

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

### Section 32, Pages 931 - 960

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

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Item Identifier: 210296

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

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

  
 Buena Vista Shelby Co Texas  
 Sept the 9. 1879  
 to his most excellency  
 Gov John P St John the Gov of  
 the State of Kansas

Now Sir I wrote to you some  
 few days ago but fearful that  
 you might not get the letter I  
 will write again I want to know  
 the price of lands of corn labor and  
 the gen common price of every thing  
 and if plenty of every thing for  
 Emer grant if not please to inform  
 me at an early date as possible

Please let know how a bout schools  
 and Churches. we have made up Emer-  
 gration ~~the~~ clubs to go to the N.W.  
 and ~~th~~ we want to know as much  
 a bout the locations of every  
 thing so we may know what  
 to do my hapiness depends on  
 an answer from you



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please to let us hear  
from you just as soon  
as you can as we do not  
what to do and inform us  
~~when~~ water timbers &c

I will say no more at  
this time hoping to hear  
from you soon

So I remain your  
most humble servant

Nathan King

(Brema vista Shelby Co Texas)

Mr or Gov John P St John

Sir as I neglected to thank you for The  
Book that you sent me I will send my  
thanks to you in this letter of Mr Kings  
I am geatful to you for faving me with  
a copy of your agricultural Report- I have  
written you again previous to this and have  
not Reced. any ans. & when you write to me  
dont put Col. on The envelope for a Col.  
man can hardly get a letter here

Yours Obedient Servant

Eld. J. R. Alexander

96 Book B P  
Nathan K

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## Kansas Methodist Freedmen's Mission Work.



REV. W. O. LYNCH, Presiding Elder of Kansas District.

Topeka, Kansas, *Sept 10* 1879

Dear Governor St. John.

Topeka Kansas.

Recently I received a letter from Mrs Delia Johnson in the City of Mobile Ala. asking me to look out a place for her to do cooking at. She is a good Christian lady. with a good standing equal to that of any lady in her community. She is a married lady with no children. She can both read and write she knows all about cooking and doing house business. She is a bout 6 feet high. weighing a little more than 200. lbs. a bright mulatto, would she suit to do your cooking? How much would you pay her by the month or week? And when would you have her to come this fall or next Spring? As soon as I hear from you. I will write her about it.

Yours most obedecit servant

W. O. Lynch.



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EXECUTIVE DEPT  
RECEIVED  
SEP 13 1879  
TOPEKA, KANS.

Benwick City Parish of St. Mary La

To His Excellency John P. St. John  
Gov. of Kansas-

Dear Sir

I write you for information in regard to Government lands in the vicinity of either Apache, Troy, Atchison, Fort Leavenworth or Riley. <sup>say 5 or 6 miles away from either</sup> I do not care very much about R.R. lands as they are more or less encumbered with mortgages. I have always been inclined Kansas-ward ever since I left the army; and had it not been for sickness when we returned from Red River in 1864 I would have been there already, which I see would have much to my interest. I have been in La 15 years last March, have acquired some property and am a man of small family. Being a colored man I could be nothing else but a Republican; as I was a citizen, I took the responsibilities of a citizen and gave my influence, time and means to the success of the party of right, law, order, and humanity. In 1872 the Republicans of this Parish tendered me the office of member of the General assembly. I declined because I thought there were better and more capable men; and in 1876 they elected me clerk of the 3rd Judicial District Court composed of the Parishes of St. Mary, St. Martin and Iberia by over a thousand majority over all the three candidates together and was commissioned by both Gov. Kellogg & Mr. Nicholls and immediately furnished the \$5000 bonds required by law, and entered upon the discharge of my duties and continued in the personal

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exercise of the functions of that office from the 26<sup>th</sup> Dec 1876 until the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November 1878 when a mob of ten men sought to take my life by breaking into my bed room about 12 o'clock at night inflicting several wounds and riddling my room with bullet holes, because I refused to deliver up to them the returns of the election of 5<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1878 instead of transmitting them to the Ex<sup>ty</sup>. of State for promulgation. Had been willing to falsify <sup>the returns</sup> and swindle the Republicans out of their victory I could have been home (which but 30 miles from here) and in the personal exercise of the duties of my office - But I am not the party for whom they are hunting - In this midnight attack one of the bulldozers was killed at the foot of my bed, a Winchester rifle and a Colts' Six shooter were found on the floor next morning, several of the parties were so badly shot until they had to remain in bed several days. Our Congressional and Legislative election was on the 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 1878 - After the count the Democrats were so badly beaten that on the night of the 7<sup>th</sup> they broke into my office and destroyed every ballot box, ballot and all the returns save what I took to my house - for two weeks I was besieged and visited at night for those returns, until exasperated at my stubbornness I was to be killed and the papers destroyed - Gov. you all in free Kansas have idea of our condition in the South and what trials and troubles we have because of our politics - I still hold the office by deputy and though my term under the old Constitution would not expire before Dec 1880 yet I am glad the new will end it in April 1880 I would have left here soon after the bulldozing but I was determined that the Democrats should not get the office before my time is expired and we can no longer elect a Republican.



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I have had no love for office. I have made my living in  
School Teaching and Clerking in stores and while I may not be able  
to resume the role of a School Teacher I can earn a living otherwise.  
I am anxious to reach your state not because of the great race now  
made for it but because of the sacredness of her soil washed  
by the blood of humanitarians for the cause of freedom.

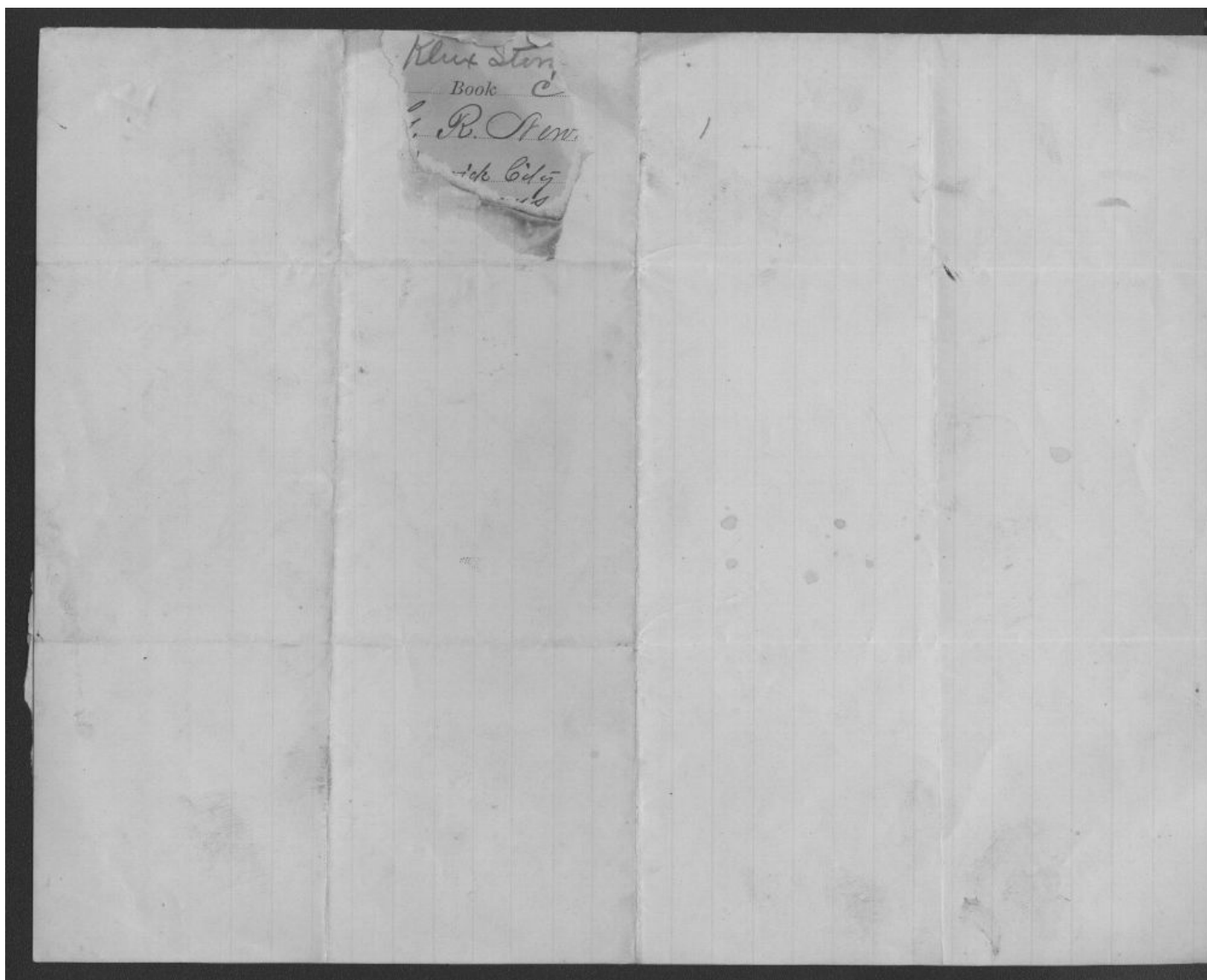
I am a subscriber of the Inter Ocean and have been for six years and  
read some very flattering accounts of the fertility of the soil of Northern  
Kansas. I would like therefore to learn some information in  
regard to the location of Government lands & price per acre as  
I shall try to purchase or homestead. There quite a hell now  
but you will likely be over run with emigrants next Spring.  
Quite a number will have been there.

Trusting to hear from you soon.

I am very truly yours

G. H. M. Newman

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence







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### ATCHISON, TOPEKA & SANTA FÉ RAILROAD CO.

A. T. & S. F. . . . . 470.58  
LEASED LINES.  
K. C. T. & W. . . . . 66.32  
P. H. & De S. . . . . 44.89  
K. C. E. & S. . . . . 46.81  
F. E. & W. V. . . . . 29.32  
W. & S. W. . . . . 27.25  
I. & A. V. . . . . 245.26  
N. M. & S. P. . . . . 118.27  
Total, . . . . . 1048.73

EQUITABLE BUILDING, ROOM 24,

No. 150 DEVONSHIRE STREET.

THOS. NICKERSON, PRES.

GEO. L. GOODWIN, ASS'T TREAS.

*Enclosure*



Boston, *Sept 10* 1879

P. O. Box 2746.

*Hon John P. St John, Pres't.  
Kansas Freedman's Relief Assn.  
Topeka, Kansas.*

*Dear Sir,*

*Your favor of May 15 was handed me in Topeka and I started with Col. Johnson to call on you and answer in person your communication. It has always been the policy of this company to give very low rates to emigrants who proposed to settle in the state. I understand Mr. Strong that he had offered the same rates to colored people that he made to Whites and the Board would not have justified him in any other course. I have no doubt that the "Exodus" of colored people into Kansas has seriously interfered with the sale of our lands, and with our efforts to bring a good class of population into Kansas.*

*Now as to the efforts of your company to relieve the sufferings of these unfortunate people I fully approve it personally and*

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if you want me to try to raise some money to keep them from suffering I will gladly do what I can.

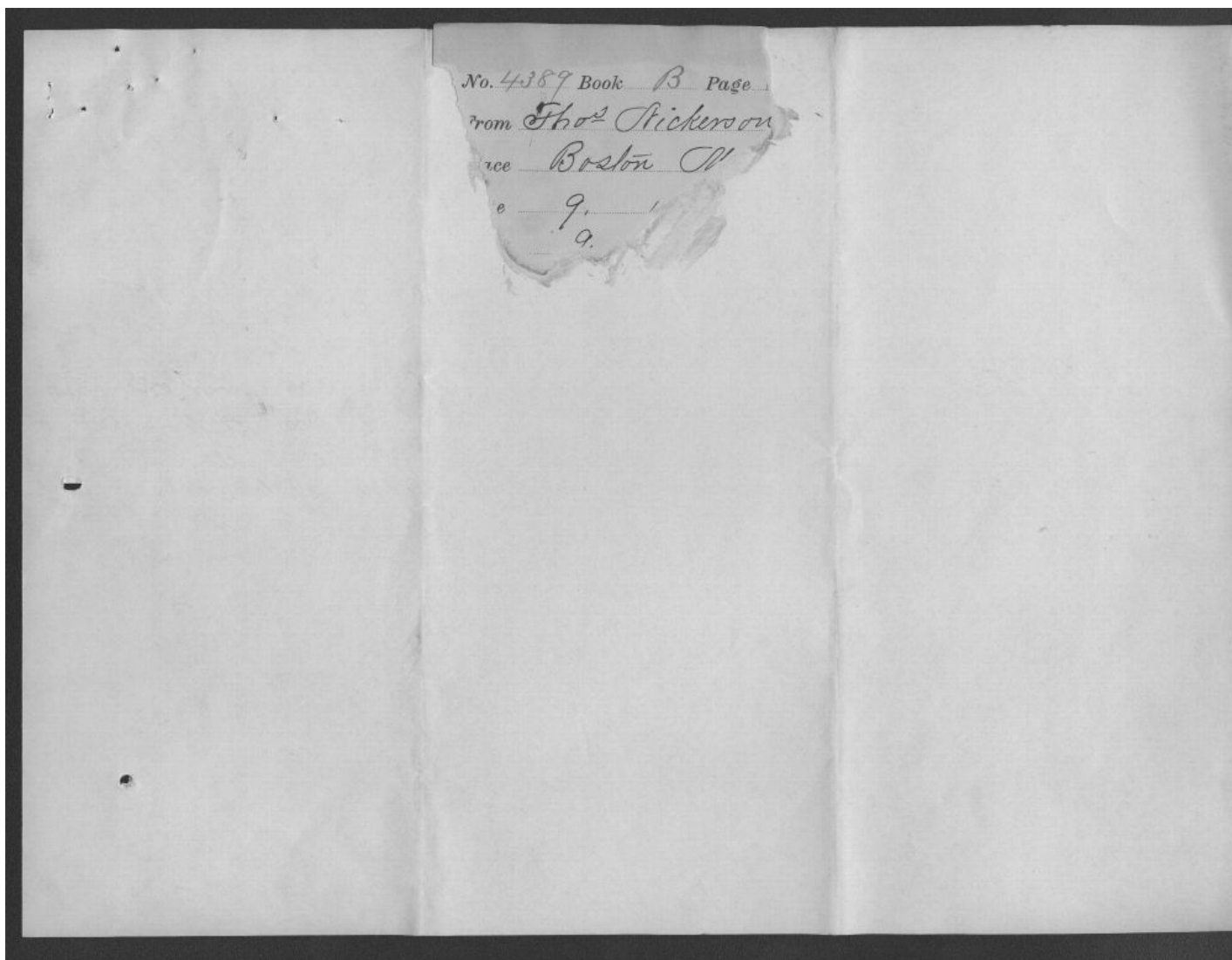
I enclose a letter of L. L. Johnson on this subject and I believe his views are sound.

Please return this letter to me and I beg you and your committee will excuse my long neglect of your letter.

Yours truly  
Thos. Nickerson  
Pres't.



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

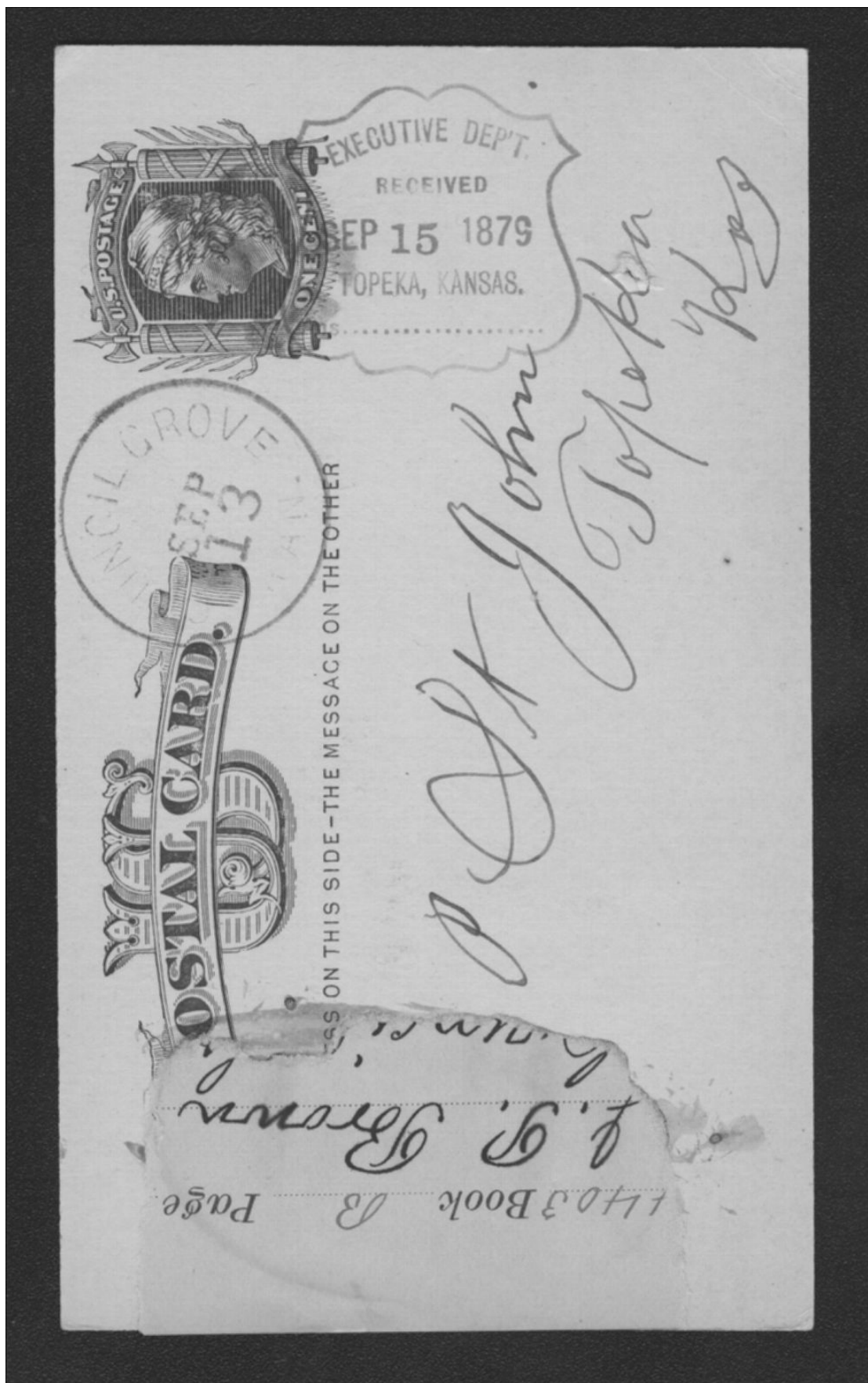


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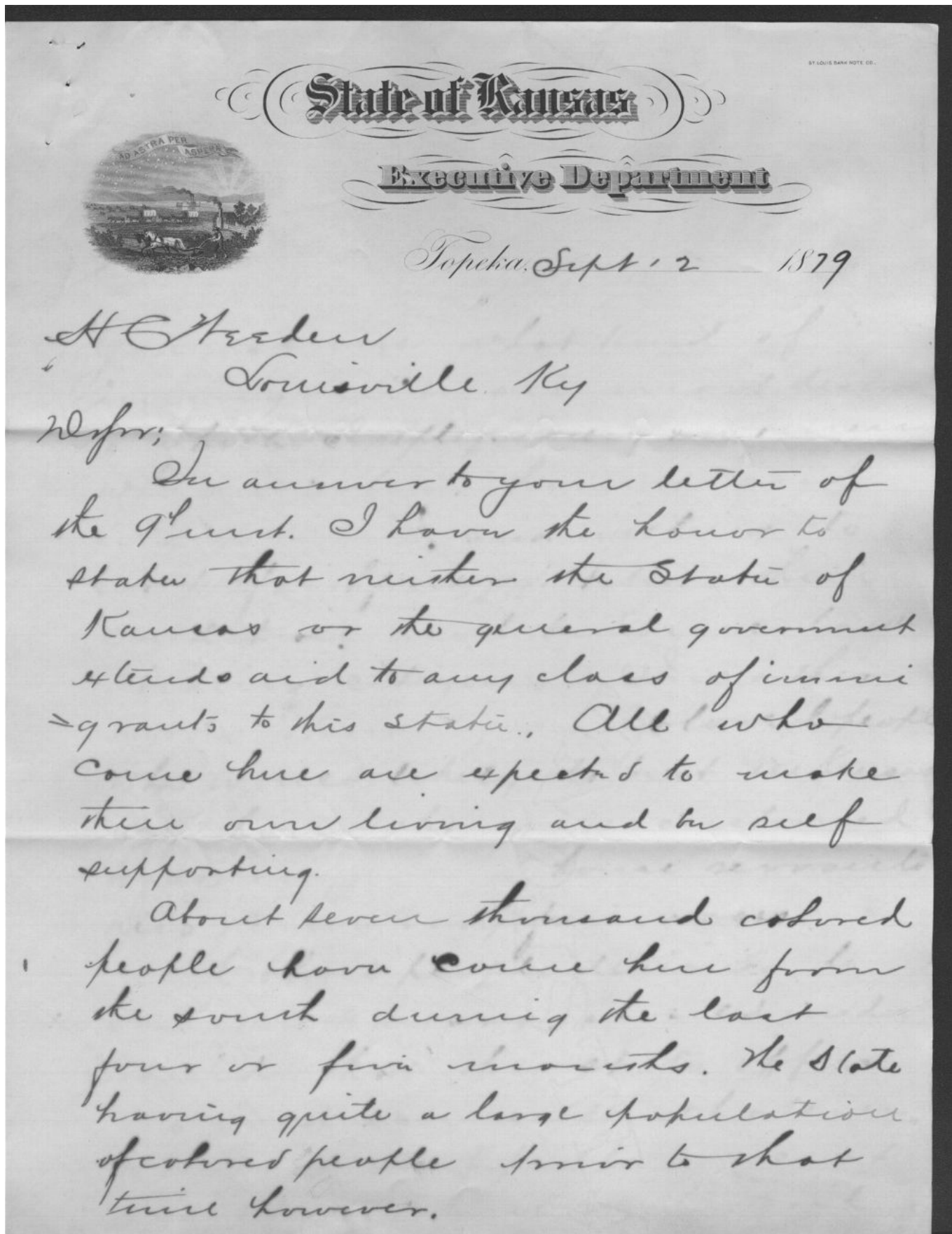
Council Grove Kas Sept 13<sup>th</sup> 1879  
 Yours is to hand, am glad  
 to have some authority to contradict  
 false reports in regard to ~~the~~  
~~Colonel~~ Freedman aid Society  
 I think still that if the aid is  
 now in shape of building material  
 then something to eat it will be  
 better as I know some women  
 can get 75 per week & refuse to work  
 for even 100 better get actuals & clothes  
 than be idle Yours Vh J P Brown



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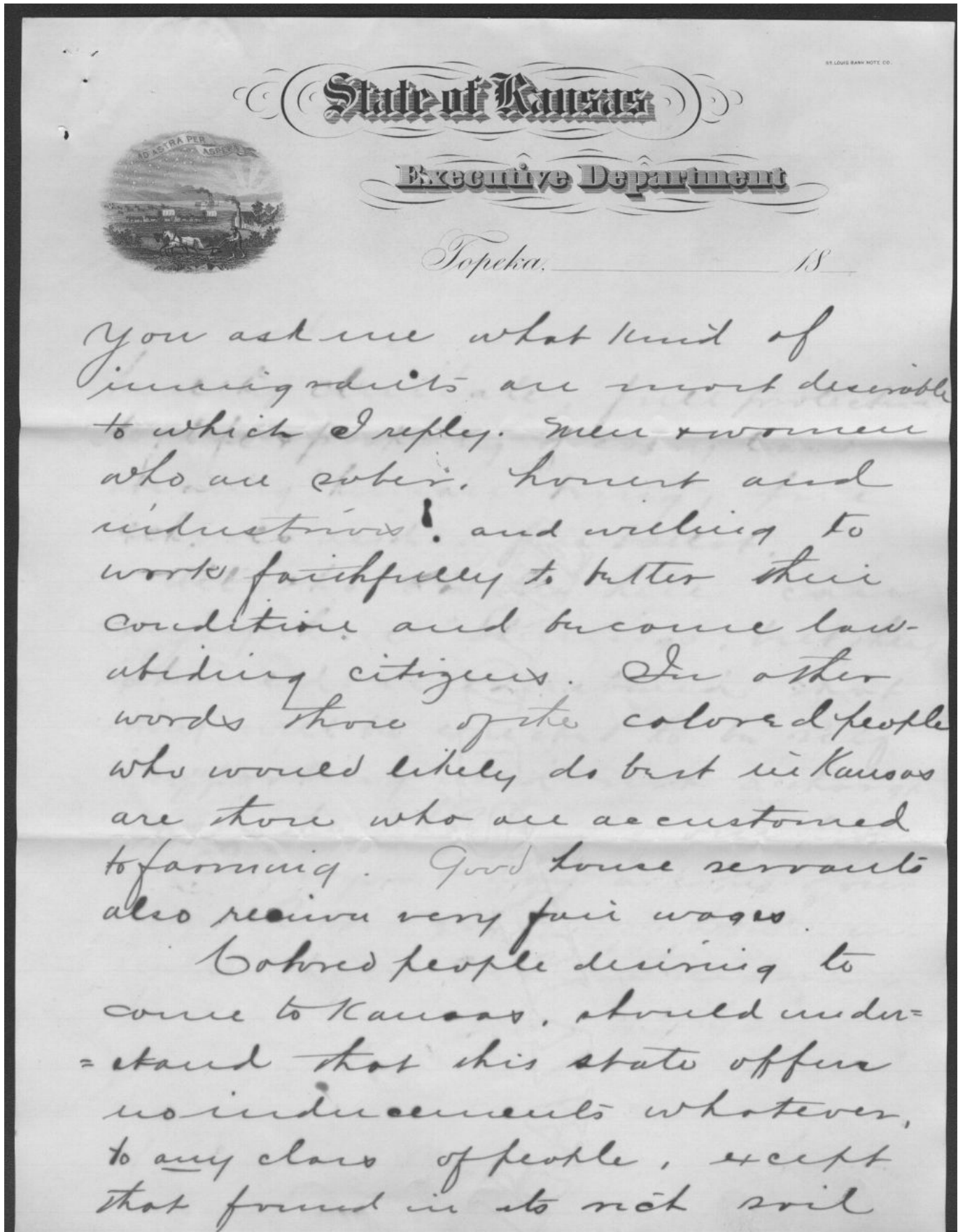


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healthy climate, full protection  
to life & property of every law  
abiding human being, free  
schools and a free ballot.

All who come here can  
enjoy these blessings, but they  
should understand that  
they will be expected to be self  
supporting and not a charge  
upon the charities of our people.

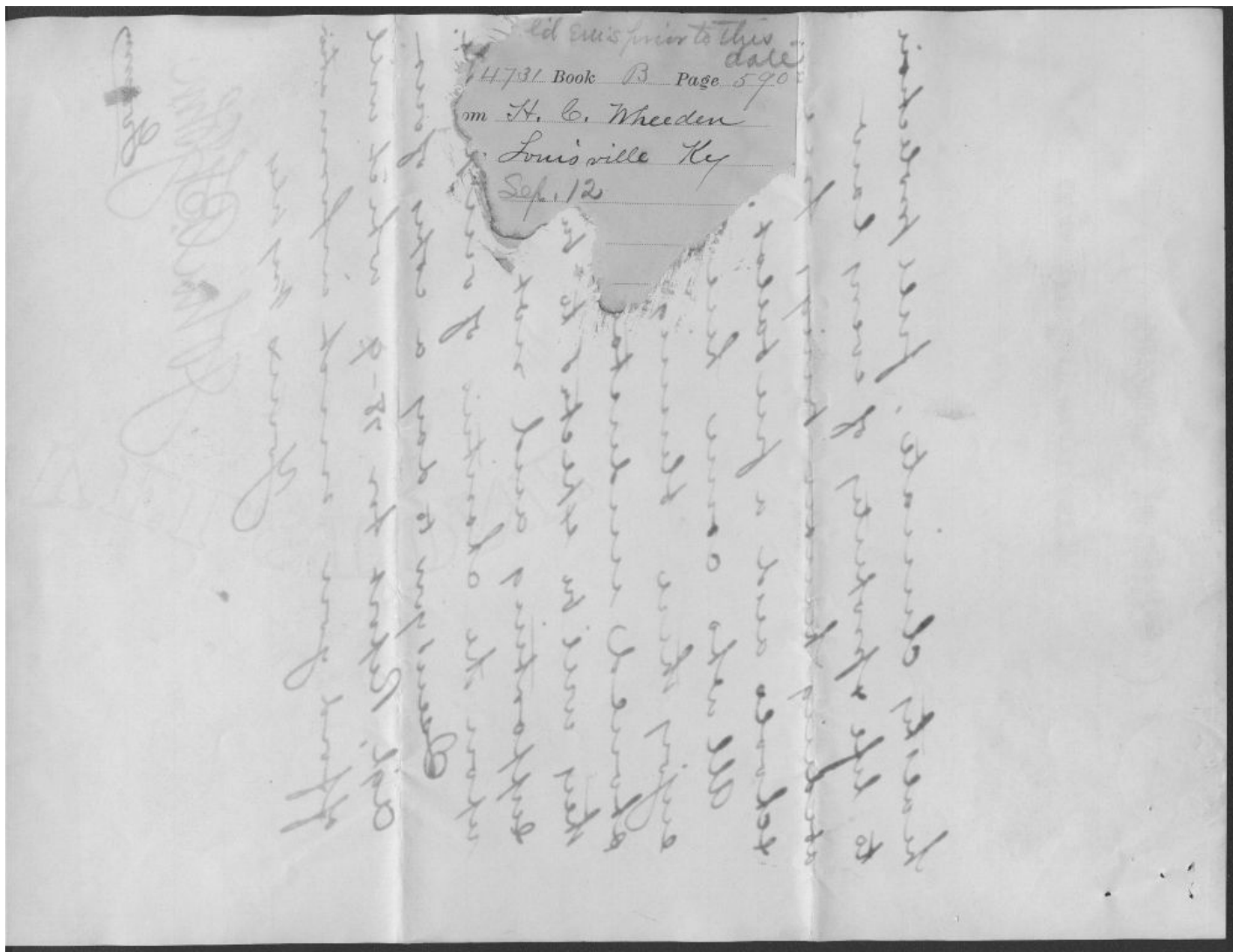
I send you to day a copy of our  
Agl. Report for 78-9 which will  
afford you much information.

Yours very truly

John St. John  
Governor



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EXECUTIVE DEPT.  
SEP 19 1879  
RECEIVED

San Augustine County Texas

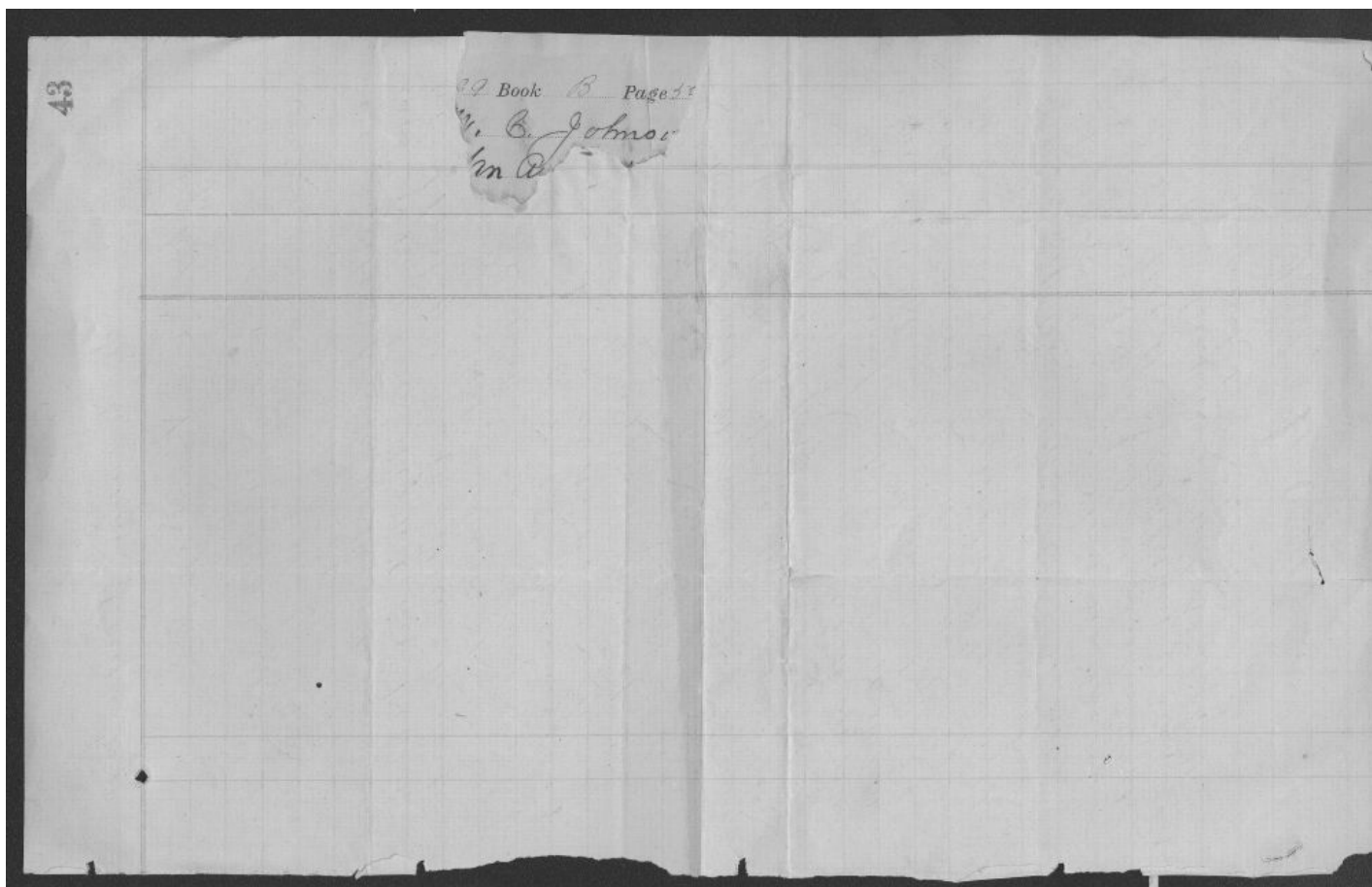
Sept 13th A. L. 1879

Mr St-John Gov of  
Kansas Sir I will seat to write you  
A few lines to inform that there is about  
500 families here that want to come and  
have not got no way to come We have  
got about 400 head of cattle We want  
know of you what is chance of getting  
them to Kansas if you please to see me  
at Fort of Kansas and if you charge any  
thing for it see me what is worth and  
see you the money and we want to  
take a paper of Kansas and  
if you please to tell some of your  
Cotton that we have got the money  
made up ready to see to best office  
and the best paper some of us  
have got good farm and they are  
pay for and if we sell them we cannot  
get nothing for them and would  
like to know if should we go off and  
leave them we would to know of  
Do you think it would be right  
to go on of leave them after we have  
pay for them you please Sir see us  
some good word I remember that  
moses told the children to slay and  
see the salvation of Isrl so with the  
Remark I close

Your Truly W. C. Johnson



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Office of Weekly Spectator  
Maysville, Miss Sept 15/79

Hon. J. P. St. John  
Topeka  
Kansas.

Honored Sir:

I am constantly burdened by the Negroes of this (Pawnee) County with inquiries as to the propriety of another "exodus" to your State during the coming Fall, and being unable to answer them, I beg to trouble you for a little information on the subject.

Some of the negroes will have money to spare when they have disposed of their crops, but many will not have more than enough to pay the expense of emigrating.

The whites in this section will not oppose the "exodus," as they had rather be rid of the dissatisfied element, than to retain it here, as a source of trouble and discontent.

I am publishing a newspaper at the County



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site, and ask for this information that I  
may publish it for the benefit of my patrons,  
a majority of whom are colored people.

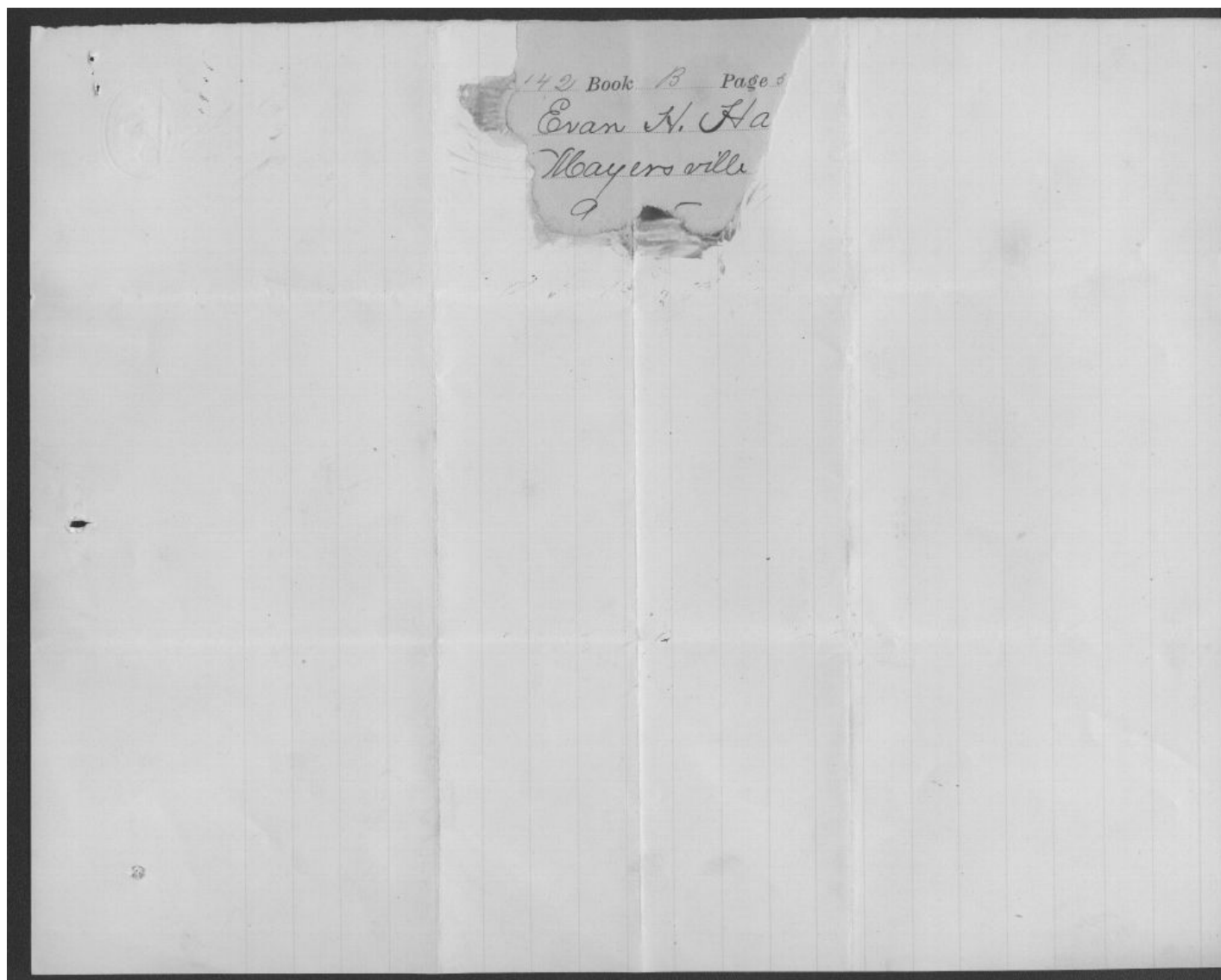
Hoping you may find it convenient to  
answer, very soon, I am

Yours Respectfully  
Evan H. Harris

Direct to Box # 31

Marysville, Izaguenaw Co, Miss.

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Englewood Cook Co Ill Sept 15<sup>th</sup>  
1879  
Gov John D. St John,

My dear Brother:— Again  
I must occupy a <sup>few</sup> moments  
of thy valuable time, to read  
my sincere thanks for thy  
kind letter, informing us of  
continued arrivals, of Refugees  
from the south, and am glad  
they appear less needy than  
those I saw there, yet there are  
many who will need aid  
the coming fall and winter,  
as work will become less access-  
able. I have rec'd a number  
of letters from Michigan, that  
means work. My dear Friend  
Elizabeth L. Carristock is hard  
at work, she says, "on reading  
thy published articles, I said the  
"Massedonian cry," is, come

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over to Kansas and help us?  
 "And my friends say Thou  
 art the one to go? And I have  
 sent the papers thou sent me  
 to my wealthy friends in  
 England, also in the Eastern  
 States. I ask for money and  
 winter bed clothing, and  
 wearing apparel of all descrip-  
 tions. And I want thee to write  
 the Gov. and see whether he  
 will find me a room or  
 two, to store my supplies. and  
 whether I can have the  
 assistance from some strong  
 man to aid me in handling  
 the sacks of goods, as I design  
 getting up one or two car loads  
 by the 8<sup>th</sup> of next month."  
 I have written her, she will find  
 all the aid she needs. She is a  
 Friend Quaker minister. An  
 English woman, who has been





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in our country long enough  
to become Americanized,  
in our Northern politics. She want  
ed to know when I was going  
again, I wrote her my daughter  
was holding me here until  
my book is finished, for she  
said "Mother has set the ball to  
rolling and its not going to  
stop." But her daughter, I find is  
going with her, and a free pass  
to Kansas and return, is secured  
for them both. And Elizabeth  
is a double team of herself.  
Having traveled in the gospel  
ministry extensively through  
the Northern, and to some ex-  
tent in the southern States, and  
also in her native country.

I have sent at her request  
over a dozen papers with my  
articles on this Exodus.

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I have received a letter from John  
M. Brown in reply to my queries  
as to what houses they have in the  
Wabamsee Colony? And how  
many acres of wheat they design  
to sow this fall? And that I had  
informed my friends in Mich.  
that a warmer quilt or comfortable  
ought to be sent to each of the  
31 families in that new Colony.  
And money to purchase  
their seed wheat ought to be sent  
you. And to my surprise he writes  
they will sow 65 acres, if they can  
get the wheat in time to sow.  
That certainly tells well for their  
Industry. — I was very much  
interested in thy report of that  
successful Temperance Meeting.  
How I should have enjoyed it with  
you. And of rejoicing with my  
old friend and sister Amanda  
Way. If she got my letter, I hope she  
will write me. May Heaven's richest  
blessings ever rest upon thee and thine. I pray  
Laura J. Hamilton



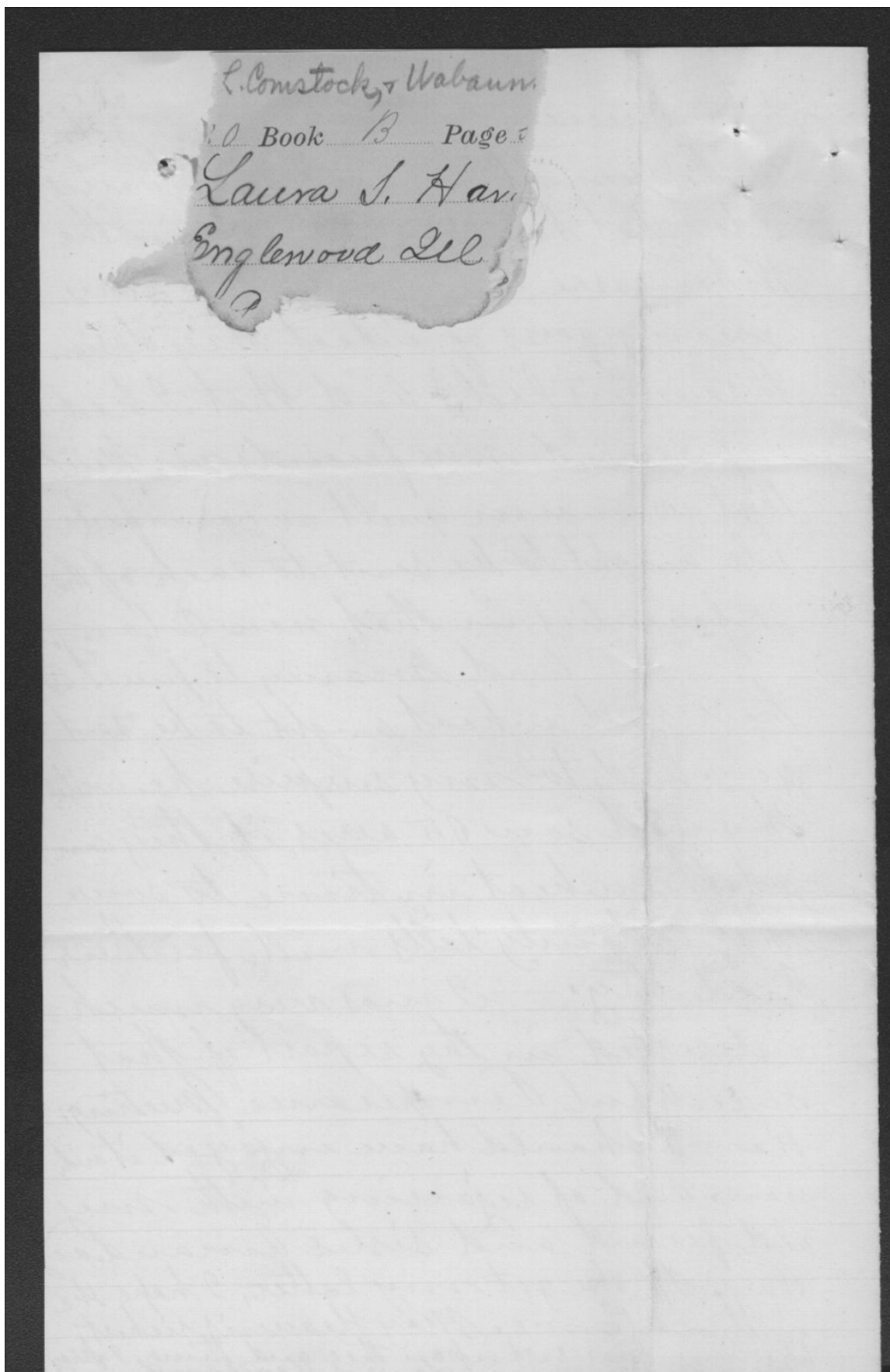


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D. S. Remember in love to thy  
wife and children. Also to that  
Br and sister Dawson and family  
L. S. H.



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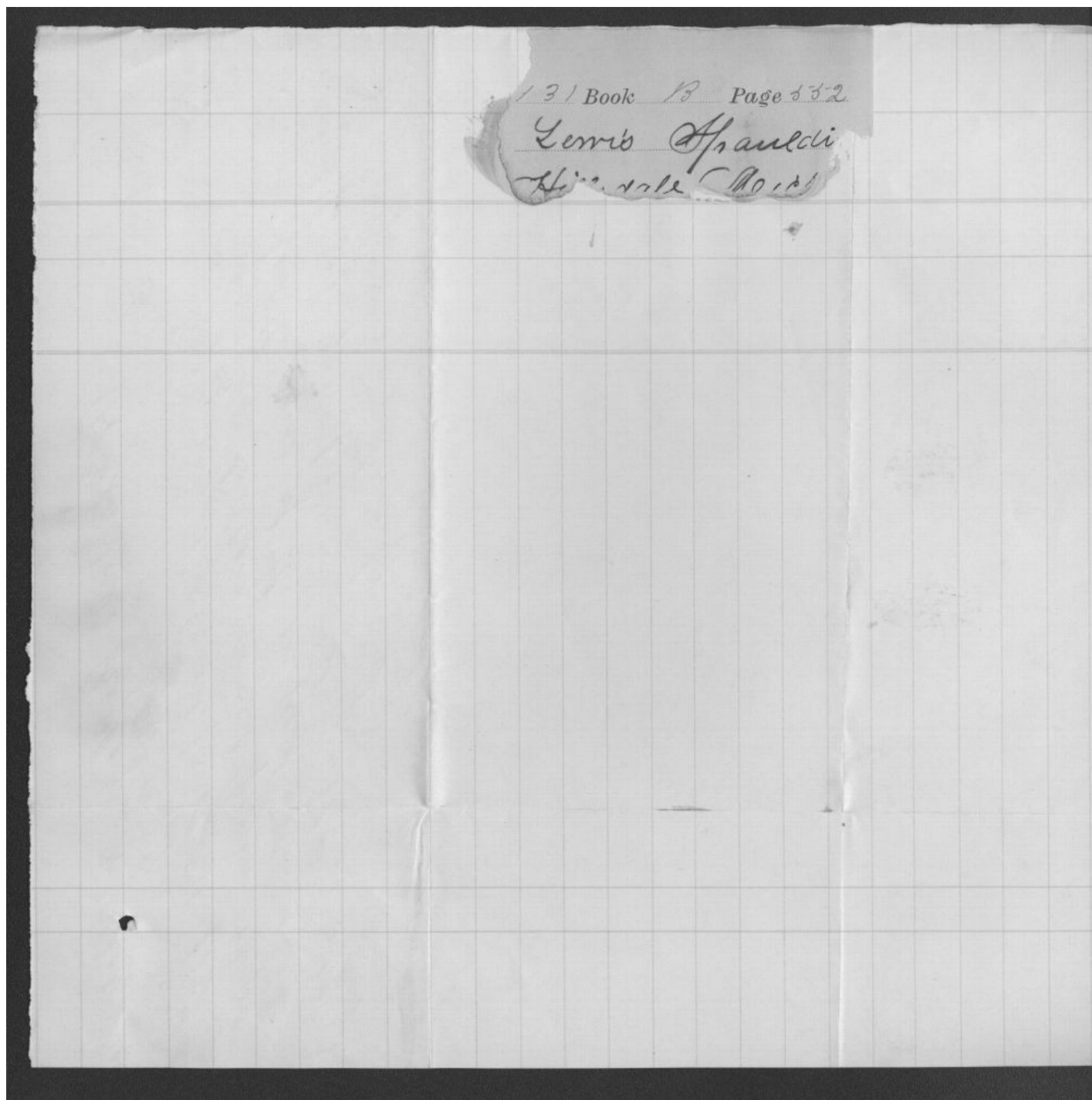
## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Hillsdale College Hillsdale, Mich.  
Sept. 16 '79.

Dear Sir: Enclosed find \$100. for  
Two & 000 Dollars which please apply  
for the use of the escaped colored  
refugees from rebel cruelty, & oblige  
yours & their friend  
Lewis Paulding

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