

Portsmouth 8th May 1818.

Dear Sir,

Since my return from Demerara I have had little or no employ, in so much so that I could no way have supported my large family, if I had not sold many things out of the house. Even this was not sufficient and I have been forced to leave all my best clothes and some other things with Major Lashier in order to keep my family from starving. I have undergone almost every thing the past winter and I am so distressed and poor now that God only knows what is to become of me. In this situation I stand in need of a friend, who may give me aid and assistance, and this may be done not only without injury to him, but by so doing he might benefit himself. I wish you would think on the subject and see if you cannot be of service to me and at the same time not injure yourself. You are acquainted with my ability to do business and know that I am neither fond of

drinking or frolicking; these are some of
commendations, to which I dare add
that you would find me honest, attentive
and grateful. If you were to stock
West-India Goods & Grocery Store and
give me the charge of it, you would
save a large amount in the continual
purchases you make for your family.
You might add a wood shop to it
which is always sure to do well. If
you think an Auction & Commission
Store or any other would do better,
I would have no objection to pursue
any business you might prefer.
Perhaps you might wish to have
a store on the Island and make
me useful in attending to your
business in the yard. Should you
approve of neither of the above,
perhaps you would advance me
a small amount for a limited
time, which, if you found me
punctual in repaying, would
encourage you to do something
more. I would accept an appointment

ment on board of some of your vessels;—
in short I would do any thing to procure
employ. In which ever way you might
assist me, you could render yourself
secure, by having the business done
in your name, which would prevent
my Creditors from troubling me.

I only want some one to give me
a start and if life and health be
spared me, I am not afraid of
the result.

I wish you would have the goodness
to think of what I have
suggested in this letter and
if you cannot assist
me and draw upon you the
"Blessings of those ready to perish."
I have said but a little and in
plain words;—from what I have
said you will however know
all I meant on this subject.

I am Dear Sir

Your Obedt. Servt.
J. de Rochmont.

A violent head-ache has made me scrawl
most miserably;— please excuse it.

you in return a fine would send me ten
by Christmas. If or twelve Dollars
you want a shawl and I will send the
I think you could not shawl to you the first
the better suited. The fair day.

will weigh about 100 lbs. That would you, Sir,
piece of that wire have think and say were
sold for months at you compelled to
about 30 per lb. help house as I have
you think this too for months?

much and wants him with respects to family
I will take 11 cents. I am
Dear Sir
If you conclude to
buy him, I wish you
Your obed^t Serv^t
J. de Bouchmont

Mr. "Badger" B. B.
Battery

I am under the
necessity of moving to
morrow and I have
no means of displaying
the copiness of it,
unless I sell my
pig out of the city.
It is a very pretty
choat, grows westerly
ly well and with the
keeping you would
give it, would give

Wm Budge Esq
Kittery

the cash advance
for the Shoats, I beg
you to have the good
ness to lend me ten
dollars (or as much as
you can spare) and
I will endeavor not
to trouble you again
untill I shall have
paid it back to you.

\$21 for sheet weight 8.5 lbs. 1818

the Quinine 'paid him \$112 =

to \$10 =

to \$2 Cash - - \$2

to \$4/ Cash - - 1

No Bill on Cap Walker 91 = 48

two in the house:

The letter I have sent
with this I wish you
to read at some con-
venient leisure hour.

I am
Dear Sir
Yours Obedt Servt
N. J. de Roshmont

169 Essex Ave.
Portsmouth, NH
03801
18 June 84

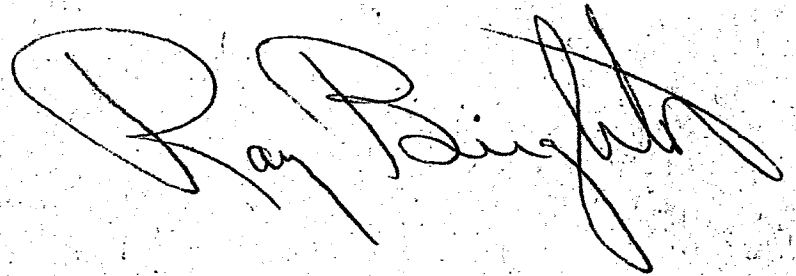
Dear Fred:

While searching for material of an entirely different kind, I came across these letters written by your progenitor. I thought it might interest you to know the guy didn't have it easy.

He supported himself in various ways: Tutoring kids; writing letters for people like William Badger; teaching dancing and so on. The man charged only a \$1,50 a day to go over to Badger's Island and write Badger's letters. He also got his ferriage. Presumably they fed him while he was there.

As you can see, his was a most stylized handwriting, but in one of the letters he breaks down and uses an ordinary hand. Stylizing was part of the times. He must have used a different quill for such letters.

Anyway, for what they're worth, I send the copies along. If I have a chance to plead for them for you, I will, but it's touchy.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ray Bingham". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, textured paper. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

The following letters were found by historian Ray Brighton while doing research. He made copies and sent them to Fred de Rochemont of North Hampton, NH. Maximilian de Rochemont sent the following correspondences to William Badger Esq. of Kittery, wealthy shipowner and shipbuilder who lived on the island in the middle of the Piscataqua River known as Badger's Island.

William Badger Esq.
Kittery

Portsmouth 28th April 1818

Dear Sir,

I am under the necessity of moving tomorrow and I have no means of defraying the expense of it unless I sell my pig out of the sty. It is a very pretty shoat; it grows extremely well and with the keeping you would give it, would give you in return a fine hog by Christmas. If you want a shoat I think you could not be better suited. He will weigh about 100 lbs. Pigs of that size have sold for months at about 9 per lb; if you think this too much and want him I will take 11 cents. If you conclude to buy him, I wish you would send me ten or twelve dollars and I will send the shoat to you the first fair day. What would you, Sir, think and say were you compelled to keep house as I have for months? With respects to family.

I am

Dear Sir

Your obedient servant
M.J. de Rochemont

Evidently William Badger took pity on Maximilian's situation for accompanying the letters was the following paper dated 1818:

Credit for Shoat weight 85 lbs.

April 28th advance paid him \$12

May 8th to \$10

June 10th to \$2 cash \$2

June 22nd

to 24/ cash 4

25 to bill on Capt. Cutter 21-48

The following letter accompanied the above:

Portsmouth 8th May 1818

Dear Sir,

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I wish you would have the goodness to think of what I have suggested in this letter and see if you cannot assist me and draw upon you the "blessings of those ready to perish." I have said but a little and in plain words; from what I have said you will however know all I meant on the subject.

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