

Portland April 24th 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 conjecture what it contained. Now imagine my feelings, when I perceived that 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

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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.

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

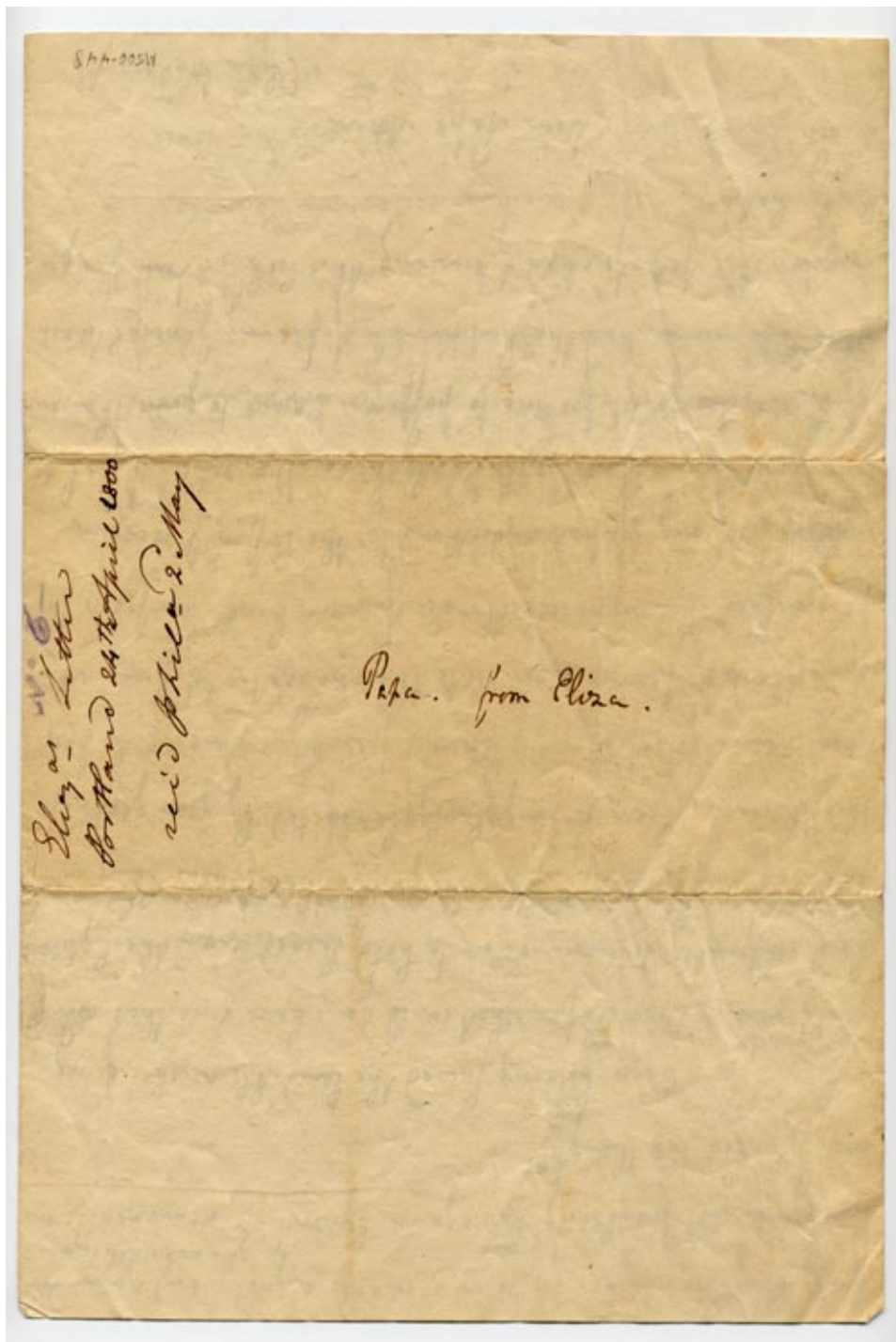
"Ever holding Sacred the laudible wishes of my children—" Dear Papa, what could you have said that would have so forcibly determined us to hold Sacred even the lightest wish of our parents? Heaven grant that I who have in this instance been so singularly benefited by your goodness may never forget it. When I feel my virtue fail I will 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 this 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.

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Dear Papa Adieu
Eliza Wadsworth



Eliza's—Letter
Portland 24th April 1800

Rec'd Phila 2 May

Papa. from Eliza.