

Stamford 12<sup>th</sup> April 1700

Dear friends

I have very little material to say further than that we are all well in this remote poor happy Country neither God, Judge Lawyer or any rank above a poor Minister to disturb us, not so much as a Justice of peace nearer than 12 miles; indeed the customhouse folks sometimes take our good drink; but yet we are resolved never to pay any Duties let the acts of Parliamt. be what they will, — To give you an Idea of the flourishing State of our great Town; 40 years ago 150 feet of ground on the shore below the Street was bought for £10 & now I pay £60 for 70 feet of the same ground, all the spare pieces of ground on the shore bear the like value. — My Grandfather

had foreseen this & had pick'd  
up Tsuppon about one third <sup>189</sup> of the  
most valuable spots. — The ground  
above the shore that has not a  
free access to the ~~shore~~ sea is not  
near so valuable not being so  
convenient for business. The most  
easier to build on. —

In a very few days I hope  
Mrs — will give me either  
a son or a daughter, if the former,  
out of regard & esteem I owe you  
both jointly I mean to call him  
James John, if this should have  
the good effect to unite in him both  
your good principles he will be a  
lucky fellow; — if you are thrown  
out of your chance for this time by  
a female you must give me credit  
till next bout; & for your encouragement  
we shall not be idle

signed D. J. — ds