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[ Archivist. (Oct. 19, 1771). To Alexander Hamilton from Walton and Cruger, [19 October 1771], re. Beekman and Cruger, Kortright and Cruger. Founders Online. National Archives. Source: <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Hamilton/01-01-02-0004> ]

## TO ALEXANDER HAMILTON FROM WALTON AND CRUGER [1771]

### From Walton and Cruger<sup>1</sup>

[*Jamaica, October 19, 1771. On November 27, 1771, Hamilton wrote to Jacob Walton<sup>2</sup> and J now the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your favour dated October the 19th.* *Letter not f*

<sup>1</sup>. Sometime between 1766 and 1768, H began work as a clerk for the trading firm of Walton and Cruger in Christiansted, St. Croix. The firm, dealing in both imports and exports, had been in the trade of a plantation economy. By 1769, the partnership had apparently been dissolved and was subsequently managed by young Nicholas Cruger, member of a prominent merchant family. Occasionally, he undertook joint ventures with Cornelius Kortright under the firm name of Walton, Cruger and Kortright. On October 15, 1771, Cruger went to New York City, and during his five-month absence the firm's business was carried on by H.

The Cruger business letters, which are in the Hamilton Papers, Library of Congress, are in three categories: (1) copies of letters composed by H and in the original of letters written by someone other than H, but in whole or in part in the writing of H; (2) copies of letters not written by H and not in the writing of H. Letters in the first category have been calendared, and those in the second category have been calendared. Although those in the third category may be copies of originals which were in H's writing, there is no evidence that this is the case. As a result, these letters have been neither printed nor calendared.

For information on the Cruger family and business activities, see B. D. Hassell, "The Cruger Family in America" (MS, MS Division, New York Public Library, 1892); E. F. De Lancy, "Originals of the Cruger Family," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, VI (April, 1875), 74–80; Henry C. Cruger, *The Colleague of Edmund Burke in the British Parliament* (New York, 1859); and *New York Merchant*.

<sup>2</sup>. Jacob Walton was a member of a prominent New York merchant family and brother-in-law of Nicholas Cruger. See Stevens, *Colonial New York*, 170.

<sup>3</sup>. John Harris Cruger was a brother of Nicholas Cruger and factor on the British West Indies. The presence of the Crugers in the West Indies was not unusual, for New York merchant families often had agents on the islands. Trade with the French West Indies was carried on through the Dutch and Dutch agents, especially St. Eustatius, St. Thomas, St. Croix, and Curaçao.

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[Back to top](#)

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