

January 6 1608

Dear Family,

Yesterday I finally finished building my bed and getting all of the food off the ship and onto our base. Master Wingfield is writing a letter to King James that there is gold here and that he should send everyone to the new world. I think you should stay in England and not come to the new world. I would have come back but the gentlemen didn't let me. It's the worst here. Also the ship is disgusting and it smells really bad.

First off I think you should stay in England because here you get told what to do by the gentlemen. They tell you what to do because they make you starve on the ship and you have to do jobs on the ship to get food. Also in the new world they made you build your own house or you could sleep on the uncomfortable ground and be very cold all night. The gentlemen are very hard on you all day even if you're a man, woman, or a kid. They make you work until dark. Then you go to sleep on your uncomfortable bed that you made yourself. Additionally everyday the gentlemen would make you go get wood from the woods and usually you would get attacked by the natives and only a few actually make it out alive.

Second, you shouldn't come to the new world because you could die. You might die if the natives at night will usually attack our base and one night a kid named James died from an arrow right in the back. Only me and my friend Sam and a couple others actually cared about him. The gentlemen didn't care one bit. I felt really bad for him. Furthermore he was a shy kid and you had a lot of life left in him.

Lastly the gentlemen lie a lot. They lie by sending a letter to King James saying that there is gold here and there's no gold at all. Then our leader for the commoners, the good one captain Smith, got arrested for absolutely nothing. The gentlemen lied their way through to get Captain Smith arrested.

In conclusion I think that you should stay in England. I wouldn't come here and I bet that you wouldn't want to come here either.

Sincerely your sister/daughter,



This is a persuasive letter from the point of view of a commoner in Jamestown to their family convincing them not to come. Evidence is cited from the book *Blood on the River* by Elisa Carbone.