



## **Case #6: Son of Mordecai Lewis**

Letter #1: Mordecai Lewis to Dr. Benjamin Rush,  
September 16, 1793, Page 1

Sir

As we have not had the Pleasure  
of seeing you since yesterday Morning I  
take the liberty to trouble you respecting  
my son - I believe it is the Opinion of  
Your young Man that he has very little  
fever. He appears very weak but is not  
well able to get up today as he was  
yesterday but does not complain of any  
Pain - In washing his Mouth the water  
appeared colored with blood, and in the  
Course of last night some colored Saliva  
came from his Mouth probably while  
sleeping. This your young Man attri-  
butes to the Mercury. He took 20 Grains  
Rhubarb today but as yet it has had  
no Effect. He has taken nothing today

Text [Entire Page]:

Sir

As we have not had the Pleasure of seeing you since yesterday morning I take the liberty to trouble you respecting my Son – I believe it is the opinion of your young Man that he has very little fever. He appears very weak and is not to well able to sit up today as he was yesterday, but does not complain of any Pain – on working his mouth the water appeared colord with Blood, and in the course of last night some color'd Saliva came from his Mouth probably while sleeping. This your young Man attributes to the Mercury. He took 20 Grains Rhubarb to day but as yet it has had no Effect. He has taken nothing today

Letter #1: Mordecai Lewis to Dr. Benjamin Rush,  
September 16, 1793, Page 2

but ~~some~~ a little stew'd Apples & Milk &  
Cold water.

His mother is much distressed at  
his low State & begs you will excuse this  
Address & inform us whether anything  
can be done to animate him a little  
or if you think Nature is sufficient - If  
he should have a fancy for any thing that  
has been hitherto forbid, say Custard, Pudding  
Broth or white meal whether he may be  
indulged with it - He is kept cool  
& his head & hands are frequently wash'd  
with cold water which probably is the  
Reason he has no perspiration

I am  
Yr. Obedt  
Mordecai Lewis

Sep. 16. 1793

Text [Entire Page]:

but a little stew & Apples & milk & Cold Water.

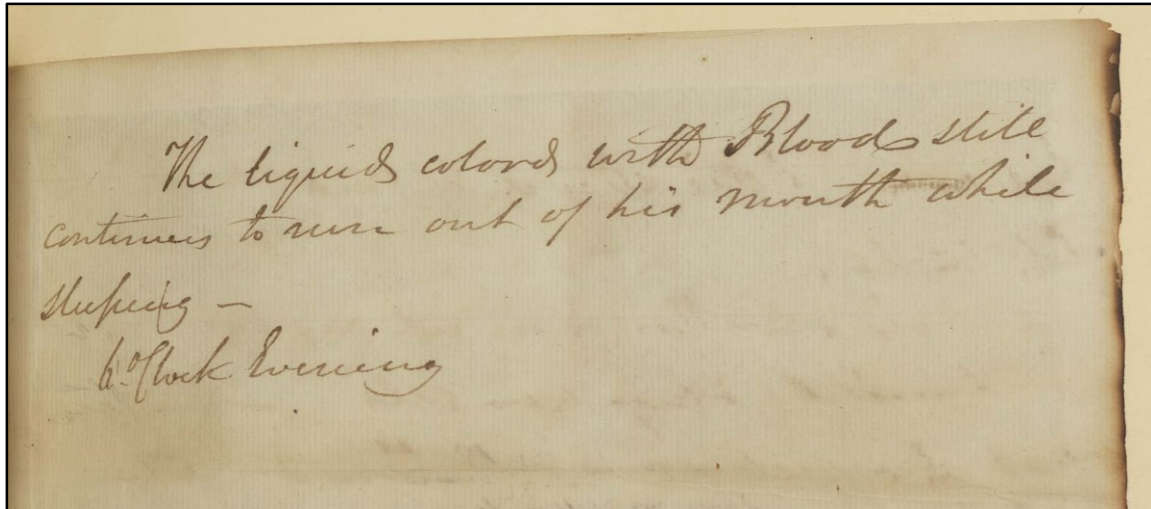
His mother is much disturbed at his low State & hopes you will excuse this address & inform us whether anything can be done to animate him a little or if you think Nature is sufficient – If he should have a fancy for anything that has been hitherto forbid, say Custard, Pudding, Broth on white bread whether he may be indulged with it – He is kept cool & his Head & Hands are frequently wet with cold water which probably is the Reason he has no perspiration

I am Y[our] Ob[edient] Ser[vant]

Mordecai Lewis

Sep. 16. 1793

**Letter #1: Mordecai Lewis to Dr. Benjamin Rush,  
September 16, 1793, Page 3**

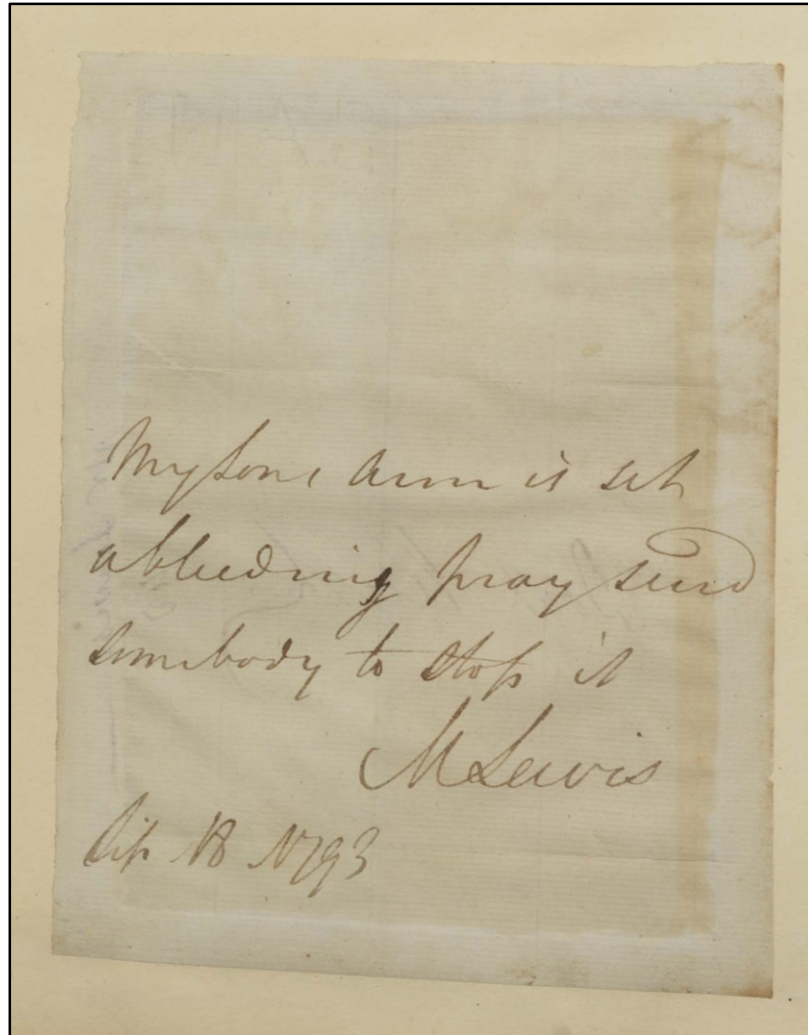


Text [Entire Page]:

The liquid colord with Blood still continues to run out of his mouth while sleeping -

6 oClock Evening

**Letter #2: Mordecai Lewis to Dr. Benjamin Rush,  
September 18, 1793**



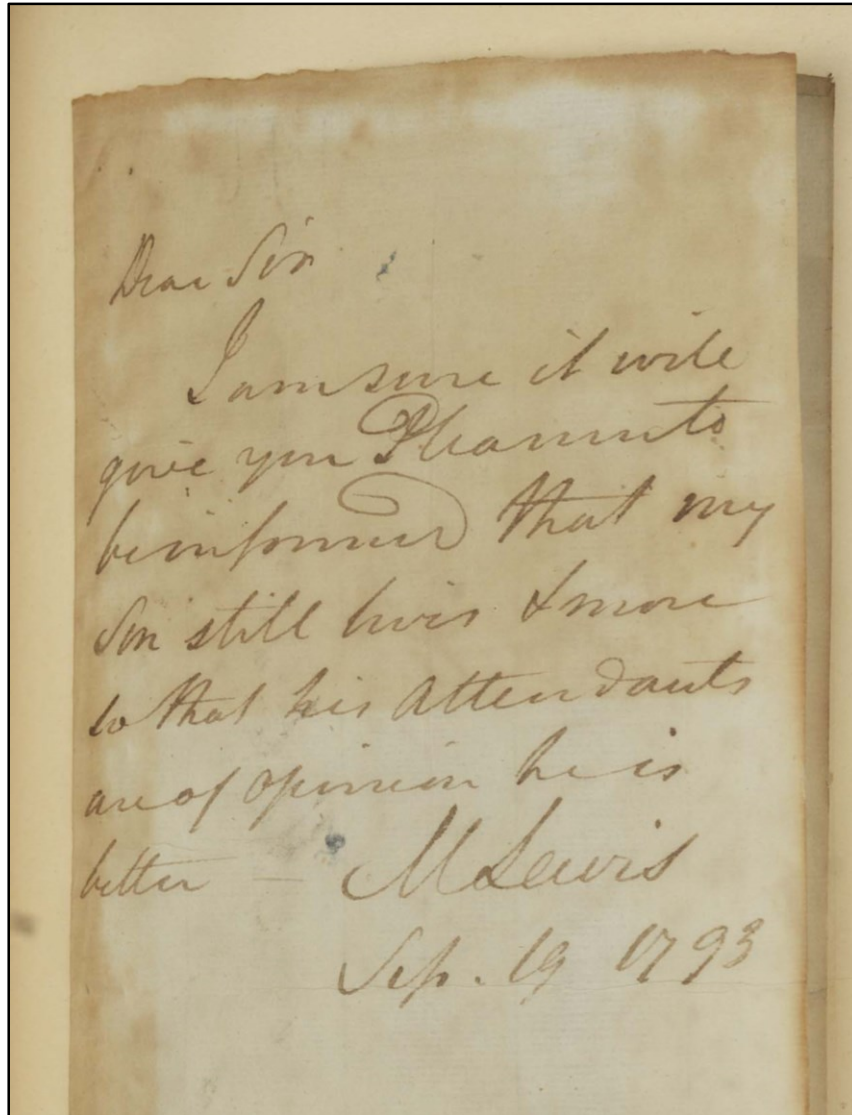
Text [Entire Page]:

My Sons arm is set a bleeding pray send somebody to stop it

M Lewis

Sep 18 1793

**Letter #3: Mordecai Lewis to Dr. Benjamin Rush,  
September 19, 1793**



Dear Sir  
I am sure it will  
give you Pleasure to  
be informed that my  
Son still lives & more  
so that his Attendants  
are of opinion he is  
better - M Lewis  
Sep. 19 1793

Text [Entire Page]:

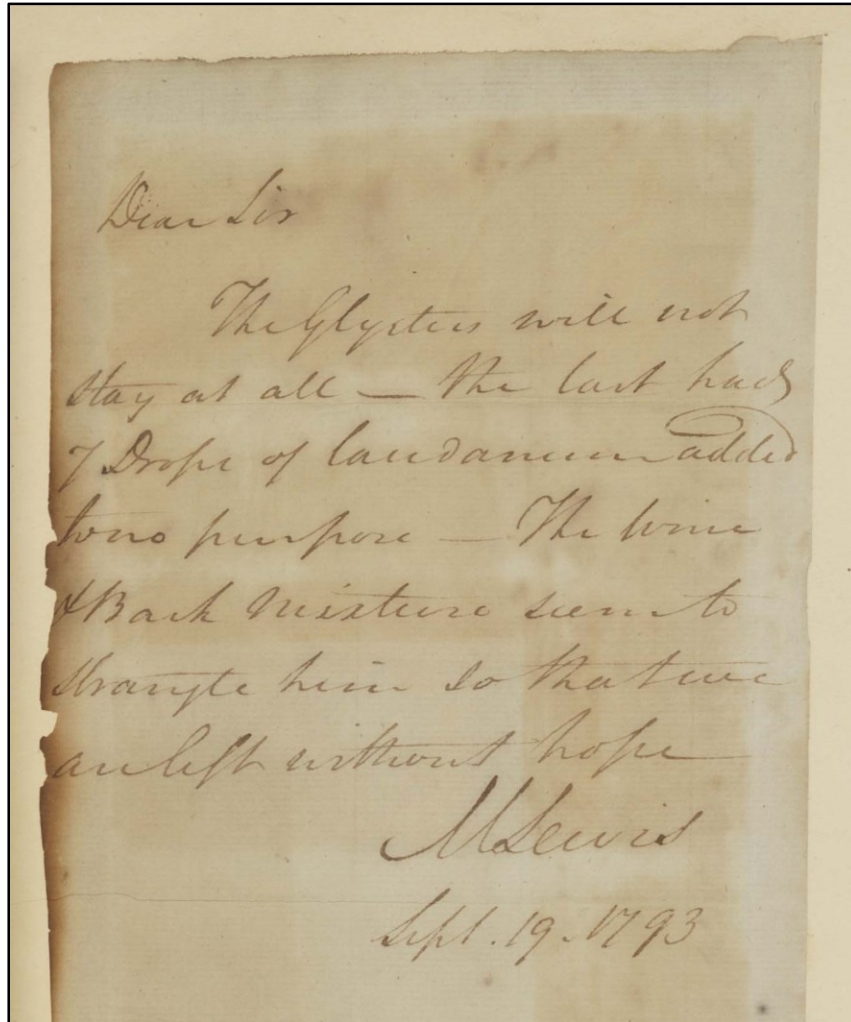
I am sure it will give you Pleasure to be informed that my Son still lives & more so that his Attendants are of opinion he is better.

M. Lewis

Sep. 19 1793



**Letter #4: Mordecai Lewis to Dr. Benjamin Rush,  
September 19, 1793**



Dear Sir

The Glysters will not stay at all - the last had 7 Drops of laudanum added to no purpose - The white & Black Mixture seem to strangle him so that we are left without hope

M Lewis  
Sept. 19. 1793

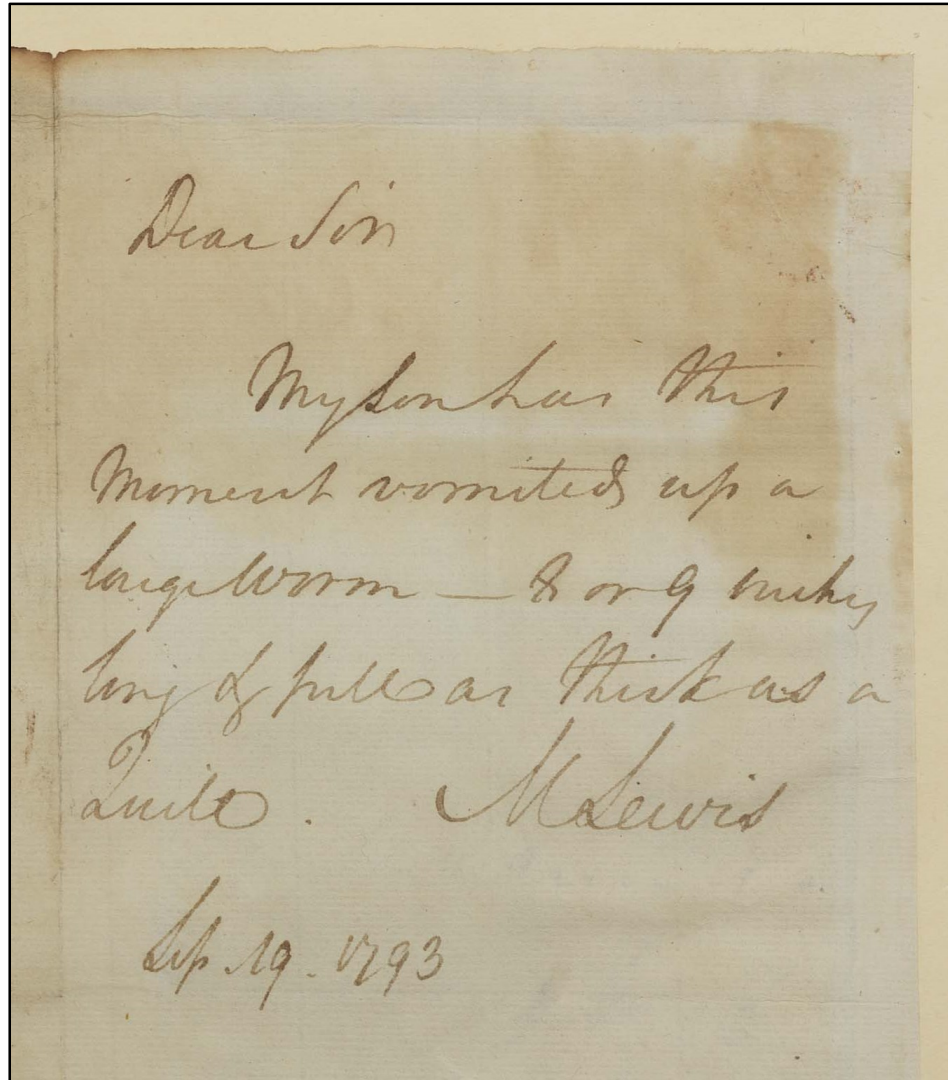
Text [Entire Page]:

The Glysters will not stay at all - the last had 7 Drops of laudanum added to no purpose - The White & Black Mixture seem to strangle him so that we are left without hope

M Lewis

Sep 19 1793

**Letter #5: Mordecai Lewis to Dr. Benjamin Rush,  
September 19, 1793**

A photograph of a handwritten letter on aged, yellowed paper. The text is written in cursive and reads: "Dear Son", "My son has this moment vomited up a large worm - 8 or 9 inches long & full as thick as a Quill.", "M Lewis", and "Sep. 19. 1793".

Dear Son

My son has this moment vomited up a large worm - 8 or 9 inches long & full as thick as a Quill.

M Lewis

Sep. 19. 1793

Text [Entire Page]:

My Son has this Moment vomited up a large worm - 8 or 9 inches long & full as thick as a Quill. M Lewis

Sep. 19 1793

Letter #6: Mordecai Lewis to Dr. Benjamin Rush, "Monday Morning" (No Date), Pages 1

Dear Doctor

Monday Morning

A large City with the Houses shut up & the Streets empty except the French Sailors, People of St. Domingo of all Colours with their Heads tied a few Citizens whom you do not know posting along with Sponges at their noses & the Air constantly passing exhibits such a melancholy picture that I never left Philad<sup>a</sup> with so much pleasure as yesterday nor never found such Pleasure in the Country as I do today - I am perfectly well, the Air Sweet & the Trees, fields, waters Pastures & more beautiful than ever - How great how pleasing the Contrast! - If the Physicians from Pride and envy for after the experience which they have had I can impute their Conduct to nothing else will rather than acknowledge persist in decrying your merit, at the expense of the lives of their fellow Citizens, I shall think that they ought at least to be banished from a City which they have regard to assist in saving - Do be so good as to tell me how you find Barclay today how the City is in general. will you be so good as to send me some Bark by the Bearer - Can you inform me how my good Friend Col. Hamilton is - Do I run any risk in taking the Disorder again if I visit him? - If I do not I will go & be his Nurse & not leave him while I can be of any Service to him - I will thank you for an answer

Text:

[Beginning at Arrow]

Monday Morn'g

Dear Doctor,

A large City with the Houses shut up & the streets empty except the French Sailors, People of St. Domingo of all Colours with their Heads tied a few citizens whom you do not know walking along with sponges [soaked with vinegar, thought to prevent infection] at their noses & the herse constantly passing exhibits such a melancholy picture that I never left Philad[elphia] with so much pleasure as yesterday nor never found such Pleasure in the Country as I do to day – I am perfectly well the air sweet & the Trees, fields, waters Pastures & more beuteful than ever – How great – how pleasing the contrast! – If the Physchions [physicians] from Pride and envy (for after the experiences which they have had I can impute their conduct to nothing else) will rather than acknowledge, persist in decrying your merit, at the expence of the lives of their fellow citizens, I shall think that they ought at least to be banished from a City which they have refused to assist in saving....