

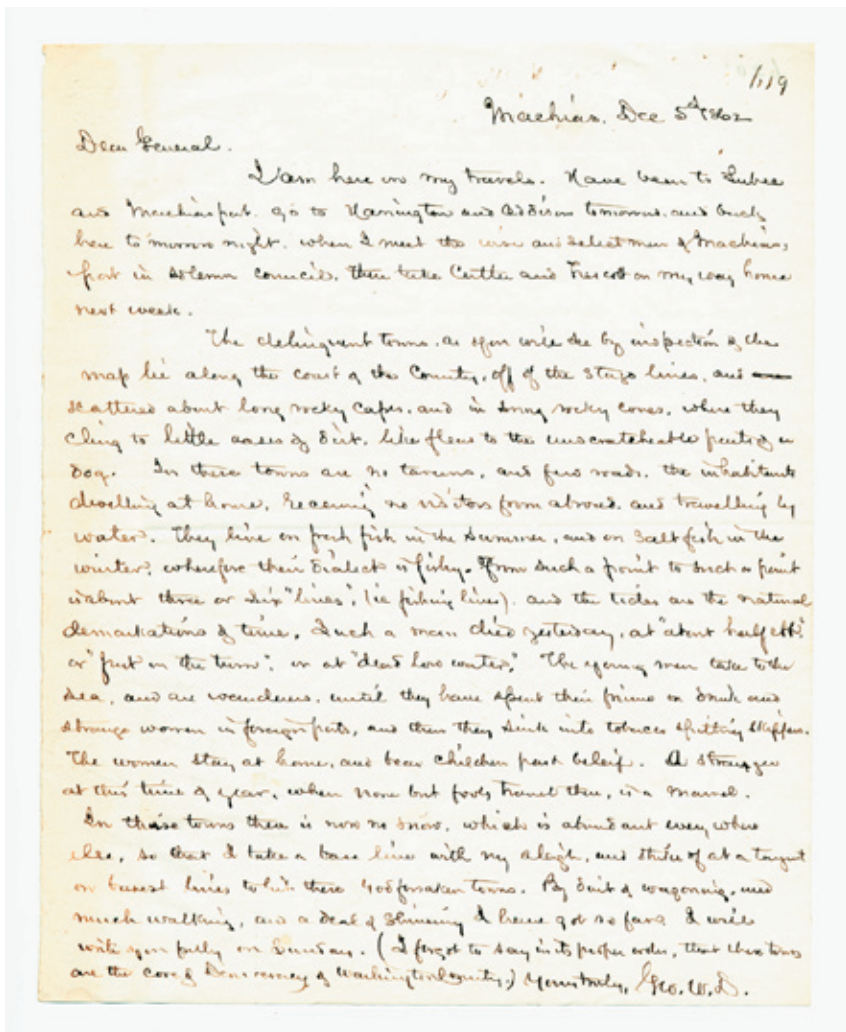
Machias, Dec 5th 1862

Dear General,

I am here in my travels. Have been to Lubec and Machiasport, go to Harrington and Addison tomorrow, and back here tomorrow night, when I meet the wise and Select men of Machias port, in solemn Council, then take Cutler and Trescott on my way home next week.

The delinquent towns, as you will see by inspection of the map lie along the coast of the County, off of the State lines, and scattered about long rocky Capes, and in long rocky coves, where they cling to little oases of dirt, like fleas to the unscratchable parts of a dog. In these towns are no taverns, and few roads. The inhabitants dwelling at home, receiving no visitors from abroad, and traveling by water. They live on fresh fish in the summer, and on saltfish in the winter; wherefore their dialect is fishy. From such a point to such a point is about three or six "lines", (ie. fishing lines). And the tides are the natural demarkations of time. Such a man died yesterday, at "about half ebb" or "just in the turn", or at "dead low water." The young men take to the sea, and are wanderers, until they have spent their prime on drink and strange women in foreign ports, and then they sink into tobacco spitting & kippers.

The women stay at home and bear children past belief. A stranger at this time of year, when none but fools travel there, is a marvel. In these towns there is now no snow, which is abundant every where else, so that I take a base line with my sleigh, and strike off at a tangent on basest lines to hit these God forsaken towns. By dint of wagoning, and much walking, and a deal of shivering I have got so far. I will write you fully on Sunday. (I forgot to say in its proper order, that these towns are the core of Democracy of Washington County.) Yours truly, Geo.W.D.



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Date: Dec. 5, 1862  
Description: Letter from George W. Dyer to General John Hodsdon