs Armstrong writes to inform Herbert that his grandmother has died, as she herself saw in the newspaper dated 22nd February. She realises he may already know this. She was shocked to have learnt this news through the press, without prior knowledge herself. She realises this news will be a terrible blow to Herbert, his brothers and sister and also knows that Lady Manners provided them with a lovely home when they were in London. This tragic death must have been very sudden since nobody knew she was unwell when Herbert last stayed with her. Mrs Armstrong knows that Lady Manners, having been such a good woman, has gone to a better place.

Yours, Always, Truly
Mrs. Armstrong

(Herbert's elder brother, Robert's, mother-in-law Mary (Timms) Armstrong)

Comment [A7]: From his brother Robert's mother-in-law, Mrs Armstrong

=====
There is a black edged covering paper (envelope) with a black seal, which is worn and hard to read – the postmark is illegible, but the date is written also as: London, April twenty one 1829, to Mr Herbert Mansell (spelt with 2 Ls) The Revd. Hakes, Ellaston, Ashbourne. *At the time of posting, Herbert was 17 years old and his grandmother, Lady Robert Manners, had died on 22 February 1829, so it could have brought news of her death from someone else besides Mrs Armstrong?*

=====
Postmarked April 28, 1833 from George Mansel to his brother Herbert addressed to 30th Regiment in Londonderry, Ireland (which is crossed out) *and it seems Herbert is on leave in Omagh where it is readdressed c/o of Mrs Mangles. Herbert is now 20 and his brother George is nearly 31.*

Comment [A8]: From George Mansel (brother)

Written on April 21st 1833 from Sutton Valence

My dear Herbert

You will no doubt think me a beast by this so I must take up my pen and tell you what sort of a beast I really am. Not an ill-tempered one but a lazy one for although I have not sent you a line for such a long time I have been going to do so every day for I hardly know how long since. I am now in the first side with arms and this morning I was allowed to have acquitted myself wonderful well at the posts etc. before the Inspector General, Mr Angels – indeed I have so much to do that this must ----- some excuse for my apparent neglect of you.

I regret to see that you are still only 2nd for purchased – what a pity it is that you can't push on – really it is too bad. You gentlemen, whom it concerns so much, should think of doing something. **Lucy is staying with Mamma (Mary Ann is now in Sutton Valence) – she is only pretty well.** I heartily wish you could pay us a visit. I have bought another horse, probably one of the prettiest little mares (dark bay, black points, about 15 hands) that could well be met with. Lucy has rode her and liked her very much. She is about six years old and very high bred, her pedigree well known in Yorkshire. I hope you like yours, let us hear from you soon and give me all the regimental news you can dish up, for the old //// are enough to spoil anyone for other regiments in the service. I find none better than my old regiment. I must however say that I like the Cavalry Service better than anything else I have ever seen along with the 16th at Cawnpore it must be splendid: the strength of an Indian regiment is very close on 600 men, and from what I have already learned our English lances must be a most formidable weapon in a larger body of well disciplined men's hands. I sincerely hope all my

old friends are well and happy. It is needless for me to particularise any when I have so very many to remember – give my kindest wishes and regards to all. How does the poor Light Company get on? I hope they keep out of scrapes – they were nice fellows and I shall be glad to hear of them doing well. **Lucy and Mamma join me in best wishes to you** – I hope you don't want the £20 just yet as I am not clever enough to bring my finances into a proper ----- in so short a time after joining my new regiment.

Whereabouts are you now quartered. I shall direct this to Head Quarters, as in all probability you are in them at present. Very little news is stirring now that would amuse you – but Springs seems very backward and we have had very cold, uncertain and unpleasant weather of late. Tell Moore I saw his father today, looking very well and I had the honour of dancing quadrilles with his two sisters not a week ago at the Maidstone Ball. Lucy was there and has been to a Ball besides since. She is also asked to another – nothing can exceed the civility of the people here towards her – let us hear soon and all about the regiment and with sincerest wishes for your happiness and prosperity – believe me –
Yours ever sincerely
Geo Mansel

=====
No postmark, dated simply 16th from George Mansel to his brother Herbert addressed to 30th Regiment in Londonderry, Ireland (*George is about to go off to India again, where he died 10 years later. As to when and where he married Jane Maria, I do not know, but possibly about this time?*)

Comment [A9]: From George Mansel (brother)

Sutton Valence, 16th

My Dear Herbert

Here I am under orders to take charge of the whole of the troops about to embark for Bengal, and which will certainly go aboard in one month from this. I have applied for leave in vain, and the only alternative held out to me unless I go half pay. My answer was no earthly reason would induce me to leave my new Corps! Thank heaven, I have not heard a man or an officer but say he would willingly go out under me – this consoles me, I have to as fine young Cornets of the 16th do so, as was took bridle in hand so that when the above alternative was held to me, I said nothing should induce me to give up my place in the Lancers. People have no guts in this nasty country – there is nothing worth caring for except my relations and the old //// in it – the brutality of England exceeds all I could ever have expected. Now my dear fellow I must see you somehow but I hope the first few days of your leave you intend to take may allow you to be in these parts before I quit this ill conducted country – you have no idea how much being hurried off in this way annoys me, but it can't be helped – pray give my regards to all my old friends. My gun is not all finished yet, my pistols look well, and I have made up my mind to take out a pair of singularly beautiful double barrelled pistols. I have also spoken to Cater about getting an -----of steel chain work for my sword arm. I shall try and muster -----to take out two double barrelled guns but I shall give up Lindsay, his day is over. He has turned a regular tippler, all people seem to me to tittle in this unpleasant Country – I hope you have now ----- up a little of the muscle and plumpness you could formerly show and that your health is fully re-established. How is Dash and Countess and -----have you got them still. I hope you like your horses also I sold my Chestnut for 19 guineas at Tattersall's. I gave £45 for him, so that is agreeable. I was never taken in India – **Poor Mamma of course is sadly taken aback at the suddenness of this order** – so is Lucy poor thing. I regret to add Robert and Lucy seem on very bad terms to me and so similar behaved. Now I know you are really too fair and rational in your ideas either to take one side or the other without -----and satisfied that in doing so you are in the right. I hope we shall not be expected to take any part in such affairs, they ought not to exist with brothers and sisters, and poor Lucy with all her faults is a good hearted little soul so I know you will do all you can to assist her to get on well and happily – I have no time to add more so with best and kindest regards
Believe me my dear brother
Yours affectionately

G Mansel
Mamma sends love

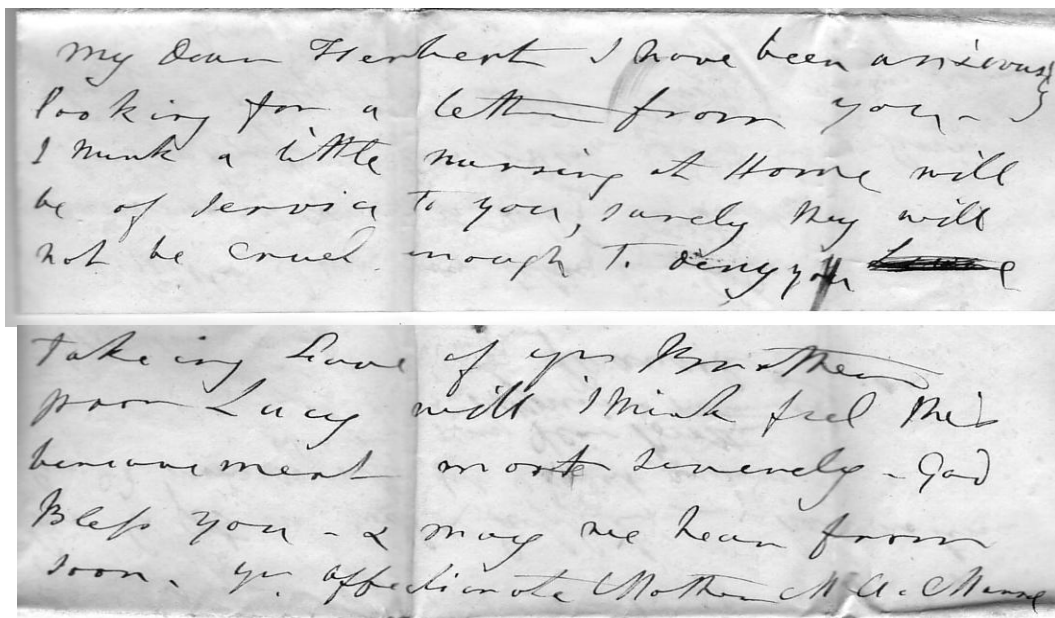
On the back of this letter, Mary Ann herself has added a line to her son and it reads as follows:

My dear Herbert

I have been anxiously looking for a letter from you – I think a little nursing at Home will be of service to you. Surely they will not be cruel enough to deny you taking leave if you press them. Poor Lucy will I think feel this bereavement most severely. God Bless you and may we hear from soon. Your affectionate Mother, M A Mansel

I imagine the bereavement is the sudden loss of her brother George who is going to India? Since there will be some of Mary Ann's descendants who have not seen an example of her writing, I take the opportunity to scan her part of the letter and reproduce it below:

Comment [A10]: A.P.S. from Mary Ann Mansel (mother)



Postmark is illegible, but the outside is marked as London, **May Twenty Nine 1833** to W H Mansel Esq, 30th Regiment, Londonderry and then Mr Ferguson at the bottom left of front. The letter begins from Lucy, continues from Mary Ann and is finished off by George.

May 27th 1833

My dearest Herbert

We are all very sorry to hear of your illness from (what looks like) Creature. You must have been bad indeed to have spent 10 days in bed. We were all in great consternation yesterday on George's account who is going out to India immediately; at least he has received an order

Comment [A11]: From Lucy, his sister, Mary Ann his mother, and George Mansel, his brother

to join his regiment at the earliest opportunity. He however says he will not go as it is impossible to get all his accoutrements upon such short notice and has written for six months leave. He then hopes to get three months extension. You will I think like this house better than The Rectory (*this was the Rev Waite's house in Lewisham Hill, photo shown above – the view across Blackheath in those days must have been really lovely*)----- but I must say it does not command so beautiful a view. You will I hope be able to get leave in the Autumn as George hopes to be at Biel at that time and the Grouse Shooting commences on the 12th. I leave Sutton on Saturday and go to Mrs Ferguson's at Portman Square. I hope George will go with me. Ellen Turner is here. (*Kathleen Luckuck found her listed as living at 115 High Street, Marylebone. Could she have been a relative of Mary Ann or even a nursemaid to the children when they were younger?*) Whenever Charles (*aged 17*) wishes to keep her in proper awe of him he has only to present an unloaded gun at her head and she screams for the fare life as they say in Ireland (*a reference to Mary Ann being Irish no doubt, but Charles' behaviour seems a bit unwarranted*) I shall now leave the rest of this paper for Mama.
Your affectionate and attached Sister, Lucy (*two weeks short of her 23rd birthday*)

Continuation of same letter, dated 29 May 1833
My dear Herbert

How much I wish you were here, that I might nurse you. Surely they will allow you leave of absence to perfect your recovery. This place is now looking beautiful. I hear all is more quiet and you might get away I should hope. Lucy has said how soon I am to lose her. God Bless you. Pray let us hear from you very soon. Your affectionate Mother, M A Mansel

Dear Herbert Thanks for your letter. I have just come here in time to finish this sheet of paper. Only think of them ordering me out to India without warning. I have applied shortly for leave and then intend going out over land, get as much money as I can and buy a good many Arab horses at a place on my way where they are sold for about half the price you buy at Madrass or Calcutta. Reynolds, a very experienced young fellow, my Cornet, intends to go with me. We shall go to Paris, Marseilles etc. etc. on our route. I certainly hope you have soon recovered. Best regards to all my old friends in the // Do not you give a fraction beyond £150 more than regulation for any body – I consider that more than the step is worth only I would go as far as 150 as you must feel in a hurry to become a Dragoon – I am writing in a hurry so you must excuse my writing you a scrawl this time. My first sword, called Belvoir, (*this is the name of the Manners' family Castle and presumably is a personal name given by George to his sword*) is perhaps the finest blade in the world and I really think with it I could overcome even an Arab horseman. We have been firing away for the birth day, as I suppose have you. I have been obliged to send my new gun back again to Lindsay several times – the fellow is idle. How does your new horses get on – I hope well. Robert has ----- times at Biel. I hope we shall meet there in the beginning of the shooting season. Lucy leaves them on the 1st of June from London – I must run up to sell my Chestnut if I have even to return-----Let us hear from you again soon to tell us how your health is going on and when you think you can get leave.
With best wishes and kindest regards
Believe me
Yours sincerely
G Mansel

=====
The following is an un-postmarked and undated letter from **George** to his brother William Herbert Mansel, Esq, 30th Regiment, Omagh

Bunnidane (*which is in County Sligo*) 29th (*George appears to be in Ireland now, taking leave of his friends before his departure for India perhaps*)

My dear Herbert

Comment [A12]: From George Mansel (brother)

Halt! I cannot start next Saturday; I remain that day at the particular request of the Company. I wished heartily to be off, but cannot possibly refuse their request – I will send you word when I really am to embark so that you may see the Cavalry take shipping. What a horrid night was last night – I fear the Dragoons would not have liked it had they been at sea – I hope you have sold your mare. My mare left old Koogan in the sea this morning and came home by herself. Master Koogan however declared that she laid down with him in the water and that he was not thrown – however I have my doubts. I hope you reached Omagh all right. How is little small faced Dash, how is his wife and how did you find the little Lions at home. I expect Atkinson to take charge tomorrow; he has got very nice lodgings at Mr and Mrs Nutts. I have no news to send you having so lately had the pleasure of your society. I may go into Derry before I start when I shall seize Moore and try and shake the money out of him ([here George has drawn a picture of a hand with a coin in the centre of the palm.](#)

[Londonderry is a little over 2 hours away from Sligo](#)) I don't expect you have had any more shooting. ----- Street was covered with snow this morning but it was so tempestuous that I dare not take my walk. However -----turned out with a strong staff during the day – but returned to harbour in the state of a duck – with best regards and hoping you will soon attain your next step – I remain

My dear Herbert –

Yours sincerely

G Mansel

How are you off for cats? Cats I mean, not dogs for I know you like [them](#) but you mayn't cats you know.

Best regards to all with you for you have more old friends of mine at Omagh – GM

Then the following drawing appears, with the caption "Pussy Pussy"



=====
 Postmarked **July 22, 1833** from George Mansel to his brother Herbert addressed to 30th Regiment in Dublin, Ireland (which has been crossed out). Then Carshalton is also crossed out. It looks like Basingstoke which is not crossed out, but I cannot read this very well. ([So, George has now set sail for India, not gone overland, and altogether sooner than he had planned.](#))

Comment [A13]: From George Mansel (brother)

Written from Ship Sherburne 19th July

My dear Herbert

Here no land off east bound - struggling with a foul wind and out of sight of land – but we shall fall in with better luck by and by I hope – I wish you were with me; I really felt very much surprised that the Colonel who could never say I ever turned from any duty during the 12 years I knew him – should have been so unkind as to deny you leave to see me off for India. Patience my dear fellow, do nothing that may put yourself in his power always do your duty, but as soon as the Lieutenancy comes, exchange and look out for the County where at least your horses will prove true to you – I am sorry to say Murden was last coming to Gravesend – but I have five such greyhounds as have seldom been at sea before. Clark one of my Cornets has five more nearly as fine as my own. Reynolds has a bulldog – so has Pattinson. Ellis has none, but sits on a gun with a cigar in his mouth and ----- for nothing. I carry out two splendid double-barrelled gunsour Sam and Hock pistols and four swords one

sharp as a razor for any customers that may turn up – besides I have a light field piece, carrying a pound and a half shot this year together with the Union Jack will be placed in front of my tent, as Commandant of His Majesty's Cavalry, as they march thro the country to Cawnpore 900 miles up the country. We shall not go by water but march it. Our ship carries eight cannon and is a very firm sea boat – 650 tons. I have the best cabin on board which I find a great luxury. I have even got a shower bath and bath besides.

I hope Robert has made it up with poor Lucy. I hope you will be kind to her poor thing. She was very sorry to lose me – pray write to her and tell her you have heard from me. I wrote to her the day before yesterday – and shall have only time to knock off this for you. **Tell Lucy to drop Mamma a line.** Remember me to all my old friends in the /// You need not to you know who I mean. I feel more English now I am going from you, so bless you all. We have no troops with us besides the 11th Light Dragoons. Our men are all on the Gun Deck. How is the old Light Company – I heard Geddes had got them – I will not be long in Bengal before I shall tell you how I like it – so may every good wait on you and believe me
Your affectionate brother
Geo Mansel

London July Twenty Eight 1833

W.H. Mansel Esq
30th Infantry Regt. Ballinrobe, Ireland

My dearest Herbert

Receiving a letter on Thursday from George saying they were laying off Portsmouth, Mr Ferguson and I thought we might have the happiness of seeing him again. Accordingly we set off in a Post Chaise and came to our journey's end about 9 the same night. We spent best part of the day on board the Sherbourne (Sherburn). He had written a joint letter to you and Robert and he had not sealed it I thought it better to send it separately. I fancy I shall leave London from Bloxholm tomorrow spend three days there and then move Northwards. **Charles (this must be Charles Childs, aged 17) has got hold of some news of your promotion.** I hope it may be true, if so write to Mama as she is anxious to know the truth.

I do hope you will get leave. I shall have much to say when we meet. Adieu for the present

Believe me
Ever your affectionate
Sister
Lucy

Comment [A14]: From Lucy Mansel (sister)

The following is an un-postmarked and undated letter from George Mansel to his brother Herbert, now Captain Mansel, 6th Inniskillen Dragoons, Edinburgh, Scotland

Comment [A15]: From George Mansel (brother)

My dear Herbert

Before we quite quit the English seas, I drop you another benediction. We -----have been far away by this only we found luckily soon enough to prevent accident that the foremast was quite in a state of danger. We were detained a day putting it all right. We were lucky in finding it out before we again encountered the rough seas' big waves. The days all seem pretty well the same on board. 10 greyhounds, 2 bulls and 1 terrier – we have also one milk cow, 30 sheep about 25 pigs – a jolly old sow full of young roasting pigs –at least we hope so – and some 300 geese, ducks, turkeys, hens and guinea fowls. These same guinea fowl kick up a terrible row – and as for the cries of the pigs, it is awful. Give my best wishes to all my old friends not forgetting the whole of them – I think him a right good fellow – and I declared

from what I have seen of the service there are more good fellows in the old *////* than any regiment I have yet met with – or indeed any military body at all. I like my four subs of the 16th very much but I declare I am glad I have left the Depot (*All that is left of the Depot now is the Officers' Mess which is now a pub called "The White Rabbit" and this is apparently just a 3 minute walk from the Town Hall in Maidstone. I gather that it is the oldest timber-built building in Kent.*) -----I have been very hardly treated by the Horse Guards – but care very little about it, they have done all they can to make me hate England, and if it were not for my friends, I care not ever to see it again. I confess I feel a little more about quitting you all so suddenly than I can well get under – but all this will settle down as soon as I get a letter from you (each and all of you I mean). I hope you will get your promotion and then your wishes regarding Cavalry – consult Robert about the regiments you may exchange into. ----- excuse this haste for I shall hardly get this ready if I don't hurry – Goodbye then my dear Herbert - may every blessing, luck and success attend you.
Yours sincerely
Geo Mansel

=====
Written on 27 August 1833, postmarked 26 December 1833, this letter took two and a half years to arrive and was not received until 19th December 1835 from George Mansel to his brother Herbert addressed as William Herbert Mansel Esq, 30th Regiment Infantry, Dublin, which is crossed out and Galway is written. By the time of the arrival of this letter, Herbert had left the 30th and joined the Inniskilling Dragoons instead.

Comment [A16]: From George Mansel (brother)

27 August 1833

My dear Herbert

Here we are only a short distance from the line, but we cannot get a fair wind. I commenced this now in case we may fall in with some homeward bound ship that will take a letter for us, and in case this does not happen I shall finish this off at the Cape of Good Hope and you will receive it from there. In the mean time I can tell you this sea voyage does not answer at all, we are all very sick. The dogs come on exceeding well, are very much improved, Viscount is in splendid condition, not so large as Chances, but the neatest made dog I ever saw. I feed them on biscuit; I laid in 5 sacks of smiths biscuit at Gravesend and it does very well. I give it them mashed up with any spare soup or pot liquor which the cooks on board spare me. Grumper, a pup about 13 months and 2 weeks is I think the most promising young dog I ever had, and as fierce as a lion. I have Violet, a sister to Maiden 12 months – with a black dog Sweep about 3 or 4 years old. A firm looking dog – though not quite such a ----- as Smoake – Viscount is about 3 years and a half – so now you know all about it. How are your own dogs coming on? I hope you will get a little Grouse shooting at Biel this season and while you are bagging a hare with George Martin, I may be turning over a boar on Dragoon the name of my intended favourite bay hunter. Mr Lindsay finished my gun but he has turned out such a tipping barrel pray have nothing more to do with him. I think Lang in the Hay Market is the best. I got a beautiful double barrel Hock from him for £32.10.0 complete – one of the prettiest guns I have yet seen. I also bought a cannon off him, which carries a pound and a half ball, to place in front of my tent, or mansion – so that the misbehaving rebels may know in whose presence they are about to intrude – especially when they look up and behold a union jack which I shall sport, whenever I am in any command. Of course you will hardly expect much news from me just yet. – Wait my dear fellow until I get up to Cawnpore and tell you a little about the 16th Lancers! But after all I know I shall never see as much sport as we all used to have in the old *////* at Hyderabad. Four men on board gave me a terrible deal of trouble at first – they now behave pretty well. This trouble I do not wonder at considering how many dashing fellows we have as privates. We have among them an Honourable also another who I have often met at our mess when we were at Hyderabad. He was then a very dashing Light Infantry Lieutenant – known to most of our old hands in the *////*. I must however, in justice, say he does not give me much trouble, and in general behaves well. Pray give my kindest regards to all my old comrades. So goodbye for the present. I am half tired to death and sick of the voyage. We have had a few shintees with the passengers but have always settled it as we wished.

13th September, 1833

We are now about 1500 miles from the Cape but have got so close into the shores of Africa that we are afraid of getting becalmed. I shall now finish this all but, and only leave it open until we get to the Cape, so that I may have all the time I can catch for exercise and recruit my strength. The ill conduct of my men broke out again and was of such a serious nature that I saw the service required an example, so I ordered their Cornets to sit a Court Martial, one as president and two as members – tried three men and flogged two the same morning. – this occurred some time since and the men have conducted themselves in the best possible manner since that. – This proves that however horrible this punishment really is that it cannot be done away with. I also understood from what a sailor said to one of the officers, that the men had said flogging was done away with. I am the more sorry that I should have been forced to so severe alternative for they are a fine hardy lot of young fellows, but as near as devils. I hope they will never drive me to such an expedient again. The dogs still continue well. Reynolds and Pattinson's bull bitches have each a fine healthy family, the little pups being already to fight desperately. We have had as yet a very dull and testing voyage. By the bye Mrs McGuire, wife of one of my corporals, produced a very fine little Trumpeter about 3 days ago, about 11 o'clock p.m. Both the child and mother are doing well. Once more my dear Herbert, Adieu for the present. At length this 14th day of October we have arrived at the Cape but so busy I must conclude this in a hurry, so with every wish for your happiness and success, believe me, my dear Herbert, yours sincerely, G Mansel
Just heard that poor King Giacur is dead or killed. GM

=====
From Robert Mansel, the eldest of Herbert's brothers
Herbert Mansel Esq.
30th Regt.
Mrs Manners
Grosvenor Square
London

redirected to Sutton Valance,
Maidstone
Kent

Piershill Nov 2nd 1833

Dear Herbert,

On hearing of your prospect of obtaining leave I should have written to congratulate you but should have been too late. I hope you will be able to get a further extension, and I daresay Mr. Higgins will continue it through M Herbert or Lord Hill. Do not forget to call upon the former immediately, and leave your card upon your Colonel if he should be in town, which you can find out at the service club. I am very anxious to see you, and I think between this and Biel you might arrange yourself very well. I was out with Mr. Ferguson & his brother the other day, we only visited the outskirts & of us shot extremely ill yet we bagged 58 chiefly hares & pheasants. I have no doubt I shall get my hand in order against some of the grand days. We were at Raith some time ago there are scarcely any partridges in their park. My has been with Martin for some time, and promised to be a most valuable one. A new pack of fox hounds have their kennels at Haddington, I have been out with them and with the Duke of Buccleuch but though they seem to have plenty of foxes not much sport parts of the country are very beautiful but not favourable to hunting. I have not had my young horse out, but he promises to leap very well I think be much more temperate than the chestnut. I have now 4 so I can mount you well. We were to have gone to Biel this day, but Mrs. Nisbet has at last been prevailed upon to go to Archerfield for a few days, I am glad of it for I think the change will do her good. so it is for I could not have gone for a cold that has been hanging upon me has threatened to break out in erysipelas, however by taking it in time I hope I have stopped it, tho' the doctor says I must take care for a few days. I have been very much vexed with Lucy lately, she is so obstinate I find all advice thrown away, and must give up all hope of prevailing. She has been very unwell lately, but had the health, her temper would not allow her to enjoy her present advantages. I much fear that only when too late she will discuss her errors & I am in constant expectation that she will lose Mrs. Nisbet's favour. She says she has heard tho' she refuses to give me her

Comment [A17]: From Robert Mansel (brother)

authority, that a attachment to George exists between yourself and some female in Ireland. Now as you must be aware how much a report of this nature must injure you in the opinion of Mrs. Manners & Mrs. Nisbet, I have expressed my disbelief in most positive terms. I hope you will not fail to mention the subject to Mr. Higgins, & make him your friend, and may set my heart at rest on the subject the first time you write. We shall all be glad to see you & can I hope make you tolerable comfortable if you are inclined to stop here on your way back. Pray remember me most kindly to Mrs. Higgins, I hope Mrs. H. and his little ones are quite well. I received great kindness from them all when at Alford.

I shall be glad to know when you have settled your business, if you have been able to advance your wishes about an exchange. I think Mr. Nisbet might to exert himself so think you might get into cavalry as Lieutenant could you not persuade one to sell by offering from £200 to £300 above regulation? I suppose you will be glad enough to get away from Galway. I am glad to say Mrs. Nisbet is pretty well again, but I wish I could hear more favourable account of Mrs. Manners. Do you propose visiting Bloxholm? You will not know the Master Bob has a kilt of the plaid and is very proud of it. I suppose you have not heard from George there can be no chance of it at present, I shall be glad to hear that he is comfortably settled, tho' I fear India will this time prove very contrary to his expectations. **Is my mother now or likely to be in town again before long? She has it appears made some mistake about a paper I sent her about money, if she wants the £5 – I would pray you arrived here & you might let her have it as it would save all the writing over again - Did she know you she did not** - You recollect the Daleys who were so civil in Dublin they now live at No 76 Norton Street a few doors from Cloughs, if you have time give them a call and enquire after my godson. They were not in town when I was - Is not London changed? I think I might now pretty well have tired you so with the good wishes of all here I will conclude

Believe me, Your affect brother, R Mansel

=====

Prestonkirk May Six 1834

W. H. Mansel Esq.
30th Regt.
Castle Barr
Archerfield
Rt. Ferguson

May 5th 1834

My dearest Herbert

Mrs. Ferguson desired me as I said I was going to write to you to say how kind she thought your letter to her was I can assure she was really pleased and has spoken a great deal about it. She will most likely in a little answer it just at present there is much to be done. Since my late great loss (**of her Guardian, the Hon Mary Manners Hamilton-Nisbit**) you cannot fancy what kindness I have received from everybody particularly from Mr. Mrs and Miss Ferguson and Mrs. Manners who has offered me her house as my home. I felt delicate at first in accepting of her kind offer thinking that in the warmth of the moment she might afterwards repent and feel it too great a tie. Mrs. Warren however wrote again desiring me to make Bloxholm my home, and to send my horse down. This goodness could not be refused so we all set off for Bloxholm the end of this week. I mean to remain some weeks there, go to London for a week or ten days **then to my Mother after spending some time with**, return to Bloxholm and as Mrs Ferguson has been so kind as to ask me to spend the Autumn in Holland, return to this country I shall most likely pass a few days at Nottingham with Robert. As a remembrance from dear Mrs. Nisbet has left you Robert and George 100£ and me 200 a year and her ruby ring which I have often seen on her finger Mrs. Ferguson has also given me a Diamond Clasp bracelet instead of a diamond Broach which she desired might be made out of some loose Diamonds she had by her. I the Bracelet much more as I have so often seen her wear it.

I had a letter from our Mother and you will be glad to hear that she is pleased with my plans. Mrs. Manners has been so generous to Mama and me she has ordered us 50£ each. I will write to you at Bloxholm. I hope you will soon get your exchange then I shall see, I wish so much for that happiness.

Do write to me soon and with many thanks for your feeling note.

Believe me ever
Your affectionate
Sister

Lucy

Comment [A18]: From Lucy Mansel (sister)

=====
Postmarked November 24, 1834 from John Higgins, Confidential Agent to General Manners at 37 Grosvenor Square addressed to Lt W H Mansel, Inniskilling Dragoons, Nottingham – (The original letter amounted to 270 words and has been paraphrased below)

Comment [A19]: From Confidential Agent to General Manners, John Higgins

24th November

My Dear Sir

John Higgins writes to inform Herbert of the situation regarding his Dividends and tells him that his total annual income from these will be £226. 14. 6d. He goes on to say that now Herbert knows this he must ensure that this information does not turn him into a Bankrupt. He says that Herbert's Gilt Stock is for him to use as he pleases but that his Annuities could be disposed of in his Will, which he must now write if he hasn't already done so. The Chancery Stock, however, will be left to his brothers and sister in due course, to be shared equally amongst them. He continues on with the letter by commenting what a good Hunt they all enjoyed at Bloxholm and Mrs Manners hopes Herbert will go again at the first opportunity. Mr Higgins will be there for the whole of the week after next, settling Rents and Xmas Bills, and wonders whether Herbert can go again on Monday 12th January, and to let him know. He says Mrs Manners wishes to be remembered to him and that if he can do anything for Herbert to please let him know.

Yours faithfully

John Higgins

=====
Postmarked 20 August 1835 and sent to Captain Robert Mansel 6th Inniskilling Dragoons. London (which is crossed out) then Ipswich (which is also crossed out) and beside it is written c/o 16th Lancers, Norwich, from his brother George. At this time Robert, being the eldest brother, has just had his 33rd birthday and George is now nearly 31. It was five months before this letter reached England

Comment [A20]: From George Mansel (brother) to Robert Mansel (brother)

Cawnpore 24th March 1835

My dear Robert

Having just returned from a hunting party I will amuse you and Herbert with a few lines but to prevent you feeling disappointed at the small quantity of game I killed I must tell you I was disabled as early as the third morning of our adventures. My first morning I killed two neilghi, my second a fine large boar, with good tusks, but on the third I had considerably the worst of it. I was going to speed after a neilghi, the chase disappeared for a moment but soon mounted the other side of a deep -----or ravine: being on Coeur de lion, I thought a hundred and twenty pounds ought to be able to clear it considering the pace: so I went at it; it was broader than my nag could clear so over we came, and I have not quite recovered the use of my left arm yet, but fortunately no bones were broke and my horse escaped unhurt,

although I never had such a fall. The neilghi is a large deer about the size of an Arab horse. The males are immense, of a dark blue colour, and the natives imagine them to be of the cow kind, for they call them Neil – Ghi which means Blue – Cow. The arm of the bull is greater than most horse's; they are too coarse for the table but capital food for the dogs. A few days after my fall, I had a chance of trying conclusions on foot, with another wild boar, (if I could have rode I think we should have killed him) as it was I had only the use of one arm, the other was very painful at the time, nevertheless I went in with a long spear but the boar dashed away, with two of the dogs, one of which I believe seized, and as Fallstaff would say, was paid – the poor dog has however pretty well recovered, he is a Persian and the only dog who behaved well out of seven. I have therefore kept him and sent the others away with one exception, who did follow us if he should have liked, but yet did not exactly know how to seize.

The weather is becoming sensibly warmer, but we have not as yet left off our field drill. Our nags are getting very steady, but laying -----all the hot weather as they must do, or turn them out again, as well as ever. I think the Cavalry book of drill capital, and I now think I must acknowledge it could hardly be better. It is certainly a pleasant service altogether. I have 81 horses in my Troop. By the bye I got beaten at the races. I ran Coeur de lion, for an untrained stake of sixteen pounds each, the races had been tame and it was got up more to make sport than anything else. My nag came in a length or two after the first horse. The distance for untrained horses was, however, cruelly long, but I could not help that, it was one mile and three quarters, and the time it was done in three minutes and forty seconds, and over a very heavy course indeed. I have now sold my small Arab and bought one that stands upwards of 14.2 – he was a splendid horse but was in a precarious state when I became a purchaser. He had been bought for £300 but as he was in such a doubtful way I got him for £100 – or 1000 rupees. He was certainly very near dying, about a fortnight since, but he has picked up greatly latterly and has as good an appetite as any horse in my stable. I take great care in feeding, I allow him only six pounds of picked grass – and six pounds of gram, (a kind of-----) and barley, which is made into a kind of meal and given with a little common salt. I hope he will live and eventually turn out a very valuable animal. I am also turned breeder and intend to have cots or fillies by the bye, from my coach mares. One is particularly well bred. So you see I have now 5 greys and a bay. I hope the old Enniskillen's are getting on well, I really think our fellows behave as well as men do at home. I can't remember having brought but one private of my Troop to a Court Martial since I joined. I have lost one Sergeant it is true, but that is the only Non-commissioned. He was tried for that abominable liquor - ----- and now my dear Robert I will give the remainder of this to Herbert. So with love to little Bob, Tat and the other young lady, and love also to the Mamma, with my wish for your happiness
I remain yours affectionately
Geo Mansel

My dear Herbert, now comes your share; you will see in the former part all the stable news. Had you been with me you would have found lots of work for Dash etc. with the black partridge, a most beautiful and game bird, and as good as grouse for anything else when brought to table. We have, I am sorry to say, as little chance as ever leaving Cawnpore, although I believe it is Lord Hill's wish that King's Troops should not remain at the station, and some time since there was a report that we were to move to Agra yet all idea of such an occurrence is again hushed up. It is a pity we are not sent to the Frontier for that is the place we shall be wanted if we are -----on -----until such an event comes.----- should be living in clover and-----a -----strengths by enjoying an almost European climate. Karmul is the name of the place I want to go to. It is now some time since I heard from any of you. Lucy was the last that I have heard from. She had seen you and said you were very well and more than well satisfied with the Cavalry; so much the better. I hope soon to find you with the Troop for then you may rest content even if you never got any higher. The command of a squadron is a thing I could always be satisfied with although perhaps I might now and then wish for something higher. I dare say long ere this reaches you Joseph Armstrong will have -----England, poor fellow it was a pity to see him toiling here without any chances of sailing higher than a Non-commissioned Officer. He was one of the best in the Regiment, nor have I got as good a one in his place for he was in my Troop. Let me have a line from you whenever you can find time, and tell me the whole history of your

stable, kennel etc. Only remember if you write in the same letter as Robert to find out a small hand and give me as much as you can in a small compass. I am almost ashamed of myself for not having paid you yet what you lent me so kindly. I have been too extravagant to send you the order. Nor do I know if I am in credit or not at Coutts. By a letter he sent me if he had then received all my drafts, I was but I almost fear they might not have been given in. I have as yet heard nothing of the money that is owed me, in the old regiment, which will come at last I suppose? I merely mention all this to show you I don't forget. I dare say you are heartily glad at your escape from Bermuda. You are lucky; stick to the old 6th: and if you can get leave, do take a peep at the Continent but if you do, go to Italy and Spain and take care of their stiletto's and sharp knives. And now my dear Herbert, may you long enjoy yourself as a Dragoon should do – and have success, health, and happiness – and with every wish in your favour, believe me
Yours affectionately
Geo Mansel

=====
Postmarked November 30, 1835 From George Mansel to William Herbert Mansel Esq., 6th Inniskilling Dragoons, London (which is crossed out) and readdressed to Lenham, Maidstone, Kent (So Mary Ann has left Sutton Valance and moved to Lenham – I wonder when she eventually moved to Loose?)

Comment [A21]: From George Mansel (brother)

My dear Herbert

I will trust to you in particular, to get me the 4 swords; if Robert has a better opportunity I know he will do it. – our weapons are very bad out here; our men's lances are the very old ones and none of them fit for service. It is really too bad they do not supply us with the new ones; I wish you would let some of the High Officers about the -----Guards know of this. At Bhurtpoor the first time our men tried it on, with the Bhurtpooreans, they could effect nothing beyond lifting an antagonist out of the saddle. The next time, by dint of sheer strength, and having touched up the points, they brought a little blood, indeed the white of some their flags quite disappeared, and they sported red flags. – our lances however bad as they were, were better than the sword. MacDowell had a Proper (?) which he laid over the head of a Chief, but the blade of his sword doubled, the Chief with his sons would not surrender and our men were forced to kill them in actual self defence, for they had behaved so bravely they respected them, but the Chief offered to cut down his sons one after the other, with his own hands if they would accept life from a Frank. Another man, as he was expiring, cut off his favourite horses head, saying he should never call a Ferringee (?) (a term of reproach) master. And yet when they took one of our men prisoner, they carried him into the fort and treated him well and kindly. The instrument from -----for a sick horse arrived all safe. I suppose you study the horse a good deal I think I now thoroughly understand the science of shoeing, and have had one or two cases in my stables which I have successfully treated. I have got muzzles to all my horses, and find that six pounds of best hay – and eight pounds of grain keeps them in immense flesh and power at the same time they are in almost racing condition. As soon as they have feel the muzzle is put on to prevent them eating the better. You must however remember my horses are all much smaller than yours and for four months in the year I however substitute 4 pounds of bran a day instead of the same quantity of grain, and I also give each horse a couple of handfuls of green beans every morning. I think this is almost as beneficial as turning out to grass and the horse retains his condition at the same time as that you might bring him up to the mark in a month at any period. We have heard nothing more about your regiment coming to India. I wonder how such a report got abroad. I think it will be the 10th and the 3rd. I should like to know the when and whom it will concern. I wish it was our turn to go home for I have not any sport at all here and have not got a day worth a shilling, and I sometimes get so much out of spirits that I get ill. I think the climate hard when the whole is not so unwholesome after all; of course in May, June, July, part of April and part of August you must not let the sun touch you. You can keep your horses quite cool and the rest of the year is delightful. We have as yet had an unusual cool season no hot winds, or anything like last years – our Inspection took place the other morning and went off as usual. I went to see the 16th Kings Fort renewed the next morning. They looked very well, but so weak that I do not think they brought -----on the parade than we do

ourselves. I have now 81 horses in my Troop and my Troop is just now the weakest; but I think they have the best horses with the exception of the left Troop of the -----squadron of any in the regiment. If nothing prevents my going I fully intend next year obtaining 6 months leave to the hills and if I can I will see a little of China. Their hills are a wonderful place. There is snow the whole year round, the pheasants are the most beautiful birds in the world, there are bears, wild sheep and goats, besides many other strange creatures. The people are a tartar race, and the country seems to resemble Switzerland as to the scenery and the buildings of its inhabitants. And now my dear Herbert, let me send you an order on Coutts which you will cut out of this the same way you must do with the Order to Prosser (MacDowell and myself intend to use the 2 officers swords ourselves, and to lend each of our Sergeant Majors the others if we have ever the fortune to be employed). This is the reason I must have four swords, the exact regulations for me would not loose a hairs breadth of the length from the longest sword that was ever made. – I do not know what I shall owe you, and therefore I have left you to put in the amount, and in order to render them in case of any miscarriage quite useless (chunk of letter missing) yourself you will see I have made it to pay into your account (chunk missing) not forget the price of the swords, and anything else I may (chunk missing) do you know if Lucy as paid for Higgins, I gave her (chuck missing) the above, and Coutts only sent me an abstract of my (chunk missing) indeed the amount of my credit but nothing else. If (chunk missing) any of my debts put them into Coutts if it is worthwhile (chunk missing) or Cater in case I owe them anything – or anything you like (missing) anything about the mare – By the bye if ever you (missing) him the fault of all his saddles is that they throw you (missing) too far back and give no purchase for your knee (missing) can't ride one of his saddles without inclining in an unseemly manner (missing) his work however, bits and bridles etc. are very neat and good. Tell Robert I will not write to him now his turn must come next. All my next letter shall fall to his share, so all I will do is to beg to be kindly remembered to him, Maria and the little ones. I sincerely hope all are well. You see I am now out of the break, if Luard(?) had come to conclusions with me at once I should also have had one more step in my power. Have you any prospect at all of a Troop, for upon my word I think very little of the majority. Robert will tell me however the grapes are sour, perhaps they are and if I was as near it as he must be, I dare say I should discover some wonderful beauties in the step – however I shall have plenty of time to discover these advantages, before I am put to the test of them. You see I have managed to fill my paper about one thing or another and if you loosed a little share by my orders etc., I have wrote very close as you may now see, and your eyes feel – Night in as dully as ever at Cawnpore – well our nation allies etc. are behaving themselves pretty well tho. I think the king of buds is the only ----- His mother kicked up a precious row the other day – one of his women guards, for she has a regiment of females disciplined and armed like our own infantry, commenced by breaking the head of an old man with her slipper. I heard before it was all ended. The Queen was turned out of the place by her dutiful son and 40 of her viragos were either killed or wounded. I should be very sorry to meet her Majesty and I only wonder we don't pop over and take the country out of their hands. With best wishes for your success and happiness, I remain my dear Herbert,
Yours sincerely
George Mansel

Send an Army List with the Swords



General Robert Manners



General Sir Charles Asgill



Mary Ann Mansel and Charles Childs' shared grave at All Saints' Churchyard, Loose, Kent



Charles Childs' daughter, Elizabeth Mary Mansel Childs (and Charles Asgill's granddaughter) on 27 September 1906