

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 42, Pages 1231 - 1260

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



EXCHANGE BANK
OF
BURGE & DEWEY,
Successors to

SAM'L BURGE & CO.,

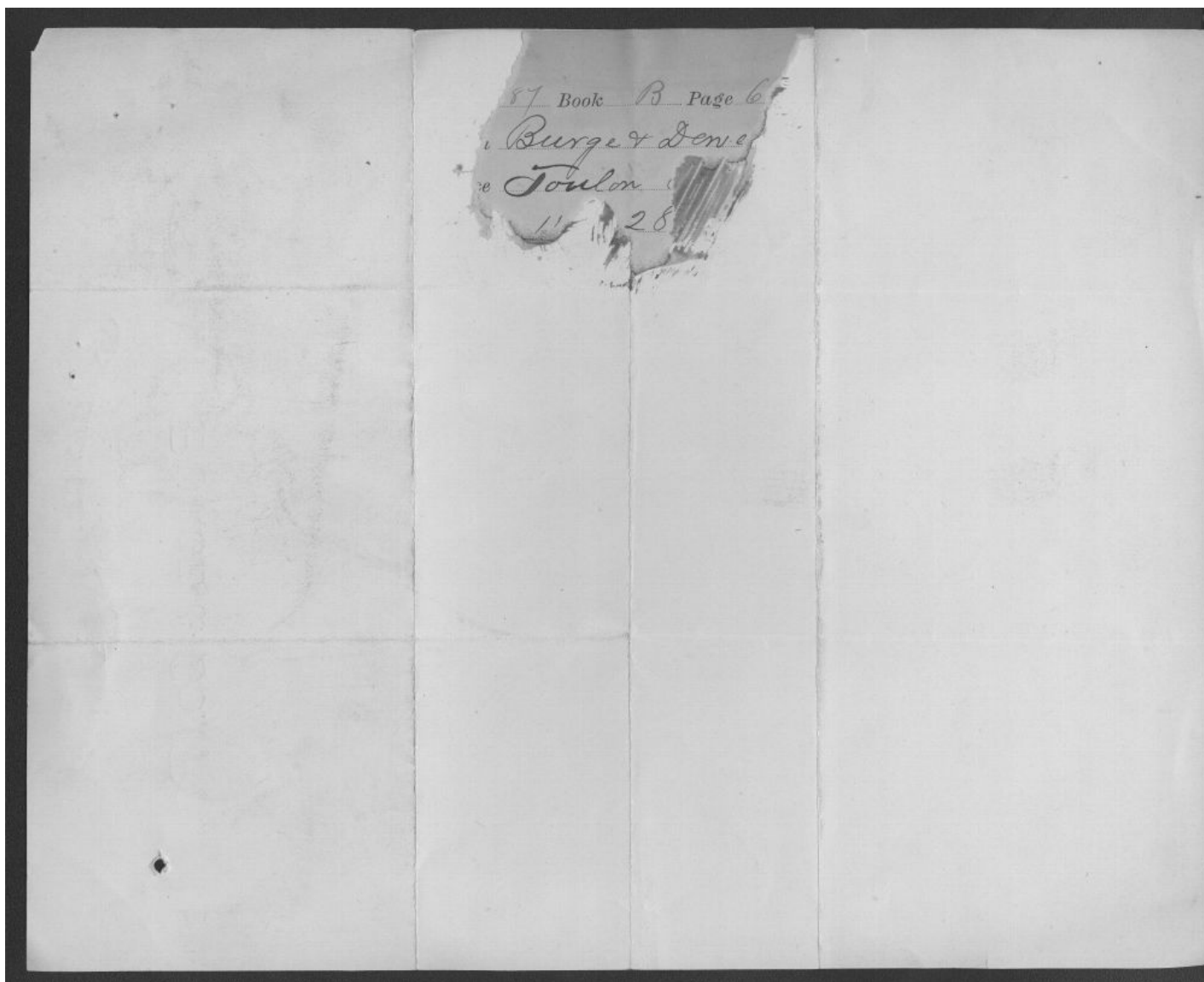
Toulon, Stark Co., Ill. Nov 28th 1879

*Gov. St. John
Topeka Kas.
Sir.*


*We enclose our # 33408 #2142
which by request we send you as Collection at Union
Thanksgiving Service at Elmira Stark Co. Ill. in aid
of Negro Refugees. Please see that this is properly applied
& acknowledge receipt*

*Yours truly
August Dewey*

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 Topeka Labette Co Kansas
 November 28. 1879
 Governor St John Dear Sir I seat my
 self to write you a few lines to inform
 you of the bondage of the bollard people
 down South I am here and I like the county
 mighty well and I am goin to stay here
 but thay ar a heap of thim that is not
 able to get here with out help thir men
 runing away from Texas and leaving thay
 wifes & children to keep
 from being murded; Some of thim have
 been hung and some burnt to death to day
 while I was on the streets of Topeka a
 man come to me brying said he had to
 run off and leave his wife and children
 and ask ^{me} what to do about it I told
 him I could not do him no good and
 thay ar a great many more round here in
 the sam bondage and a round Oswego
 and also parson in the same bondage
 thay ar now hand buffing thim in
 Denison and baring thim back like prisons
 Dear Govenor if thay can be helped I think
 thay ought to be helped some way
 I write this to you because I feel the
 intris of my boler and felon men of Texas
 Dear Govenor please anawer this letter and



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give me some advice about it
for if ~~they~~ they can be helped I would
like from you as soon as I can
the people down South reminds me of the
condemnation of the children of Israel when
pharo had them they have been in the
cage land so long and is now trying
to come out of that awful country in a
better land if they can possible get some
help help

I will now close by saying write to
me soon if possible I remain your true
friend H. H. Hill and Andy Adkins

5288 Book B Page 63

H. H. Hill
Andy Adkins



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EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
DEC 8 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

Re Date Place From No.

ilber File Burish
Phogumine

minted State of Louisiana Nov the 30 1879
Sir in Regard of Peace and Harmony
That I now seat my self Down
As to inform you of these Lines Sir
As I am nothing But a young youth
Bredded and Born here in the State of
South America Weather Am I a
Dictionarian nor Gramarian But only
A common School Scaller Which are
merialy letter Lernt Sir my reason Sir your
Honor that I now address in the manner that
I now Do Being a young Colored Boy of this
State and Conditions that I am now in I
umbls seek and ask you for an iflemation
is there any Living for a good laboring person
here in the State of Kansas please Sir if my add
is any the Least thought of Please Sir answer me if
you Please Sir to this affect and let me No because
here Where I am at we are on a very small
Sugar Plantation only 25 in heads all mens women
But very few children and Would like to find
out if there Would Be any convenient Prepared for any
of us poor Colored immigrand that wishes to leave
South now and leave to the State that are pick
out for us to live that noble place which is call Kansas

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Sir I Was reading a paper that is call the shereers
 And By reading a small portion of that paper I seen
 the name of one gentlem of go St John An thought
 that I Would rite a letter to the go who being of
 that name for information hoping that I Would
 Receave the return of this Letter With out any offence
 What ever Sir We the the Colored population of the
 low lines of ~~iberville~~ Louisiana Parrish of iberville
 By receaving an information of this Letter We Will this
 coming Spring Be a band of immerigrants that is large
 in number Which Will An is preparing of our self
 to come to Kansas We are tired staying among Bldozers
 We are tired runing out of us houses at nite We are
 tired in Being maltreated A Blood Being shed from
 us By the hands of our Assilances Please Sir give
 me information Whether is it so that there is Boats
 Built And prepared to come after us this Spring Sir
 Pleas your Honor if you will answer this Will you
 Please to send me a Kansas newspaper Sir I
 Will come to A Close By saying to you will you
 Please to your own as let not this take affect as an
 in tegritage in regard of any offences Sir please let
 this mighty letter Be answered Being that I am a poor
 little Boy only three times seven an wishes to hear from Kansas
 let this Be Sir Peace in regard of harmony union justice
 An Tranquility Sir if you wishes please to answer me
 iberville parrish Plaquemine po office Letter Box no 61
 yours most truly ~~Mr John~~ Vallentine address in West of
 cause all mistakes please

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

"TAPPY,"
A Specimen of the Diet that Produces Kansas
Fever.

WASHINGTON, TEXAS, }
November 18th, 1879. }

Editors Banfer:

The following is a true and correct copy, verbatim et leteratum, et spell at um, et punctu at um, of an original now in my possession. S.

LEABENWORTH, NOV. 1, '79.
MR. ANTHONY BURRESS, ESQ.
Washington.

Honble Sur:—I vail myself ob de fus chance I hab to tell you all de news. we got here all rite, de people along de rode gib us all as much pound cake and wine want, and when we get here de govenir John came and he say—whar dese Texas gentlem an ladies who just came here? we say, we is dey, and he say berry happy to see you gentlem and ladies, and I gwine to gib a party dis ebenin', and hopes you will all be dar, and we say we will, hab de honorable pleasure ob being dar sah. De govnr's daughter, Sylphide, she say to Bill, what yo name yung gentlem? and he tell her and she say yu Texas yun men is so nice and genteel, Bill you plese come and see me. De fac is I tink it was lub at fist sight, Den de member for congress he com. and want us all to dine wid him tomorrow, and den we is be at de ball party ob de sectry ob de govmt on tuesday night, and den we will had all our names rolled on de lists, and to tell dem how much land and how many mules we all want, an dey will be furnished free, an beside dis de state pays us for all de work we do on our own land, so yu see we get all de land we want for nuffin, and we get pay for all de work we do it. An de govnr say he will provide eb-ery famlly wid \$500.00 cash be-side.

De govnr's wife, she kiss my wife, and say my dear sister I be so happy to see yu nice Tex-as people cum hear, we is all alike hear, and she say de truth, for de nice white gals come among us, and I kao de come looking for boas. Dere has been about twenty Texas yung gentlem freedmen married to beautiful white gals since we come, wid big fortunes too. I think Bill and the govnr's nice darter will be de nex to marry I tink we all get into big offis here soon, for we is berry high standin here. until de govnr gives us our land and mules and \$500.00, and has our houses built, which is to be 15 by 300, six story high, wid a fandango all round and a revenue in front —till dey is redy de govnr pays our board an login at de fus spectable hotel, includin wines an lickers an segars.

Oh it is lovely to be sociat-ing wid govnr's and congeras-sers and walsin wid de fus class white gals.

I mus quit to pare for de big dinner, but I write yu more tic-lers soon.

I had honah to be Respectable,
MR. THOMAS JOHNSING, ESQ.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

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DEC 5 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

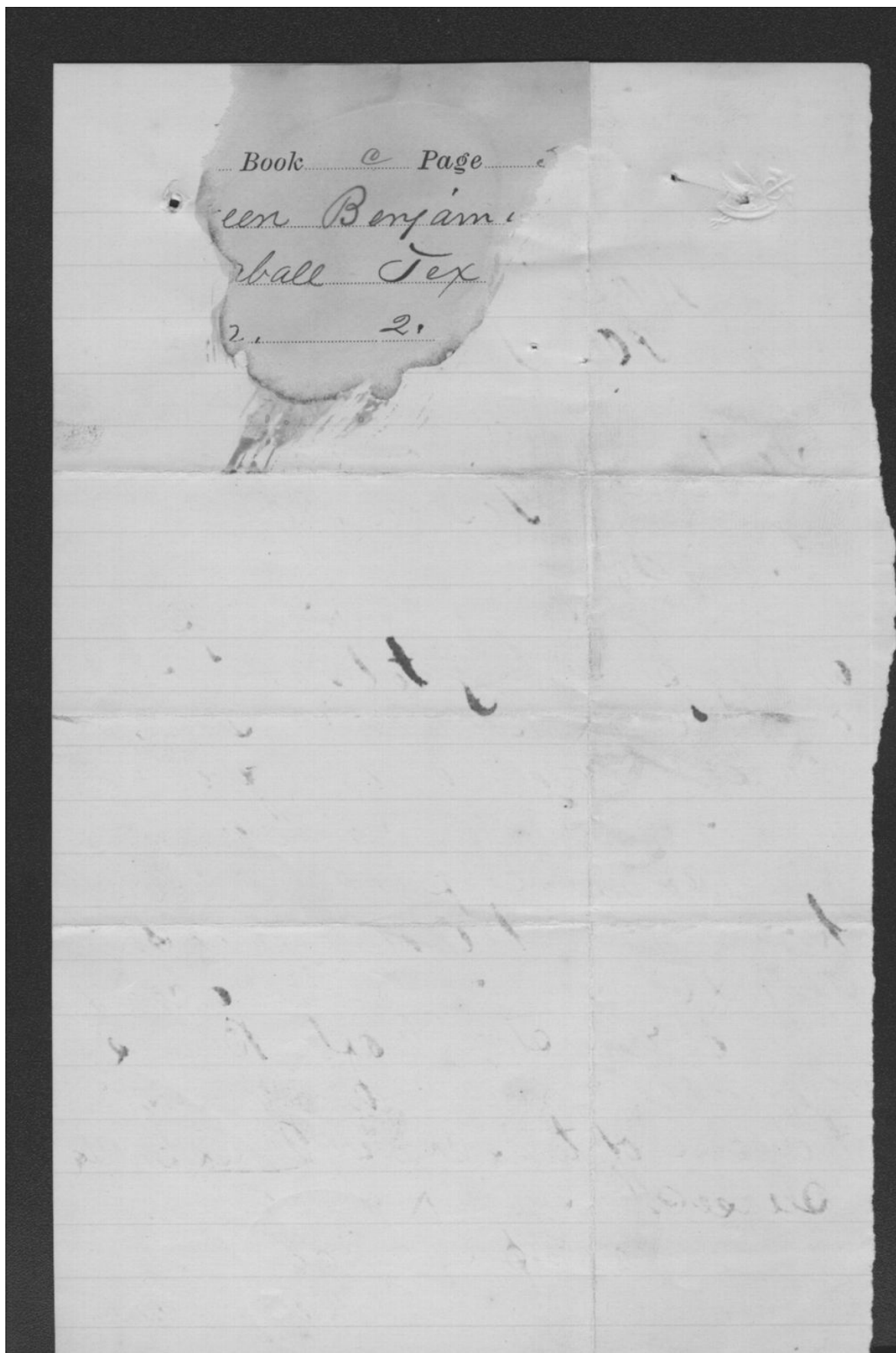
Washington Co Tex,
Grabele P.O. Dec. 2. 1879

To the Governor of Kansas
Topeka Kansas

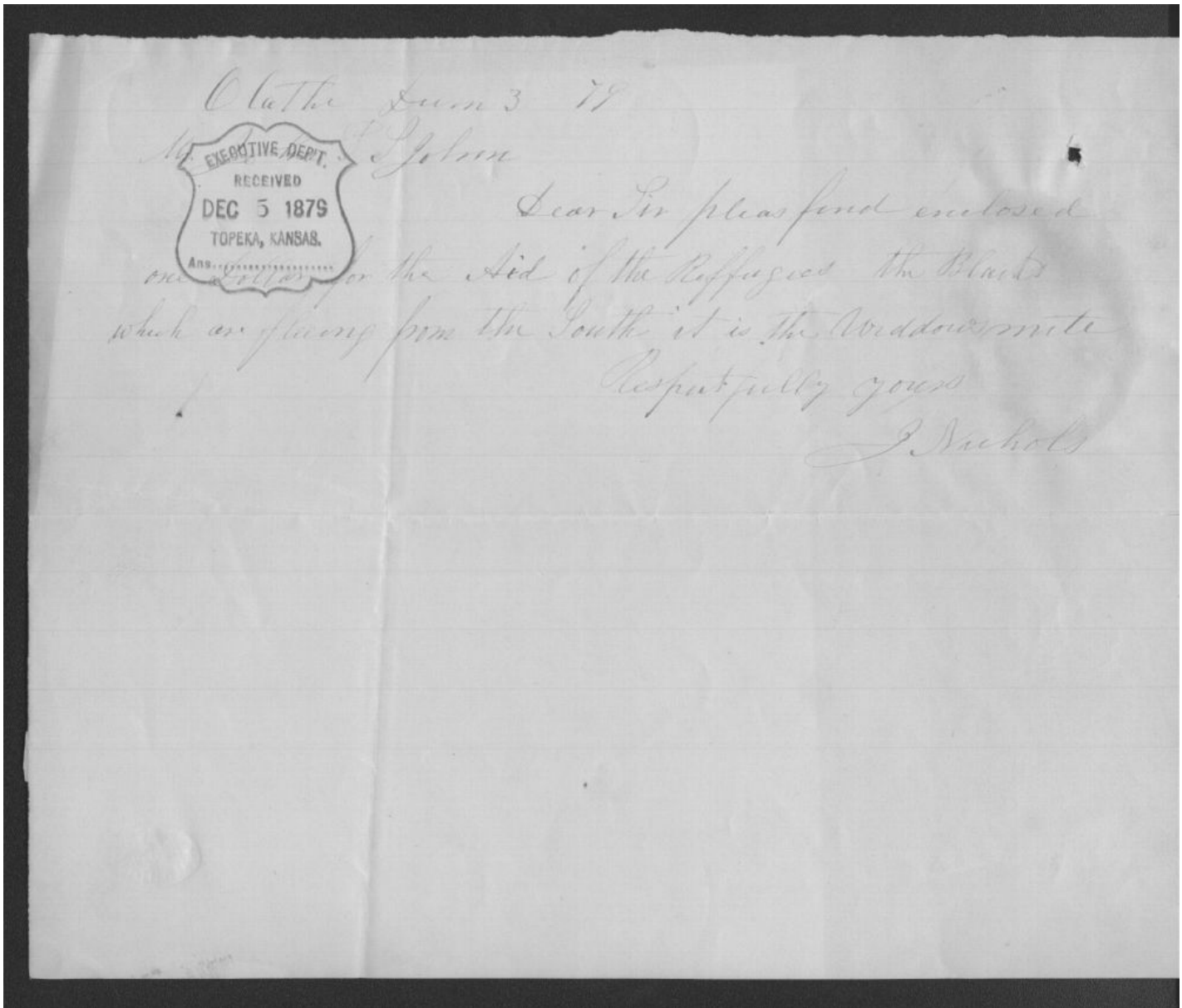
Dear Sir

I enclose for your perusal
a letter purporting to be from one
of my color residing in your state, if
Kansas is really a land "flowing
with milk & honey" for the benefit
of the colored people I would like you
to write me to that effect so
that I can give my friends a correct
history of your state. And after Bill is
married if you have any nothing
to dispose of to us colored Texass, please
please Mr. Gurner, count me in.
Yours Spasmodically
Greene Benjamin

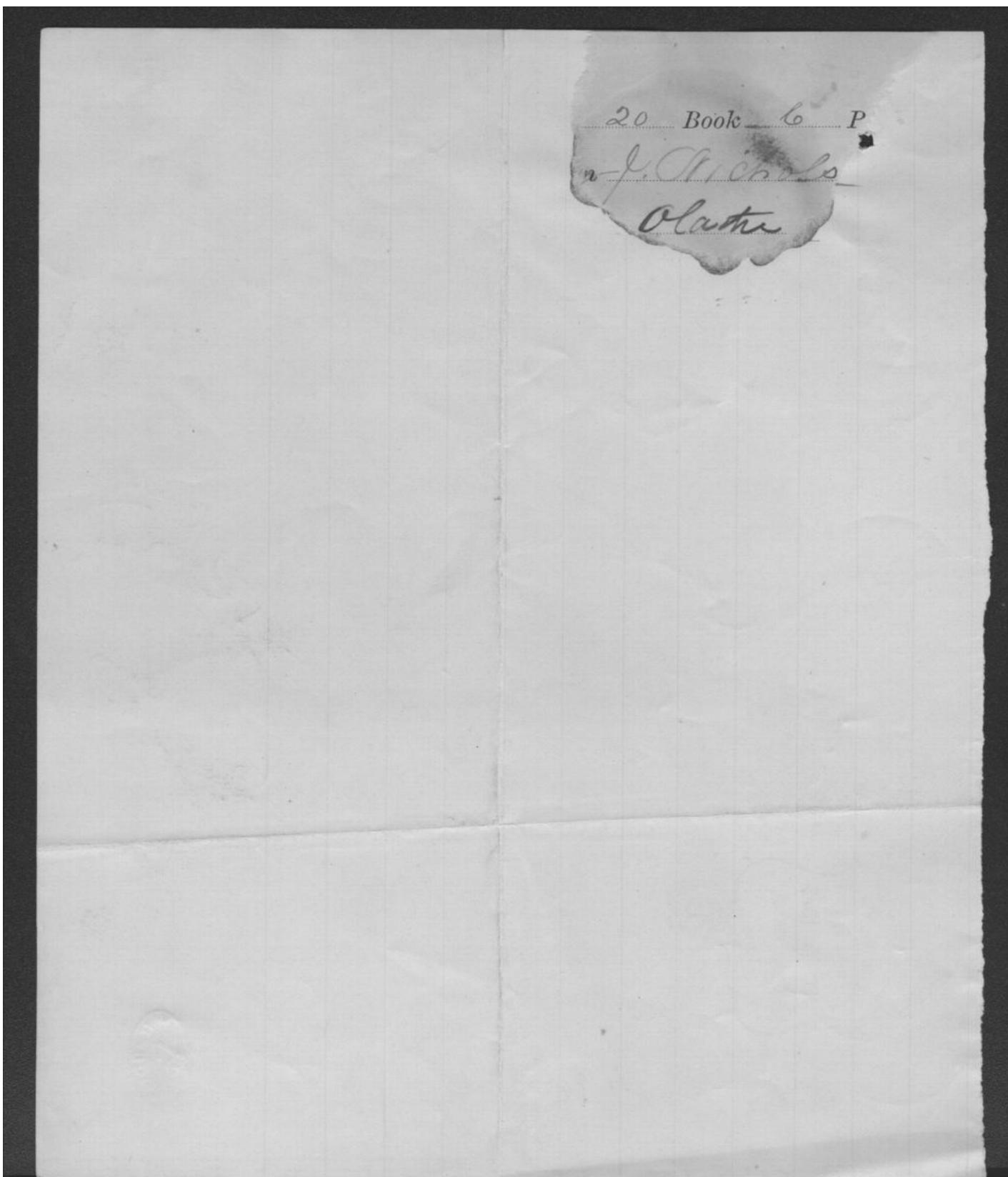
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ADDRESS

Rev. T. W. Henderson,

ST. PAULS CHAPEL

11th & Christy Ave.,

ST. LOUIS, MO.

EXECUTIVE DEPT
RECEIVED
DEC 12 1879

STUDY OF

Rev. T. W. Henderson

PASTOR OF

ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL A. M. E. CHURCH.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 4th 1879

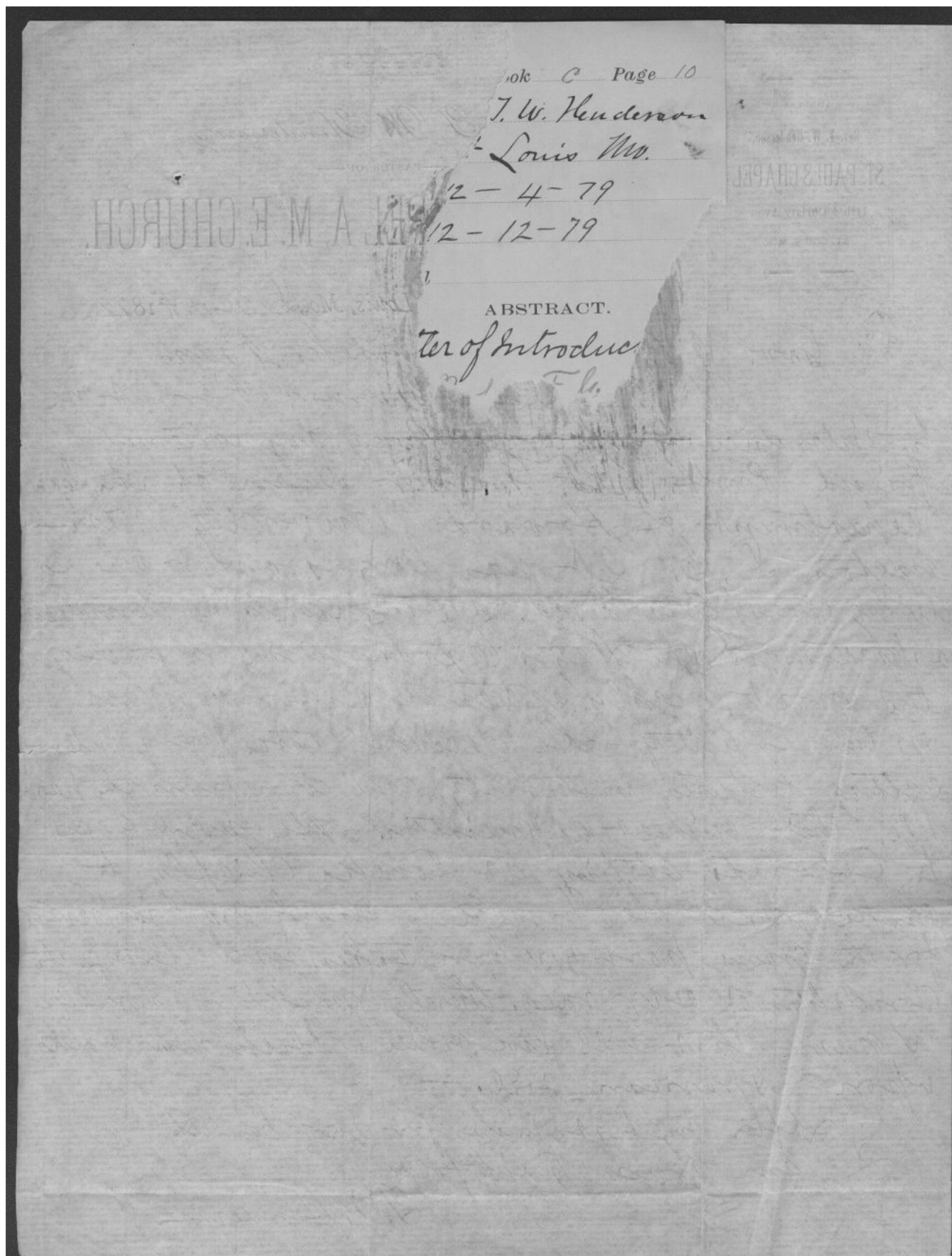
To. Gov. J. P. St. John: Topeka Kan.

Dear Governor: Permit me to introduce to your excellency my esteemed friend Proff. L. F. Greener Dean of the Law Department of Howard University Washington D. C. It was Mr. Greener who so ably combatted Fred. Douglass in his senseless opposition to the Negro Exodus and is to day the most highly esteemed Colored man in this country. He delivered three very interesting lectures in this City, and won from the people, their highest appreciation. — He now goes to Colorado stopping at Topeka chiefly to shake your noble hand to thank you in person for the grand part you have taken in bettering the condition of our race, thereby making yourself a name that will live while a black man walks upon American soil. —

After my best wishes for your health I am yours faithfully

T. W. Henderson

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Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

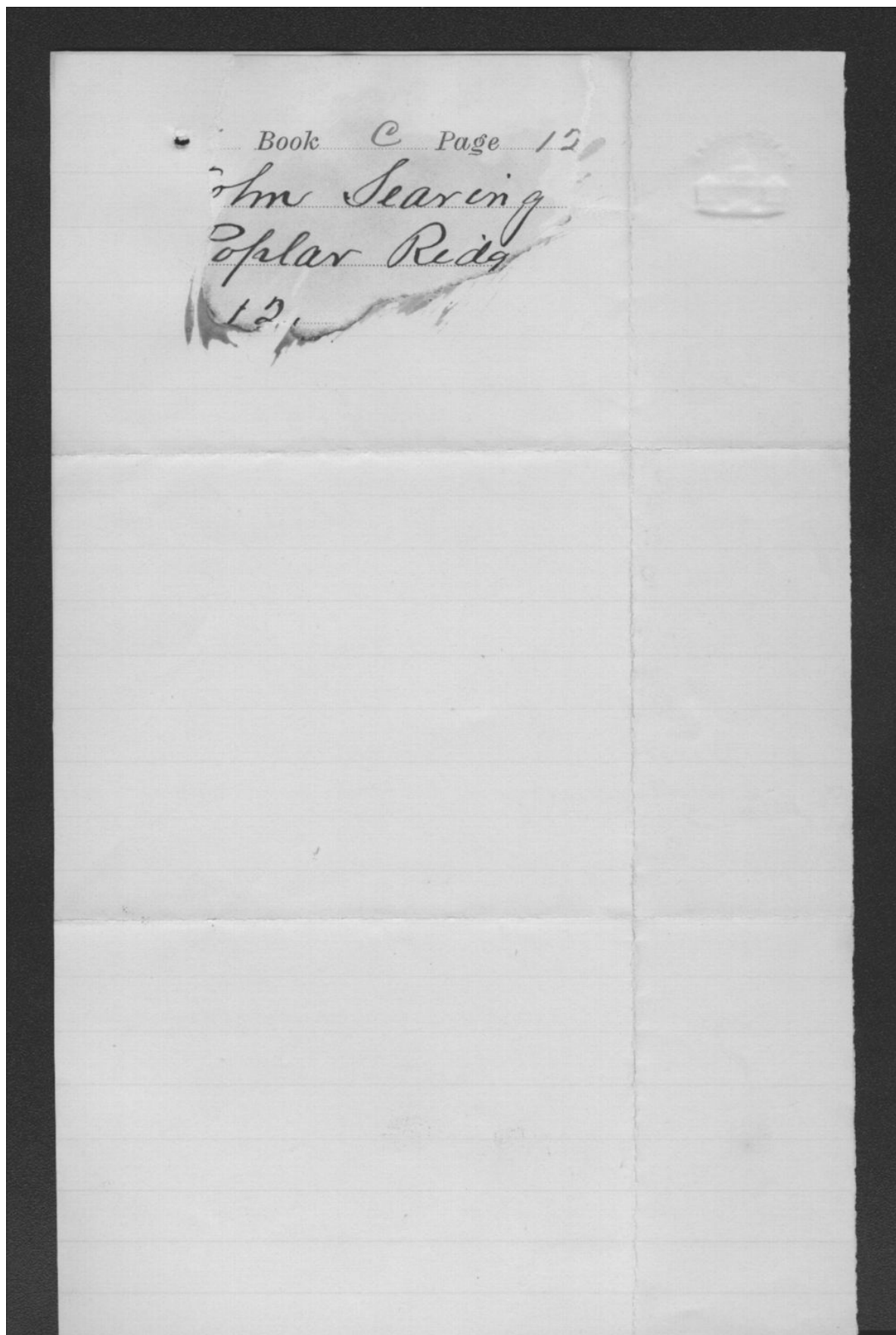
Poplar Ridge Cayuga Co. N.Y.
12th Mo. 7th 1879

Dear friend Governor St. John
I herewith inclose a draft
for twenty five dollars for the
relief of the freedmen and their
friends in Kansas I appreciate
highly thy truly benevolent
course and labors in behalf
of the oppressed fugitives seeking
protection in the state that
has been so fortunate in the
choice of her chief magistrate
Respectfully thy friend

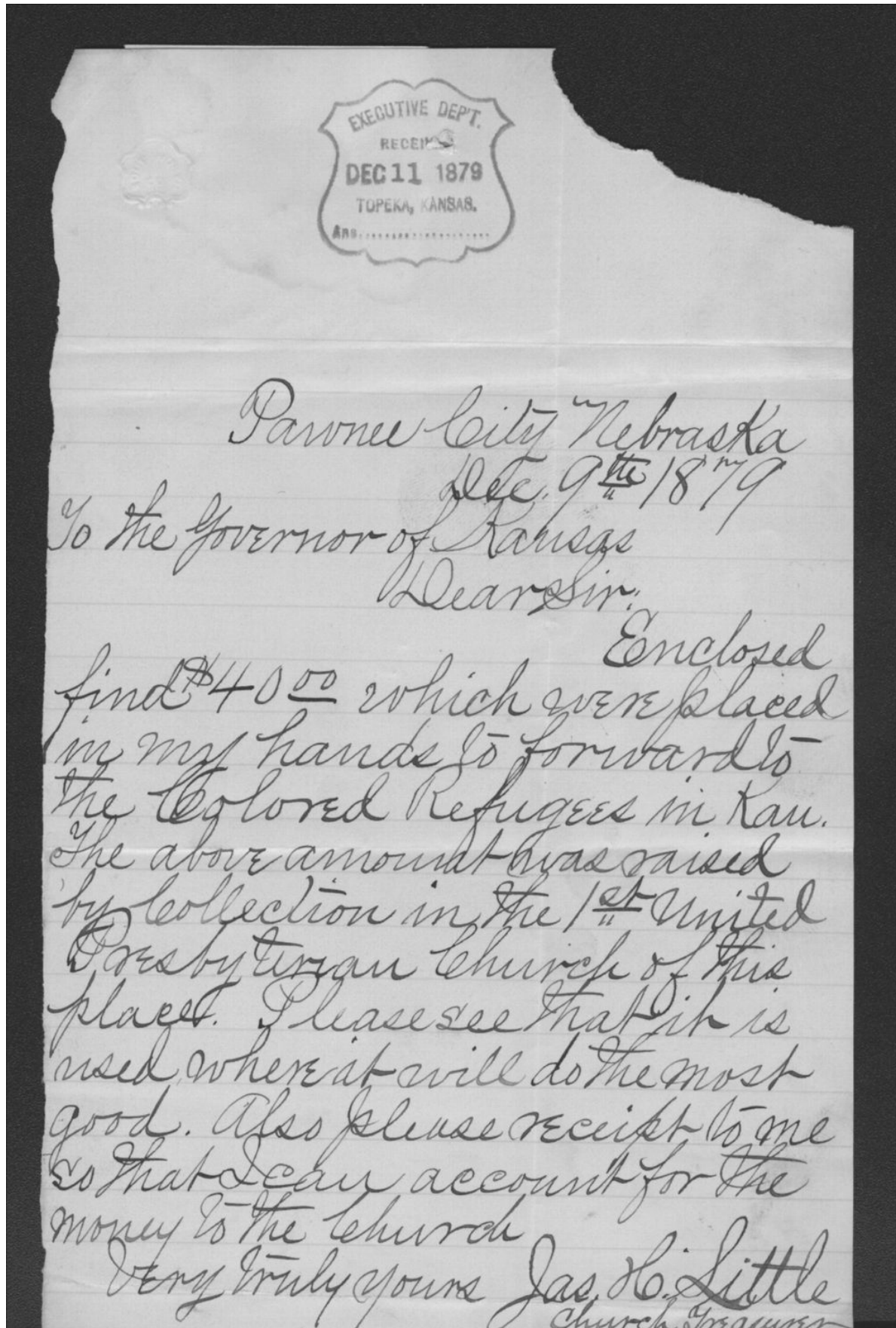
John A.earing
P.S. It may be just and right
to say I furnished but 10 dollars
of the above named sum, the
balance I have collected from
other benevolent individuals

J. A.

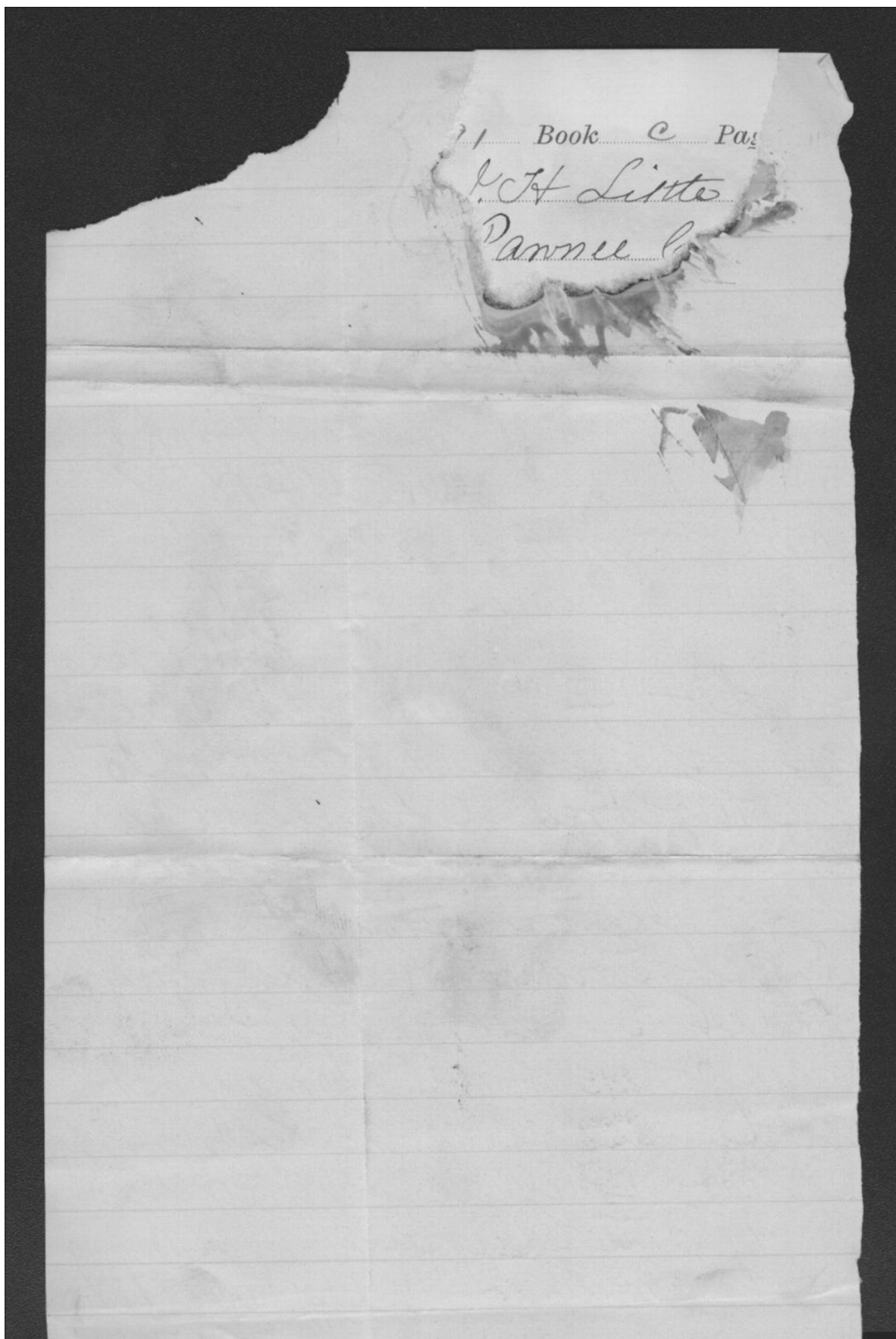
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



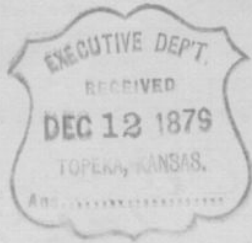
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Received Ill.
Dec. 9th 79

Gov. St. John.

Dear Sir,

Some two months or more ago, Rev. James Suggs, bearing testimonials from you & others came here soliciting money & clothing for the "Kansas Refugees". We gave him some money & collected a large quantity of clothing. He agreed to call for the clothing in three weeks, & we were to have it ready. Six weeks passed & he appeared not, I wrote him, & he replied he would be here in a few days. Several weeks more have passed without his keeping his word. The clothing must be needed now if at all. It is greatly

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in the way & must be removed -
very soon. It was gladly given
for the Kansas refugees ought to go
to them. Our people feel vexed at
digger's course - & are uneasy about
the clothings lying here - while the
men who are staring it demand
its removal.

Could you send us word how
a where to send it we will have it
forwarded without delay.

Hoping to hear from you
so as to give the negroes the benefit
of the clothing I remain

Yours Truly
Albert Bushnell
Pastor Cong. Church.

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RECEIVED
DEC 13 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
DEC 13 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

Bucyrus Ohio Dec 9. 79

Gov St John

Sir having some
clothing to send to the
colored refugees. I would
be very much obliged if
you would inform
me how and where to send
them

Respt

Mrs Emeline Sandford
Bucyrus
Crawford Co
Ohio

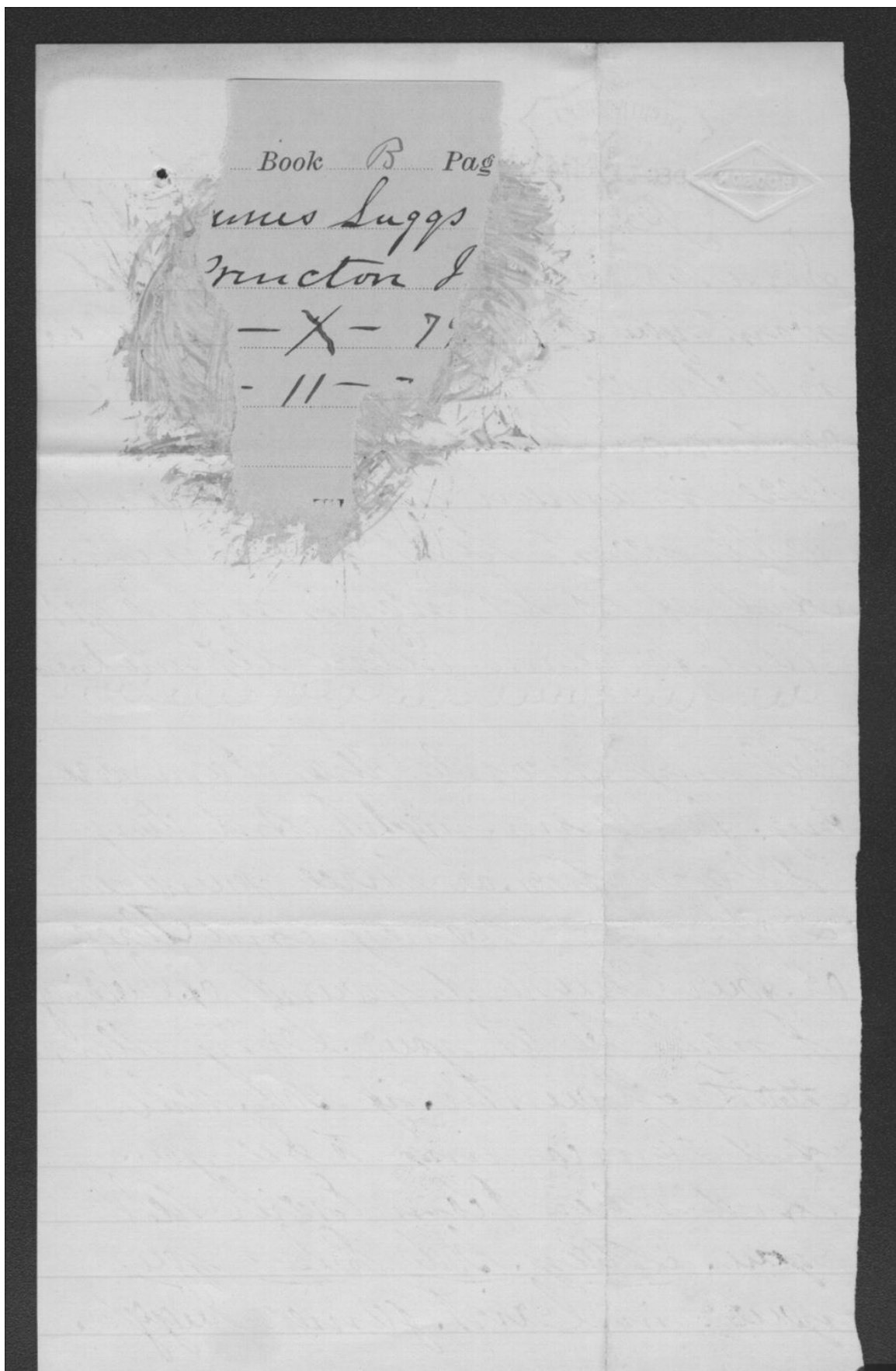
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EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
DECEMBER 1879
KANSAS

December. 9. 1879.
Princeton. Bureau. Co. Ills
Sir. Mr. S. T. John. Governor. I
want you to right to me if there
is a chance if a man wants one
or two or three. Hundred men
here is a man that thinks he
will want that money me
and if so he wants me to get
them for him. Please let me know
~~see we were~~

Tell my people that I am work
ing for them night and day
I have two or three hundred
Dollars in money and three
or four thousand pounds of clothing
I will be at your City this
month or next if God will.
and I am coming to see you.
and when I am I will tell
you. May God Bless you.
yours in Christ. James Suggs.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

East St. Louis Ill
Dec 10. 1879

Hon Governor St John
Dear Sir after my Respect to you
& dropt you a few lines of the
Condition of the Colard People of
the Secor Congressional Dist of Mo.
We have been informed by the Agents
of Kansas that there is Land for
sale! We are poor but We a Home
in that State where We can have a home
of our own and Work for our Living
for We are used to hard Work and expect
to Work where ever we go for in Mo. We
have no Right in the Law at all not
one out of fifty get his right in Law
many of the Colard have ^{brought} Land but not
allowed to pay for it & will name some
of the Colard People that have brought
Land but not allowed to pay for it
J. H. Phillips Mardor King Noah
Neulizum, Lewis Sanders Rich
ard Whitfield Richard King and

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DEC 16 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

others & could mention;
they pay for the land but thire farmer
masters do all ways fit som way to deprive
them off the Land. When they get the Land
shoudt hav payed for or $\frac{1}{2}$ payed for
them and if they cant take the Land
on they own scales they will go to law
an hav many lawyers to try the case
an the colard are always deprive
out of thire Right our former master
sell them land on time. times that
are limeted on buying land 4 years
or 5 years but allways a year or som five
months befor the end of the time com to pay
the last dollars an our former masters set
to take the land away from us
so by the help of God we want to
your state where we can be free
and hav homes for us and

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A. M.

our children we want to get to some
place in the union where we can be free
and vote the Republican ticket and
our votes be counted
for in the place or state we may vote
but they are not counted for in
the last election in our congress
dist. we beat the Democrat
7370 odd votes but our vote was not
counted in but counted out
our wages is from $4\frac{1}{2}$ dollar to
\$8 per month for men and for
women women \$1 to 2 dollars per
month and every day if rain we
are charge for our rations from 15c
to 25c a day for. and the democrat
now do not hold us so much
now of our reds mad protest but

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

They had the Starvation
 Policy trying to Starve us out
 and is about to do it When we have
 our farm we are just as bad off for
 provision as we was when we begun
 our farm. and We Hon Governor
 hope that you will Recognize by you and
 all the Good People of your State
 so far if you please to help us to get
 to that State. We are not able to
 hire a train to Run to Kansas
 but many of us would be able to
 pay some few dollars on the way.
 My dear Governor Please
 Write to me and let me know
 what to do for the Colored are in
 a hard place in a Torment
 nothing more at Present
 Please Write to me Concerning
 my Request from J. M. Heath
 from East St. Louis Ill

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Cumberland Co Virginia

December 10th 79

Mr John P. St. John

S^r Sir

I Heard or

I was inform that you is one of the
men who is interested with the remaining
Emigration Society I concluded that I would
write you a few lines to inform you
that I desire very much to be come a
Citizen of Kansas I was inform by Mr
John Coleman in Kansas a man has a
full show as a Citizen I now speak to
you as a Honest-man we here as a People
while we are Coloured People has not the
pleasure of enjoying the rights of a
citizen so far as law is concern & a
great portion of the laws of the State of
Virginia is made directly against the interest
of the Coloured People I am tied of it I
am in a desolated County with out Friends

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

to help me I want to come to Kansas
as I am inform that it is a better
Country I want you to send me
some instructions how I am to get there
I am thinking that I can get a large
Croud up that will come with me out
there but ~~whether~~ whether I get any
body to go with me or not I am coming if I
live we are kept down by the Power of the
Democrats we are so much oppressed down
I cant stand it any longer Please
send me some Instructions if you
will do this for me you will much

Oblige Me

P. J. Wm. A. Davenport

Direct your letters to


M. C. Kaes Glove
Cumberland County
Virginia

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W. A. Davenport

Please write soon & let me hear
from you

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Louisville
 Winston Co
 Miss
 Gov Jno P. St. John
 Topeka
 Kansas

Dear Sir
 Peter Cooper would desire
 me to write to you in reference
 to the emigration Society.
 He desires to emigrate
 to Kansas or some other Western
 State and as there are several
 others wish to go they wish
 full information in reference
 to the matter. How shall they
 proceed in forming a
 Society in this County,
 Winston Mississippi?
 Please send him all the
 information necessary.
 I will state that the negroes
 in this County are very poor
 and unable to get a living
 and will remain so for years
 to come. The land generally
 is poor and every body behind
 hand both white and black.
 Please send information
 instantly so as they can get
 there in time to start a crop.
 Direct to Peter Cooper
 Louisville Winston Co. Miss
 Accord to the Cause

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

