

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

### Section 2, Pages 31 - 60

Kansas Governor John P. St. John (1879-1883) received these letters from persons concerned with the migration of southern blacks to Kansas, commonly known as the Exodus or Exoduster movement. The letters come from blacks considering a move to Kansas, persons assisting with or monitoring the migration, officials of cities along the route, and persons providing for the relief of the migrants upon their arrival. The letters proceed in rough chronological order. Most include remnants of abstracts that were attached to the letter and then partially removed. The top of the abstract includes a reference to the letterpress book and page number of the governor's response. The governors' letterpress books are a separate collection. This collection comprises box 13 folders 13-15 and 20, box 14 folders 1-9, and box 15 folders 1-5 of the John St. John governor's records. The 1879-1880 correspondence was filed under "Immigration, Negro Exodus." The 1881-1882 correspondence was filed under "Freedman's Institute, Relief Association." A link to an inventory of St. John's entire governor's collection is available below. A full transcription is also available under "External Links."

Creator: Kansas. Governor (1879-1883 : St. John)

Date: April 1879 - October 1882

Callnumber: Governor's Office, St. John, Correspondence Received-Subject File, Box 13-15

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 210296

Item Identifier: 210296

[www.kansasmemory.org/item/210296](http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/210296)

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Lawrence and of Kansas. It is the  
desire of our friends here that  
you, as the Governor of the State,  
call a State Convention at once,  
to take hold of this important  
matter, and by proper State action  
save the good name of Kansas and  
send out to the whole country  
such a statement as will do us  
justice and vindicate the memory  
and the rights of those people upon  
the public lands.

For this very it is in our  
power to solve the brother problem  
in a way that future generations  
will live up and tell us  
gladly.

I hope you will act promptly  
and we will all stand by you  
in the good work.

Truly yours

John St. John. *St. John*

1865-1871

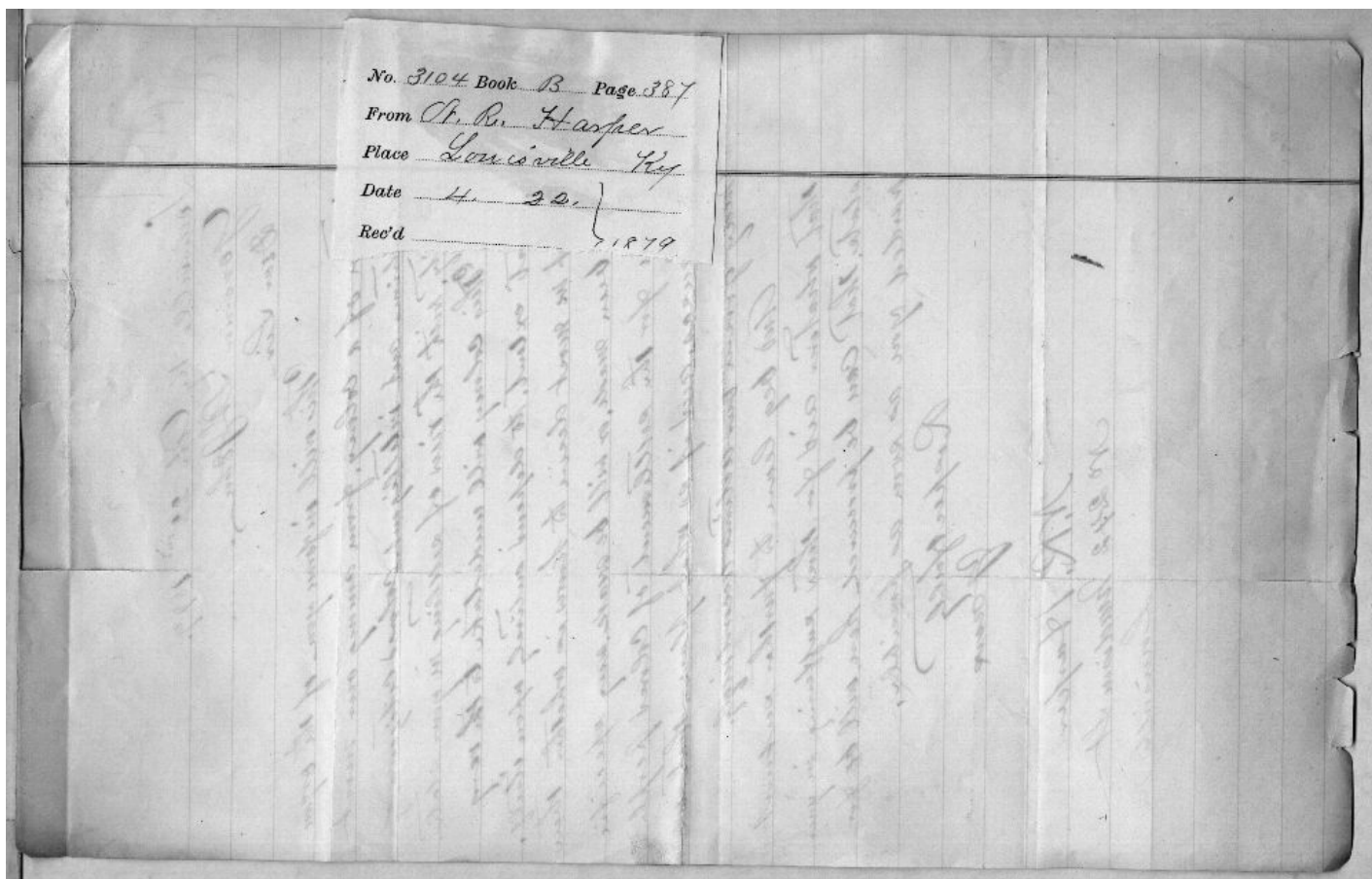
Dr. B.



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

H/M/79  
Louisville Ky. Apr 22<sup>nd</sup> 1879.  
Governor St. John  
Dear Sir -  
This will inform you of the organization of a colony, from among our most industrious and intelligent colored citizens, of this city, with the view of settling in your state.  
This colony will undertake to the very utmost extent, to depend entirely upon itself. What we most desire to know is whether there has been made, or will be made, any specific plan for the settlement of colored people in Kansas, and if so what plan, that we may govern our action accordingly.  
And beg leave to further submit that whatever aid for their suffering in your state, that can be procured here, will be forwarded you as soon as possible.  
Respectfully  
Yours  
N.R. Harper  
No 242 Madison St  
Louisville Ky.

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence





## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

H/23/79

Leavenworth, Kansas April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1879.  
Hon. J. St. John Topeka Kansas;

Dear Governor,

As I attempt to write you this p.m. the metropolis of our State, is filled with the gravest anxiety, in at the momentarily expectation of the arrival of a cargo of about four hundred colored immigrants from the far South; who come thither in quest of their freedom. The air is full of rumors this morning, the most of which, are entirely unfounded, I confess that I felt somewhat at alarm on being informed from what I supposed at the time to be a reliable report that Gen. Pope had issued an order <sup>on the Exoduster</sup> forbidding the landing of these poor people. But as yet no such order even that gentleman's signature <sup>on the Exoduster</sup> has found its way to the light and of hope that ~~none~~ none such ~~will~~ ever will.



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

I also trust - that Kansas will do nothing which will tend to disgrace her noble history in this terrible hour of calamity to the colored race. Allow me in expressing the most implicit confidence in your judgment as the representative of this great Commonwealth, to speak plainly, and say that this movement is by no means spasmodic - but ~~real~~ <sup>real</sup>. It is deep and determined. Nothing but the long suffering of the unprotected and recently emancipated race in America has stayed a bloody carnage, and Revolution of that people in the South.

This is a Revolution, but a peaceable and quiet one. Do you ask what has caused such a step? Then listen while I answer as only a black man, and former slave, can answer. In the first place we are robbed of our freedom in the South. our manhood is not even respected, our people are murdered <sup>without</sup> mercy, our school houses are burned, our families are outraged, we are in debt at the end of every year.



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

because white men take advantage of our ignorance and prey upon our generosity.

Oh, what has not the poor negro borne for his country? what people on the face of God's green earth has suffered so much? The colored race, loving justice as we do have settled upon this peaceably plan to liberate ourselves. I say it in the most candid spirit and earnestly, and I do hope that the forbearance of the loyal north will not violate the exalted position taken, when secession trained their guns on the nation and asked for its life. Every black man and woman is hungry for liberty in its broadest sense and in striking for it we can almost see old patriots glory of the old Dominion when he said, "I care not what cause others may take, as for me give me liberty or give me death." This Sir is the sentiment of the colored race today in America and this emigration ~~can not~~ will not end but with the fullest conversion of liberty to all men.





## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

to But I have written you at too great  
length now for which I ask pardon,  
and may I ask you in conclusion to stand  
firm as did Dr. Marton of Indiana  
God bless him he can never die.

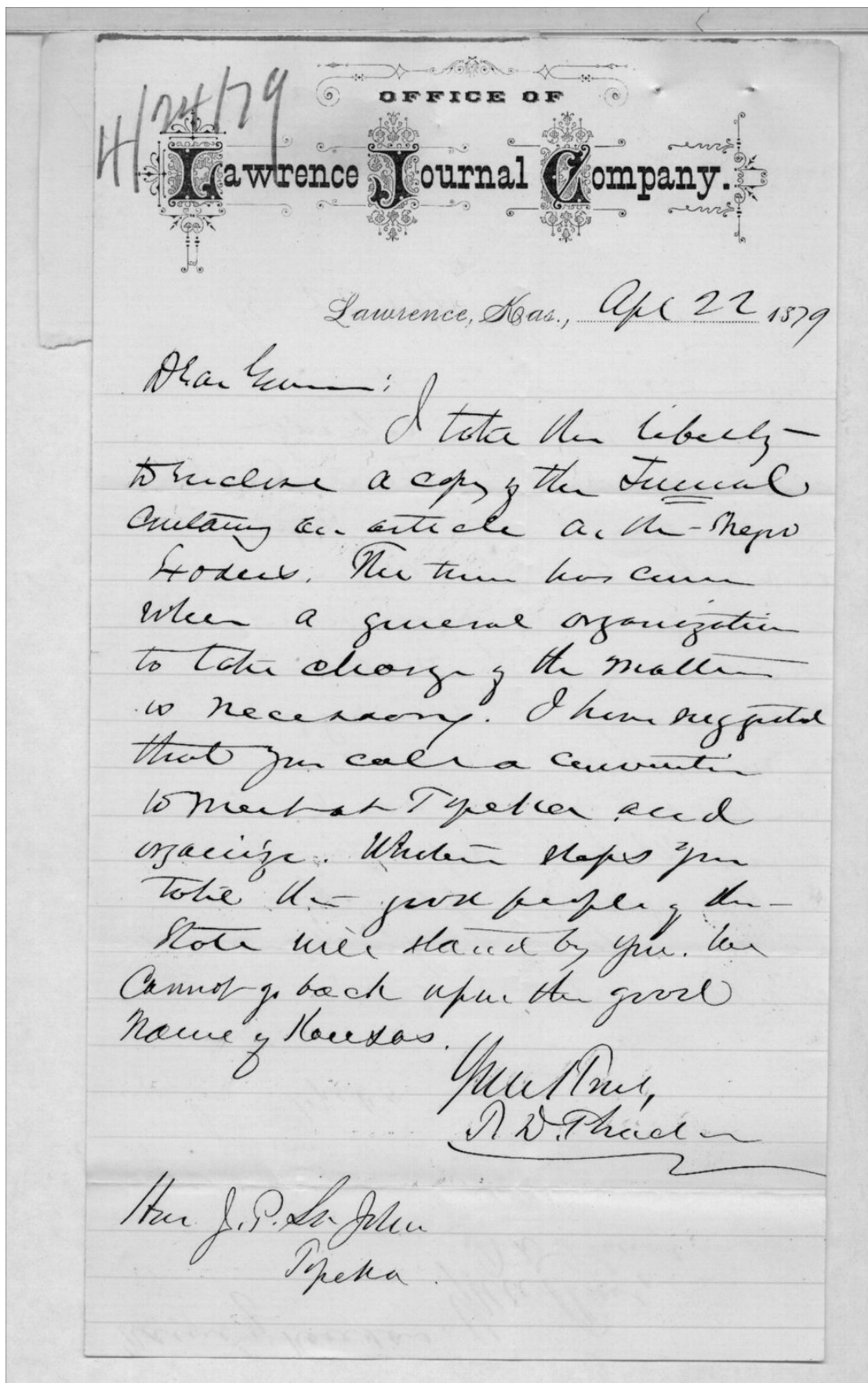
Respectfully

John L. Waller

No. 3106 Book 03 Page 387  
From John L. Waller  
Place Leavenworth Mo  
Date 4, 22, 79  
Rec'd  
Ans'd 4, 28, 79  
ABSTRACT.  
Kansas note do

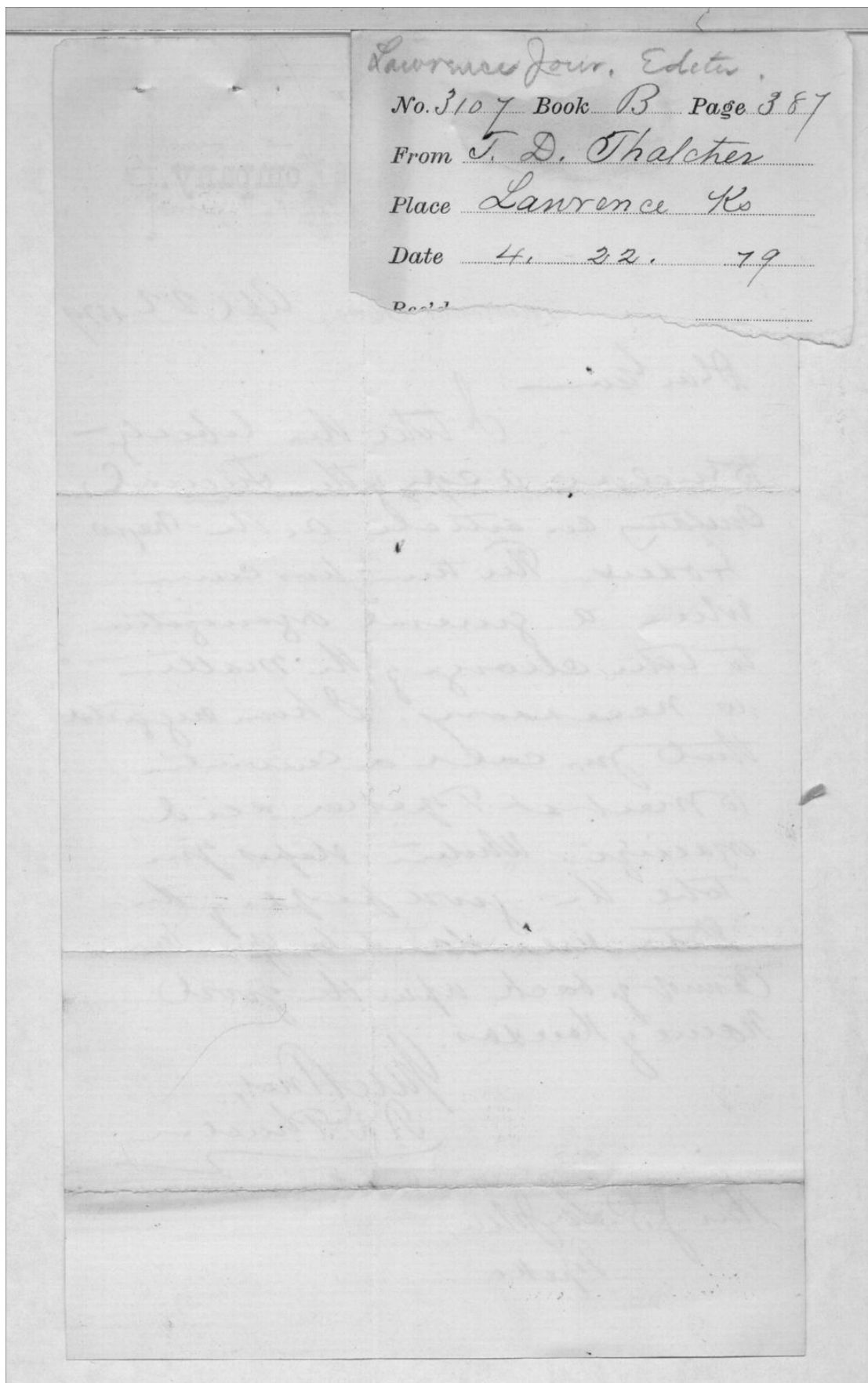


## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence





## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence







## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

*Apr. 22, 1879*

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### THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

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This message is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE** and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

A. R. BREWER, Sec'y. *31* NORVIN GREEN, President.

Dated *Washington DC 4/22 1879*

Received at *TOPEKA, KANSAS.* *12 45 pm*

*John St John*

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.

*Seems telegram rec'd from  
introduced this for relief of  
immigrants, tents, bations  
security for Kansas  
Dallas passenger of the  
but very dreadful keep  
us posted as to situation  
De Haskeel  
30 Collins*





## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Cong. 1877-1883  
No. 3109 Book B Page 388  
From D. C. Haskell  
Place Washington D.C.  
Date 4, 22, 79  
Rec'd  
Ans'd

RECEIVED THE POLICE AT THE 100



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

W/M/179  
Kansas City Mo. Apr 23<sup>rd</sup> 1879  
Gov St. John  
Dear Sir  
Being desirous  
of aiding the Colored Refugees  
I hereby offer to your Committee  
my services gratuitously and  
will deliver a Popular Lecture  
for their benefit at any time  
your Committee may desire. If I  
am allowed to attend to the ad-  
vertising, I will insure them  
against loss and think I could  
hand them over a hundred dollars  
if not more.  
Res Yours  
Geo E Heydon Phd



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 3112 Book B Page 388

From Geo E. Hayden

Place Kansas City Mo

Date 4. 23. 1879

Rec'd

Ans'd 4. 24. 1879

### ABSTRACT.

offers his services to  
deliver a popular  
Lecture proceeds to be  
given to aid colored  
immigrants.





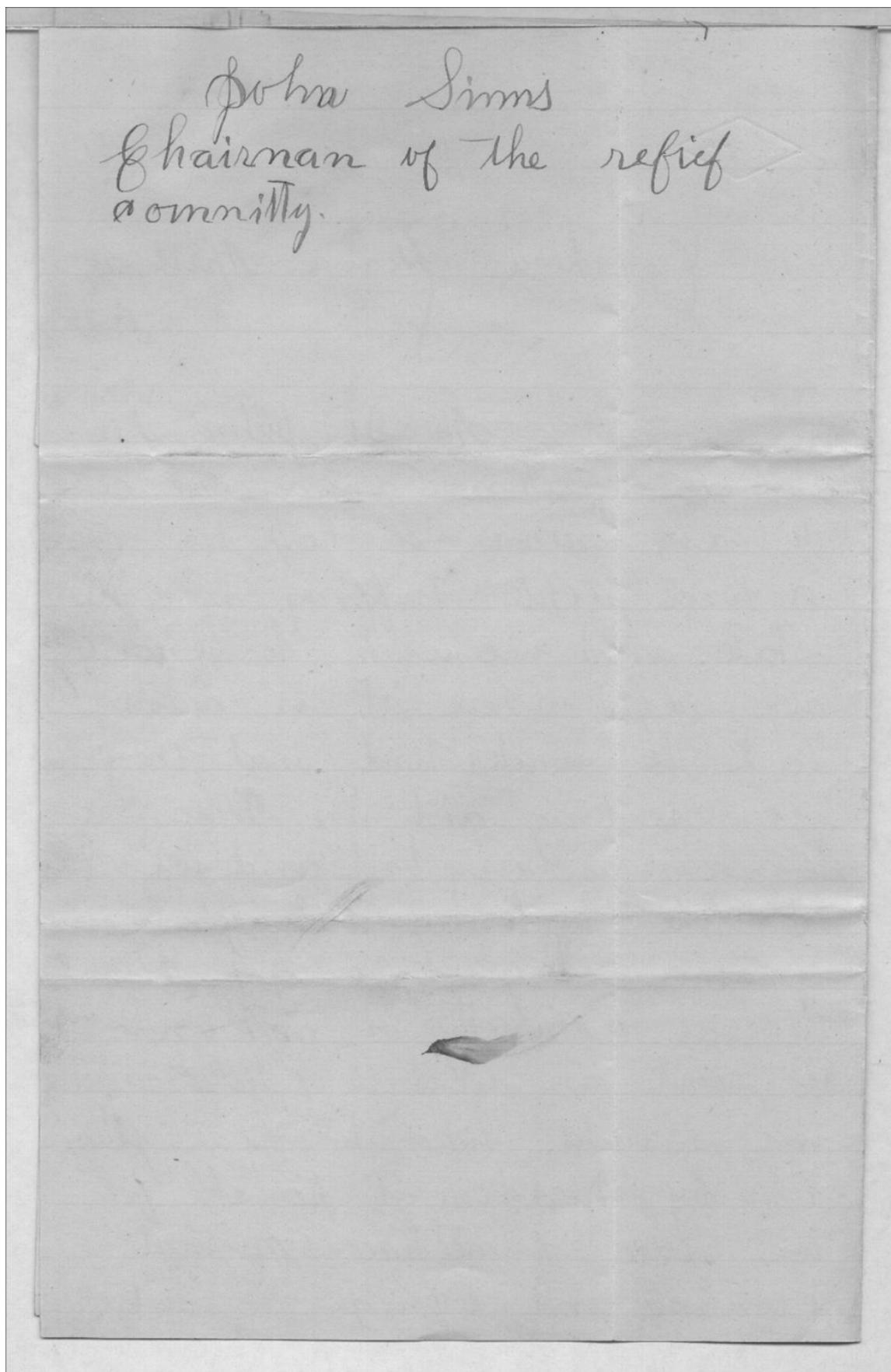
## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Osaka Iowa April 12

1879

Mr St. John. Sir  
We are making arrangements here  
to raise means to help the  
colored people suffering in your  
state, and we wish to send  
our help where it is needed  
best. We understand that they  
are needing aid in Wyandotte  
Kansas very bad and we would  
like to know through you  
whether they have got a re-  
liberal comnitty or not and if  
so send an address of the comnitty  
we would like to hear from  
you by Tuesday, if possible for  
we have a meeting on that  
evening and oblige

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence







## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. *3123* Book *B* Page *389*  
From *John Sims*  
Place *Oskaloosa Ks*  
Date *4. 19*  
Rec'd *1877*  
Ans'd *4. 28*

RECEIVED

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

24/126/79

Hannibal Mo. April 14/79

Gov. St. John

Sir,

At a meeting held  
at the A.M.E. Church  
in this City last  
evening to raise  
money to assist  
the Colored immigrant  
from the South  
who are now in  
the State of Kansas,  
\$30.00 was raised  
Also many articles  
of clothing was  
donated, both will  
be of great use to them.  
I will remit the  
money to you by.



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Post Office order  
tomorrow, I will  
wait an answer  
from you as to  
where we shall  
ship the boxes of  
clothing. A relief  
committee was  
appointed with  
myself as the  
chairman.

Please reply  
at your earliest  
convenience.

Respectfully  
J. M. Wilkerson  
Pastor A. M. E. Church.

P. S. Address  
P. O. Box No. 837



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 3138 Book B Page 191

From J. M. Wilkerson

Place Hamibal Mo

Date 4. 24

Rec'd 1879

Ans'd 4. 26

### ABSTRACT.

Says they have collected  
30<sup>00</sup> and clothing and  
wishing to know where  
a box of clothing can  
be sent to aid colored  
people.



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

4/26/79

Melrose Q. April 23 1879  
Governor J. St. John  
Topeka Kansas }  
Dear Sir

The Citizens of Melrose are giving practical expression to their sympathy for the destitute Colored people, who are now endeavoring to create new homes, for themselves, within the borders of your State. - A public Meeting was called in this interest, here, last Monday evening, which resulted in the appointment of a Committee for the collection of funds. - There have come into my hands today, as Treasurer, some liberal contributions, and I take great pleasure in handing you, enclosed, \$1470<sup>00</sup> of Commercial R.R. on R.R. of Commerce New York. for \$470<sup>00</sup>, which please acknowledge -





## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

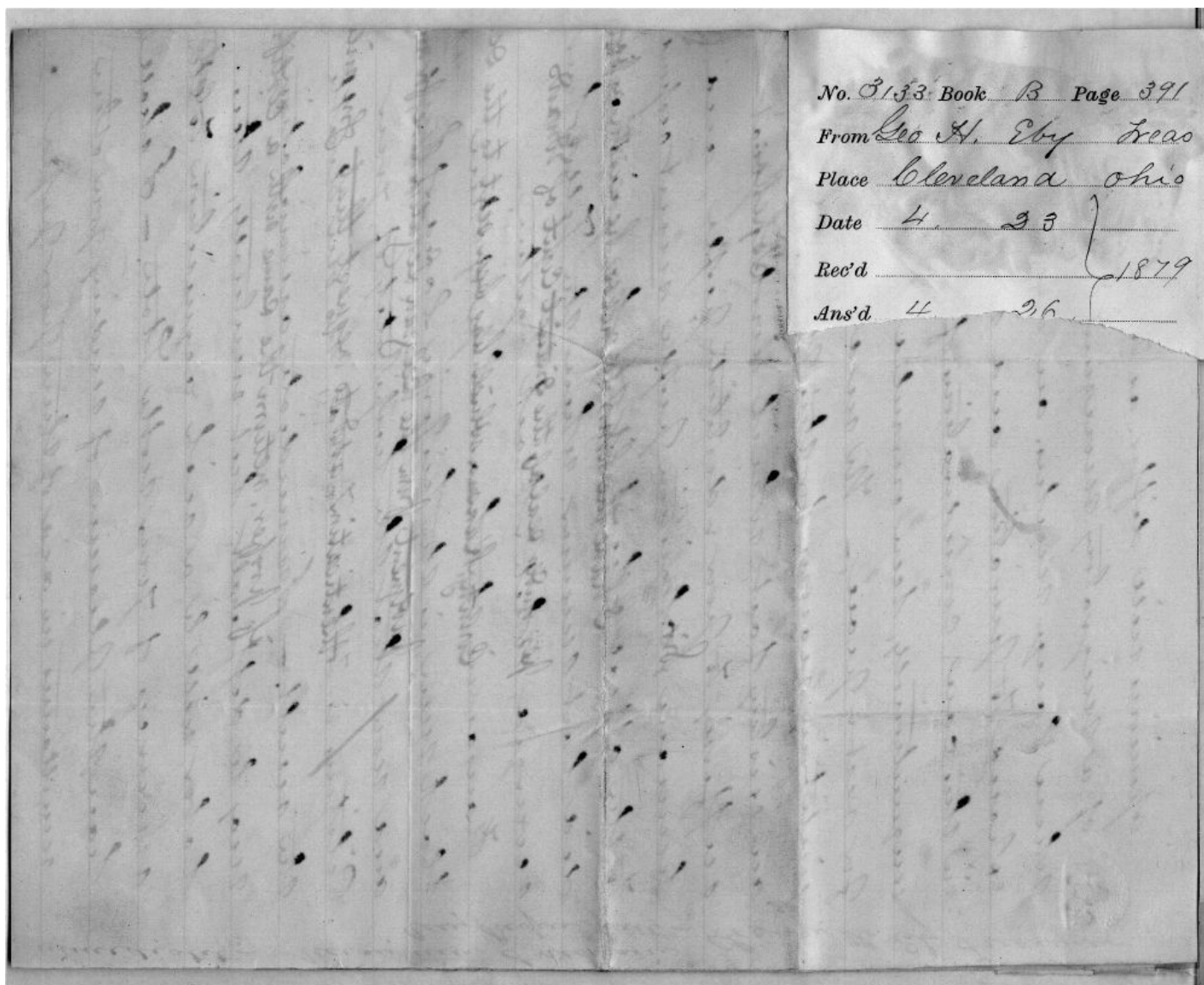
immediate - & uncertain & remain - George H. By Jarman  
 very respectfully -

opinions will differ, as to the wisdom  
 of a migratory movement of this kind  
 where large numbers are inevitably  
 exposed to privation and suffering, but  
 in this case, considerations of prudence have  
 unquestionably, been overruled by the longing  
 for rest & peace. - We need not discuss  
 justifying reasons for this Movement. - it is  
 an existing fact, which involves great  
 suffering to poor & destitute people, and  
 humane & Christian people, must respond  
 to the appeal which it makes, just as it  
 did last summer, when the Yellow fever  
 scourged, white & black together. -

Kansas, in the heart hope of these  
 black men, is the historic land of freedom,  
 and now that the hospitality of your  
 Citizens is to be so tested, no one doubts  
 the result. - Immediate assimilation  
 may be difficult, but eventually, their  
 labor, will be a rich acquisition to the  
 resources of your noble State. - I shall  
 have the pleasure of sending you other  
 remittances in aid of these poor people



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

4/28/79

Hannibal Mo April 25/79  
Gov. St. John.  
Sir.

Inclosed please  
find P. O. order  
for Thirty Dollars (\$30.00)  
to assist the Colored  
immigrants from the  
South, collected  
at a meeting <sup>held</sup> on  
the A. M. E. Church  
on the 23 inst.,  
Sincerely,

J. M. Wilkerson  
Chairman of  
Colored immigrant aid  
Committee of Hannibal  
Mo.





## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 3144 Book B Page 392  
From J. M. Wilkerson  
Place Hannibal Mo  
Date 4. 25 }  
Rec'd } 1879  
Ans'd 4. 28 }



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

4/26/79

Lawrence, Kansas, April 25 1879

Hon J P St John Governor of Kan  
Dear Sir

as chairman of the State aid Committee  
to assist Southern Refugees you will  
be the recipient of donations from eastern  
friends. would it not be the best  
policy to send these Refugees direct  
to some county or counties where  
they can take government lands and  
there solve the vexed problem whether  
they are self sustaining or not  
your published proposition to divide them  
among the settled counties is good. but is  
it better for them or the State. than it would  
be to assist them to get a start on lands  
which they could call their own. let them  
build & occupy dug outs and after a proper  
start they will prosper according to their own  
energy on farms are the place for them. Resp. C C James





## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 3146 Book B Page 392

From C. C. James

Place Lawrence Ks

Date 4. 25-1



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Apr. 25, 1879

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A. R. BREWER, Sec'y. 51 NORVIN GREEN, President.

Dated Kansas City Mo 1879

Received at TOPEKA, KANSAS

To Gov. J. St. John

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.

Has there been auxilliary  
committees appointed in  
different places in Kansas  
& find out about how  
many colored people it is  
thought each community  
would absorb as laborers  
if so what do they report at  
Kansas Pacific points  
What I need & help in the  
way of transportation & meet  
reasonable requirements  
for colored sites if we can be  
informed as what points it  
is appropriate to send these  
people when they will provided



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

4

**INTERNATIONAL UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.**

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A. R. BREWER, Sec'y. NORVIN GREEN, President.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_ 187

Received at **TOPEKA, KANSAS**

To *John St. John*

*for answer*

*P. B. Green*

*John*

**READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.**

No. 3147 Book B Page 392  
From P. B. Grosh  
Place Kansas City Mo  
Date 4. 25. 7  
Rec'd

*[Faint handwritten notes and markings]*

REVD THE POLICE VI THE FOR





## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Blank No. 1.

**THE WEST.**

This Company TRANSMITS  
being deposited by the sender of the  
message can be guarded against mis-  
take, will not hold itself liable for errors  
made above.

RECEIVED MES. NO. 81

M. R. BREWER, Sec'y.

NORVIN GREEN, President.

Dated Past Leavenworth 20<sup>th</sup> 187

Received at TOPEKA, KANSAS 4<sup>th</sup> 25 = 639 P.M.

To You St John

In reply to your  
telegram & Genl Pope  
who is in New York  
I am obliged to  
say that there are  
no buildings here which  
can be used to  
shelter the colored refugees  
we have no  
authority to issue tents  
for their use or  
to issue rations to  
feed them even temporarily.

E. R. Platt

62 Past Fox aa Genl

APR. 25, 1879

Read THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.

Official copy—Original sent by telegraph.

L. H. Platt

Assistant Adjutant General.

Noted so feed them even temporarily.

Sgt  
W. A. Platt  
Adj. Ad. General