

Kansas Memory



Benjamin and Richard Rush papers

Section 1, Pages 1 - 30

These original letters were written either by Benjamin Rush or his son Richard Rush, Esq. Benjamin Rush was a Founding Father and signatory of the Declaration of Independence. He was also a physician, professor, and writer who many consider to be the "Father of American Psychiatry." Richard Rush held several political positions, including United States Attorney General, Secretary of Treasury, and Minister to England and France. Topics in this correspondence include yellow fever epidemics in Philadelphia, news about family and friends/acquaintances, current reading, real estate and other property matters, religion and church, advice on health matters, legal and fiscal matters, publishing and writing, the American Revolution, the 1848 revolution in France and Major Poussin, politics and political careers, etc. Also with the papers are some court and legal documents from Richard Rush. These papers are part of the historic psychiatry material in the Menninger Archives.

Creator: Rush, Benjamin, 1746-1813

Date: 1791-1856

Callnumber: Menninger Historic Psychiatry Coll., Rush, Box 1

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 223253

Item Identifier: 223253

www.kansasmemory.org/item/223253

KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Kansas Memory

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

my dear Julia / Philad: 25 July 1791

Your letters by ~~post~~ ^{Mr. Reed} Dr. Hosack and ~~W~~ Reed all came to hand. All the things you wrote for in each of them shall be sent on Tuesday morning by W^r Reed, together with the letter intended to have gone by M^r Wayne. M^r Sage found them packed in one of his drawers. — I shall answer timely letter by W^r Reed. —

I rejoice to hear that you & all the children enjoy good health. Richard is perfectly recovered of his ~~illness~~ ^{ailment}. He dined with me this day at Dr White's and behaved like a little gentleman. —

John Fox is arrived from London to begin his studies with me in a few days. I shall send you his father's letter to me in which your name is mentioned, by W^r Reed. —

W^r Smith returned with his amiable bride from Pottsgrove on Wednesday

Kansas Memory

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

last. On the bright of this festivity on
friday, Mrs. Smith arrived in our² of her
Mother being at the point of death in
Maryland. They both set off immediately
to see her. It is expected they will not
find her alive. —

Betsy Bullock continues to decline,
& with great pain from her cough.

Mrs. Wm Bradford went out in a
great hurry this evening to Rosehill
to see Mrs Bayard. Mrs Coltrane is
to be her midnight friend. —

Mrs. Edwards & her children arrived
here on friday evening from Charleston.

I yesterday rec'd six large water
melons from Mrs Byrne. ~~I sent~~ I divided
the most in our kitchen & shop, & have
distributed the rest thro' the neighborhood.

Betsy Bullock has had two of them.
She enjoys them as much as she
did your oranges. —

Kansas Memory

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

I met my black friends on Monday evening last agreeably to appointment. we had a pleasant hour together. I am to meet them tomorrow evening on the same business. - Our prospects brighter - & all I hope will end well. -

Adieu. with love to each of the children - the same as if named, & all friends at Morven & Princeton

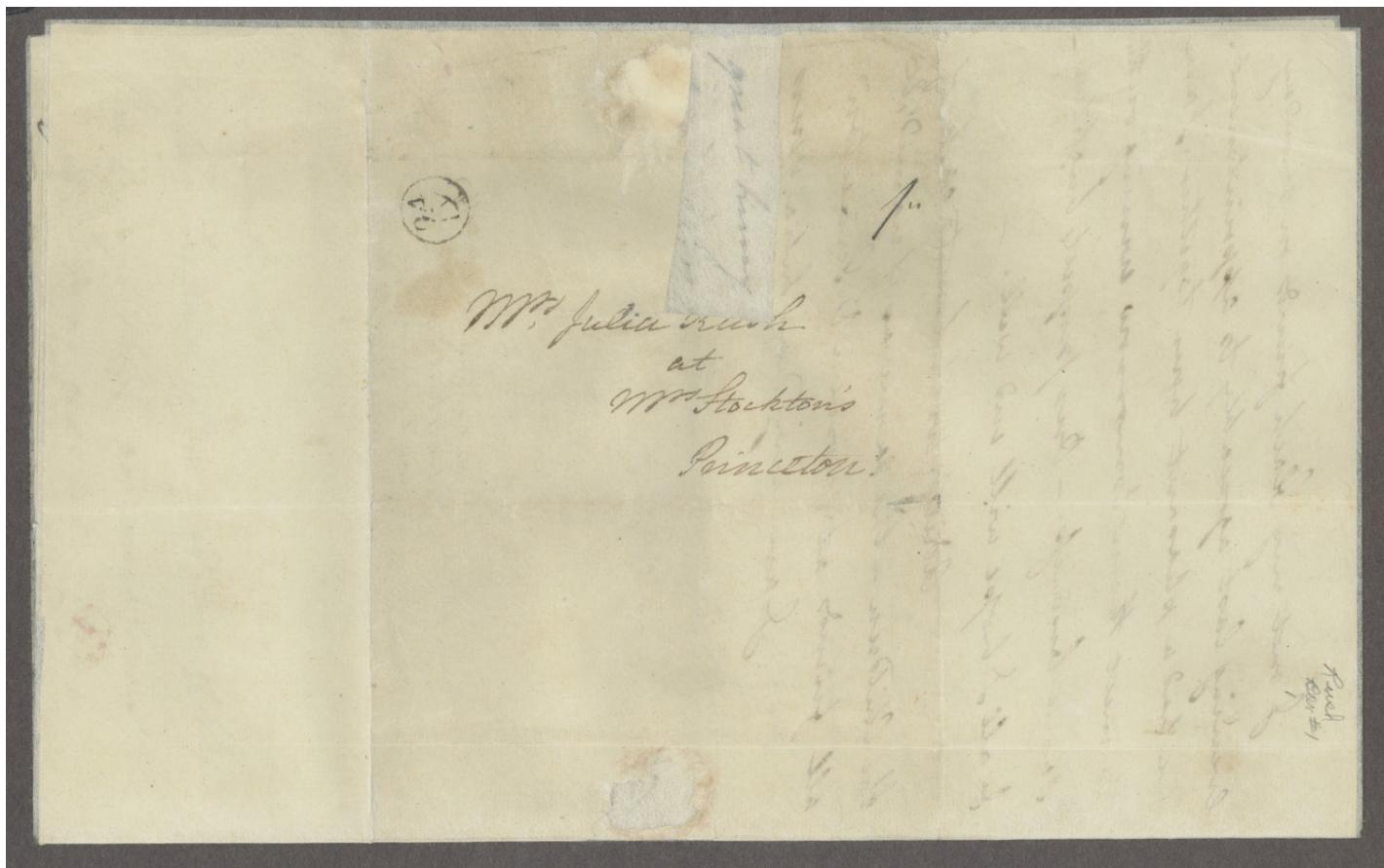
I am very dear Julia yours

The signature was cut off
by Mrs. Rush to give to some
one who applied for an
autograph of Dr. Rush.

Kansas Memory



Benjamin and Richard Rush papers



Kansas Memory

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

350
my dear friends

Confiding in your sympathy with the sick, I had taken all the grapes I found in your garden, & distributed them among my patients ^{before I received your letter.} They were received with great gratitude, & had a most agreeable effect upon the disease in several cases. Your black man was removed to the wigwam. The white man whom you left at your house has been faithfully attended, and is upon the recovery. Be assured

Kansas Memory

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

my good friend, that ^{ever} a dog belong^{ing} to Peter Browne should not be neglected by me. I am sorry to add, that the disease increases, not only in Southwark, but in the northern liberties. The city is as yet ~~many~~ but little infected, on the north side of Spruce street. The late cool evenings & nights have excited the fever in many people. — Take care of yourself, & of all your family. You were always dear to me, but never

Kansas Memory

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

more so than in the time of
adversity in which time I am
sure I have your sympathy &
prayers.

From your sincere

Philadelphia

friend

Sep^r. 8. 1797.

Benj^m Rush



Kansas Memory

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers



Peter Brown Esq^r

Hinseling. —

Frank
Dear Mr.
2



Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers

My dearest Julia, Haverhill Sept^{er} 6. 1798

I have read Rob Cuthbert's letter with attention. From the history he has given of himself, I am more disposed than ever to rejoice in the issue of Uncle's engagement to him. Defections from morality are often reported of, and profligate young men ~~of~~ now and then make excellent and serious members of Society, but defections from just principles, are seldom followed by re-pentance, and generally continue to exert their influence thro life. I should sooner expect habits of virtue ⁱⁿ a man that had spent 3 years in the lists of the ~~umpires~~ ^{than} ~~umpires~~ ⁱⁿ a man who had spent 3 years in the abominable Society of the Disciples

Kansas Memory

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

of Godwin in London. His principles leave a foul and incurable leprosy upon the mind. I am struck at the cold manner in which he recites the detail of his vicious opinions and practices. nothing like remorse appears in his letter. So far from it, he seems to triumph in a retrospect of his conduct by deriving from it what he calls a "knowledge of human nature".

I am decidedly against a renewal of the correspondence proposed, and wish this letter to be preserved (if it should take place) as a testimony of my hearty disapprobation of it.

Mr. letter discovers the same obliquity of understanding, that I have constantly remarked in all his former letters. — I quit this disagreeable subject for the distemping one of the yellow fever.

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers

The papers will inform you of the increase of deaths in our city. In the midst of this great mortality we have fresh reason to be thankful. On Sunday morning Mr. was seized with the fever at his own house. One bleeding, two doses of physic, and two sweats, have placed him on his feet. He is now well, and expects in a day or two to renew his services to me as ~~conjuror~~. The rest of the family continue in good health.

I paid a short visit this afternoon to Bishop White; accompanied by Richard Lane. Our little boy behaved to a charm. The young ladies were delighted with him.

I have laid aside my pen a few minutes in order to obey a call in our neighborhood to see Bobo and his apprentice, who have brought the fence with them from town.

Mr. Bondinot's Prince is I hope in a safe way, so is our Billy's Sweetheart a

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers

mollatto girl whom I visited at his request in
Pine Street.

System: 27th -

My excursion to the city this morning was more distressing than usual. I found my friend Dr. Griffiths delicated, and unable to go out. He had just buried his house keeper - an excellent woman whom he treated like a ~~dear~~ Sister. ^{respected &c} Mr. George W. Lyon died last night. He was attended by a French Physician. Richd's friend M'Kern died yesterday at the Dispensary. Poor fellow! he had not a friend in the city but Dr. Griffiths. ^{saw him once &} I offered him money. He declined accepting it, and said Dr. Griffiths supplied all his wants.

While I was in the city I received a note from the Committee of health requesting me to visit the city hospital ^{as consulting physician.} Once a day & I readily complied with the request. It will excuse me from taking any more poor people in the city under my care. There is no contagion at the hospital. Dr. Cooper took the disease

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers

by repeatedly tasting the black matter dis-
charged from the stomachs of dying patients.
no other attendant at the hospital has
been sick with the fever. Dr. Physick is in
excellent health. I can go to the hospital
without passing thro' the town. The poor pa-
tients whom I shall now visit in the city &
country will be such as will ~~long~~ ^{satisfy} another
day for the wear, and take of my carriage,
as well as enable me to supply some of
those wants in the poor which it has pleased
God plentifully to supply, ⁱⁿ our little family in
the country. —

Remember what we both advised in
your favorite author Wilberforce. Our em-
ployments and places of residence should not
be of ours own "choosing" - and for this
reason - we are "not our own" - we "are
bought with a price." — My present good

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers

good health, the moderate share of labor which I am exposed to and the returning Confidence and good will of the Citizens of Philadelphia towards me all create an obligation (that it would be difficult to resist) ~~not to do~~ to do all the good I can ~~in~~ in this day of duty and universal distress. — After we have completed some new arrangements in our hospital, I hope to be able to pay you a visit. Suppose you take a peep at us in the hut? — In a week or ten days, I hope we shall be able ~~to~~ to accommodate you with a private bed in ~~the~~ the room now occupied for a kitchen. — We expect ~~before~~ ⁱⁿ that time to put up a small shed between the brick house & the well that will serve to boil a teakettle, and cook a dinner of soup. — Adieu my Dear old friend. With love as usual I am ever yours Benj^m Rush

P.S. Godwin in his System ~~opposes~~ — annihilates marriage — ~~stands~~ public worship —

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers

the soul, and finally he attempts to annihilate a GOD. a mind that has once been the receptacle of such principles, can never be made to receive moral or divine truth, unless it become the subject of a change equal to that which Paul underwent at his conversion?

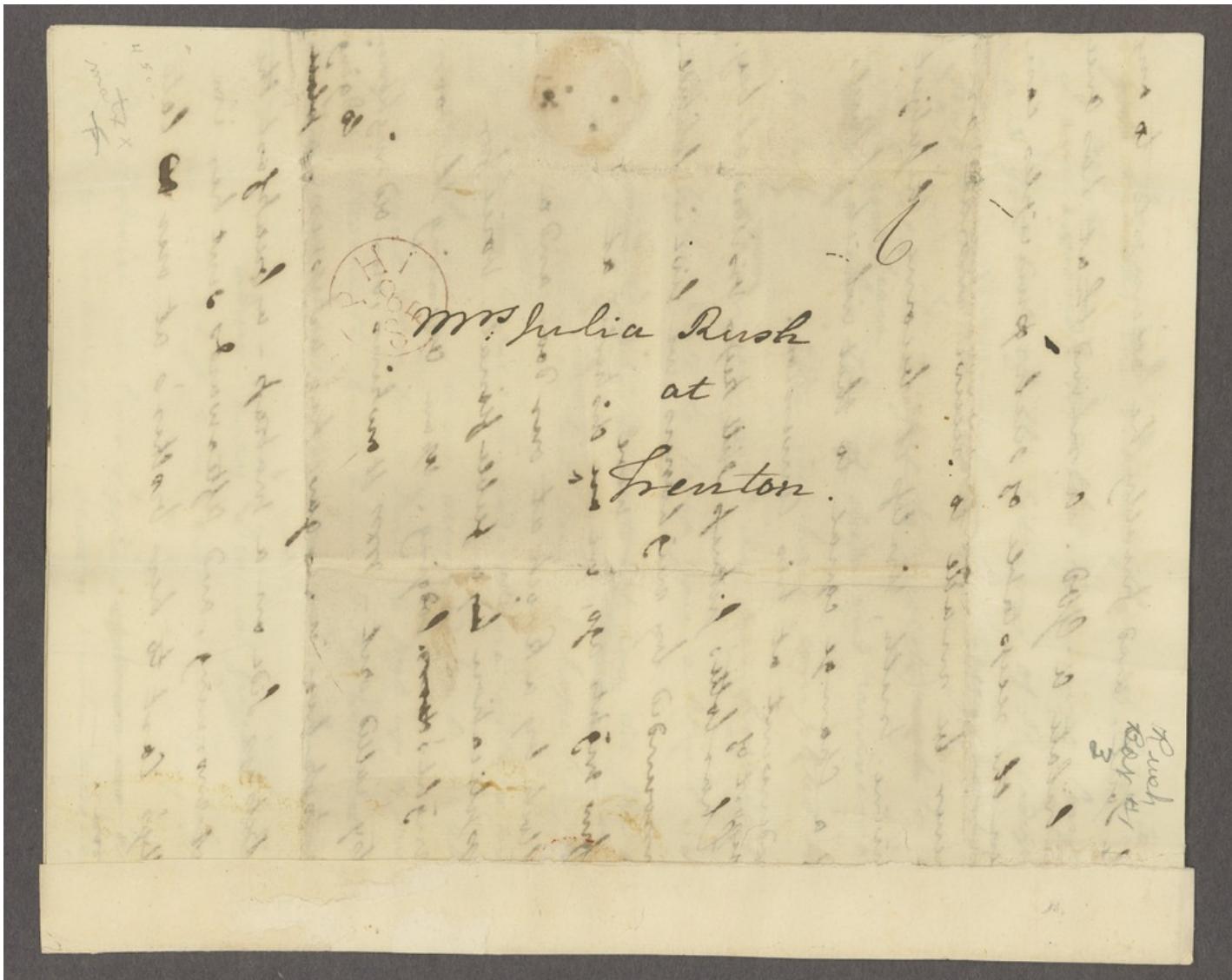
The report of
Charlotte's sickness still keeps visitors at bay.
Surrounded by neighbors, we live in solitude.
A few nights ago, we were disturbed at
10 o'clock by a knock at our door and a
supplication ⁱⁿ by a feeble female voice for
a night's ~~door~~ lodging. Upon opening the door
Betsy called out - Mrs Hawkins, our old neighbor
we took her in - & gave her a supper - a place
by Betsy's side on a matrap - a breakfast the
next morning, and afterwards sent her in
Billy's cart to her brother's at our late
farm. —

Kansas Memory

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

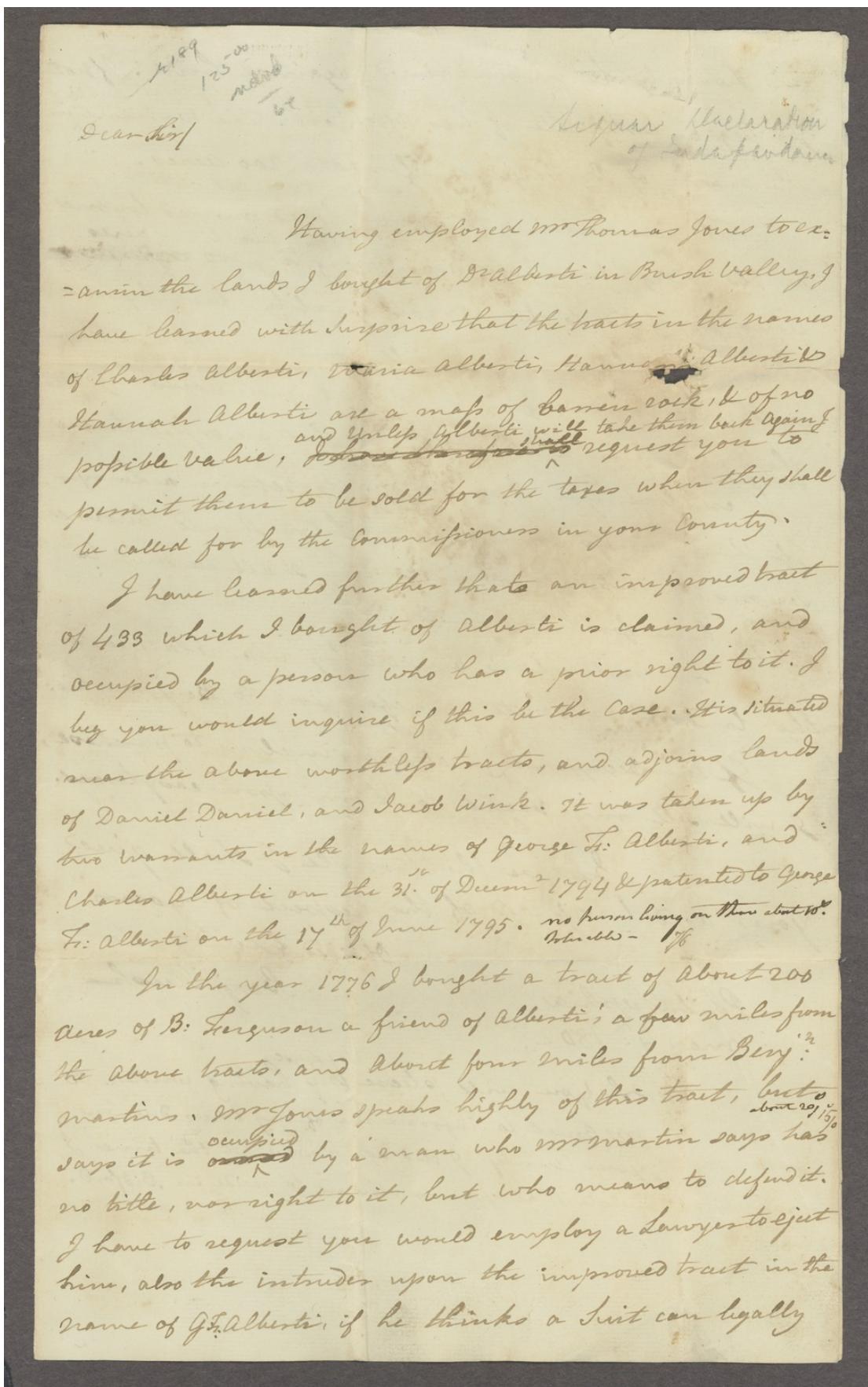


Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers



Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers

and honestly be maintained against him. If not,
I beg a Certificate of his Opinion. He was ⁱⁿ ~~entitled~~
the name of B. Ferguson for the 200 acres.

The remaining tracts of land owned by me
in the neighbourhood amounting to ^{about} ~~2000~~ ^{acres}
acres are said to be of good quality - but by means
of ~~not~~ ^{the} land. — I will continue to hold them,
and will thank you to prevent intrusions upon
them, & to inform me of the taxes that are, or shall become
due on them.

I enclose you ten dollars to retain a Lawyer.
If the business committed to him should become
serious, a liberal compensation shall be sent to
repay him for his trouble.

For particulars omitted by me relative to
the lands in dispute, I refer you to Benj^m Franklin.

If the Occupants ^{of the two tracts} I claim, incline to purchase,
I will sell my right to them upon easy terms.

Because the trouble I shall give
you, and be assured of the respect of yours

Obliged friend

Philadelphia
May 4th 1802.

Benj^m Rush

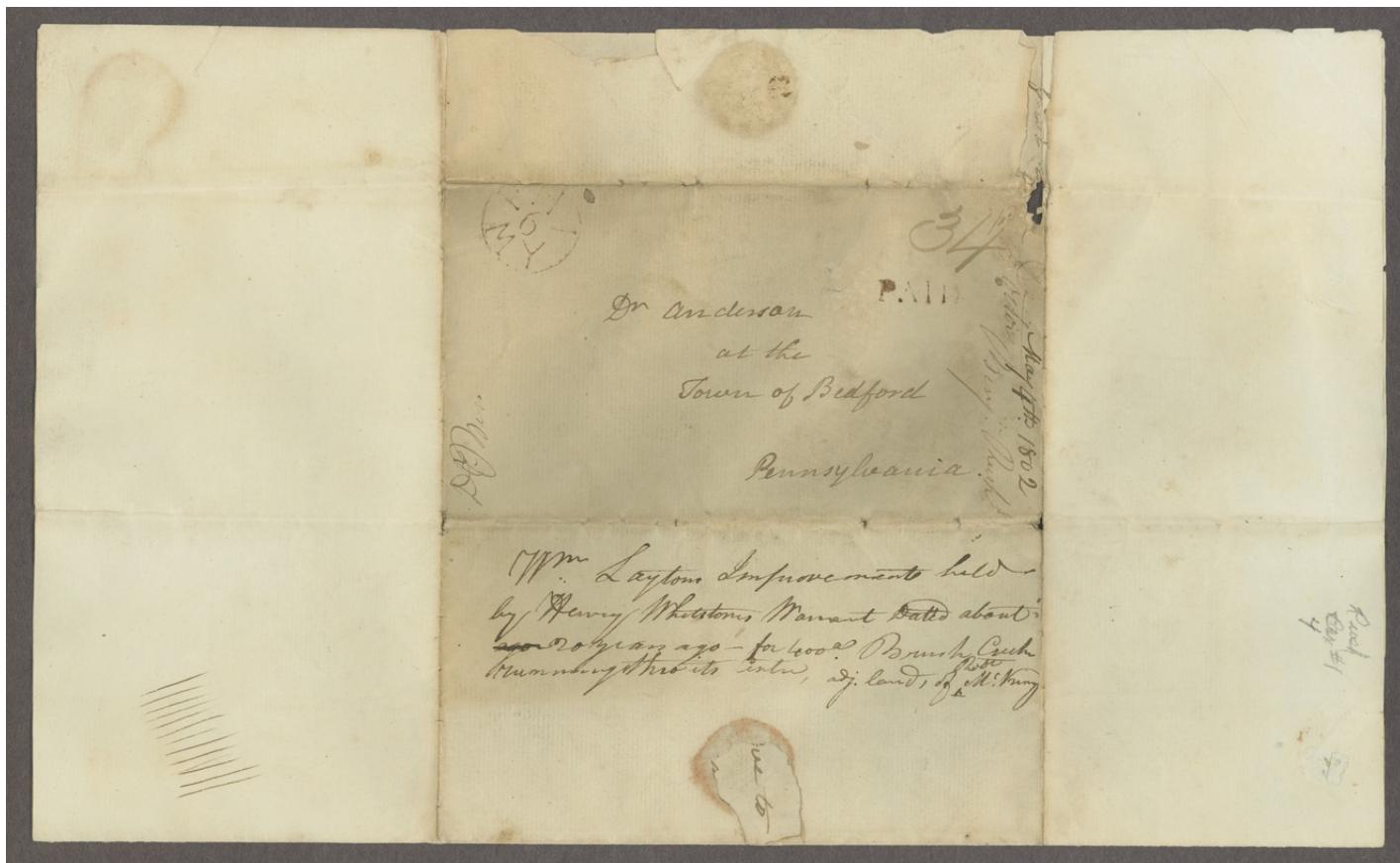
P.S. You will please ^{excuse} having written to
Mr. Bonet to inform me of my taxes due in
your County. I did not know at the time I
wrote that you continued to reside in Bedford.

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers



Kansas Memory

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Nov. 1.

Dear Sir /

All my children should know each other. The brother Dr. Murdoch was educated in my shop, and of course is your younger brother - You may safely own and cherish him, for he will do credit to our medical family. — I beg your attention to him. He has talents, knowledge and worth.

Yours D^r Sir Yrs

Sincerely

Benj: Rush

Philadelphia
Septem^r 16. 1806

Kansas Memory

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers

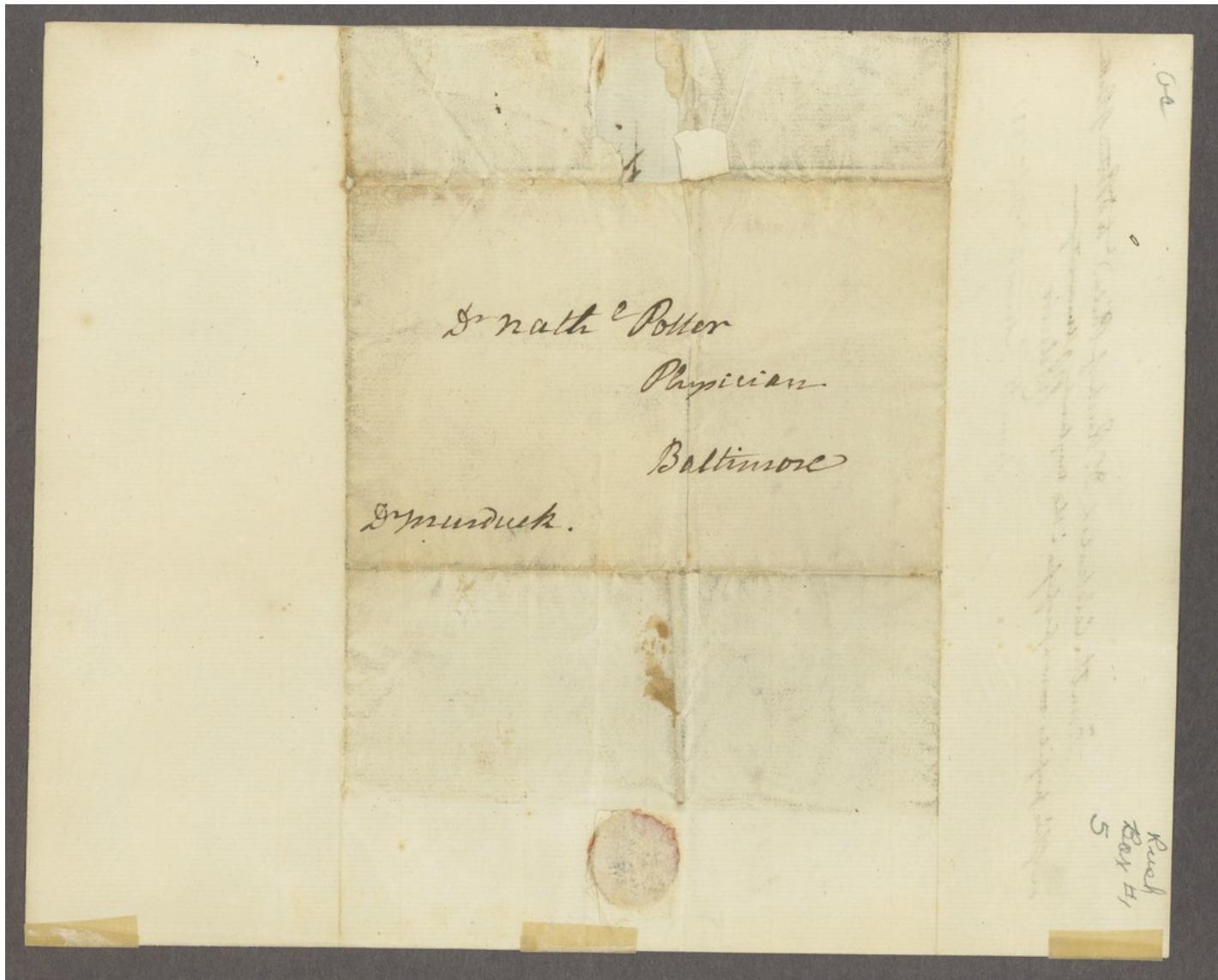


KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

From the celebrated Dr. Rush of Philadelphia to Doctor Wattan
one of his pupils, now a professor in the Maryland University
R. Gilmore
from N. Elmwood 9th Oct. 1831

Kansas Memory

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers



Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers

My dear Julia.

Philadelphia Aug²⁰ th 1808.

The post unfortunately slipped off before I returned from a near excursion into the Country. ~~the~~ I regret your disappointment this evening in not hearing from me. I know by experience how to sympathize with you.

William reached home at 5 o'clock in the afternoon with our two excellent domestic friends and servants in fine spirits.

We are all well & the different orbs of that family move in their usual Order.

Peter Matthews has traced me this morning into the purchase of 12 cords & 1/4 or 1/8 of excellent hickory wood at 6 dollars & 3/4 per cord.

William is preparing to introduce the domestics to this new apartment on Monday. The court is completely paved. - August 21st

' all Oration through divine goodness to enjoy
I have this day heard Dr Green speak

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers

an excellent lesson from these words "ye are not your own, - ye are bought with a price": I pray God that I may feel the influence of his sensible and pious exhortation and application of that passage of scripture, as long as I live.

In reading the 47th chapter of Jeremiah this morning I was much struck with the following bold apostrophe. After describing the desolations of war, he cries out "O! thou sword of the Lord, - how long will it be ere thou be quiet? - put up thy into thy scabbard, rest - and be still." Had this gibbous exclamation been in Horner, or ^{Cicero} ~~Shakspeare~~, it would have been made as familiar to our eyes and ears by quotation as ^{the} common "house-words" of Shakspear. I would to Heaven that the whole world would unite in addressing ~~that~~ it to the sword of Bonaparte, - for however much, & justly we may execrate him, ~~the~~ his sword is the "sword of the Lord".

Adieu! my beloved India. With
Love to Children, & all our friends.

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers

Aug^r 22. I enclose you a letter from our
Dear Emily. you will please to write to
her on Saturday. & I will write to mary.



Kansas Memory

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers



20
Mrs. Julia Rush
at the Rev. Mr. Hunter's
Princeton
New Jersey.

Rush
Dear Mr.
John

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers

Dear Sir,

Philadelphia March 30th 1810.

Autograph Collection

of
Dr. Max Thorek
Chicago

It will be to no purpose to attempt to cure your disease while you lead the anxious, dissultory life of a member of Congress. Protracted sessions, and sometimes after night, long intervals between meals, and all the fatigues of your mind constantly in a state of tension or languor, are a powerful counter current to all the remedies that can be prescribed for your disease. Your only business should be to take care of your health, and this can only be done in the business and pursuits of private life. —

Of the articles of diet you have mentioned fish, found wild and tame, — oysters — soft-boiled eggs — milk — whey & ^{wheat} ~~twasted~~ bread — ~~meat~~ Oats all proper for you. To these you may

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers

add weak Chocolate (neither very hot, nor cold)
and occasionally a little sound old wine of any
kind, or a little porter.

Continue to take any kind of medicine
that gently moves your bowels. —

Drink from a gill to half a pint of tar
water every day; or if this cannot be easily pro-
-cured, take five grains of tar made into pills with
a little Colombo root in powder three times a day.

It will give me great pleasure to con-
-tribute further to your relief by my advice, when
you pass through Philadelphia on your way to New
-Jersey.

From thine yours

very respectfully

Benjⁿ Rush

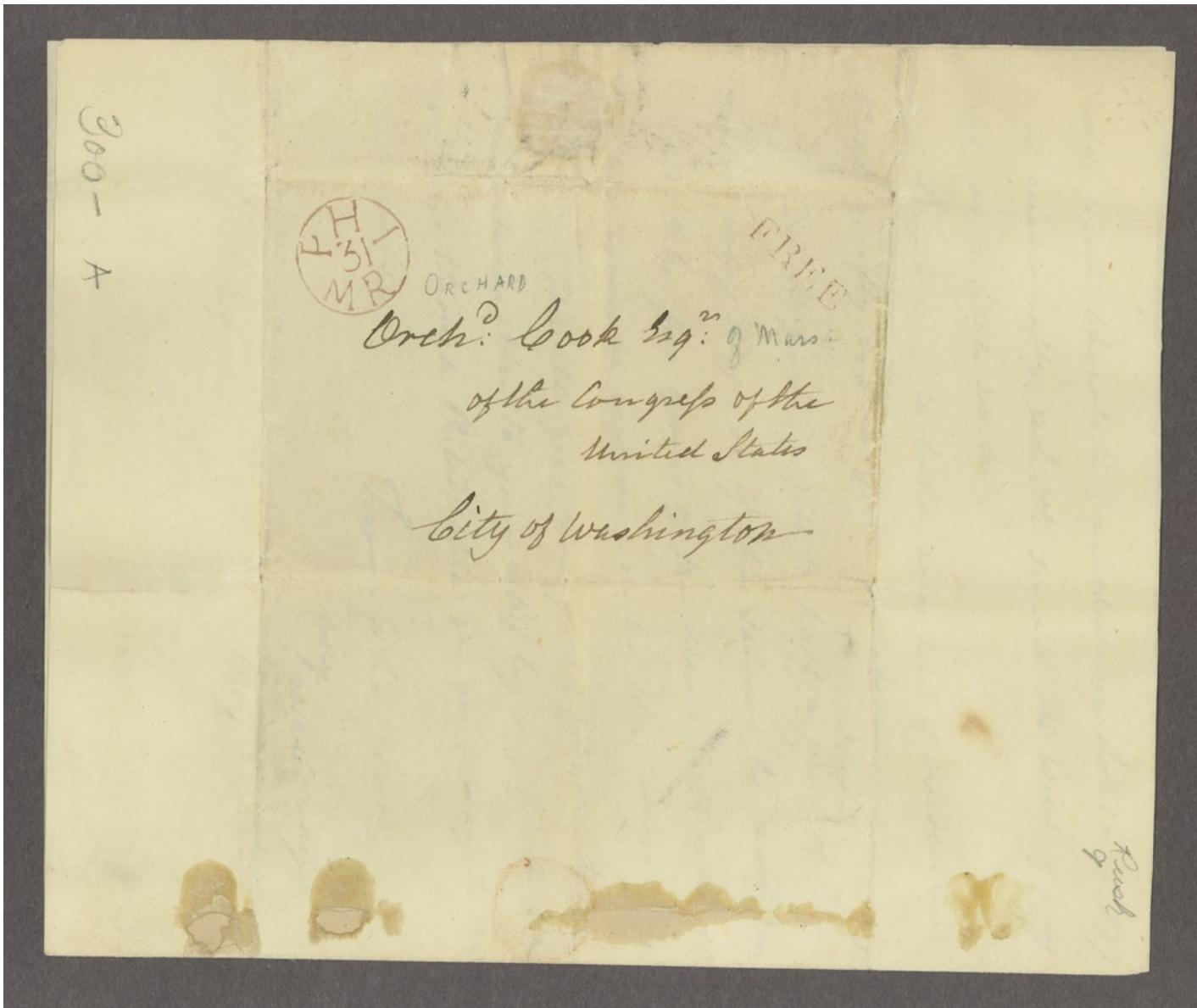
D: Cook Esq:

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers



Kansas Memory

Benjamin and Richard Rush papers



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

my dear India,

Philadelphia Septem^r 25: 1812

Is it possible that my friend & comrade
of six and thirty years standing should pass near
a week within 40 miles of me, and not drop
me a single line? - who would have expected it?
- when neglected - when deserted - and even persecuted
by friends, by pupils, and by persons more nearly
connected with me, I have always found consola-
tion in reflecting that I popularized the friendship
and affection of my wife. —

This evening had the mortification
Brownson has referred to the Constitution
of the treasury for the particulars of the errors
and contradictions in Col: Cap's letter. Alas! our
poor son is now considered as the Birns of Wash-
ington.

Instead of receiving a half year's half pay which
I supposed was due to poor John, the accountant
of the many bills to Richard that he is still