

Warina March 31:97

Dear Sir,

I am going up to Richmond tomorrow with my children to be inoculated. I shall take lodgings somewhere and stay with them myself till they are safe through as Mrs. Randolph cannot be with them on account of the age of the youngest, being just about teething. If Mr. Waltham & yourself will trust some of your little ones that are just about the right age which is any where above four I will engage to take the same care in every respect as of my own & no doubt will have them safe through. This is the very best season of the year for them to take it.

I have just heard from Mr. Jefferson he says "the fever at Philadelphia & Baltimore is

2 Dollars 13 Cents, at Alexandria & Dumfries 1. 69.  
at Fredericksburg 1. 16. The merchants of Philad.  
& Baltimore think wheat & flour will keep at their  
present prices the present season notwithstanding  
the threatening aspect of affairs with France.

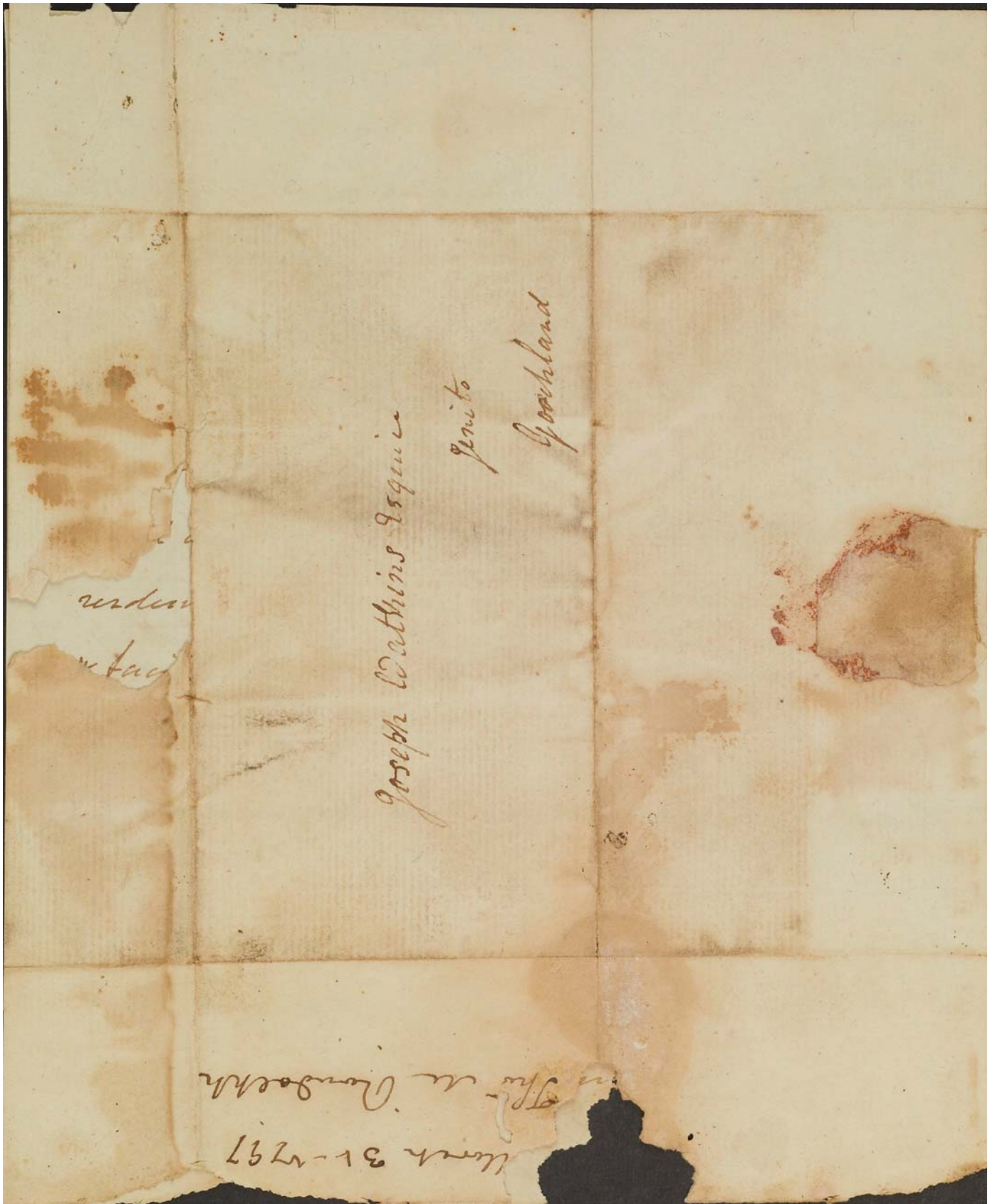
I do not know what occasions the gradual fall  
as you come South but tis certainly the barter  
which occasions the high prices to the Northward by  
rendering money easy to be had & of course encouraging  
& facilitating speculation.

If you send any of your children down they had better  
stop in some safe place somewhere about Scuffletown  
till their conductor comes in to give me notice upon  
which I will carry out a Physician & inoculate them  
before I bring them in.

Your sincere friend.

J. Watkins Esq.

W. M. Randolph



Original manuscript in the Joseph Watkins Papers, Albert & Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia