

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 38, Pages 1111 - 1140

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

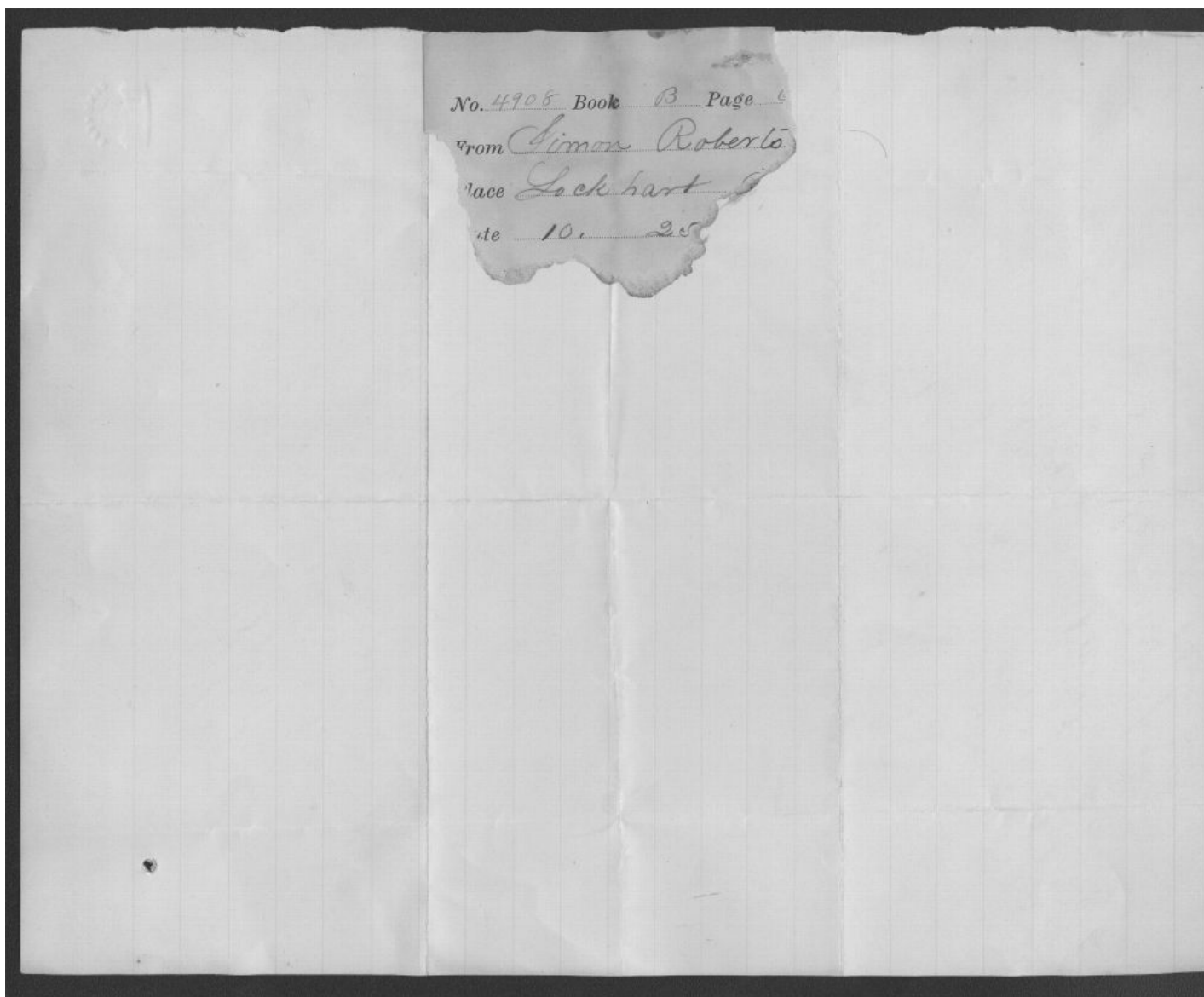
Callnumber: Governor's Office, St. John, Correspondence Received-Subject File, Box 13-15

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 210296

Item Identifier: 210296

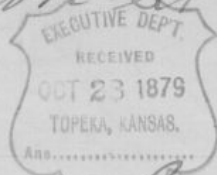
www.kansasmemory.org/item/210296

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Washington St Landry Parish



Oct 23rd/79

To His Excellency Gov St John

Dear Sir

I address you this letter to ascertain if possible on what terms a tract of land sufficiently large for a colony of 500,000. Agricultural labors can be obtained for in your State. the terrorism in this vicinity has made the Exodus fever an epidemic. If I can make favorable arrangements as to land and location I will close out my business here and form a colony. I can carry the colored ~~people~~ people from here almost in mass. I leave the matter for your consideration as to the information I may require for a thorough understanding of the subject please write immediately on receipt of this letter as I wish to determine on my future course of action at as early a date as possible. (over)

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

for now is the time before the colored
people make the next years contracts

Respectfully Yours

R. B. Hewett M.D.

Address

R

Washington

St Landry Parish

La.

No. _____	Dr. _____
Directions, _____	

From DR. R. B. HEWETT, Druggist and Physician, Main Street, Washington, La.	

300 Book B Page
R. B. Hewett
Washington La.

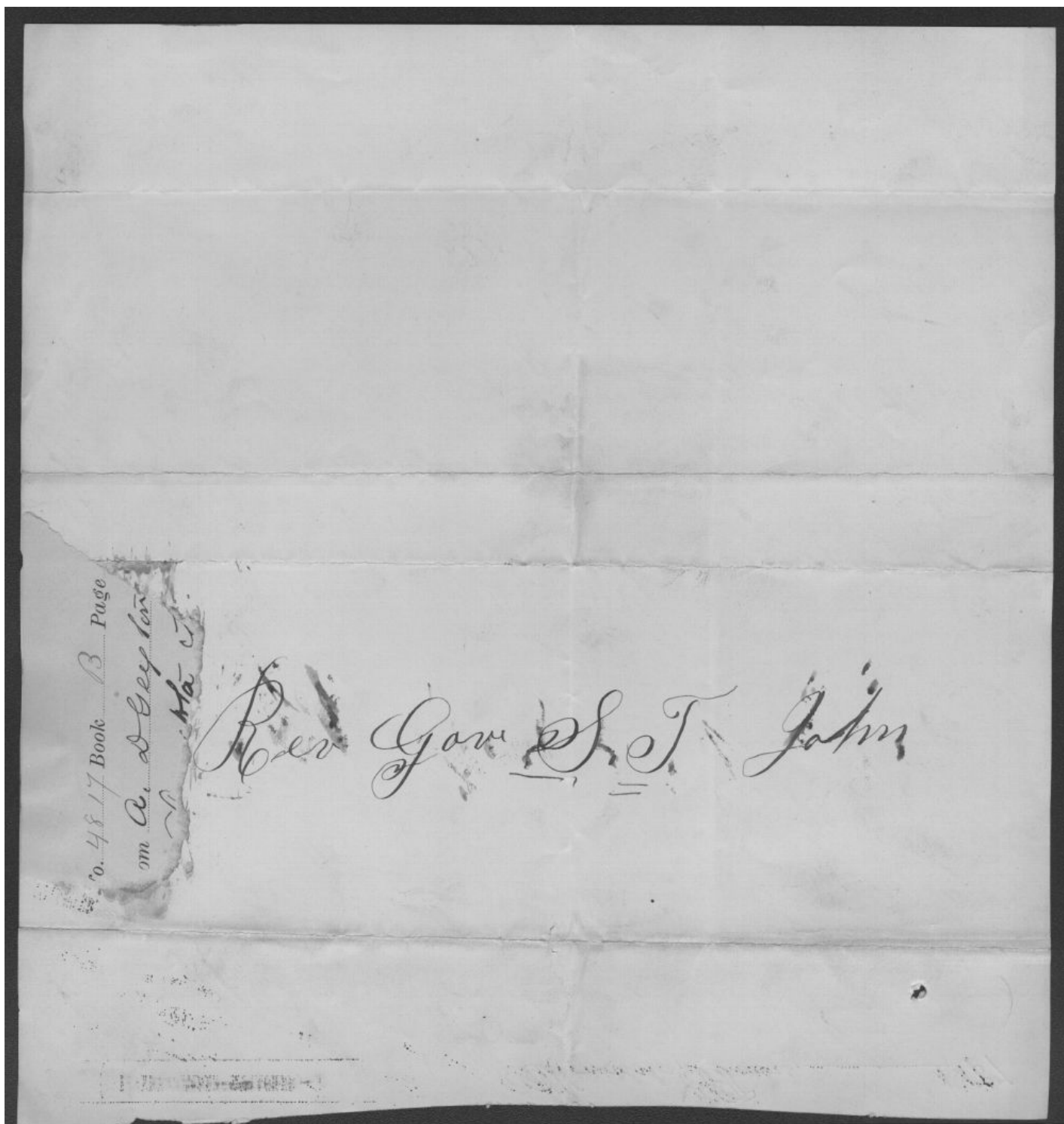
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Navasota, Texas, Oct 24/1879

Mr Governor St. John Dear Sir
 We as a Body of People of Texas Want
 to Come to Kansas & We are more in a
 Distress We cannot Stay here with
 out going in to a contract Please send
 us word what would be the fair from Texas
 to Kansas We want to know from ^{you}
 you ^{Please} send us as ^{Word} Body of Citizens of Grimes
 Co. Texas We are made up as many as 1000
 to come and they has made the fair so
 High that there are many that cannot come
 We are Weighing to hear from you so
 When you write Direct your letter in
 the care of A. D. Guyton

Navasota Grimes
 Texas

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence





Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
Blank No. 1. 1879
51 Oct. 24, 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

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. **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 Navasota Tex 24 187
TOPEKA, KANSAS

Received at Oct 27/0 PM

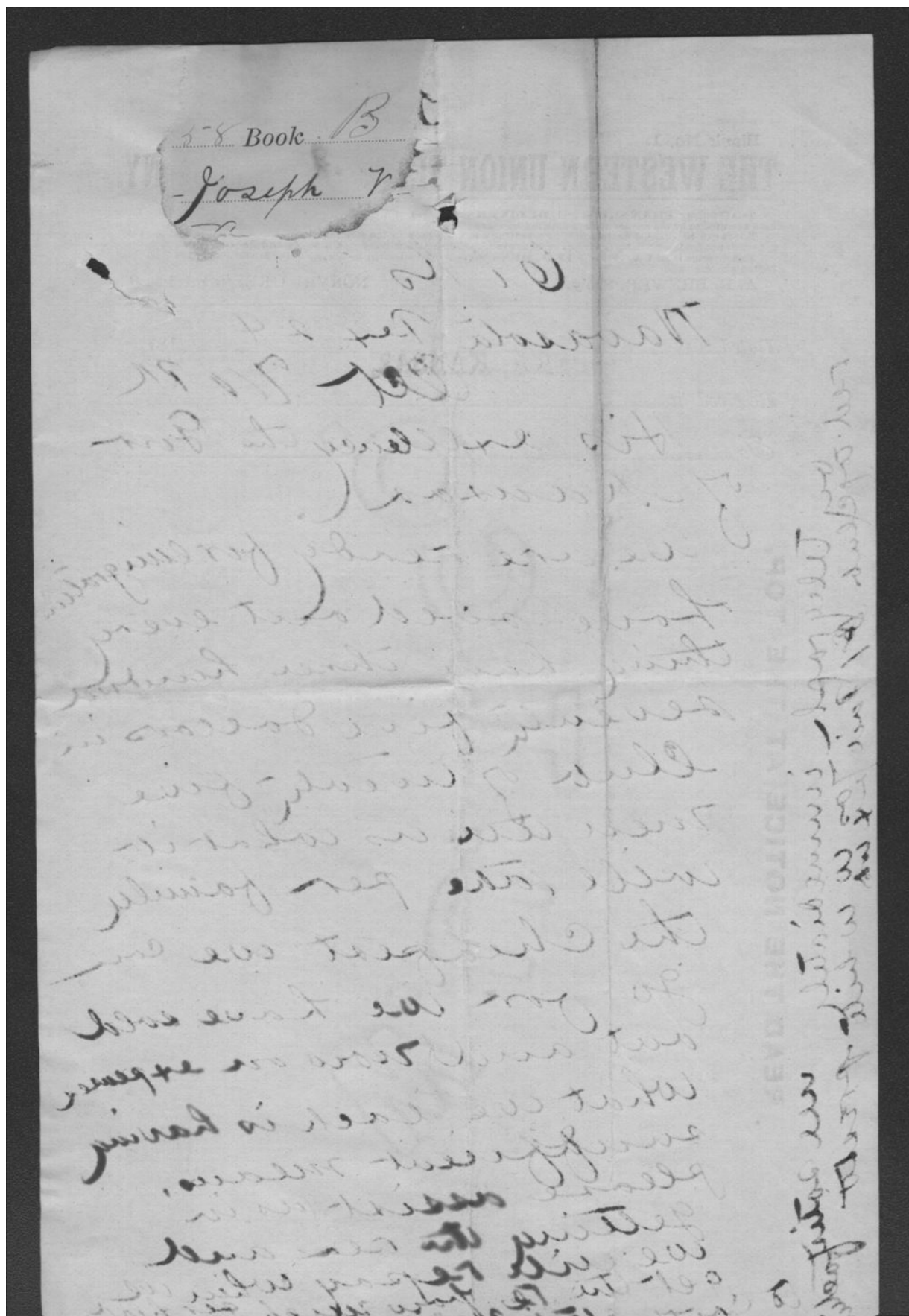
To His excellency the Gov
of Kansas

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.

We are ready for emigration
Have sold out every
thing have three hundred
seventy five dollars in
club of twenty-five
men are us what it
will take per family
the cheapest we can
go for we have sold
out and now on expenses
what we lack is having
sufficient means,
please assist us in
getting the rest and
we will repay when we
get the rest how much per head
to carry stock etc give us

Red. Topeka 10/27/79
by telegraph immediately
will act in
10/27/79 is with present

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Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

10.29.1879.

Highly respected
Unknown friend,

Understanding
there is an Association in Kansas,
for the relief of the destitute
Colored Refugees flocking there,
and that thou, with all thy
Governmental cares, art
one of the members, My sister,
Rebecca White, and myself
take the liberty of sending
the enclosed bank note
of One hundred dollars for
their help, through this channel.
We request it may be employ-
ed for the benefit of the more
isolated, or, those who are very
needy, and, not so much in the

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

way of receiving from other quarters.
One of us thought of the expenditure
of half of the sum for Blankets;
but, we leave it all, to the judg-
ment of those nearer at hand,
who may be better able to de-
termine its right use.

We deem it Providential, that
the State should be blessed
at this time, with a Governor
so sympathizing with the
claims of the needy and
oppressed.

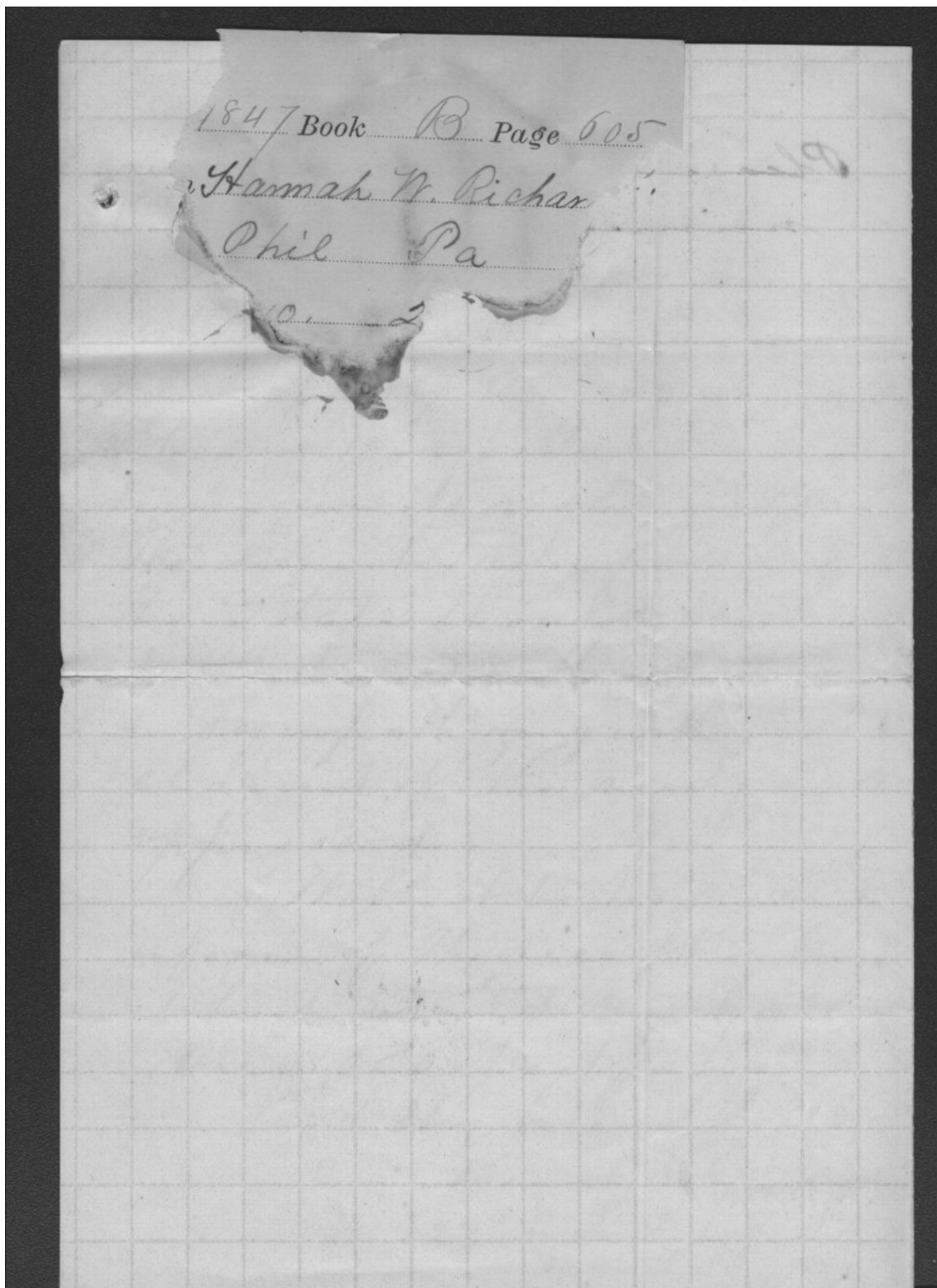
Will it be too much ^{trouble} to
inform of the receipt of this?
which ^{information} would much oblige,
Very Respectfully,
My friend

Samuel W. Richardson
No. 522 Arch Street
Philadelphia
Penn^a

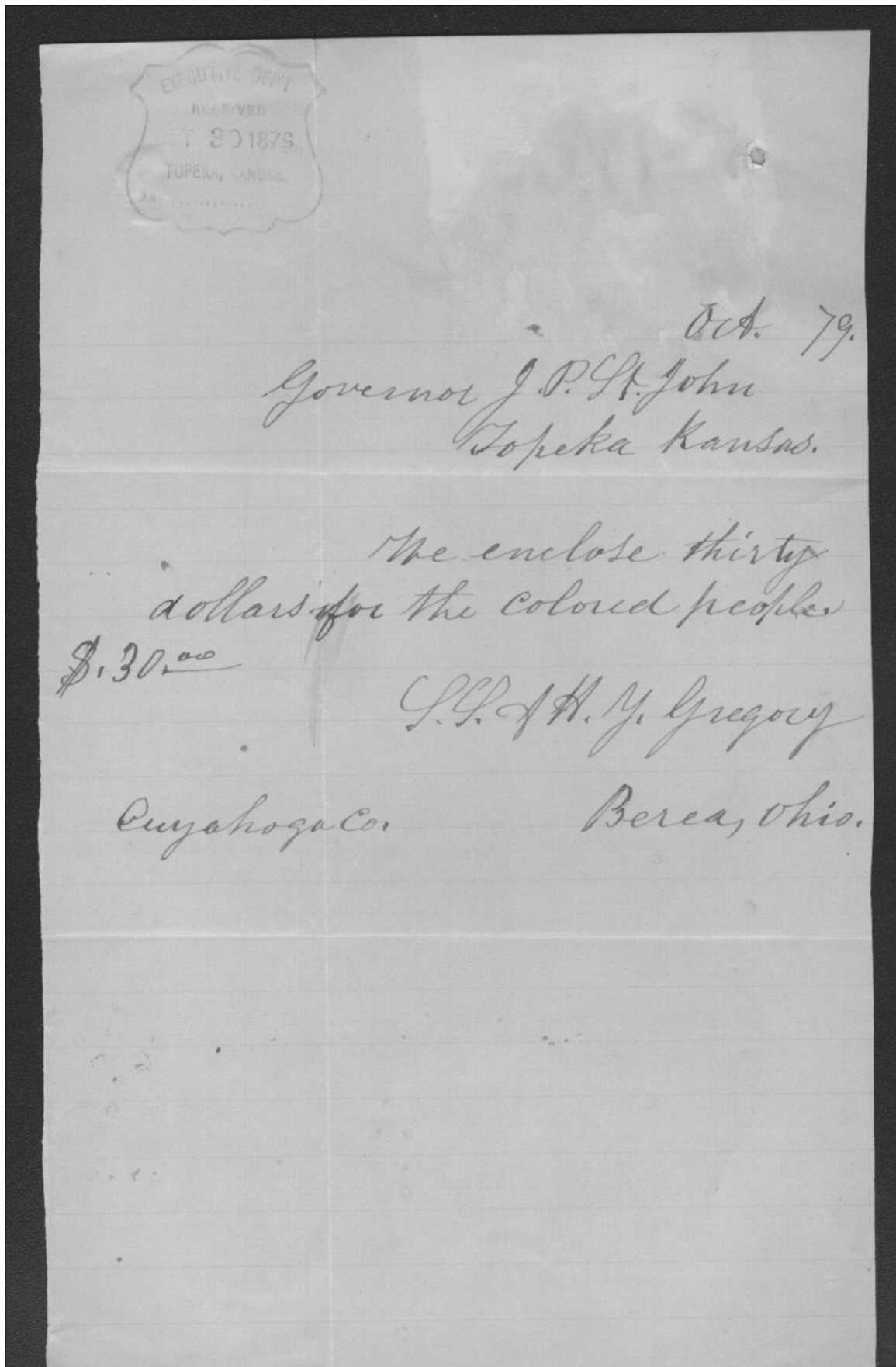
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Please do not oppose our
names.

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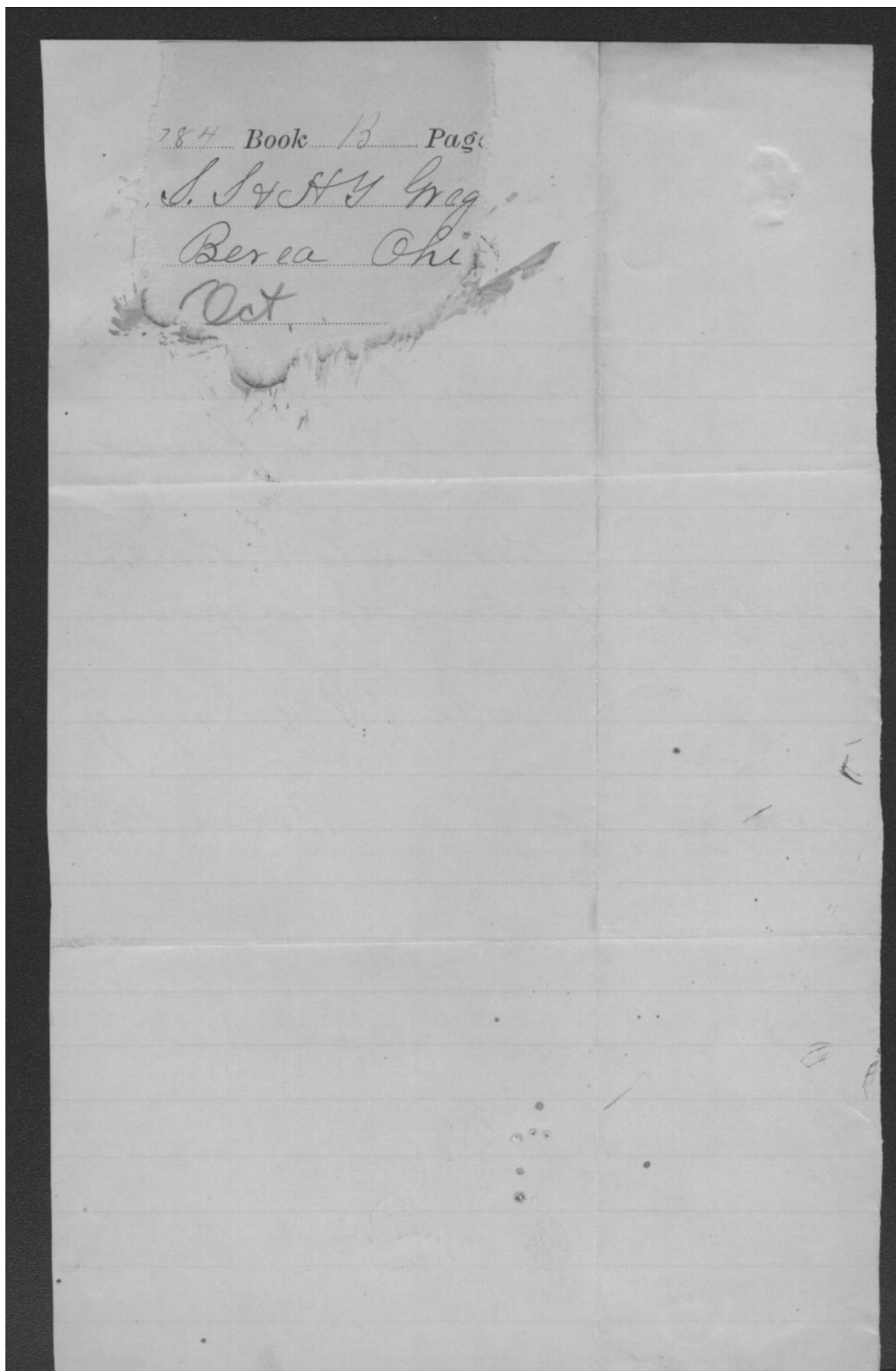


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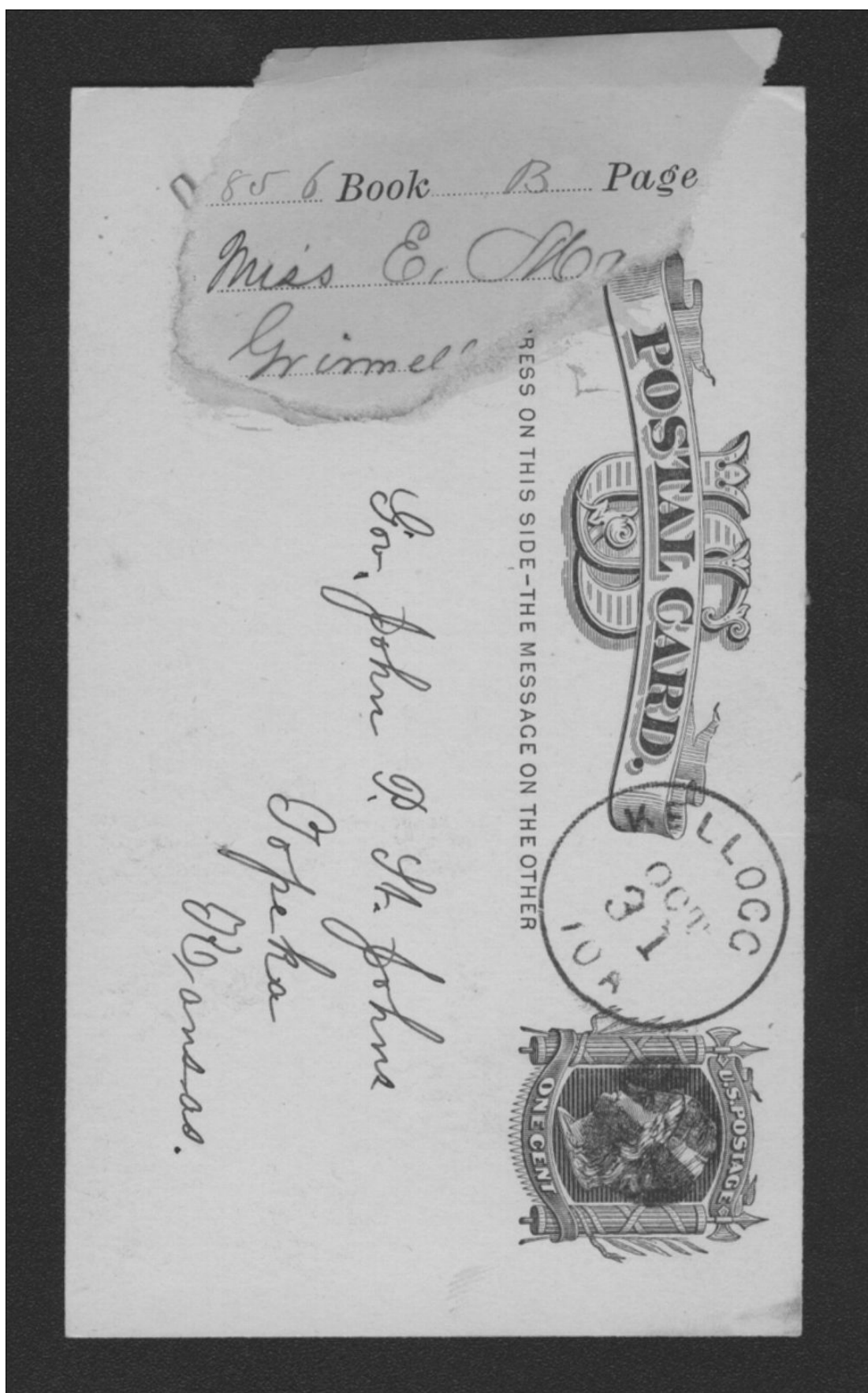
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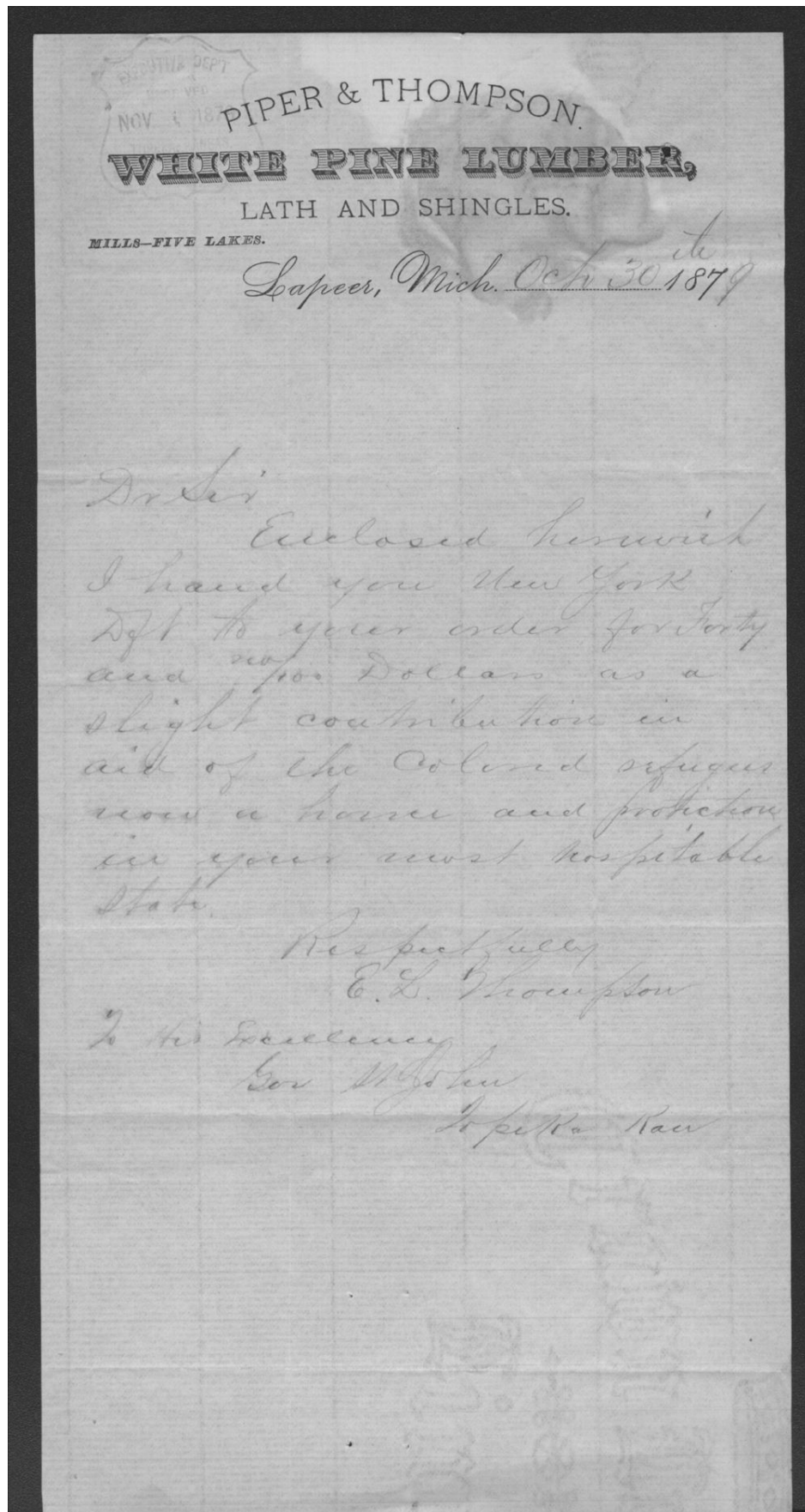
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Sir, Not knowing any other name to take the
 liberty of enquiring whether partly worn cloth-
 ing is still in demand for the colored refu-
 gees, & to what point it would be best to send
 it & if there is any arrangement for paying
 freight? - I have a barrel or box ready of mis-
 cellaneous articles in good repair, & all hav-
 ing warmth & strength & such as I have sent
 members of to Genl. since the war. They have
 always met with a warm welcome. Please
 address Miss C. Marvin Ginnell Iowa or
 direct to to some one else. Respectfully E. M.

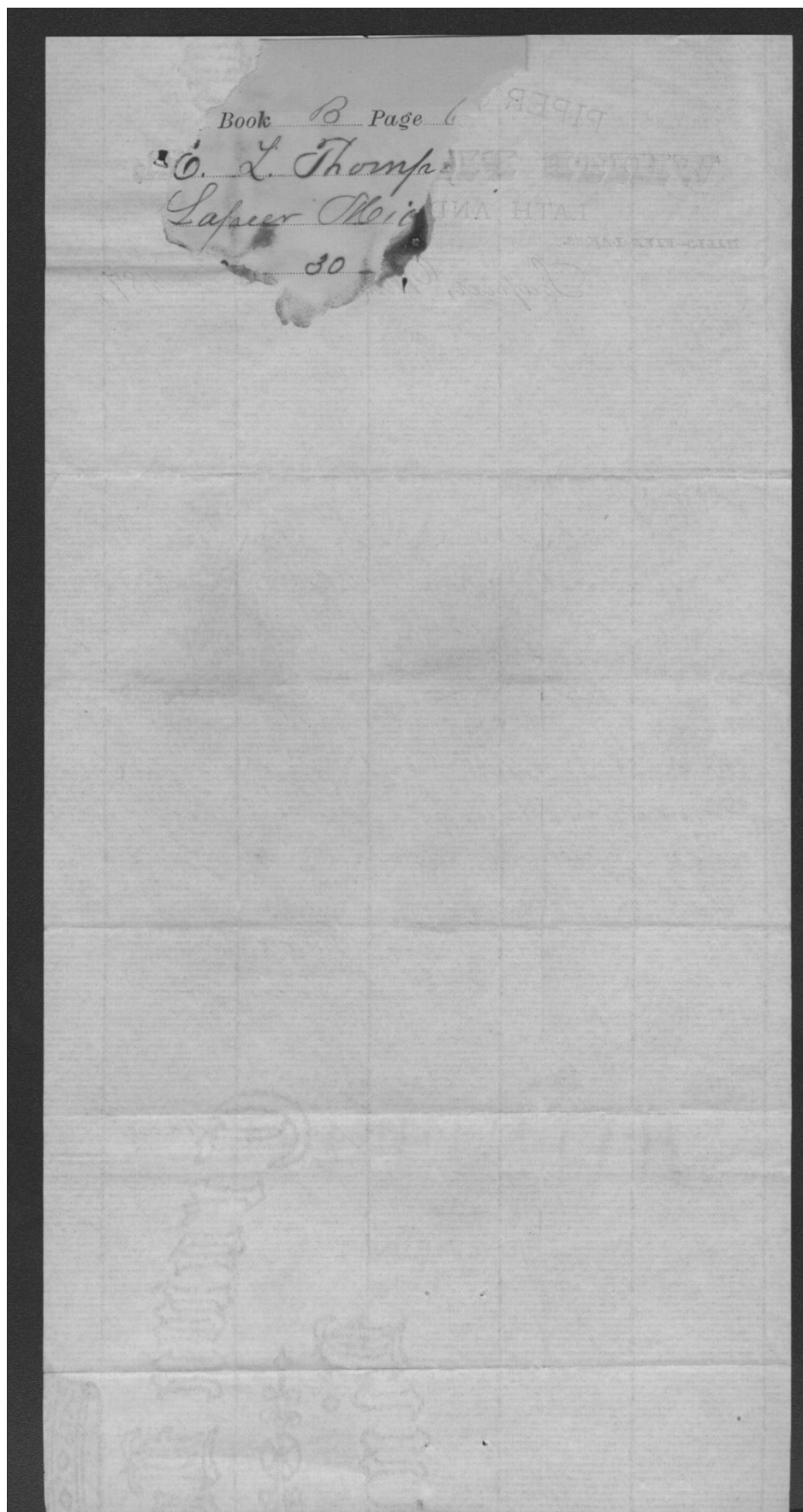
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Dadeville, Ala, Dec 1 1879

Dear Sir I take this method in seeking information
reg a bout your Comtee the testimony & voluntary
in this position of the Comtee. all I desire to see me
^{get} some information from you if possible &
shall look for an answer at Dadeville ~~Ala~~

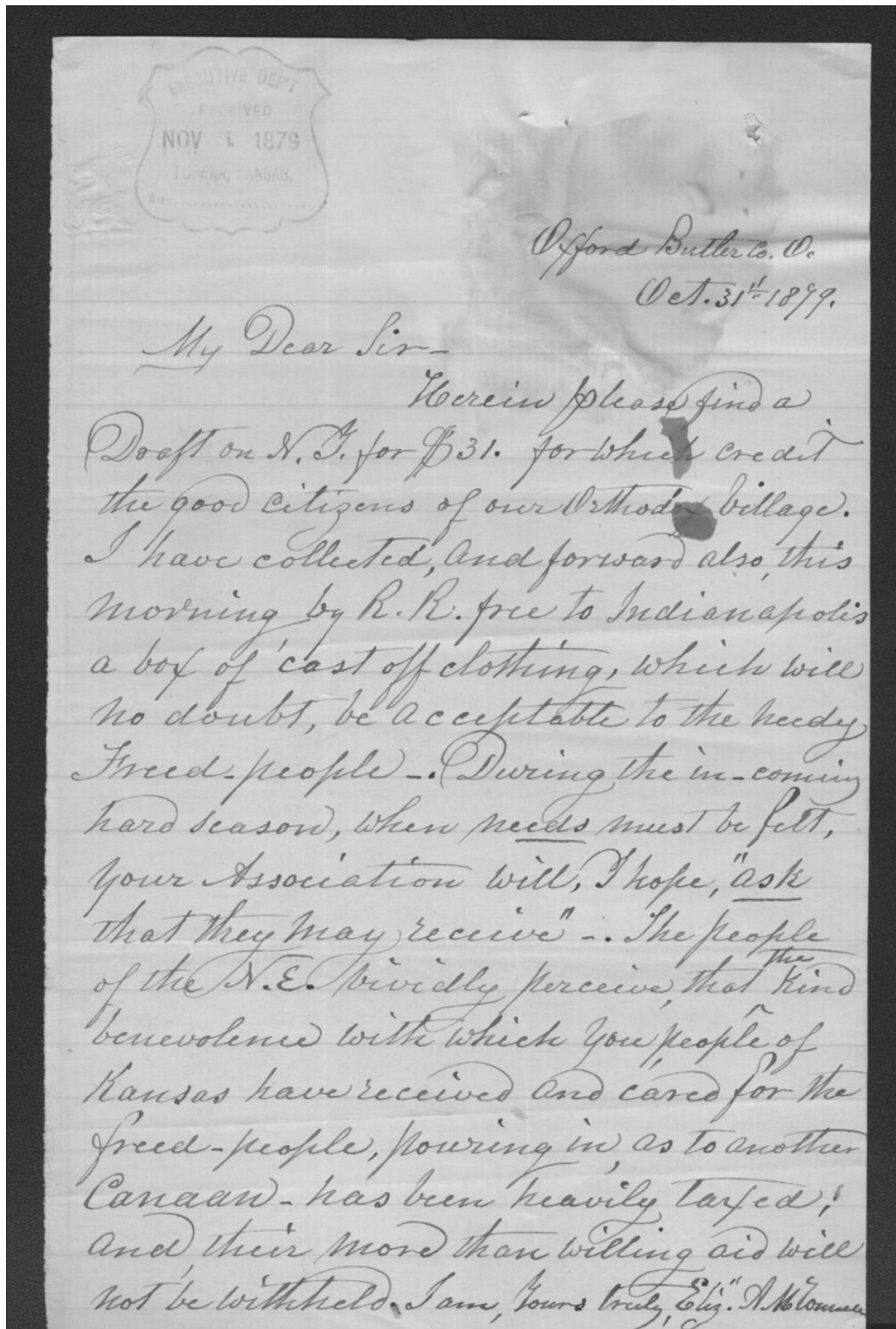
Callaway County
Ala

To W H Leopold Caland m g
of the Methodist & P Church

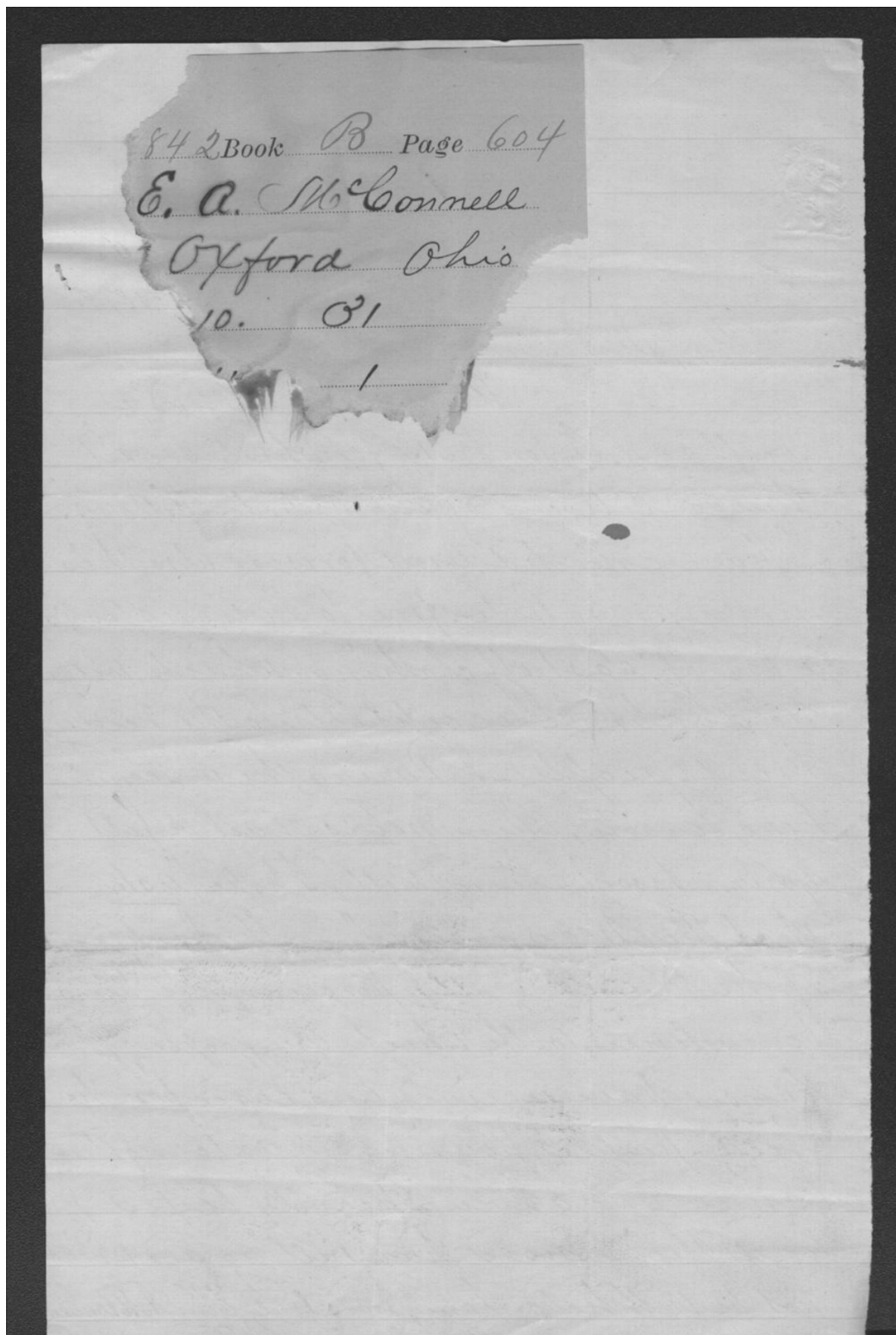
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70 Book B Page 607
n M. H. Seaford
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11

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Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Pattison
Waller
Nov. 3rd 79
EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
NOV 7 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.
Texas,
Hon. J. P. St. John
Gov. the State Kansas
My dear Sir
As there are several of
us now ready to come to
Kansas; but we are at a
loss to know what point
or place in Kansas will
be best for us to stop at.
We are told by persons
here that it will cost us
\$50. cash to the head to
pay our transportation
to the Kansas line. We
do not know whether this
is so or not and write
to you for information
as many of us are not
able to pay such a price



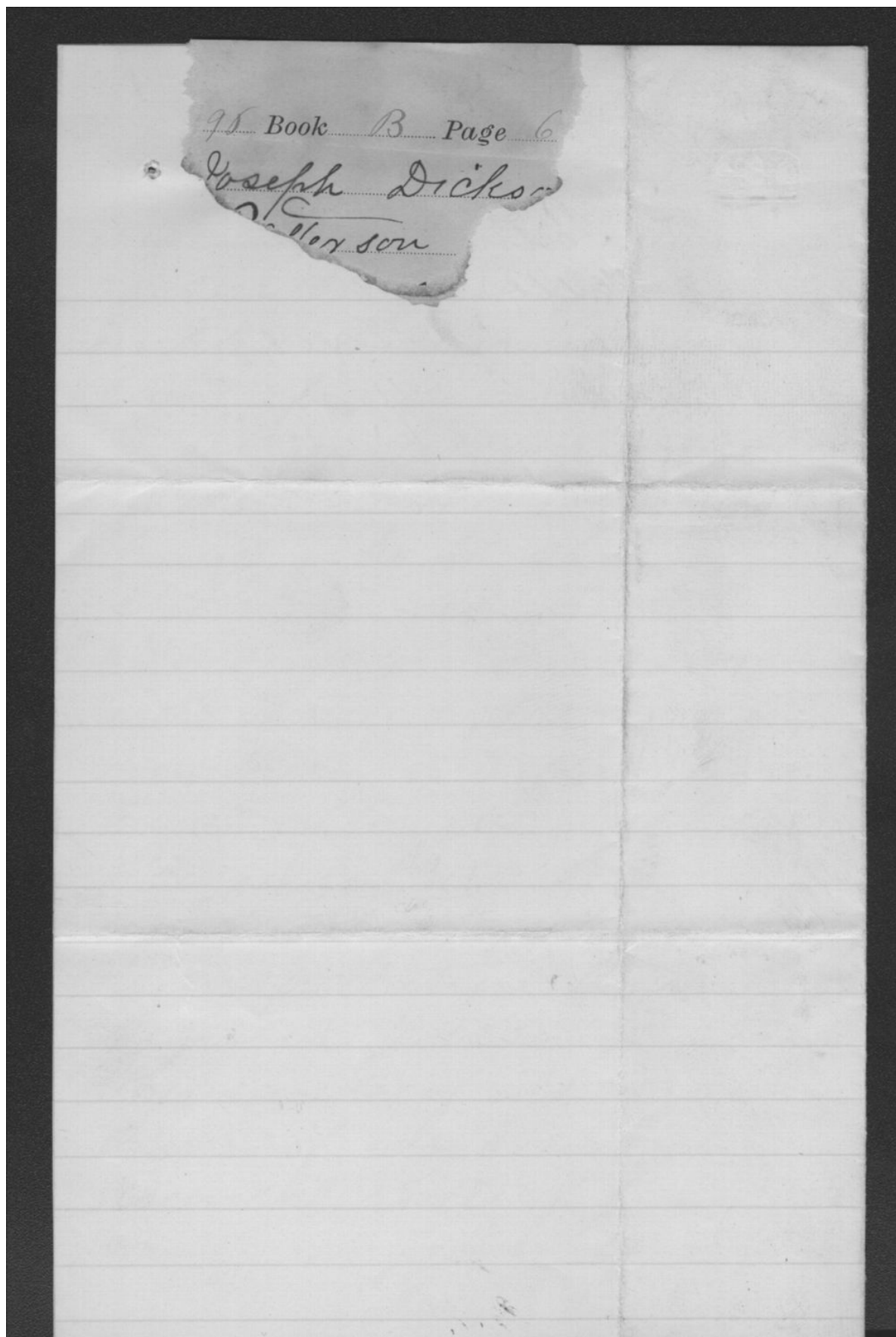
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We want to come where
we can get provisions at
reasonable prices, and work
until we can settle on
land of our own. We desire
to set up for our selves as
^{soon} practicable. We want to
know who to ship our
stock to, as the R. Road
here says we can ship
our Cattle & Horses to some
one there and pay for
them after we get them.
Please let us know if
we can get cheaper
transportation than the
regular passenger rates.
Thousands of us will
come if we can get
reduced rates of passage.
Yours Truly
Joseph Dickson

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P. J. Diett answer
to Father
Waller Co
Texas,
G. D.

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Longhorn Gregg County
Texas October 3rd
1879
Mr. Saint John Po
John Dear Sir I shall
my self this present
opportunity to write
you a few lines to let
you know our condition
Sir we desire to come to
Kansas and we if not
got a enough money
to bring us to Kansas
and we do ask you will
you risk us to come
through to Kansas
for we have come
this far and we cant
git no further and
we hope you will



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11 Book B Page 6.
Stubblefield

Git us away
from here, if you
please Sir, for we
all is black people
and we desire to come
to A free state where
we can enjoy our selves
now Mr John if you
will "Sist us we
will satisfy you
now Mr Saint John
we will state to you
what the tickett
cost us to come to
Kansas the white people
charge us \$33.00 ahead
for our little children
\$25.00 ahead now
if you can send us
A free car to come
and

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EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
NOV 20 1878
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

Dear Sir, you
please Sir. you
Mr. Saint John
We hope you will
Dispatch to us as
quick as possible Direct
Your Dispatch to
Louis Haile to
Longhorn Texas. from
Mr. Saint John we
will state how many
families in company
number 66 and we are
looking for 300 every day
we come from
~~Saint John~~ San Augustine
Co and come from
Nacogdoches County
and some from
Harrisburg and
Angelina
County Texas

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We hope you
will answer
quick your
must did patch
to Longhorns
Dutch you're
Overpatch

To Louie
Hail
Lord help
us if you please
live so I
will close
Love
Darius Friend
of Chris
Stubbins

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Rushford Minn Nov. 3, 1879

Gov. J. R. St. John

Dear Sir
Inclosed please find A.C.
order for \$2.00 will
thank you to use the same
for the "Exoduster Relief" I
credit it to "Friends"

yours

Wm. W. Snell.