

Gentlemen,

Beverly August 24 1820

You some time since notified us that James Woodberry had become chargeable & called on us for payment, we immediately replied objecting to his settlement here, upon the presumption that having lived in Salem about twenty years last past and having been known to have property, that he must have acquired a settlement there by taxation — Since our reply we have again been notified that you shall continue your claim against us which has induced us to make a more particular inquiry relating to his taxes &c in Salem, the find that although he lived there from the year 1800 or thereabouts, and was an able bodied man with the Carpenters Trade, that he was not taxed until he was married there in 1808, when he was taxed for part of a house valued in the assessment books at 250 \$ and for one poll, in 1809 for the same, in 1810 for part of a house 400 \$ Stock 400, Income 200 \$ and one poll, in 1811 for one poll only and in 1812 for one poll only — Of these taxes for 1809, 1810, 1811 & 1812 much the greater part was abated — Although it does not appear that he paid five years taxes in any ten years of his residence or that he was taxed five years for any estate of the value of sixty pounds, yet unless it can be otherwise explained, than that it was through the neglect or inattentions of the assessors, that he was not taxed at all for nearly eight years of his first residence there and that he was taxed

only three years for estate when (as his wife informs us, he being
absent) that she owned in fee simple a third part of a dwelling house
of the yearly value of twenty dollars, that she ~~had~~ owned it since
the death of a child by a former husband, in Sept. 1804 to the
time of the suit against her husband for which year demand
occurred, we still think our objection well supported upon the
ground of larceny. -- But having ascertained that he in the
right of his wife, after the death of her child by a former husband
had a freehold estate in Salem of the clear yearly income of
three pounds of which he has taken the rents & profits thereof
three years successively we renew our objection to his settle-
ment

Draft of a letter prepared
to send to Boston but was
not sent. A shorter one
sent Sept 4 1820
(James Woodberry)