

Letter from Mary Hartopp [not dated, c. 1655]

Deare Brother

1. I rit to you by the post but fering
2. that you scold not rescefe that leter I have
3. riten this to lete you under stand wate
4. it was that I wold stand upon for my hosband
5. ? to my father and you to leues me
6. ? conicenint dueling hous and if he did
7. not lefe scouch ston then I was to have
Buckminster
8. hous and park now this lese was made at
9. my scons Hartopp marig to me now the cared
10. all thes ritings A way my coscen couke and my
11. coscon bery that nite that my hoseband died
12. And if that riting be not Fond the lawe
13. will cast it on my scone but I have Another
14. Lese up on the not performing of cofnants
15. mad to me scefen tene years after wich
16. you have lost but I have A cotype of it wich
17. I think will carit it for me for brenting bee
18. ? the scay is A convenient duelling hous
19. ?h no brou hous nor dery hous nor was
20. hous for the hous is but half done ther
21. for lete me in tret you to lete on of your
22. men to delifer this leter to Mr Archer in
23. gres in and that you will A pont A day
24. that you and my coscen berye may met
25. and that you will tell Mr Archer I will
26. refer my scelf to him and wer as the
27. promisced me to gife me for my gronds
28. that did setter ther catel as the tenant
29. gave as wos to take them of me now the
30. will not stand to that it came to A bout ?
31. ?xx and I was fant to paye yous for al I
32. ? up wich wos score* pond I pray you
33. ?on wat you cane to end al be tuen us
34. ? I am un wiling to go to lawe if by
35. iny mens I cane ende it for I wold fane
36. sete [gete?] some thing to proe wid for my
scone
37. richerd that I may mary him ther for
38. ? in tret you ? ate will be done in my ?
39. and so rite me wo? so with my scerfis to you ?
40. with me best respet my neuis and neses I am
your fath full scester and scerfent

Mary Hartopp

I write to you by the post but fearing
that you should not receive that letter I have
written this to let you understand what
it was that I would stand upon for my husband
? to my father and you to lease me
a convenient dwelling house and if he did
not lease me Sewstern (?) then I was to have
Buckminster
house and park. Now this lease was made [to me] at
my son Hartopp's marriage. Now they carried
all these writings away my cousin Cooke and my cousin
Berry that night my husband died,
and if that writing be not found the law
will cast it on my son, but I have another
lease upon the non performing of covenants
made to me seventeen years [ago] after which
you have lost [it], but I have a copy of it which
I think will carry it for me, for Buntingby
? the[y] say is a convenient dwelling house
[but with?] no brew house nor dairy house nor was
? house for the house[?] but is half done, there-
fore let me entreat you to let [get] one of your
men to deliver this letter to Mr Archer in
[place?] and that you will appoint a day
that you and my cousin Berry may meet
and that you will tell Mr Archer I will
refer myself to him, and were as the[y]
promised me to give me for my grounds
that did set their cattle as the tenant
gave as was to take them of me. Now the[y]
will not stand to that. It came to about
[? £20? 20s.?] and I was fain [glad] to pay you for all I
? up which was ?* pounds. I pray you
? what you can to end all between us
? I am unwilling to go to law if by
any means I can end it, for I would fain [gladly]
set [or get] something to provide for my son

Richard that I may [arrange to] marry him, therefore
[I] entreat you ? will be done in my ?
and so write [to] me ? with my service to you ?
with my best respect [to] my nephews and nieces I am
your faithful sister and servant
Mary Hartopp

N.B. Buntingby Hall was under construction in this
period and perhaps never finished (Pevsner)