

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 34, Pages 991 - 1020

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

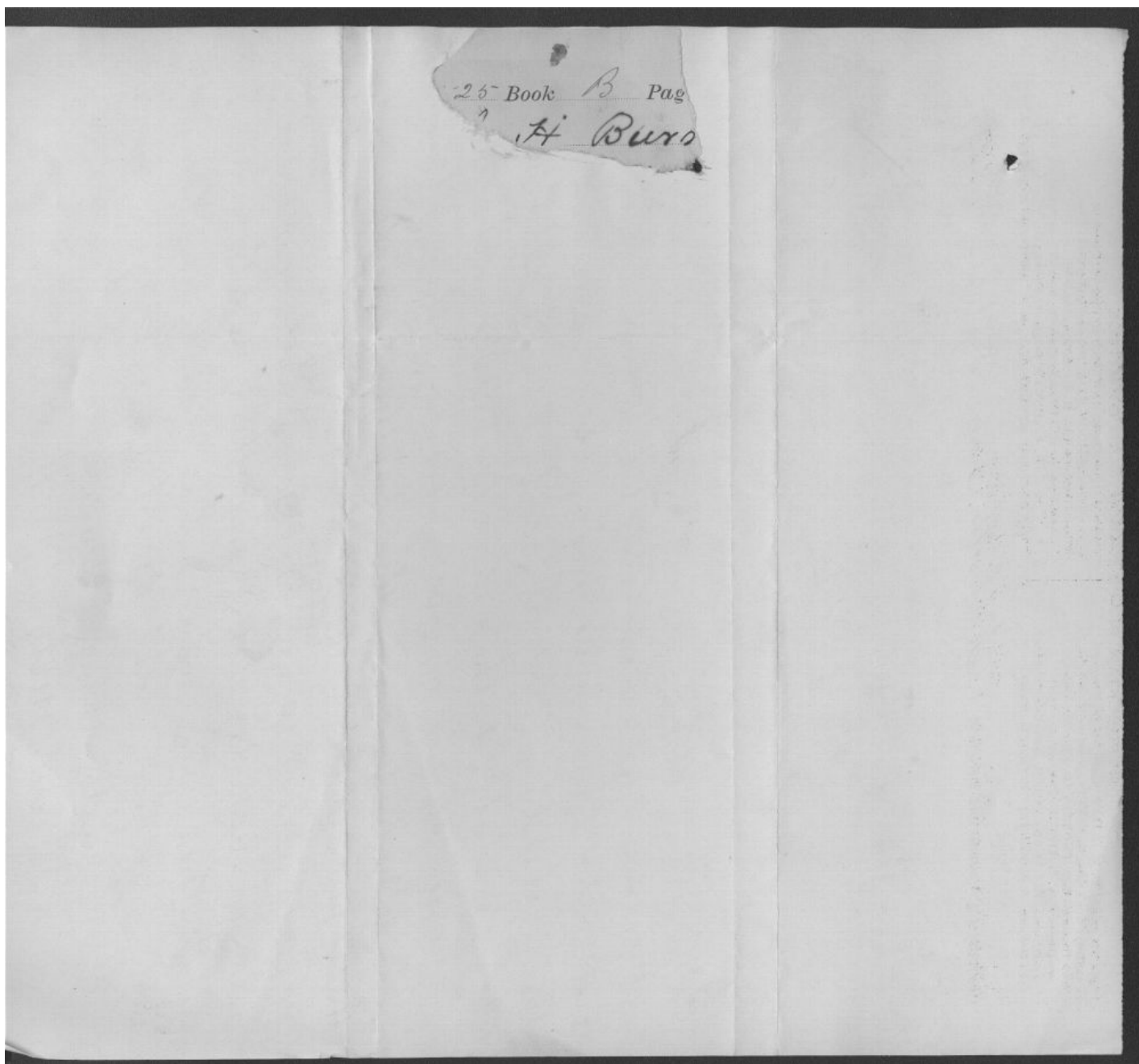
Callnumber: Governor's Office, St. John, Correspondence Received-Subject File, Box 13-15

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 210296

Item Identifier: 210296

www.kansasmemory.org/item/210296

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



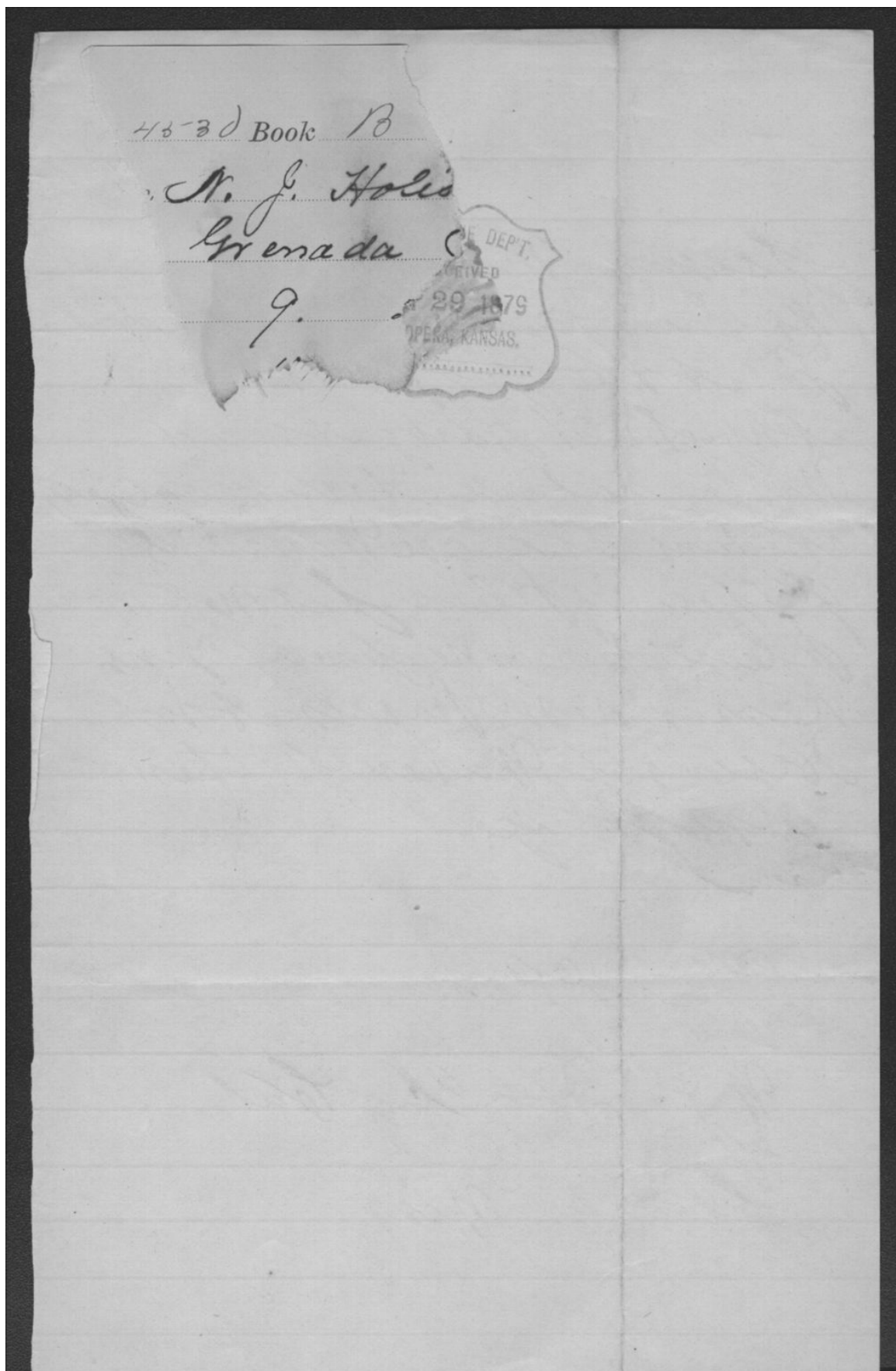
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

18 49

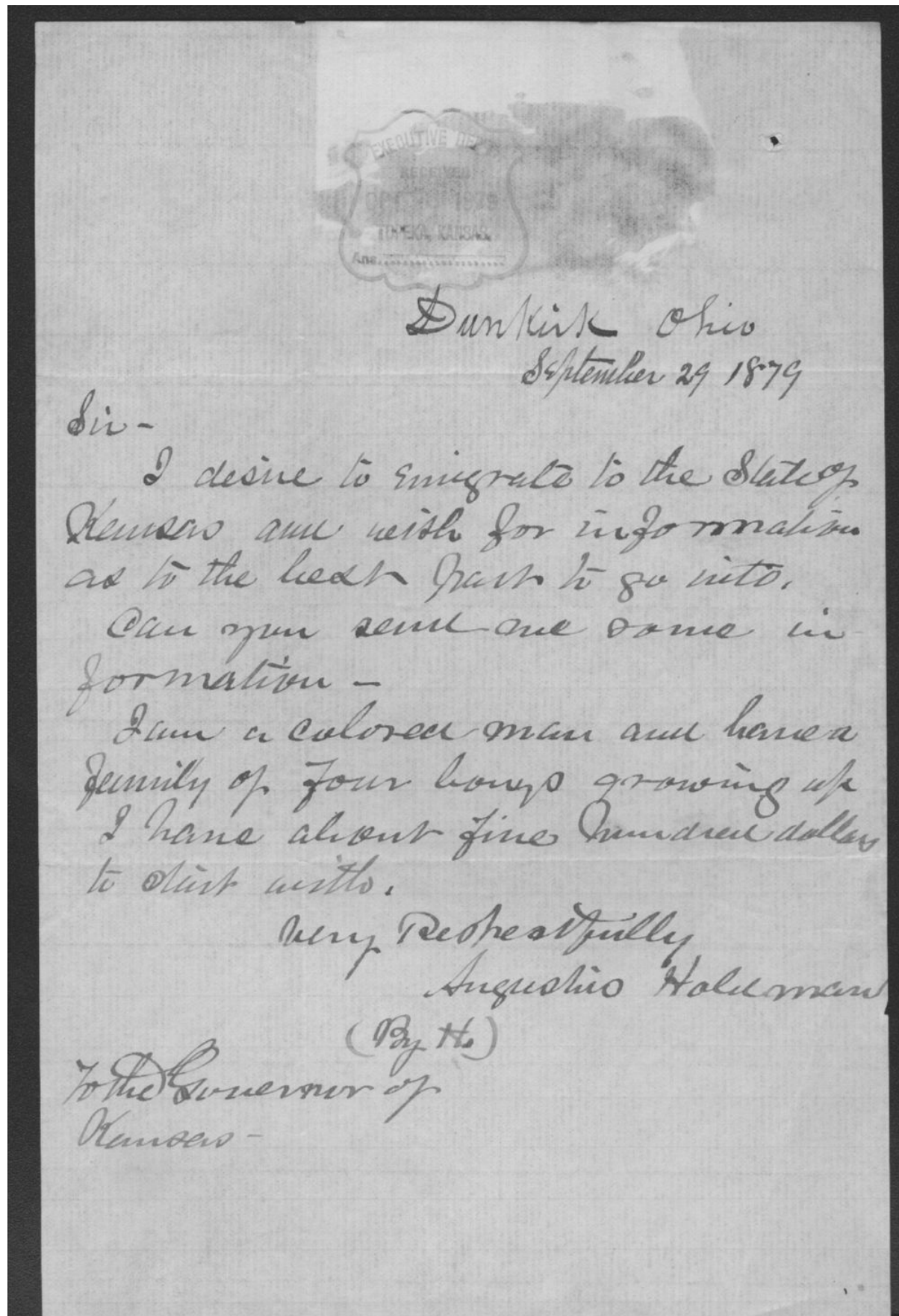
General Miss Sept 26
 Mr Saint John I send my self
 to ask you if there is
 any such thing as and
 Washinal are Airling Society
 in your state are Wansions
 if there is please let me know
 please send me one of your
 Kansas newspapers and
 Here is the money for them
 And Oblige

my friend
 W J Hallis Cal
 General Miss

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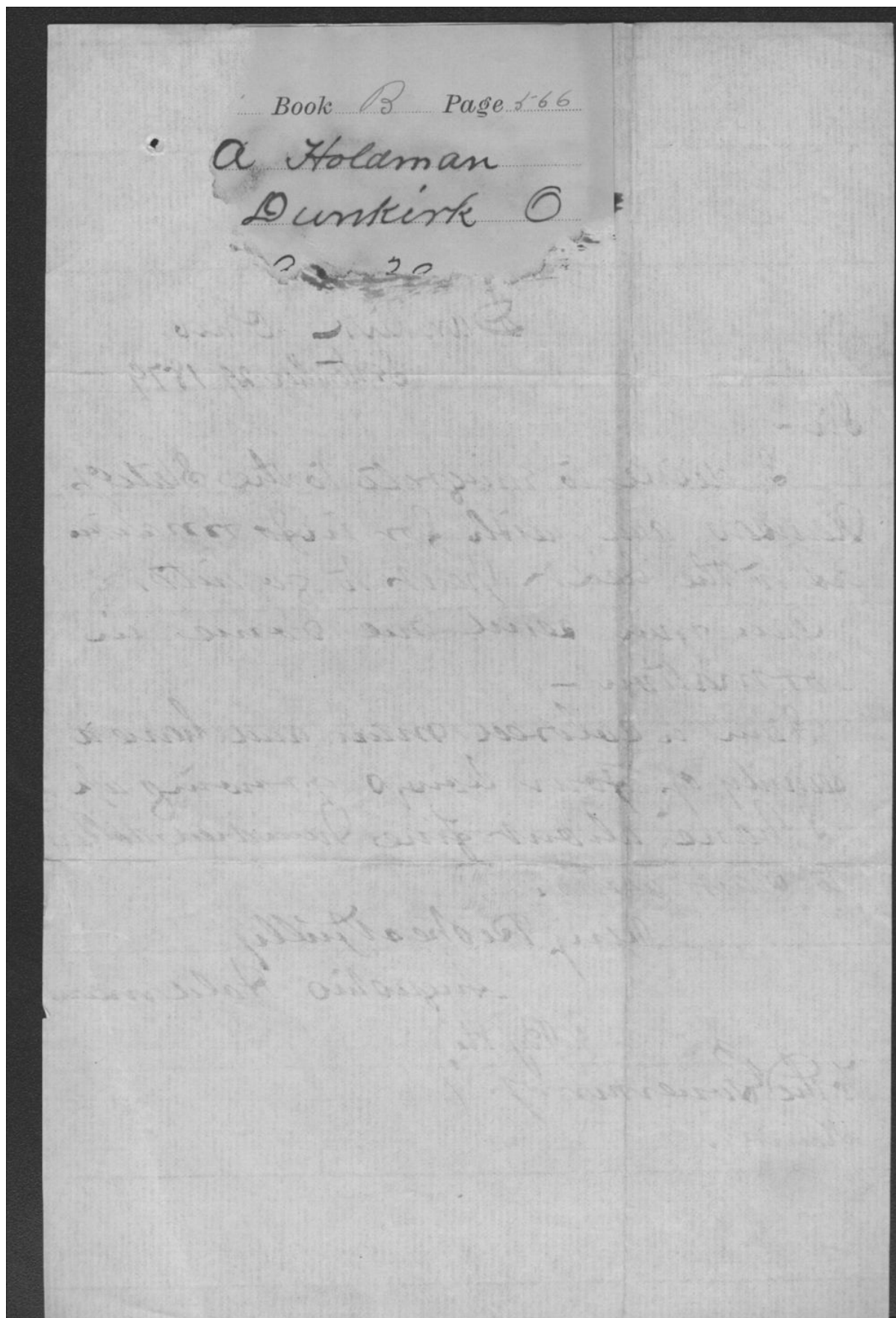


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Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Richmond, Fort Bend County, Texas,

Tuesday, Sept 29th 1879.

Gov John P St John,

Topeka, Kansas.

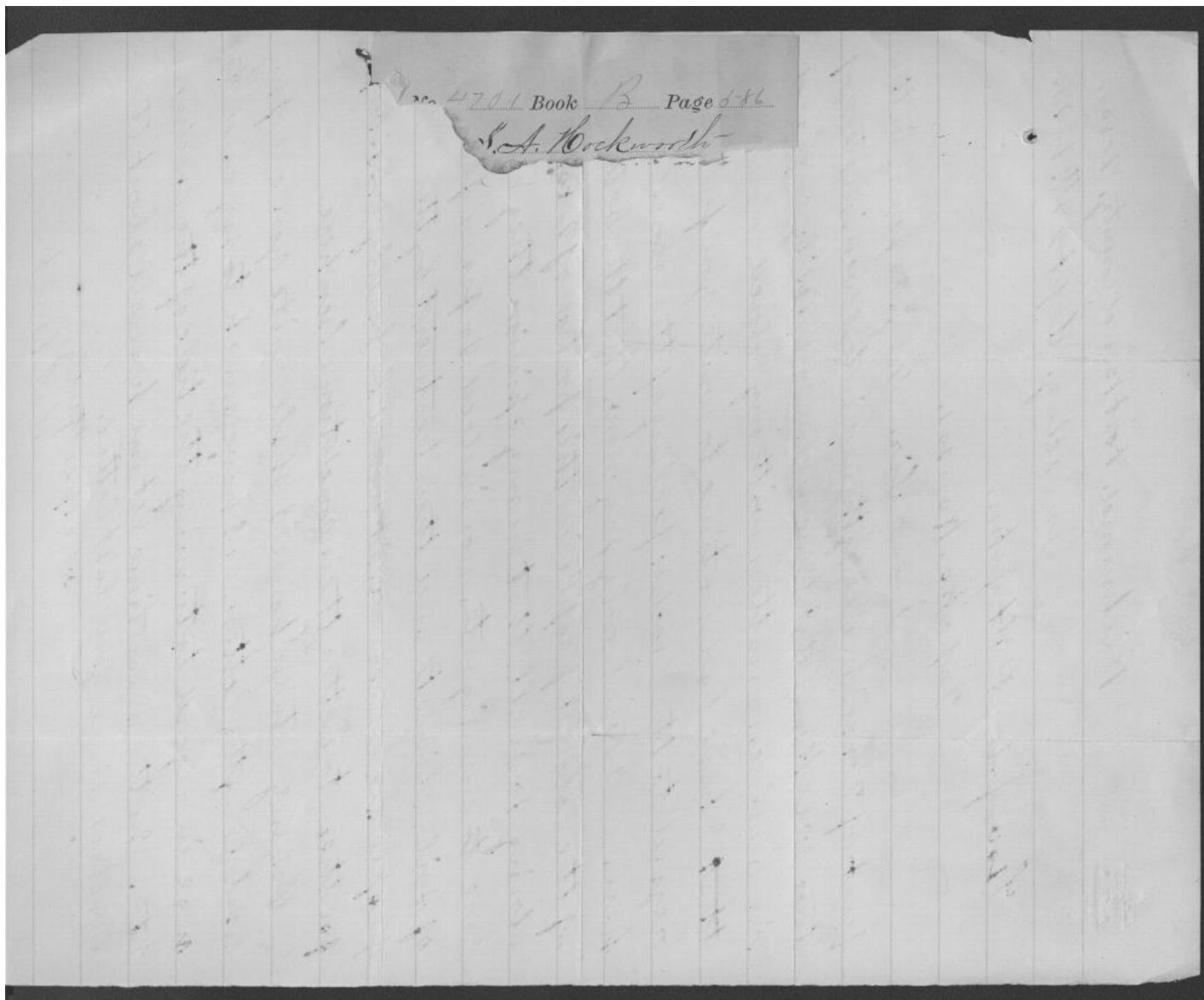
Dear Sir. My sojourn in this part of Texas, has lengthened into seven, instead of two weeks, and I have been so busily engaged, in business matters with my colored colonists here that I have had no time to write you fully in regard to the Exoduster feeling of the colored people here. I will only say now, that the better classes of the colored people in this portion of Texas, are doing so well, that in my opinion they do not care to emigrate, nor indeed so far as fertility of soil, climate and their treatment by the white people are concerned, it would be hardly possible for them to better their condition elsewhere.

On my return home I shall write you one of my usual lengthy letters, as I have much to say and to urge in regard to turning the tide of the Exoduster. Etc. In the meantime let me hear all about the Exoduster, since your last letter.

Respectfully,

H. A. Hackworth.

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Centronelle, Ala. Sept. 30th 1879-

Dear Sir-

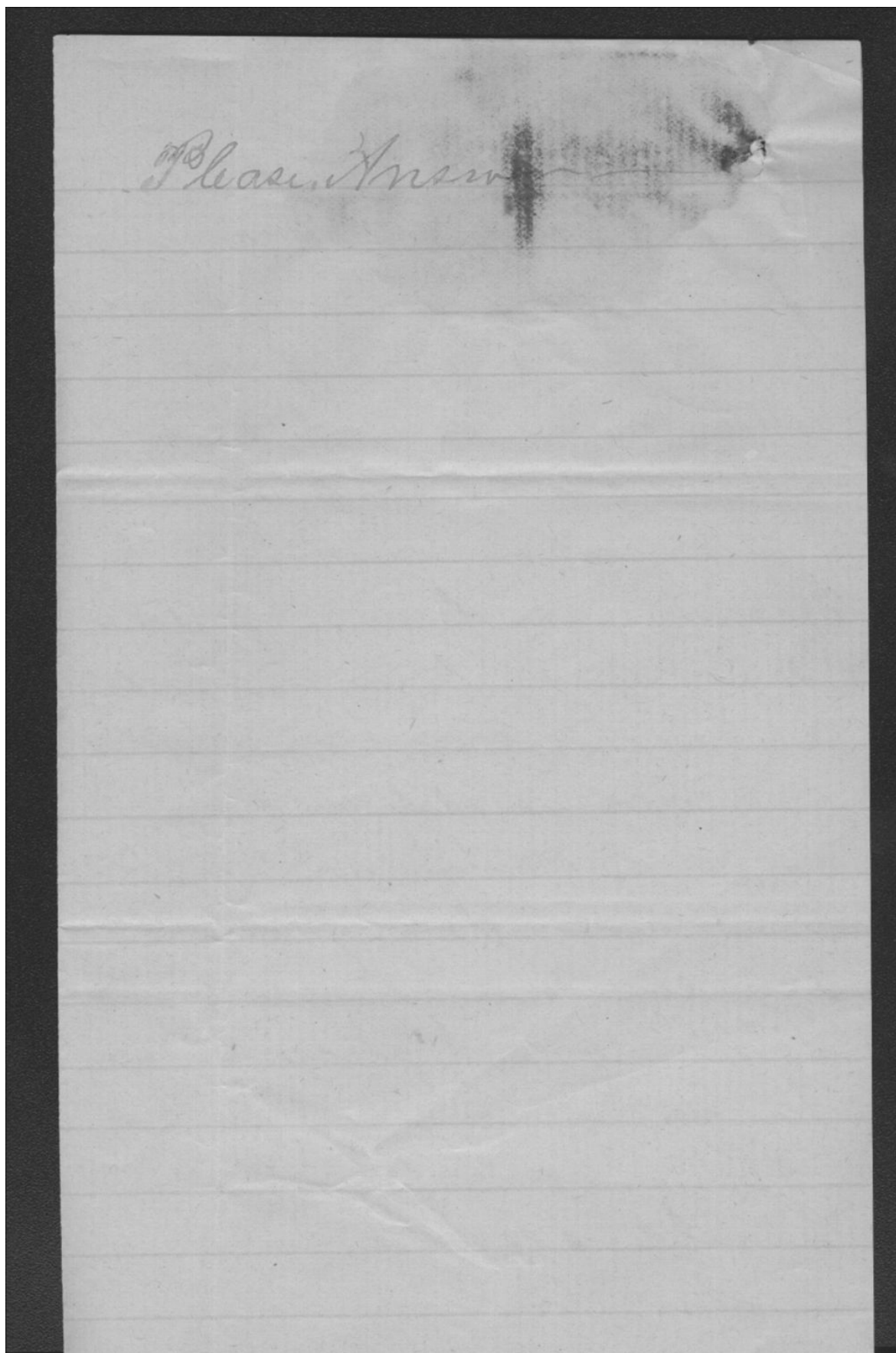
Gov. John. P. St. John
With the greatest of pleasure
again I write you a few lines
stating to you that I received
the Book - that you sent
me as a compliment to me I
must confess - to you that
I have never - esteem any
gift in all my life - so highly
as I did that of yours -
and my wife - and little

Daughter - esteem the Book
so much - they both are sorry
that they are not in Kansas

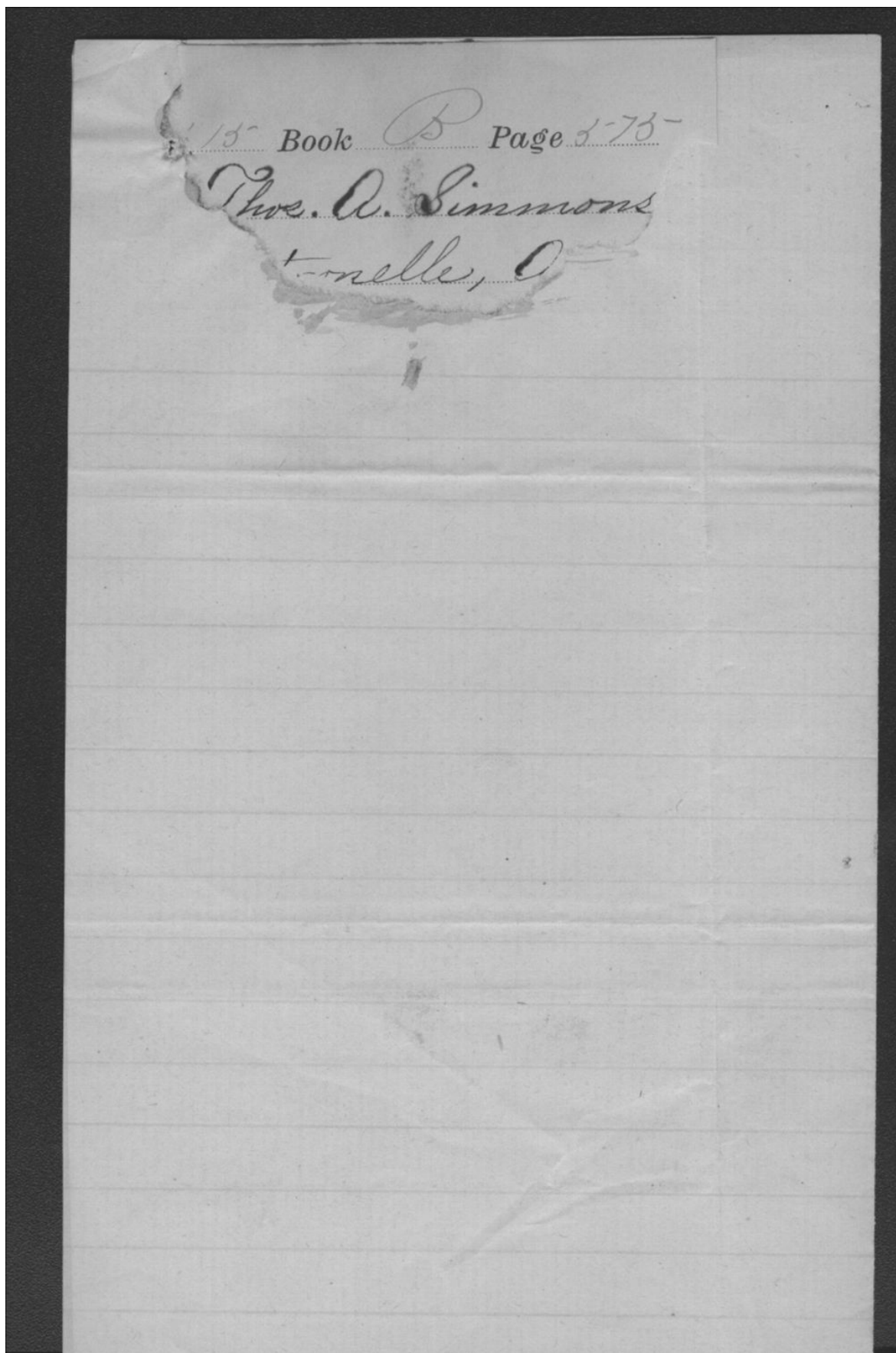
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

at the present time -
 Dr Sir please excuse me
 for not mentioning the Book
 in answer to your first
 letter. my reason why I did not
 write because I did not receive
 the Book in the time that I
 received your letter. an after
 I got your letter an carefully
 contented it. now I answered
 you immediately. as I were
 so glad to receive a letter from
 your hands - Dear Friend if
 you can do anything in regard
 to my request please let me
 know. Between now an first
 Spring Month - Your most
 humble servant.
 Thos A Simmons

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No. 44. 14 Sept. 30, 1879

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A. R. BREWER, Sec'y. WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't.

Dated Kansas City Mo 30 187 9

TOPEKA, KANSAS.

Received at Gov John St John

To Gov John St John

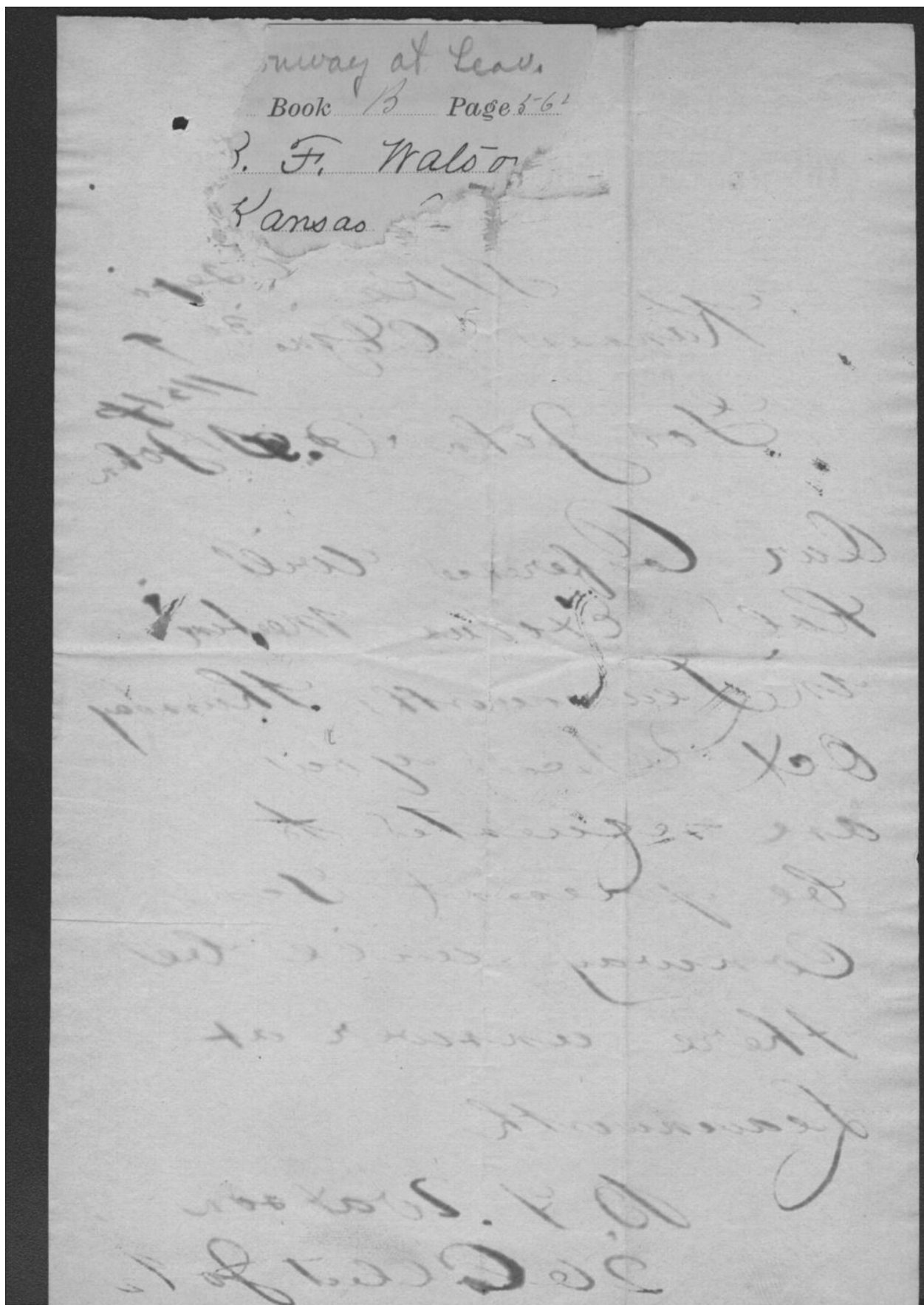
Our Conference will
hold Exodus Meeting
in Leavenworth Thursday
Oct Second you
are requested to
be present Gen
Conway will be
there answer at
Leavenworth

B. F. Watson

444 26 Collect Jo 12

READ THE NOTICE IN THE TOP

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Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



THE NEW BUILDING.

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS,
CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE.

LAWRENCE, KANSAS.

Sept 19 1879

His Excellency

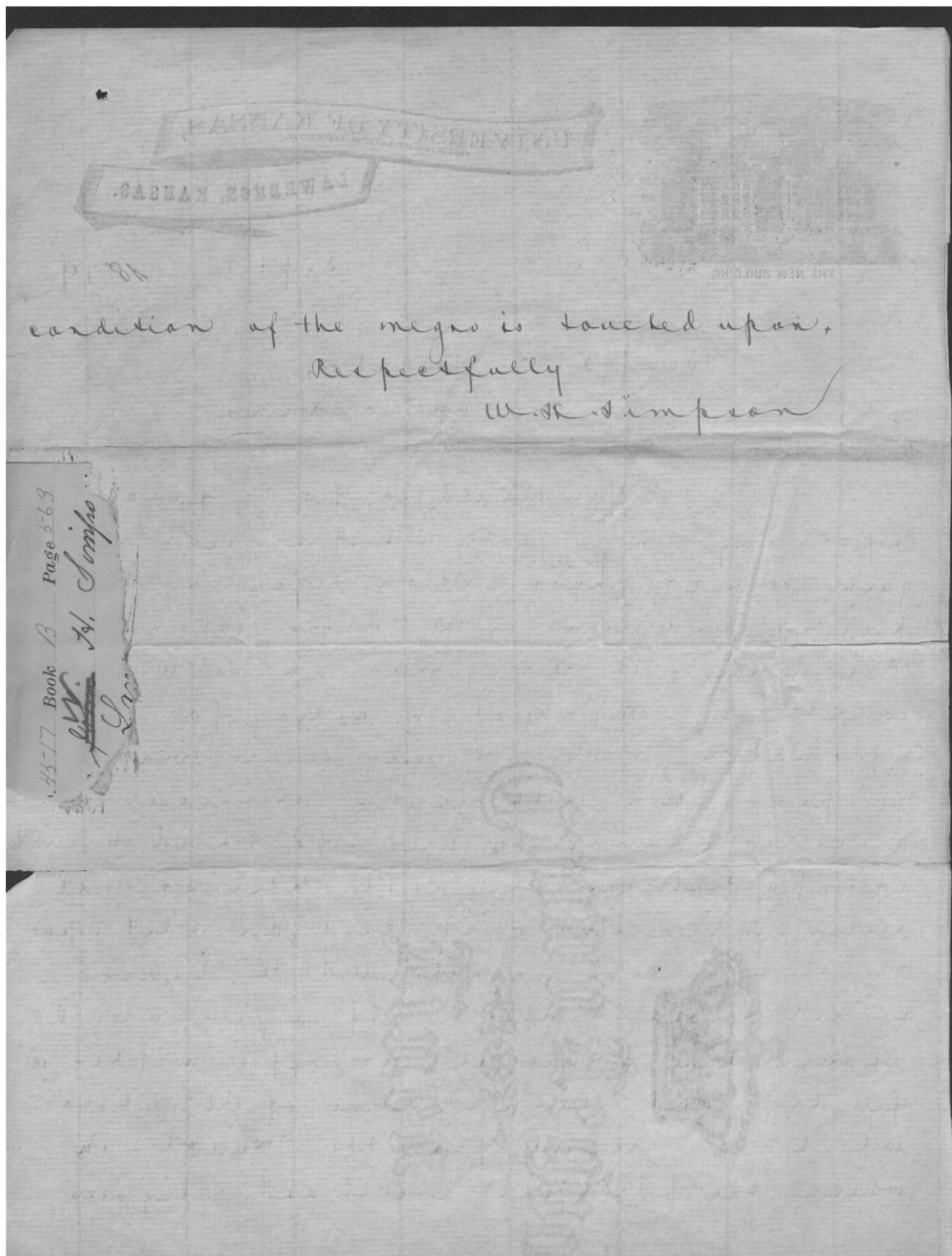
Gov. John B. St. John,

Topeka, Kans.

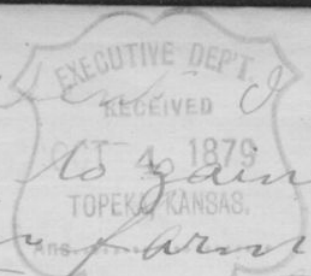
Dear Sir:

You would confer a favor by informing me from what sources I can gain correct information regarding the present condition of the negro colonies at Nicodemus, in Hodgeman and in Wabunsee counties. My object in asking for such information is that I may secure matter for publication in the East - erroneous impressions having secured a foothold in such an impartial monthly as the International Review - impressions that cast discredit upon the colored race in general and the Kansas branch in particular. If agreeable I should like to call at your office within a few days and look at some of the letters which you receive from the South - in which the political, social and religious

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 My friend I write
 to you for to give
 information from you
 which I do trust that
 you will give my State
 and County in which I live
 is Sabine County Texas
 we get papers from your
 State and some of which
 give us great hopes and
 some make us feel with
 great doubts and I know now
 write to you for your
 information which I trust
 you will and it may be
 with satisfaction for I
 live in a country where
 that there is all paper of
 discouraging that can
 be give it is give and I
 hopes you will give me
 your advice about your
 Country if it is for

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

the better fore us to
migrate and come to kan
sas please inform us
for we are hard working
people here in south and
give high rent and big
interest for every thing
we get and we work and
work and every year we
just land come out earren
high price for land rent
\$3. and and \$4. per acre
and we know that we can
not live at that so ask
your information on the
subject we could make a
good living providing
that we was where we
could enjoy it A Calards
mand out here land not
enjoy his own right if
~~if his~~
he have a good



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

education he cant not
injoy he cant set on the
jury wich I think is A
very small office he cant
have no kind of and office no
further than to teach A
school and A very small
one at that he cant
merchandise he cant keep
A barroom and rather af
that kind whigt folks
dont want you to do
any thing but farm &
and know that there is
A better State somewhere
than this one and I doo
believe that Kansas is
and I doo trust that you
will give me your infor
mation an it some time
the kness come out here
that it is too cold for
us I am no doubt but what

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

if it is not A cooler Country
 then this Texas for Texas
 is A hot Country and it is
 too hot for me it is so
 hot untill there get all A
 mond makes please write
 soon as possible and I
 you will excuse ~~may~~
 my bad hand write for
 I am A farmer and you
 know A farmer sand not
 write A good hand when
 he work hard my post
 affice is Sabine Town
 Sabine Co. Texas Texas
 your affectionated
 friend untill death
 Jasper Arnold
 to Mr St John

No. 43-49 Book B Page

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



1879
Ringsi Miss Oct-6th 1st

Gouverner

ST. John. Dear

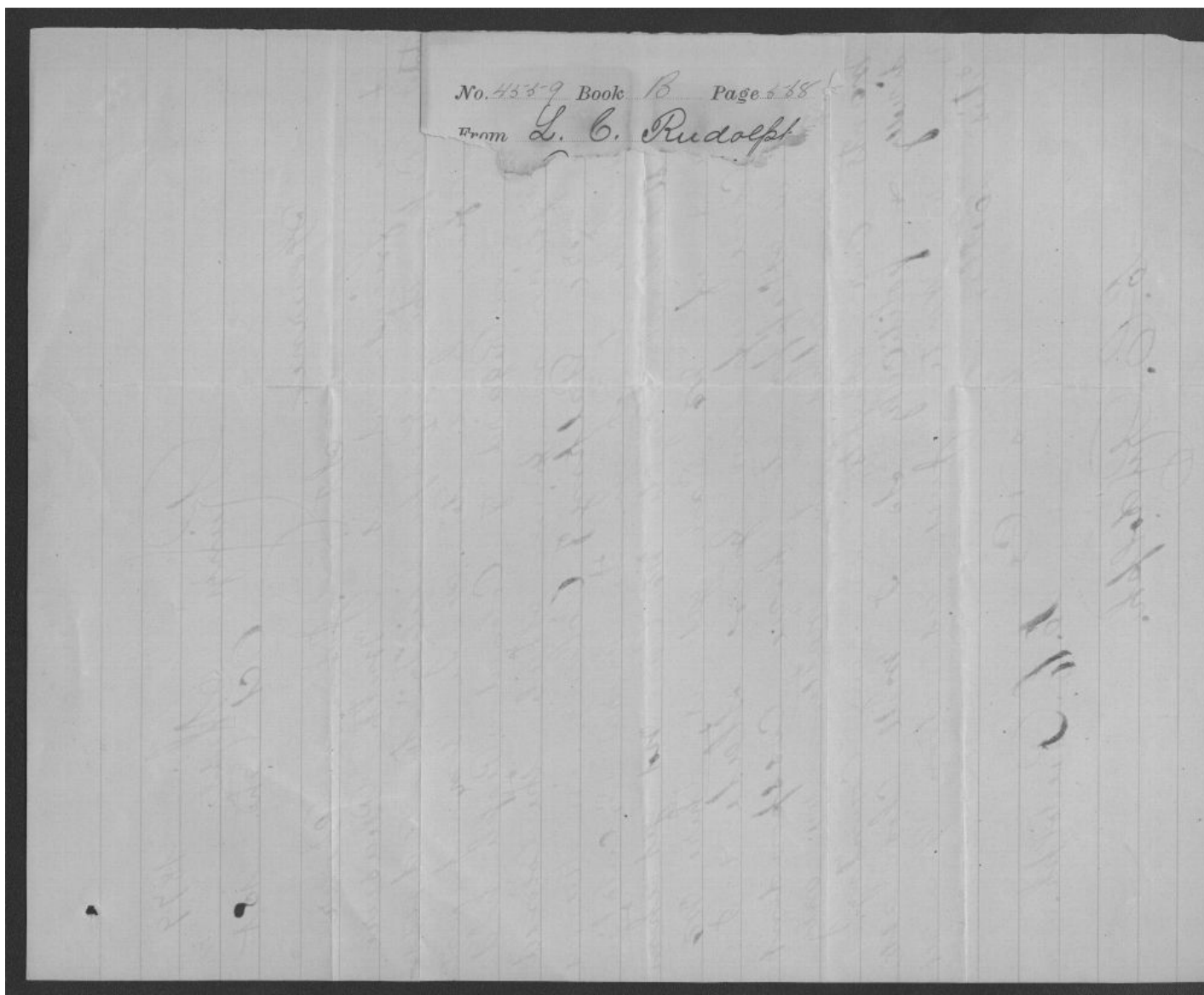
it is a friend it is with pleasure
that I take the Responsibility to address
you a few lines to gain some information
of you in regard of Colored People hold
ing office in your state the Colored
People are Balping & Colony in Kansas
and I like to know the general Circulation
of Constitutional Rights We Can not get them
Hear & if we Can get it, there we
will come up in your state & I
will be Happy to have Correspondent
with you about the matter we only
want our Rights in any Country
simply & politically so I will close ask
you to write just as soon you get
this Letter

Yours &c

L. C. Rudolph.

L. C. Rudolph.

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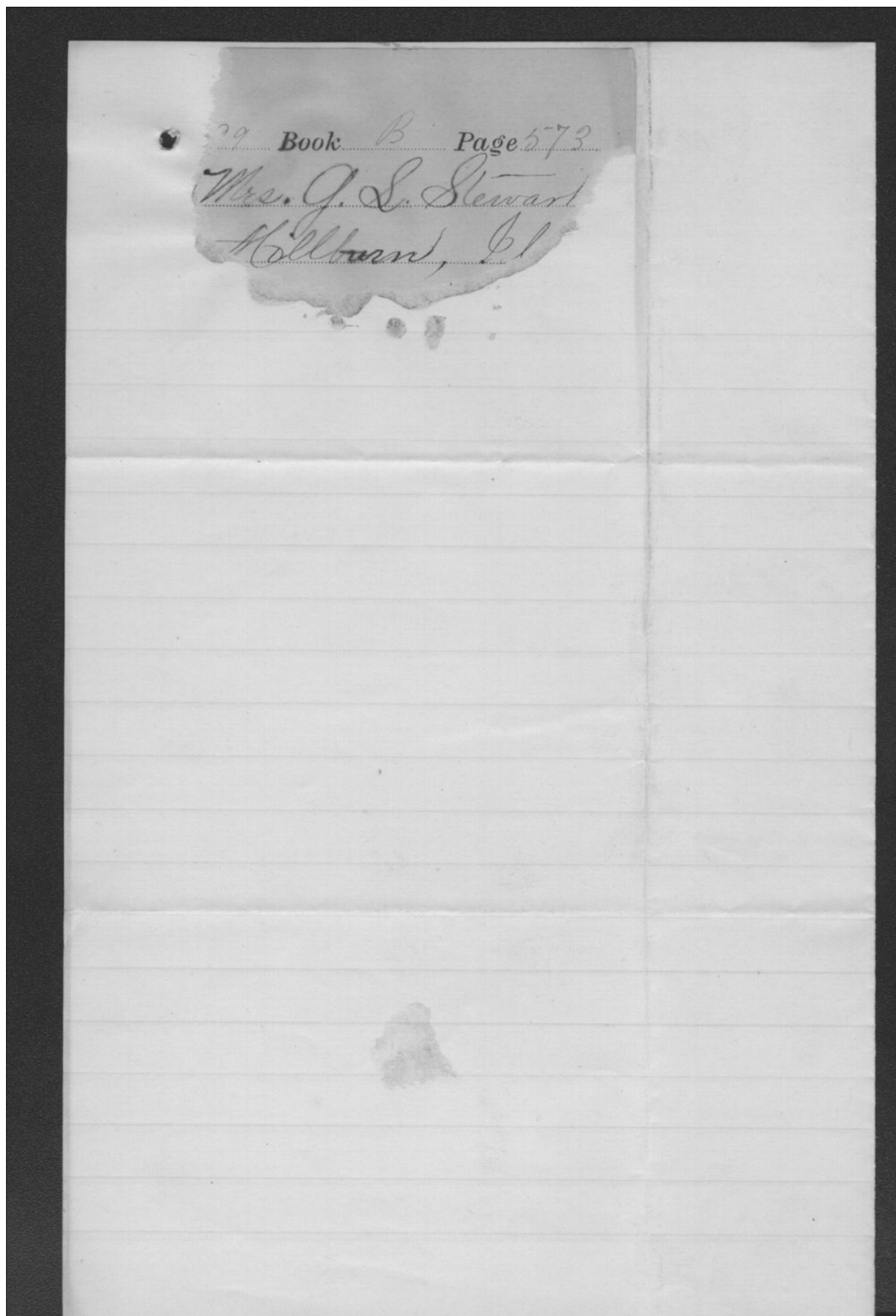
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Millburn Oct 2nd 1879.
To His Excellency
Governor - St. John

Our Missionary
So, have a quantity
of clothing bedding &c
collected. We send to
the colored people
of Kansas if you think
it would be acceptable
to them, please let us
know at your earliest
convenience..

Please direct
Mrs R. L. Stewart
Secy of Millburn Mission
and So. Lake Co. Illinois.

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Lexington Miss Holmes County
Oct 1st 1879
Governor State of Kansas
Dear Sir -

Permit me to drop
You these few lines and trust -
that the same will meet with
due consideration and an early
response. Our Color in this Section
Contemplate in visiting Your state
Next spring or sooner in view of
locating there. We are getting
on very well Not deprived
of our civil or political
rights - You are aware that our
race of are uneducated, and
a great many do not half work
& last year in this state was not
deep sustaining on a of a on of
which ruined our crops. I have
a considerable influence with the
Colored people of this Section



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

and I have advised them to
gather their crops & save
their money until I could
hear further. I must thank
you for all information you
can give us appertaining to
your state, as whether or
not our race can make
a living in Kansas, if they
arrive there with little
or no money. I mean our women
& children 10 & 15 yrs old as well
as the men.

Hoping you will
give me as speedy &
lengthy reply as possible
as I am anxious to show
your letter to our people -
With respect

J. M. Abbott
J. M. Brown (Calm)
Care P.O. Box 94

48-5-6 Book 13
Wm Brown
Exoduster



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A. R. BREWER, Sec'y. *41* *12* NORVIN GREEN, President.

Dated *Cincinnati O* *Ans. Oct 3 79* 1879

Received at *TOPEKA, KANSAS* *Oct 2 333 pm*

To *Gov St John*

*EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
OCT 3 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.
Ans. Oct 3 79*

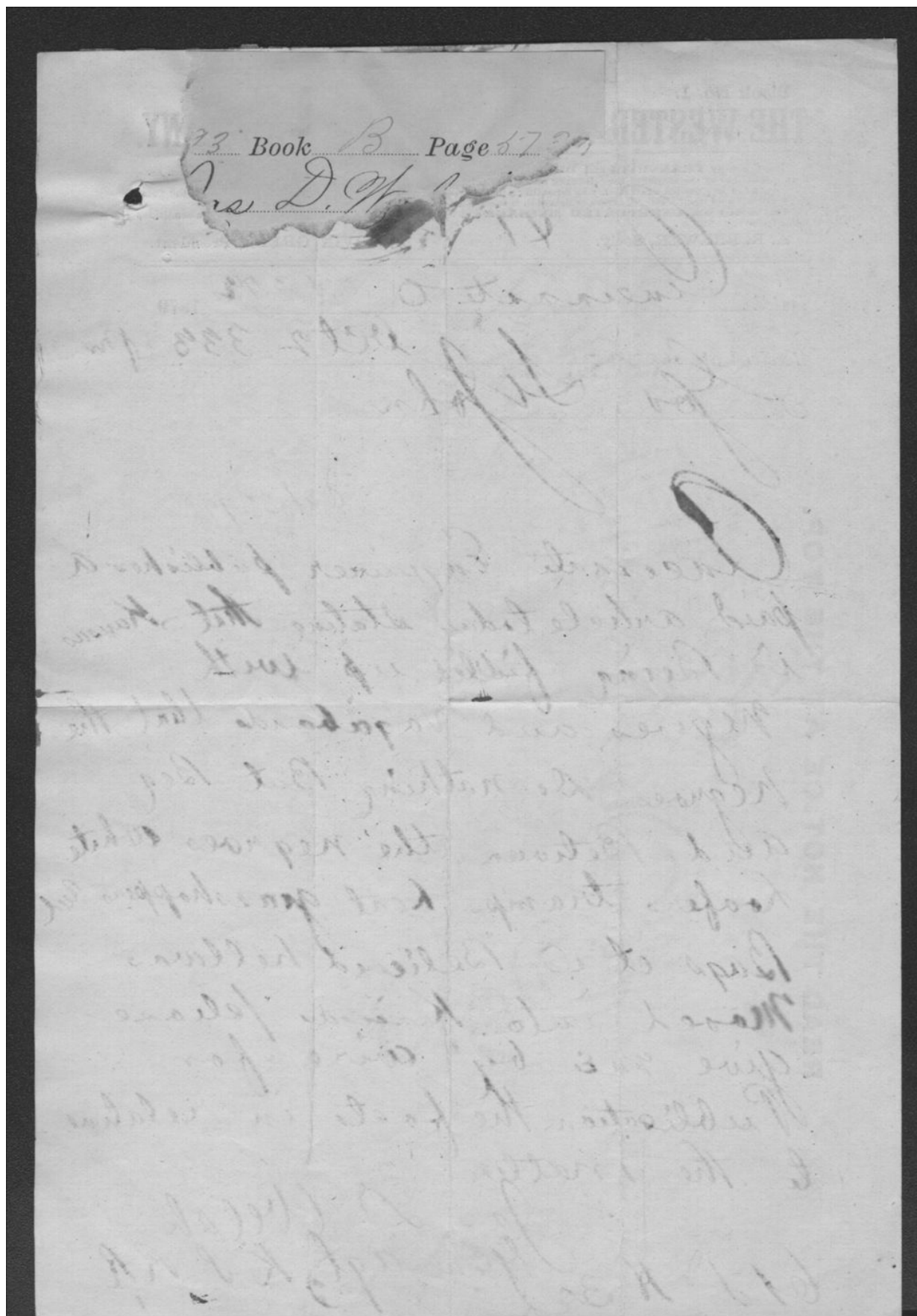
READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.

Cincinnati Enquirer publishes a paid article today stating that Kansas is Being filled up with Negroes and Vagabonds that the Negroes do nothing But Beg and Between the negroes white loafers tramps beat grasshoppers and Bugs it is Believed hell was moved into Kansas please give me by wire for Publication the facts in relative to the matters

*Jas D Welsh
Genl agt K P RR
61 D A 3e*

Answered Oct 3 79

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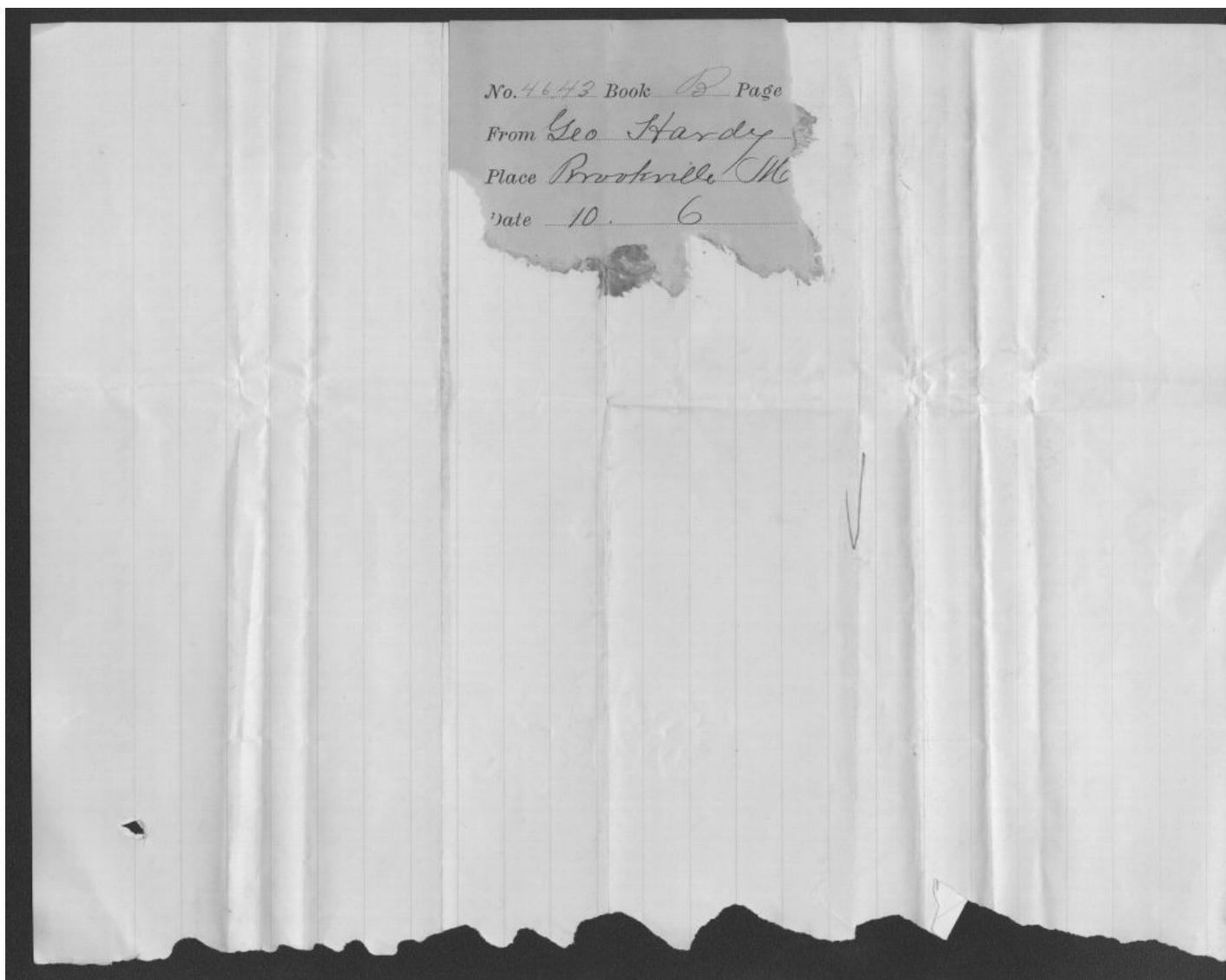


Brooks Vile Min. Oct. 6th 87
Gov. St. John.

Sir I write you a few lines to let you know our intentions this fall we the undersign Colored People of this part of this state do here by ask of you can we or can we not get any help from your City and State we are in search of homes in the west and we are without the means to provide our way to the west we are all here in a torped state no one to pity our condition or to feel our care and you men tell us if we can get any assistant from you state we hats to start on our pilgrimage befrance we can get an answer from you we wants to start on and about the 18 or 19 of November please write to me and let me know in short The white people will not let us have any thing to carry with us & you must do some thing for us

I will close write soon
and direct your letter to Geo Hardy
Nason Miss and user in the Intercean

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Oct. 6, 1879

To the Honorable Gov. St. John
Topeka Kansas
Dear Sir I want to come to Kansas
or some of the Western States. I have no
Money, no provisions, no property, and
I am working for very low wages. Men wages
here range from three to six dollars a month
in farms, on railroads nine dollars. At
that rate the majority of us can never get
a way from here unless we can get help.
If you can please help us. We desire to
leave here if possible. I cannot tell the members
that would leave and pay the expense after
we get there. If you can do anything for us
please write and let me know how many
you will take at the time, and the conditions
you will take us on
Jack P. James
Ridgeway Fairfield Co. Mo.
October 6th 1879