







Handwritten text, likely a letter or document fragment.

People have been writing letters by hand since at least 300 BCE, when the Persian Queen Atossa sent what you may think of as the world's first telegram with her message. I think that most people inherently like to receive letters. It makes them feel important. Historians and Genealogists love to discover and read letters. The casual hater may find the handwriting shows craft and character.

So what are you doing with your ancestors' letters? Let me tell you what I have been doing. If the letter has been in a folder envelope, I try to gently remove the paper and unfold it without tearing it. If it's not white paper, maybe it's a little old. Then when handling the document, I use clean gloves. I just read and copy my favorite parts. I scan the letters or take a high resolution photograph. Then I transcribe the letter. Finally, I store the letter flat in an acid free page protector.

Letters can be wonderful windows to the past and can be fun to write. Why not write your fourth grade letter today?

Links - Just try these into your browser bar:
www.familysearch.com/communication-technology/letters-and-letters-154-writing-personal-letters
www.harpersletters.com
www.letterpress.com
www.letterpress.com/history-of-handwritten-letters-writing-78265

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June 18th 1968

Dear Mitch -

It was great bringing me to flower to show the picture - I was so excited about doing it and particularly about working with you again -

When we meet I would like to explain to you myself all of the reasons which is difficult to do by letter.



