

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 21, Pages 601 - 630

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

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Book B D.

as "prima facie" evidence
of the manner in which
our Southern brethren
do "business".

I understand that
you possess such. Can
you spare me a few?
I enclose some stamps
to cover postage.

Please address me
to the care of
Lunt Locke & Neil
84 Warren St
New York.

Trusting that you may
be able to comply
with this request.

I am yours very respectfully,
Lewis Neil

I am superintendent of a
Colored Baptist S. S. in
New Jersey. do you will conjecture
I am a Caucasian

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Providence La. July 25th 1879.

*Govr Jno St John
Topeka Kas.*

My dear Sir

*Permit me to
thank you for the very valuable volume
recently transmitted by you. Judge Horton
having presented me with a similar
one during my pleasant sojourn in
your State. I have taken the liberty
to present yours to the Editor of our
local paper, who appreciates its merits
and the information it contains most
keenly. in fact he has Kansas fever.
Your letter has done much good, but
you may look for a general move-
ment of black people from Louisiana
and Mississippi to Kansas in the winter
and Spring. I assure you I have in
no way misrepresented your State to*



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any class of people since my return
to the South. Not less than 50000
colored people will leave the South
during the approaching winter and
Spring for Kansas.

I had rather expected an
answer from you to my letter written
shortly after I returned home, but so
far I have heard nothing from you.
The mode of treatment towards the
blacks seems to be changing, but
I fear the step has been taken too
late to avail the Southern planter.

It will always afford me
more than ordinary pleasure to hear
from you, to transmit such informa-
tion as may benefit you.

Very sincerely Your friend

J. St. John

note B Page 491

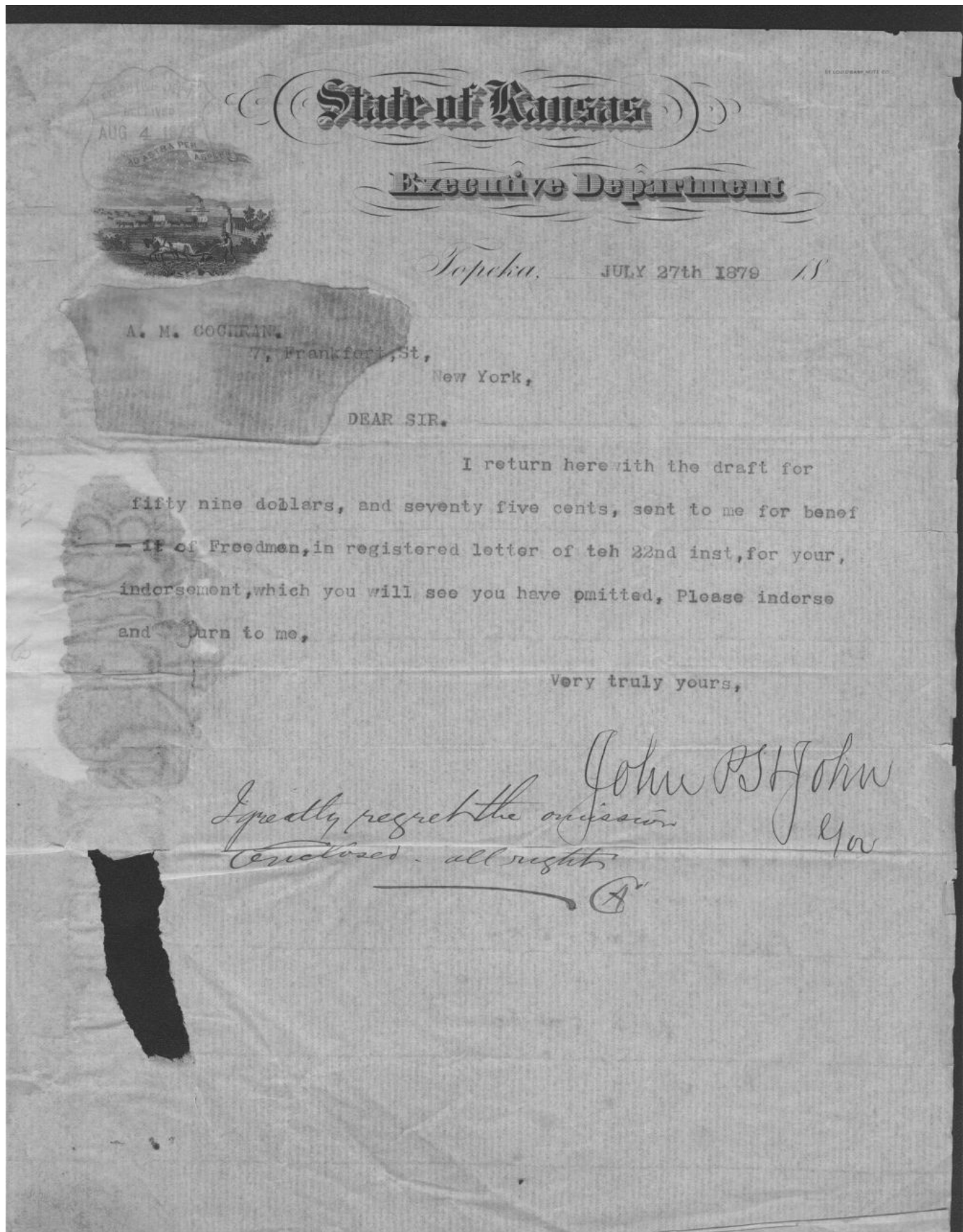
Exoduster

Exoduster

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Grand Bluff Panola Co Texas July 27th 1879

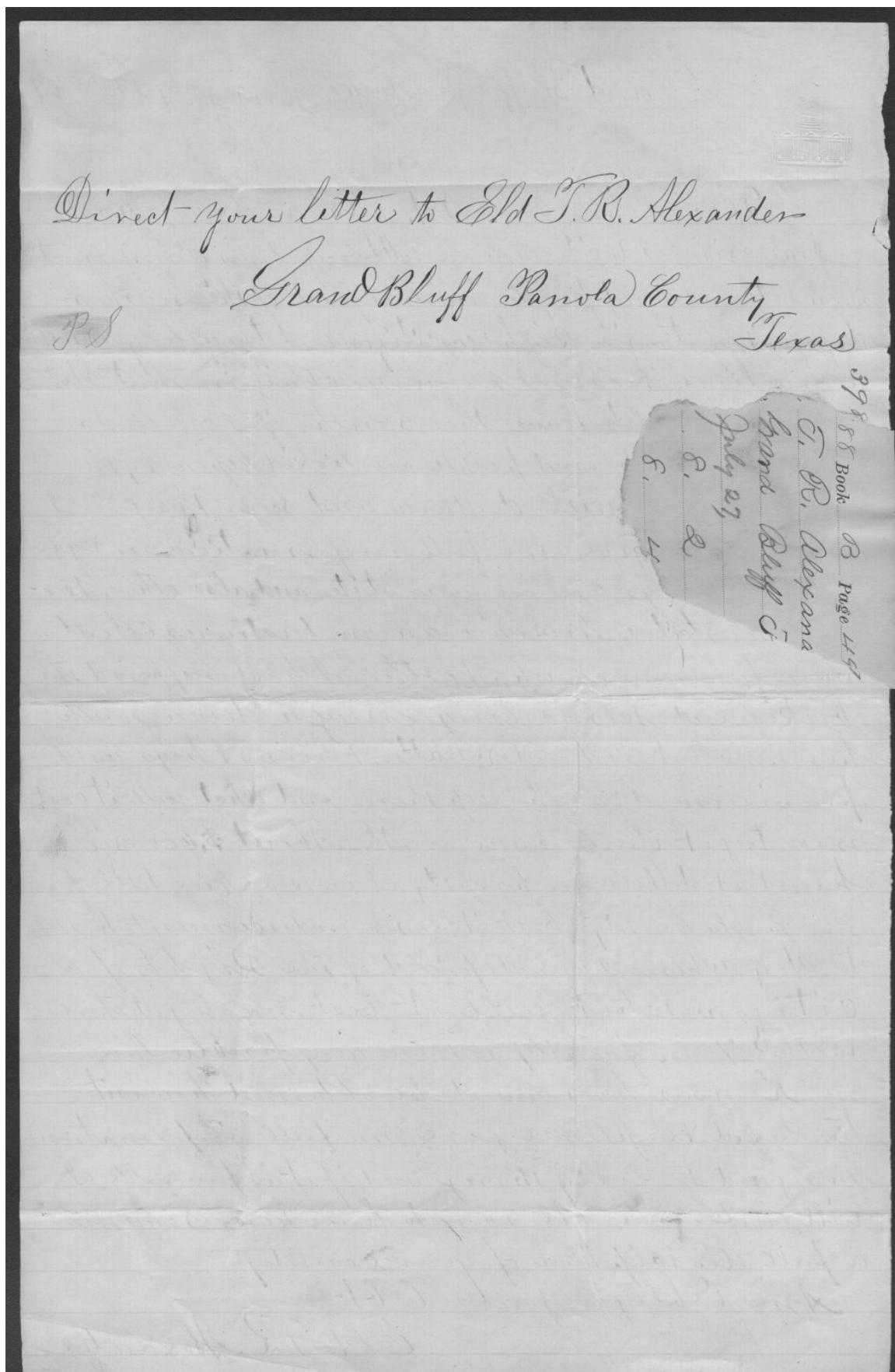
Gov. John. P. St. John Gov. of Kan.

Dear Sir I write you the following lines of information. as the colored people in this part of the South are deprived of their Rights as citizens I trouble you with a few lines because I know no other ^{name} in that State I am anxious to leave the South if I can find a better place. colored people are looked upon by the white people with disdain and scorn therefore I ask of you to give me full information in regard to how things are in your state and also other Northern States how can an indigent colored man fare in or up North I have suffered the bruises and scorns long enough down South here. what is land & Cattle & Horses & bags and provisions worth up there and what will it cost me to get there. I am worth About \$600 Six hundred dollars in property I own a nice little farm in Panola County but it is no inducement to me to stay where I am deprived of the Rights of a citizen what will it cost me to get there with 7 in family is there any public land in Kansas how can it be obtained how is it timbered &c. please give me full information in regard to every thing and if it is favorable I will influence all I can to leave here Send me a full description of your country

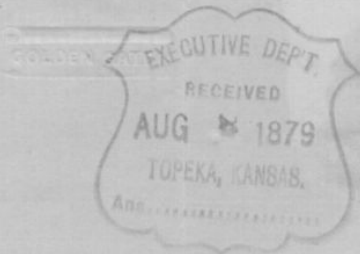
And Oblige Yours Obt.

Eld. J. R. Alexander
P.S. —

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National City, Cal
July 27th / 79.

Gov. J. St. John

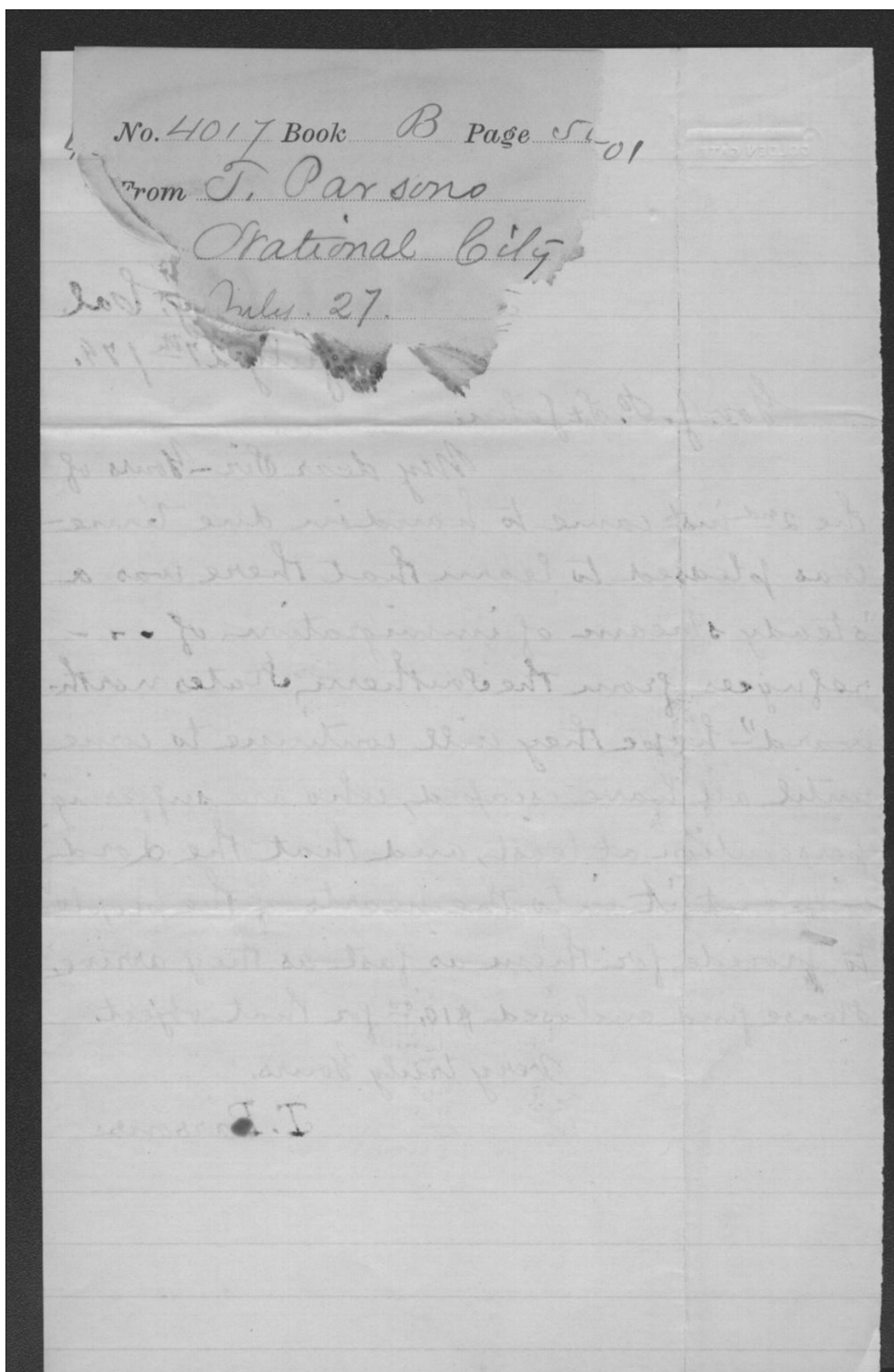
My dear Sir—Yours of the 2nd inst came to hand in due time—was pleased to learn that there was a "steady stream of immigration of — — refugees from the Southern States northward"—hope they will continue to come until all have escaped, who are suffering persecution at least, and that the Lord will put it into the hearts of the people to provide for them as fast as they arrive. Please find enclosed \$10.00 for that object.

Very truly Yours,

I. Parsons



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To His Excellency
Governor St. John
Honored Sir

Will you be
kind enough to for-
ward to Col. Geo Bliss
at No. 11. Pine Street N.
C. City, ^{a letter} relative to the
condition of the Col-
ored people now in
your State, there being
in your State, caused
by the Southern Exodus
as Mr. Bliss and I to



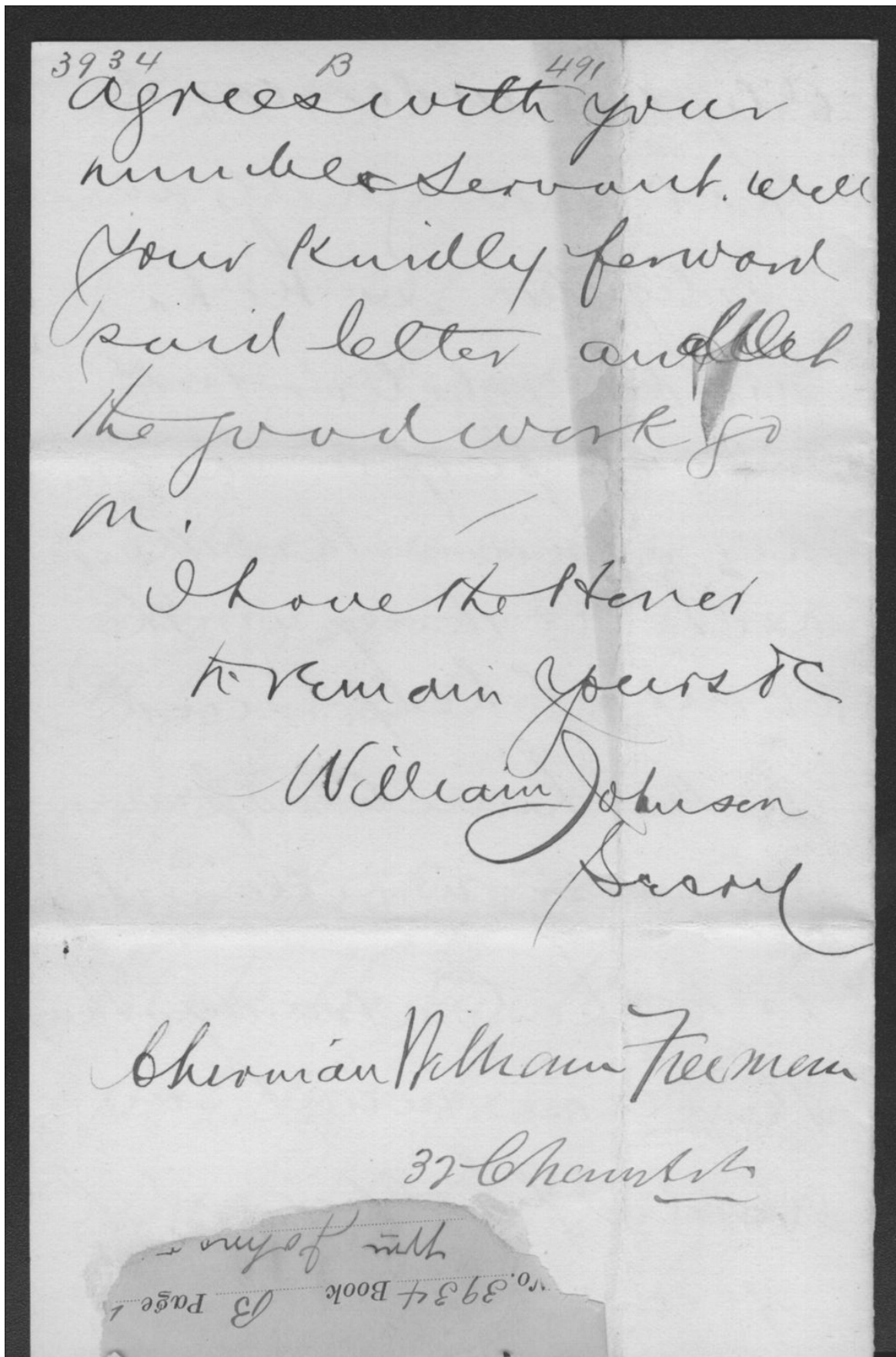
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

to the colored people
is very valuable in
the district that I am
now soliciting sub-
scription to them and
my reason for ask-
ing your excellency
to forward the letter
requested is that dur-
ing the month of May
last Mr. Jackson S.
Schultz pass through
your State, and gives
the people of this

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City to understand
that through the in-
vestigation in he has
made, relative to the
colored people, that in
his opinion that they
need nothing in the
way of help, and
in the humble opinion
of your writer it
is to the contrary, that
they are much in
need of help, and of
your Excellency

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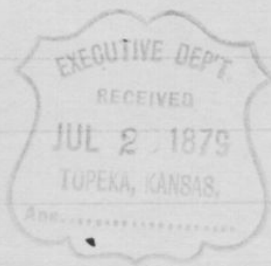
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Russell. Ks July 28

Hon John P. St John
I send you five dollars
for colored refugees
I will try to que more
after a while

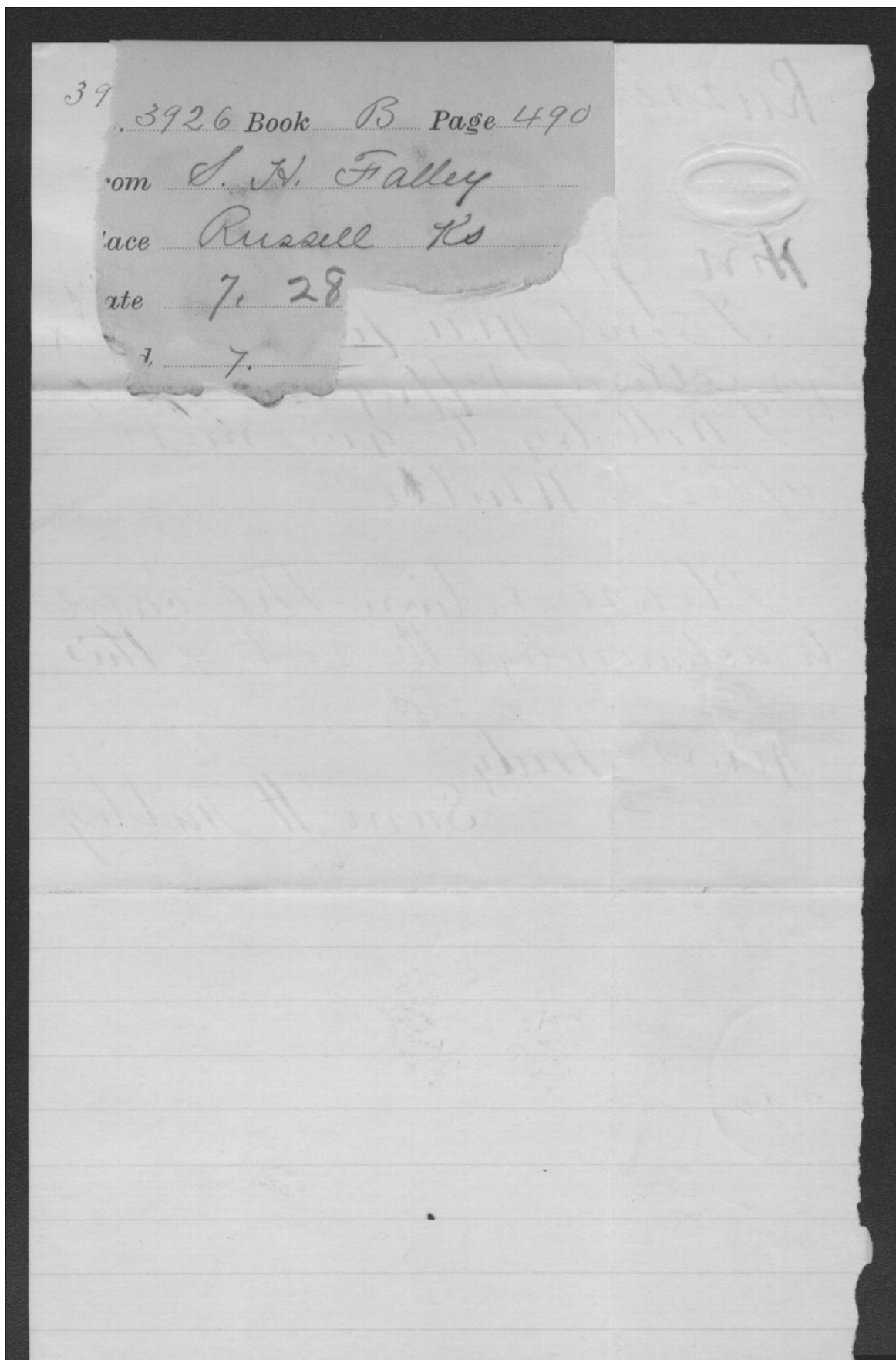
Please return the card
to acknowledge the recd of this

Yours Truly
Saml H Falley

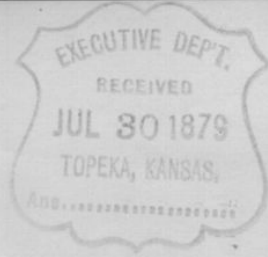




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Adrian Michigan July 28th - 79
John B. St. John

Dear Sir
I enclose postal order of \$15.00
payable to your order for
the benefit of the fugitives flying
from the murderous & slave
holders of the South, through the
association of which you are
president. I am 84 eighty four
years of age, and an old time
abolitionist fully posted in history
of Slavery in our own and other
countries, and only regret that instead
of the 15 dollars, I cannot ^{give} as many
thousands. I write with pencil as
I find it much easier than pen.
Hoping that all our colored Brethren
that are flying from the house of
bondage ^{may} find comfortable and quiet

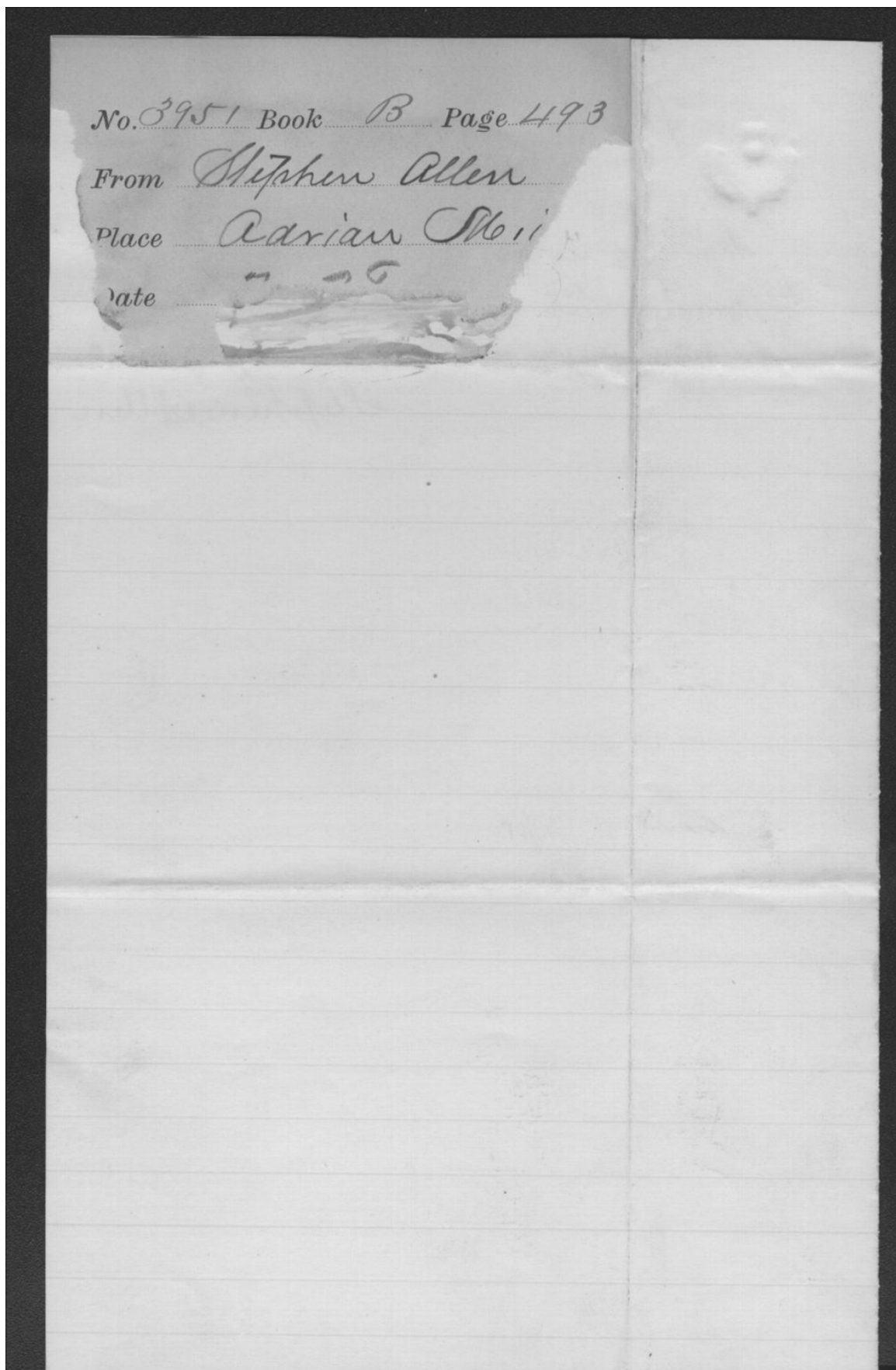


Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

homes where they can be allowed
to enjoy their natural and constitutional
at rights I am Respectfully yours
Stephen Allen



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence





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Blank No. 1. July 29, 1879

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

This Company TRANSMITS and DELIVERS messages only on conditions, limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message.
Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Messages**.
This message is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE** and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

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

Dated September 29 1879

Received at Topeka Mo 7/29 = 1234 RD

To Gov J S John

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.

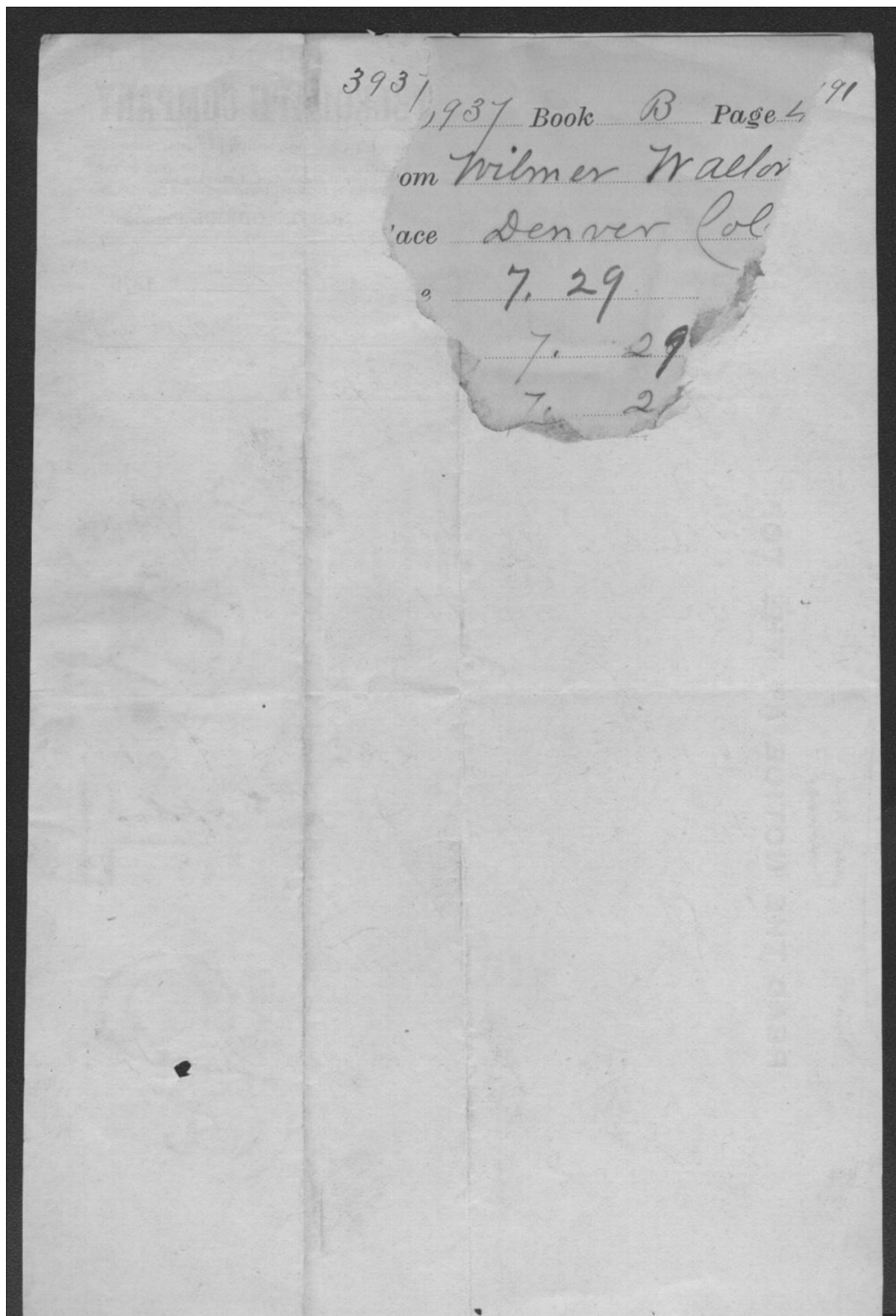
Please telegraph to E Geo Evans whether association needs funds now Geo Pitkin is absent People say he was to be officially informed when funds were needed in Topeka

Wilmer Watson

WADW



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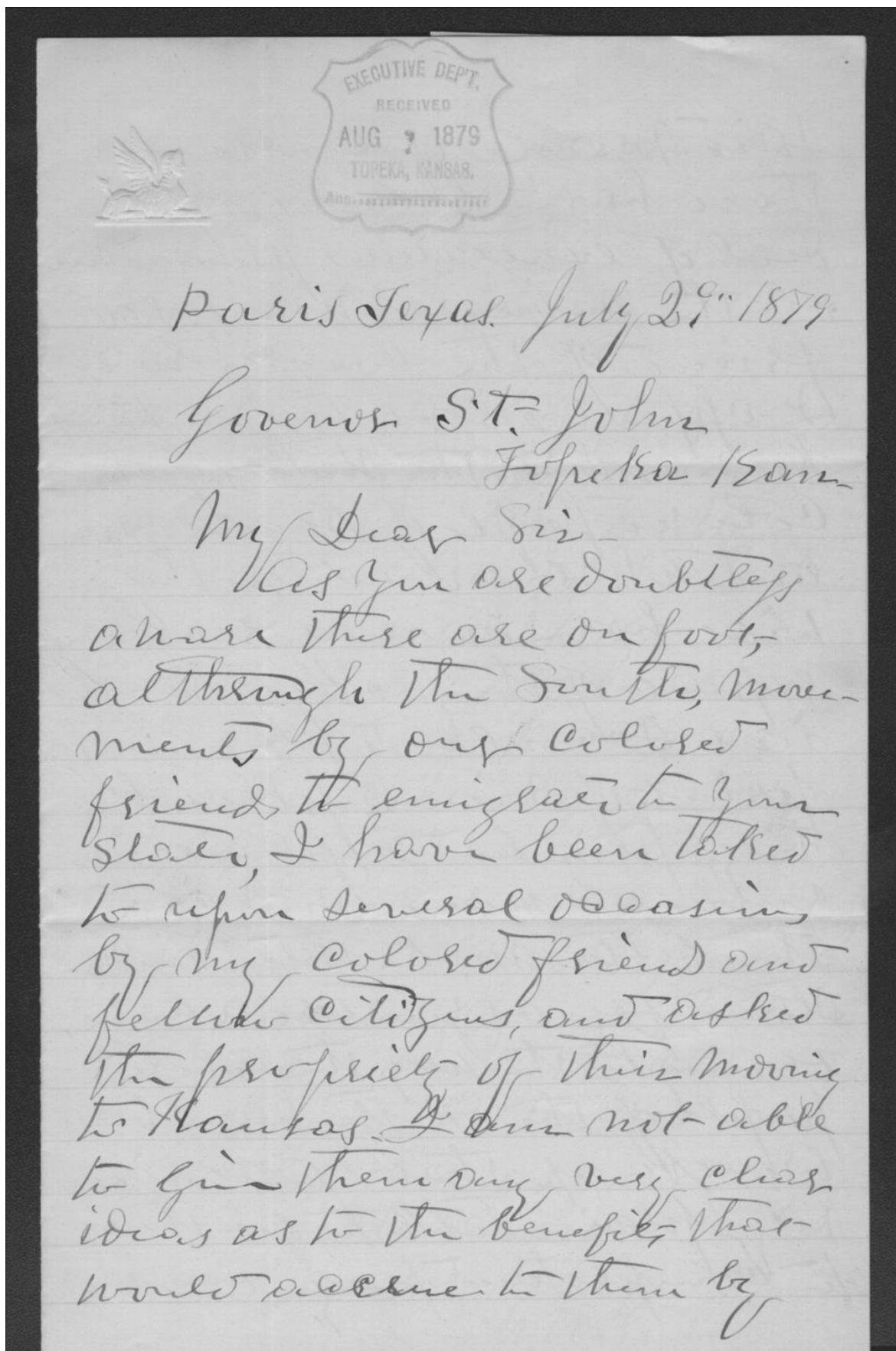
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Detroit, Mich. July 29th /79
Dear Governor. I have seen the letter of
my old friend, Mrs. Haviland; but she
does not inform us to whom good for
the Exodusters should be sent. Please
give me the desired information.
Truly Yours -
Rev. C. C. Foute.

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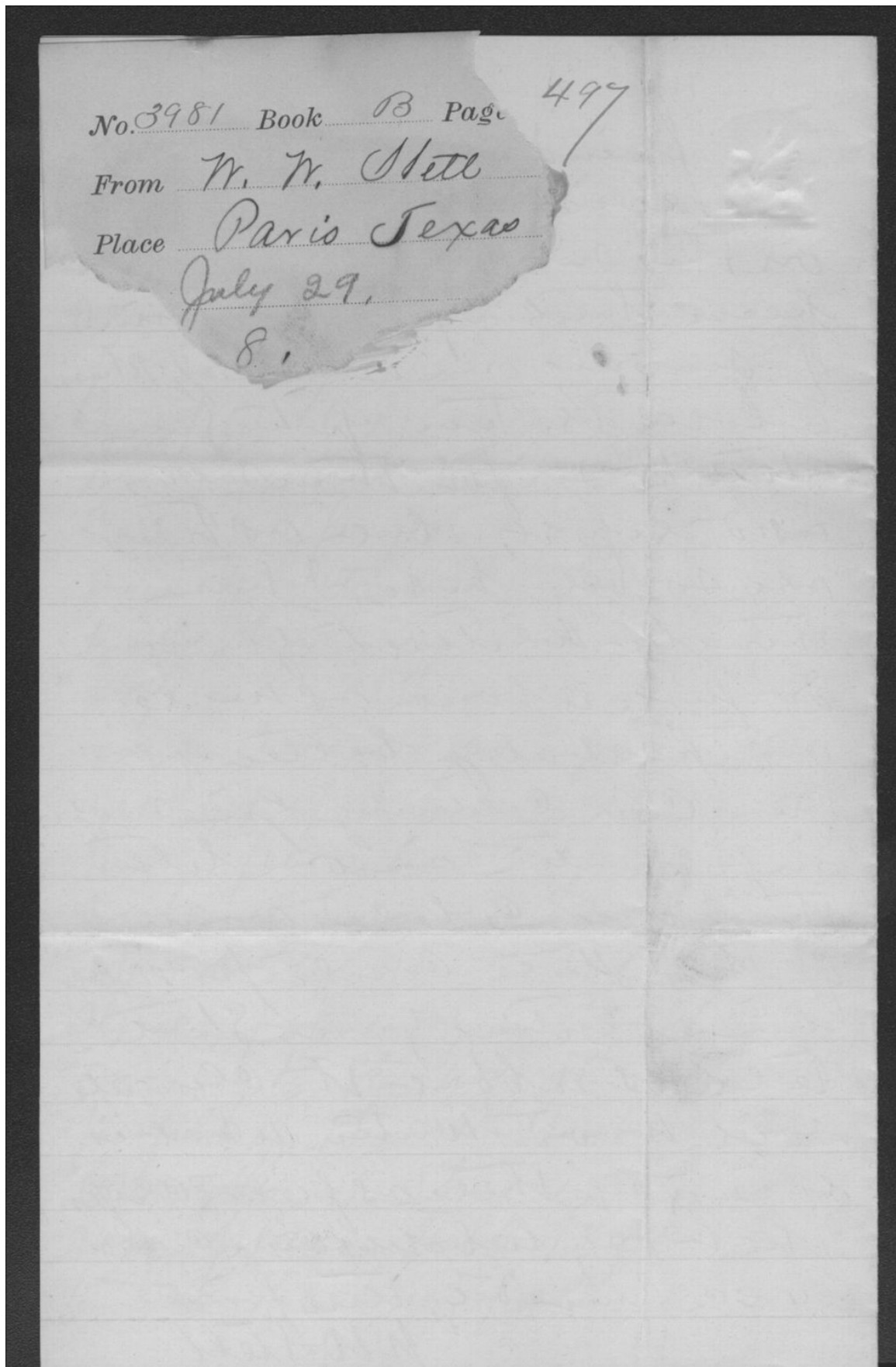
I don't move - of course
 there have been a great
 deal of exaggerations pro and con
 on the subject - Now as a
 friend of the colored race
 I appeal direct to you to
 know what the status of the
 colored people of Kansas is,
 and what advantages they
 will have or may reasonably
 expect of the people of Kansas
 in a social and pecuniary
 point of view - please be
 very plain and explicit in
 your answer so I can
 the better make them under-
 stand, for as you are aware,
 owing to the way the colored
 people of the South have been
 brought up that it requires
 very plain talk to get them
 to comprehend fully - our colored

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friends are anxious for
reliable information
on this subject, and have
been thinking for some time
of sending one or two of their
colored brethren up to your
state to see for themselves
and report, but as times
are so very hard, I have
thought writing to you would
do just as well
and probably better as
you can certainly give more
information in one letter
than any colored man
of this state could possibly
give visiting your state.
Tell us a bout the climate
soil, wood, water, what is
raised up there as field crops,
what day laborers can command
&c &c. Your very true friend
W. W. Still



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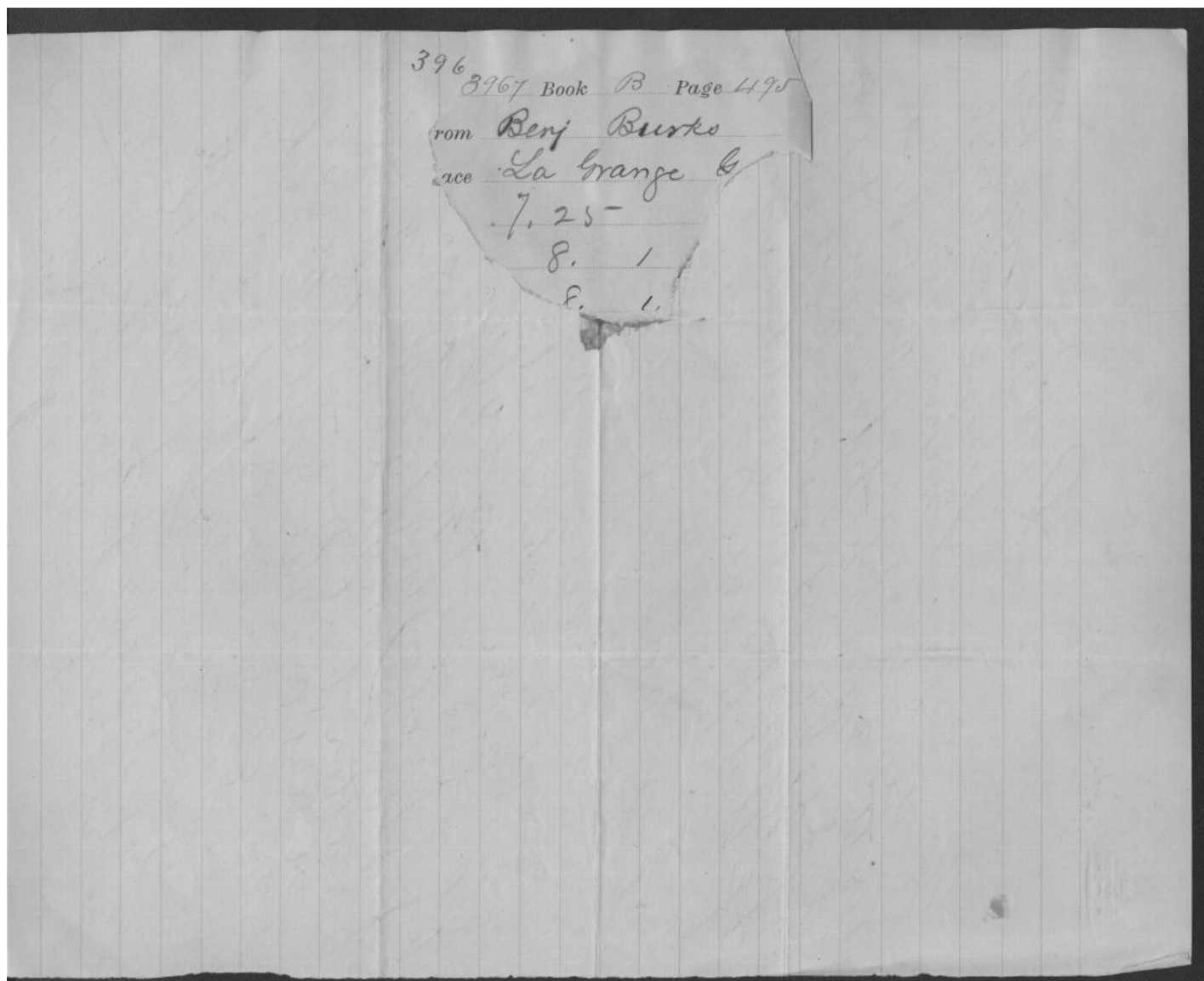
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



La Grange Ga
July 23rd 1878

His Excy Dear Sir,
I Recd yours of the 15th and
with much pleasure & I was
glad to be informed by the Chief
of Kansas the true situation
of that place, I desire to have
regular interviews with you for this
information which I have
Recd from you recently have
done this Section much good
in as much as it have put
us on the right track of
correcting the Kansas
by preparing for it. My people
had been misled about the
matter, but now I trust
we are on the right track
I desire to hear more of the immigrants
who have come there. & about the
crop. Now they are getting in
I hope to hear from you soon
Your Obedient Servant
Rev Benjamin Burks

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Brentham July 30th
1879

To His Excellency
John, P. St. John, Topeka Kansas

Dear sir I have the honor to
acknowledge the receipt of a letter dated the 24th inst
containing very valuable information and sound
advice. I will say that but for the prompt action
of our recent State convention several thousands of
colored ^{people} of Texas would have sacrificed their present
years crop and personal property for "a mere song" to
obtain means to go by Railroad to your State. And by this time
you would have had them upon your hands in similar
condition with the thousands of refugees from Miss. and
La., who have thrown themselves upon you in a destitute con-
dition. Our convention declared that our thrifty ones should
go forward first and colonize, and that our emigration should
be gradual, but our great trouble is that we have many
ignorant & biased men who really believe that free home, transpor-
tation, and supplies of provision and clothing will be given
them by the government if they go to Kansas, and it taxes
our energies and ingenuity to restrain them from going
at once. During the past two weeks

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many hundreds of destitute colored people in
Grimes, Waller, Austin, Fort Bend, and this county,
deceived by lying reports made them by designing
men, attempted to throw off all restraint and go
off to Kansas without delay; but fortunately before
they could sell their crops, organize and arrange
with the Railroad companies for transportation the more
intelligent classes of our people went vigorously to
work and nipped the movement in the bud.

Judge Hockworth and myself did hard work
in trying to crush this "Rag and Tag" movement.
I have just received letters from leading colored
men in Harrison and adjoining counties in
Eastern Texas some 300 miles distant from
here that a similar movement is on foot
there among the large masses of "Rag and
Tag" freedmen to make an onward rush for
Kansas. I have written letters of instructions
based on the advice given by your excellency
to the intelligent leaders there how to organize
and to put a stop to the movement, but I do
not know whether they will be able to restrain
them long. I am not in a condition to travel
to such distant counties, but I think if your