# Thomas Chatterton Manuscript Project (TCMP)

## William Barrett's Correspondence.

Letter (No. 3) William Barrett to George Symes Catcott.

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Contains: a description of Spring; Barrett's poor health; seeing the doctor; staying with his son in Wraxall.

Original Ms. Letter No.3: Barrett to George Catcott: Panel 1: View

**Transcript by QE!** of the letter above: Panel 2: <u>View</u>

## Verso of the Letter - forms an envelope when folded:

- Addressed to George Catcott: Panel 3: View
- Address in close-up: Panel 4: <u>View</u>
- Richard Smith's annotation gifting the letter to Mr Lunell: Panel 5: View
- Transcript by QE! of the above annotation: Panel 6: <u>View</u>

Panel 1: William Barrett's Letter to George Symes Catcott 1788 - letter No.3

Dem George: No 3 Willing to prepare for I close attention I shall voon be obtig to pay to & pufs when once set in motion, I have taken this becursion to my Some ; - which has done my health great version, - I clearach of his on their Hill at this beautiful Verson has been of infinite. Advantage to me - fam formosiformies annus Verenovo. The Country smiles around me, flore field rychly dyghte The lountry smeres around me, blofsomine Wiolets smelling the grows budding, I Trees blofsoming, the Greese cackling of Birds vinging the cooks crowing, the Greese cackling of Turkles gobbling, the Hens clucking of chickenspipping all these salute my laws hourly or feart mine lyes here. Datue looks gay, I every thing compines to gladden the Heart & Paire of Imagination, that every with a Genius blunter by age & cloured by Disease am abnost inspire with poetic fire to describe the smal felicity here to be enjoy? By a mino righty .

Vispos sin a Body free from frain. But I must Descend from there towering Thoughts & confine them to the thick path of History without deviating nito of Wilds of parragins, - I shall for that purpose return Jensuing week & call upon you, hoping & hear such an account, as may vet me signif. immediately to Work; which I shall pursue with unamitting diligence the it is completed & published Hyouse De Small, who few sers too by you intensed me of favour of a first at Whatel Jon wile let him know I shall be at home of second friends. I should return friends to also to all enguing friends this Hill so reviving this week but find the me health that it in mentions of such awantage to my health, that it induces me to stay another week; especially as Johall not be able for some time to visit hew again, my Son & Day derive their Service to you; & I shah always consider derive their Service to you for your africally in myself as much inselected to you for your africal & Service my affairs, I can, Derive, affairs, Higham Mills of Mills to the service of the se Higham & april 1700 \_ Alm Barrett

#### Panel 2: Transcript

(OEI): This is my transcript of William Barrett's Letter No. 3 to George Catcott -it's the best I can do. If you can do better, specifically with the Latin used in the letter, then please let me know and I will update the transcript.

"Dear George,

Willing to prepare for ye close attention I shall soon be oblig'd to pay to ye press when once set in motion [talking about the publication of his History of Bristol, 1789].

I have taken this excursion to my sons;- which has done my health great service;- ye clearness of the air on this hill at this beautiful season has been of infinite advantage to me. -

I am [there follows a latin phrase, which may indicate that his illness was a nervous fever?].

The Country smiles around me,- and corn fields rychly dyghte & hedgerows budding, ye trees blossoming, and violets smelling and Birds singing;- the cocks crowing, the Geese cackling, and Turkies gobbling, the Hens clucking, & chickens pipping - all these salute my ears hourly or feast mine eyes here - all nature looks gay, & every thing conspires to gladden the Heart & raise the imagination, that even I with a Genius blunted by age [he was only 55 years of age] & clouded by disease am almost inspir'd with poetic fire to describe the rural felicity here to be enjoy'd by a mind rightly dispos'd in a Body free from pain. -

But I must descend from these towering thoughts and confine them to the strict path of History without deviating into ye Wilds of parnassus.- I shall for that purpose return ye ensuing week & call upon you, hoping to hear such an account, as may set me & M. P [my pen?] immediately to work; which I shall pursue with unremitting diligence till it is completed & publish'd.

If you see Dr Small, who I understood by you, intended me ye favour of a visit at Wraxal, you will let him know I shall be at home the end of next week & make my compliments also to all enquiring friends. I should return this week but find the clear air of this Hill so reviving & of such advantage to my health, that it induces me to stay another week; especially as I shall not be able for some time to visit here again. My sons [word is unclear] desire their service to you; and I shall always consider myself as much indebted to you for your assiduity in my affairs,

I am, Dr Sir your Obliged friend and Servant

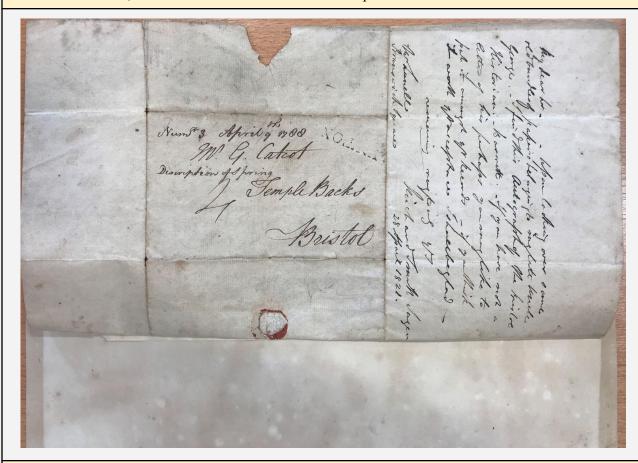
Wm Barrett

Higham April 1788"

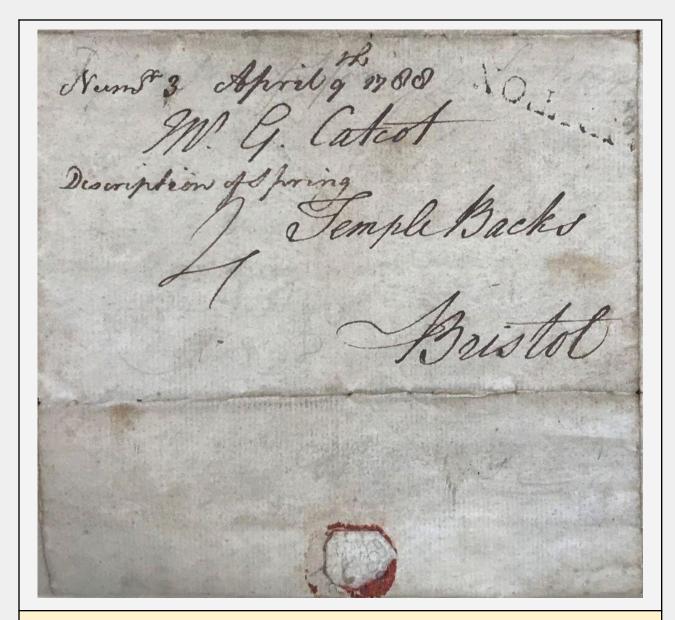
(OEI): William Barrett died 13th October 1789 at the age of 56 You might care to read about William in: The Dictionary of National Biography.

## Panel 3:

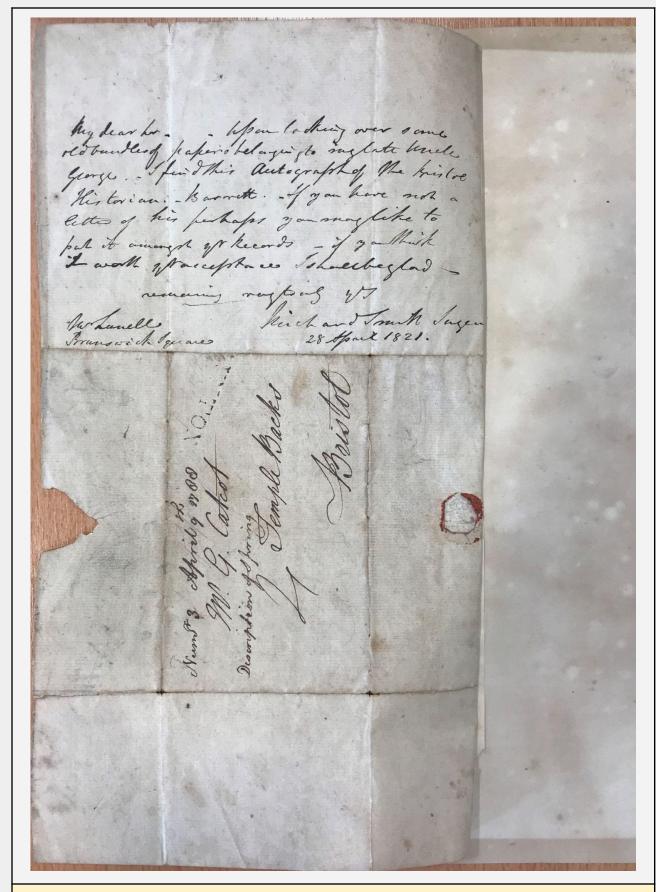
A single leaf with the address on the back and Barrett's letter on the front. It was folded and sealed with red wax and posted to George Catcott at Temple Backs, Bristol. George has annotated around the address: *Number 3 April 9th 1788, Description of Spring.* The later annotation, on a blank part of the leaf, is by Richard Smith, Catcott's nephew, gifting the letter to Mr Lunell; the annotation is shown in the next panel.



Panel 4: The envelope address in close-up



Panel 5: Richard Smith's annotation, gifting the letter to Mr Lunell



Panel 6: Transcript of Smith's Annotation above.

My Dear sir,

Upon looking over some old bundles of papers belonging to my late uncle George, I find this autograph of the Bristol Historian, Barrett. If you have not a letter of his perhaps you may like to put it amongst your records. If you think it worth your acceptance I shall be glad. remaining very truly yours, Richard Smith Surgeon 28 April 1821 Mr Lunell, Brunswick Square

Who is Mr Lunell?: Possibly Peter William Lunell, merchant, or George Lunell, ship owner. George Lunell was part owner, inter alia, of *City of Waterford*, built Bristol 1829, although I note that a George Lunell died in 1815 and left his shares to his son William, but it might not be this George Lunell - further research required by anyone interested enough to take it forward.

End: Back to William Barrett's page