

Journal Entry 1996/10/23:

Source Cited: Papers of Robert Morris
 Official Letterbook Volumes 1
 Dec. 22, 1794-May 19, 1796.
 Real 19

Papers Indexed. Researched all letters to: Isabella Clark, William Cranch, James Greenleaf, John Nicholson, William Lovering.

1. 1795/12/05: From Morris to Isabella Clark
 See image morr008.tif

Claims impropriety in answering letter because no such firm exists between Morris, Nicholson, and Greenleaf but respectability demands that he should clear himself of charges made. Claims that Mr. Clark is a stranger to him. Whole of business conducted by Greenleaf. Knows nothing of the proceeding of Clark's account until a difference occurred between Clark and Greenleaf. Greenleaf complained of Clark's behavior. Be the state of Mr. Clark's account what they may, Mr. Fox will order pecuniary relief until they can be argued.

2. 1796/02/16: From Morris to William Cranch
 See images morr009.tif and morr010.tif

Morris refers to letters from Lovering which detail what needs to be done to Clark's houses. Worries about what happened to houses in winter. They were placed on Lot no 118. Greenleaf sold to General Stewart of Major Moore. If contract enforced Stewart will finish the houses.

3. 1795/08/17: From Morris to William Lovering, architect
 See IMAGES morr007.tif, morr012-morr015.tif

Morris states that Cranch said that Clark had built eight three story houses on Square 503 and 504 which are almost finished. He desires to examine the houses and to take measures to finishing. Make tenable at the smallest of expense. upon looking more closely at Cranch's letter sees that only four are finished and that the other four are bare walls. Clark has also built 14 small wooden buildings part of which were inhabited. "Clarke has also expended a considerable sum in **** foundations for his houses on square 166. This must not be lost, Mr Cranch, Mr DeBlois and you must consider this object and determine what is best to be done whether to contract immediately with a masterbuilder to erect these houses this summer or any part of them or whether to leave it until next summer"...

"You will also receive from Mr. Clark all the materials in his possession belonging to Mr. greenleaf and us for which an order is enclosed and give an account of what you receive to Mr Cranch"

Significant of letter: demonstrates that Morris' letter to Isabella in November of 1795 embedded falsehood. Morris was aware of who Clark was and appeared disappointed in Clark's performance. The language of the letter seems to imply that Clark was no longer working on the project.

4. 1795/03/05 Morris to Stephen Gapen.
 see image morr011.tif

"I received by Mr. Clark your letter of January 30- your drafts upon me could never appeared at so inconvenient a time for me. Many matters at the present when the scarcity is so great to create universal distress amongst all ranks of men in this city as Mr Clark can inform you, but the scene will change"

Significance: To me this letter proves that Morris was well aware of by at least March of 1795 the troubles Clark was enduring.