Educational Use Only www.MaineMemory.net Copyright 2003 Even holding lained the land. He assile received noir Post letter and rown you what were my fickings on opening it I had expectation of hearing any thing more on acknowledge to M" Washington herself the deep Jense That

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society (Local Code: Coll. S-1247) Date: April 24, 1800

Description: Letter from Elizabeth Wadsworth to her father, Peleg Wadsworth and mentioning Eliza's request for a lock of George Washington's hair.

## Portland April 24<sup>th</sup> 1800

O Papa could I call back the hour on which I received your last letter, and pour the breathings of my soul on paper, then and only then could I tell you what were my feelings on opening it. I had given up the expectation of hearing any thing more on the subject untill you returned and felt confident you would then bring such a relic as you could obtain; and when I saw a separate packet for me I trembled with fear and dare not conuecture what it contained. Now imagine my feelings when I perceived that my my first wish was gratified. My heart was so filled with thankfulness to you, and when I opened the Sacred paper with veneration and awe, that for a moment I could not even shed a tear and my first thought was to acknowledge to Mrs. Washington herself the deep sense I had

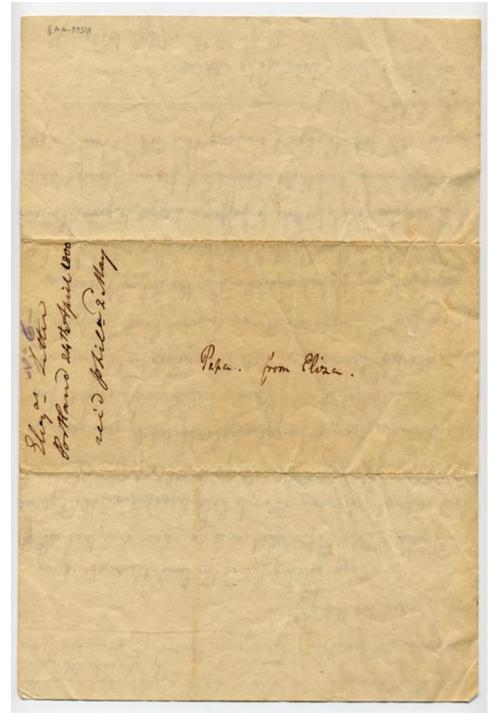
of my obigation to her for so invaluable a gift, but your de. here of in not tracking her again by writing occurred to me, and Jelenced the thought. "Ever holding Sacred the landible wishes of my children - Dear Papa what could you have out that will hand in freibly determined us to hold lacred even the lightest with of our parents? However grant that I who have in this instance been so forgularly benefited by your goodnep may never forget it .. When I feel my with a fail I will open these papers contemplate the character of him who personafied human excellence of every hind . confider the good nep of my paparand attend to the lefon I never May the the I duly hon on this re he ! I feel as if it was too great forme to hoffers on I want to give thousand who had never had the happine to of feeing general Wash. inguten the fatis faction of meving this look . Som Jingu. Resolvenation and our that people party war then made of our tolerat low pleas Jaha Adienses los Ans Cha Wadnoth.

of my obligation to her for so invaluable a gift, but your delicacy in not troubling her again by writing your acknowledge [sic] occurred to me, and silenced the thought.

"Ever holding Sacred the laudible wishes of my children—" Dear Papa, what could you have said that would have so forcibly determined us to hold Sacred even the lightest wish of parents? Heaven grant that I who have in this instance been so singularly benifited by your goodness may never forget it. When I feel my virtue fail I open these papers & contemplate the character of him who personified human excellence of every kind- consider the goodness of my papa and attend to the lesson I receive.

How shall I duly honor the relic? I feel as if it was too great for me to possess. I want to give thousands who have never had the happiness of seeing General Washington & the satisfaction of viewing this lock. I am singularly happy.

Dear Papa Adieu Eliza Wadsworth



Eliza's—Letter Portland 24<sup>th</sup> April 1800

Rec'd Phila 2 May

Papa. from Eliza.