

My Dear,

Camp at White Marsh Church 11 miles
above Phil^a. Nov: 7th 1777.

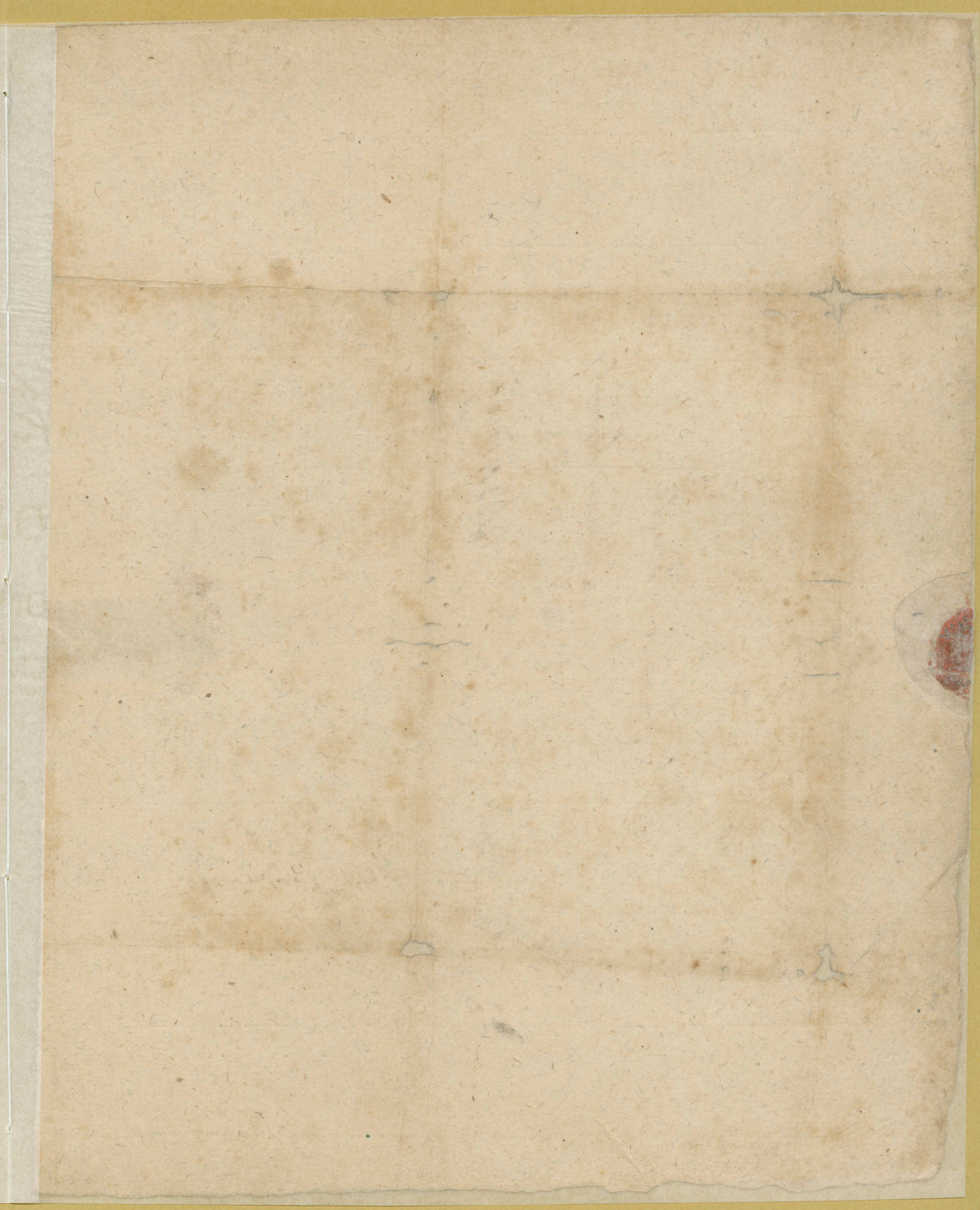
As I cannot omit any acct^y of waiting you
I make use of this to inform you first that I am well &
secondly that an affair happened the day before yesterday that
not only does great Honour to the American Arms but will
in my opinion be of infinite consequence & importance in
its consequences. On the fourth instant we had notice
that a large body of the enemy had gone out of Phil^a
in boats & two Floating Batteries to attack our Post at
the Chevre de frus & that it was to be made the next day
being the 5th Inst: This affair engaged the whole Attention
of the Camp & our ~~great~~ Anxiety for the safety of the Post
was great & which was considerably increased the next day
when the firing began which was early in the morning.
I could not forbear with some other Gentlemen riding
down to a place from which we could have a view of
the Action, but the Dulness of the day prevented our seeing
the affair so distinctly as I could have wished.
This morning we have rec^d the Adv^t of the Post, it seems the
enemy made a vigorous effort but was repulsed at three
different times & thro. we have not got the Adv^t of their loss
we are convinced from the Nature of the Attack & the
Defense our people made with Grape shot that it must be
very considerable, & I think it will be the Misery of the
enemy, leaving Phil^a perhaps in a weeks time, provisions
are exceeding scarce & bad, & I have not much doubt but the

enemy must go, a detachment from Gen. Gates' Army we are told
are near at hand when they get here every avenue from the Town to
the Country will be stopp'd up when they must fight on disadvantage-
ous terms, perish or leave the City. it is a great Misfortune that
we have not more men, 10,000 more would have finish'd the war
some time since without fighting, the Militia will not do, they
are ~~not fit~~ cannot wait in Camp till advantageous oppor-
tunity may offer for action, Gen. Clinton has evacuated fort Mifflin
& after burning every thing on the shores of the North river, secured
himself again in New York. I have not been able to find out the
Strength of our Army, but think there are not much difference
between that & the enemy's, having had conveniences for writing
& a Crowd round me in a small Tent I must conclude desiring you will
write me when a safe oppor-^t offers I believe me to be with love to the
family, Sincerely

Your loving husband

Alexr. Powell

I hope to have the pleasure of
seeing you this Winter. }



To

Mrs Sarah Powell

London County

Genl. by
M^{rs} Pichette

Virginia

November 7 1779

