



USS Constitution
Museum

TRANSCRIPTION OF

**Letter from John Contee to Lewis Bush,
September 13, 1812**

USS Constitution Museum Collection [1649.1]

Boston
September 13th 1812

Mr. Lewis Bush

Sir

I received yours of the 8th & hope you will pardon my negligence in not dating my letter & more particularly in not describing the death of your Gallant Brother, which I thought I had done but which I now will do. In the heat of the action the Marines were called aft, led by the illustrious Bush, who, mounting the taffrail, sword in hand, and as he exclaimed "Shall I board her" received the fatal ball in his left cheek bone, which passed through to the back of his head, thus fell that Great and Good officer, who when living was beloved & now gone, is lamented by all. His loss is deeply regretted by his country & friends, but he died as he lived, with honor to both. His trunks I will send in a few days to Mr. Rawlings of Baltimore. His desk walking cane, & sword I have put under Lt. Boone's care who will send them on to Washington by the first opportunity. With sentiments of the highest respect

I remain Sir

Your most obt. & most Hble

Servant

John Contee

Lt. Marines

[Cover]

Mr. Lewis Bush/near Easton/Talbot County/Eastern Shore/Md