



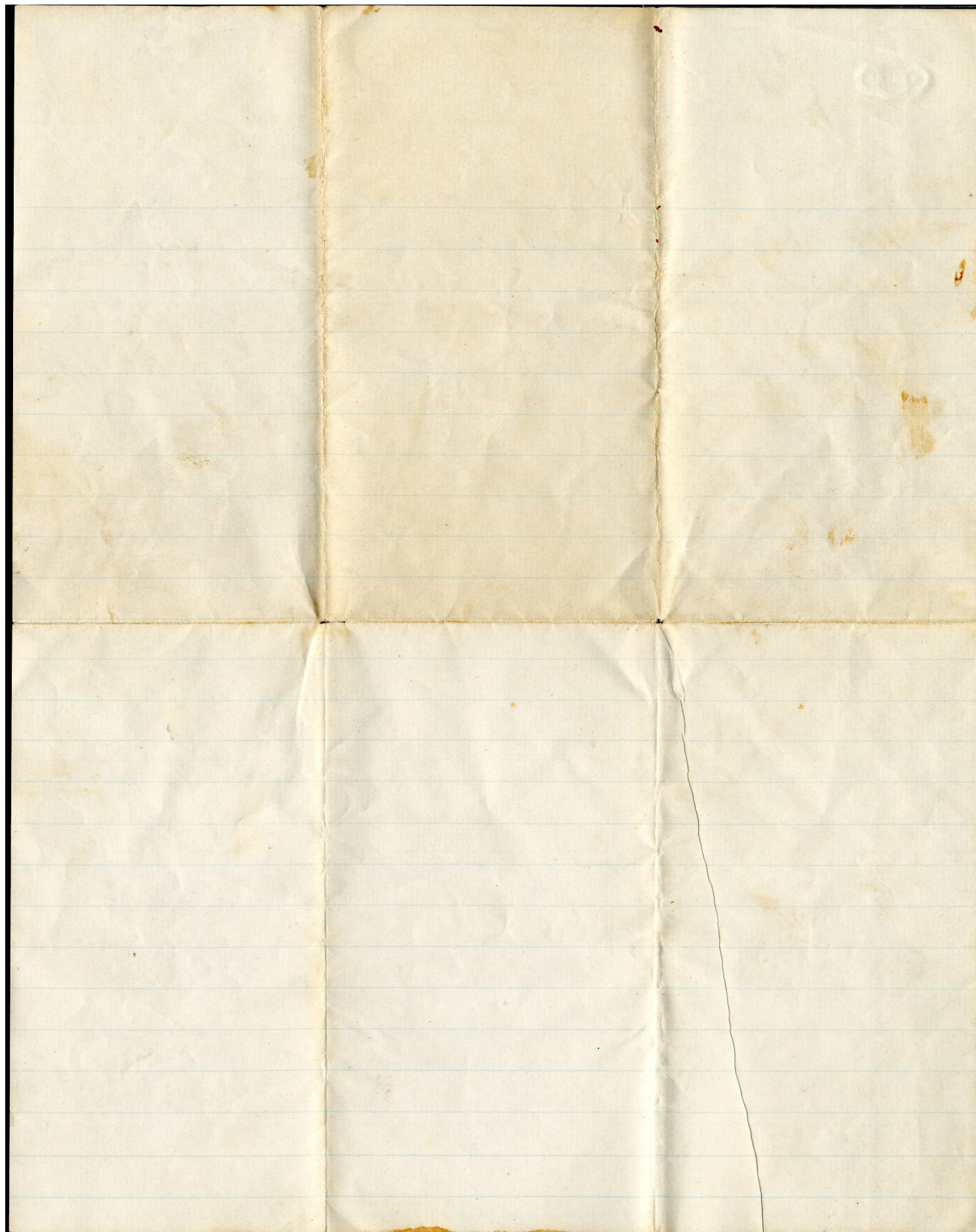
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Office of the Washington Monument  
Society—  
Washington, April, 30-1877

Edward A. Fulton,  
Wilmington, Delaware;  
Dear Sir,

It affords me pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 27th inst., and to express to you the gratification the perusal of it has occasioned me. The Washington National Monument has been carried up to its present height <sup>174 ft.</sup> by the voluntary subscriptions of the people of the country at a cost of \$230,000, and to tear it down would be a National disgrace. I have the fullest confidence in the strength of the foundation to sustain much more than the additional weight that is contemplated to be placed upon it, and I derive my conviction of its stability from the opinions of practical mechanics, several of whom assisted in laying it. The idea of the insufficiency of the foundation to sustain the monument has only recently been suggested, and our people in this District pay no attention to it, regarding the severe test to

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which it has been subjected, of wind and storm, during the last thirty years, and still no practical eye can discover any change, either in the foundation or the obelisk. <sup>has ample proof of its strength.</sup> The report of the Board of Army Engineers is understood to be measurably adverse to the sufficiency of the strength of the foundation to sustain any additional weight, but this understanding does not seem to weaken public confidence in it in the slightest degree. The Engineer report has not yet been made public or a copy of it sent even to the Washington Monument Society. We are as much in the dark in relation to the real character of it, further than hear-say, as you are.

Very truly yours  
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which it has been subjected of wind and storm, during the last thirty years, and still no practical eye can discover any change, either in the foundation or the obelisk [inserted text] as ample proof of its strength. [inserted text] The report of the Board of Army Engineers is understood to be measurably adverse to the sufficiency of the strength of the foundation to sustain any additional weight, but this understanding does not seem to weaken public confidence in it in the slightest degree. The Engineer report has not yet been made public or a copy of it sent even to the Washington Monument Society. We are as much in the dark in relation to the real character of it, further than hear-say, as you are.

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