

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 64, Pages 1891 - 1920

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



Ashtabula Co. 1880
Andover O. June 22nd

Gov. St. John:

Dear Sir.

Among the
Benevolent contributions for
this week I have \$2.00 for the
Colored sufferers in Kansas.

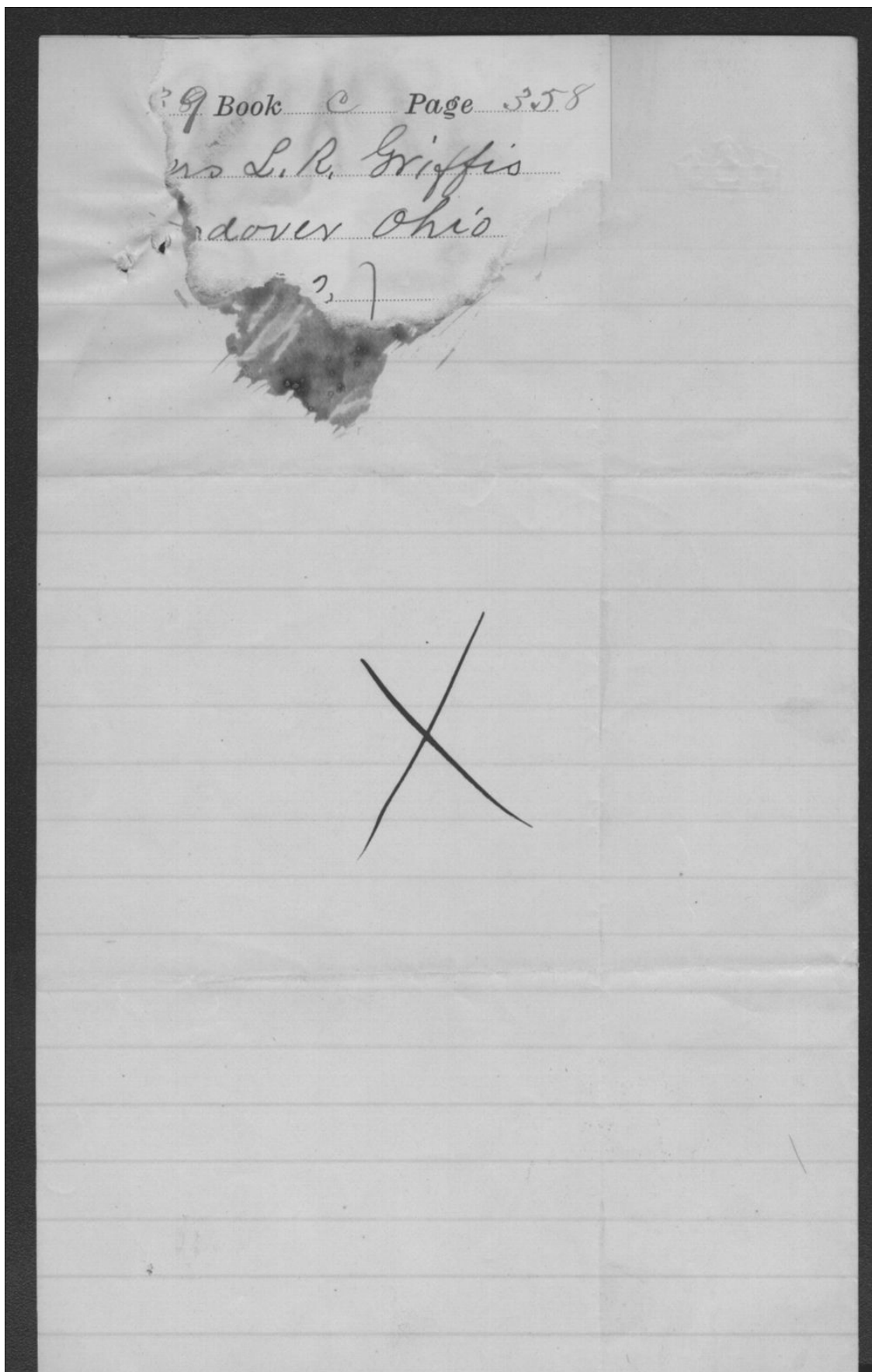
It was thought best to send
it to you immediately. You
will find it enclosed.

Please notify me when re-
ceived.

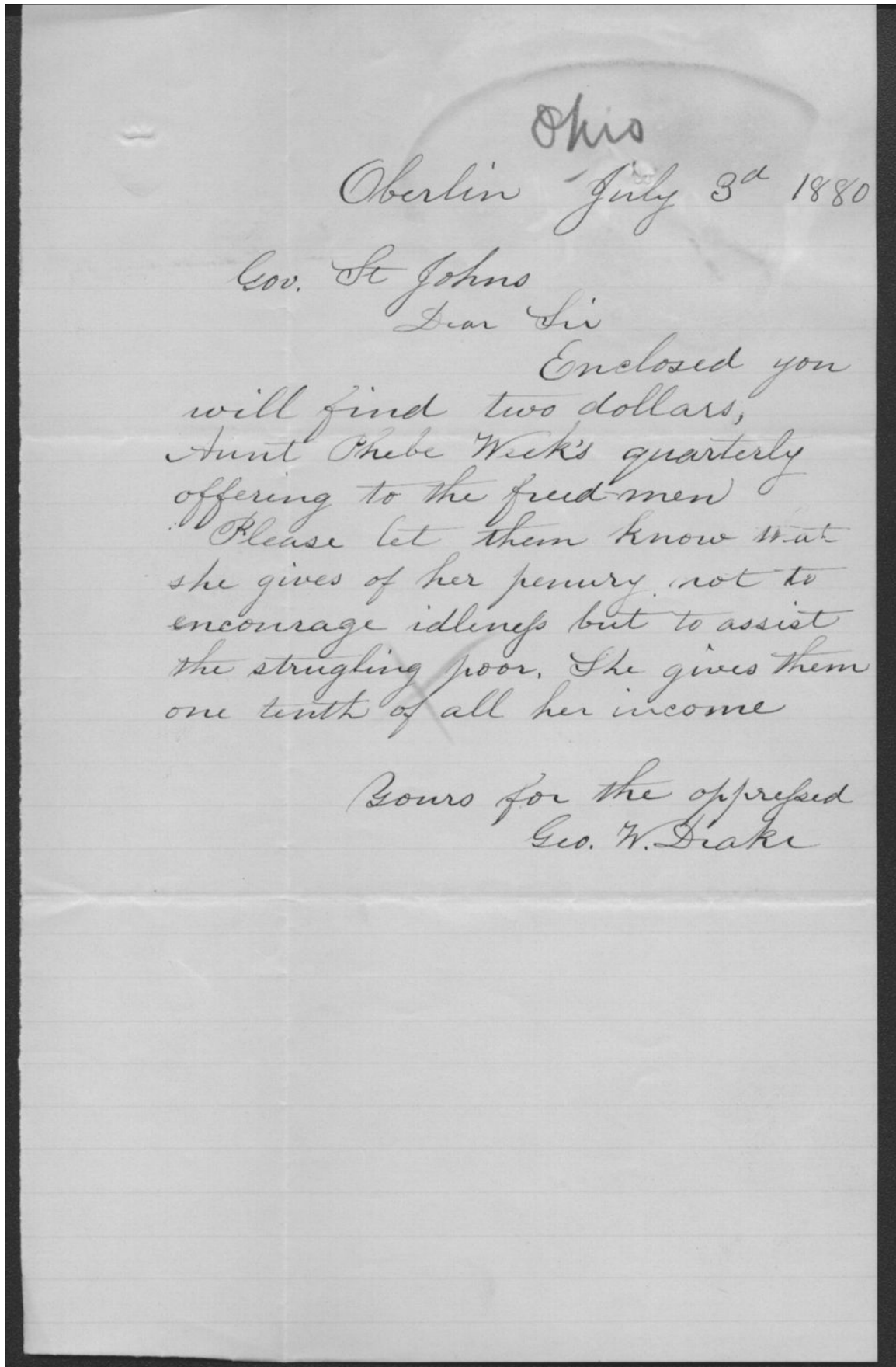
Mrs. L. W. Griffin

Sec. of Benev. W.

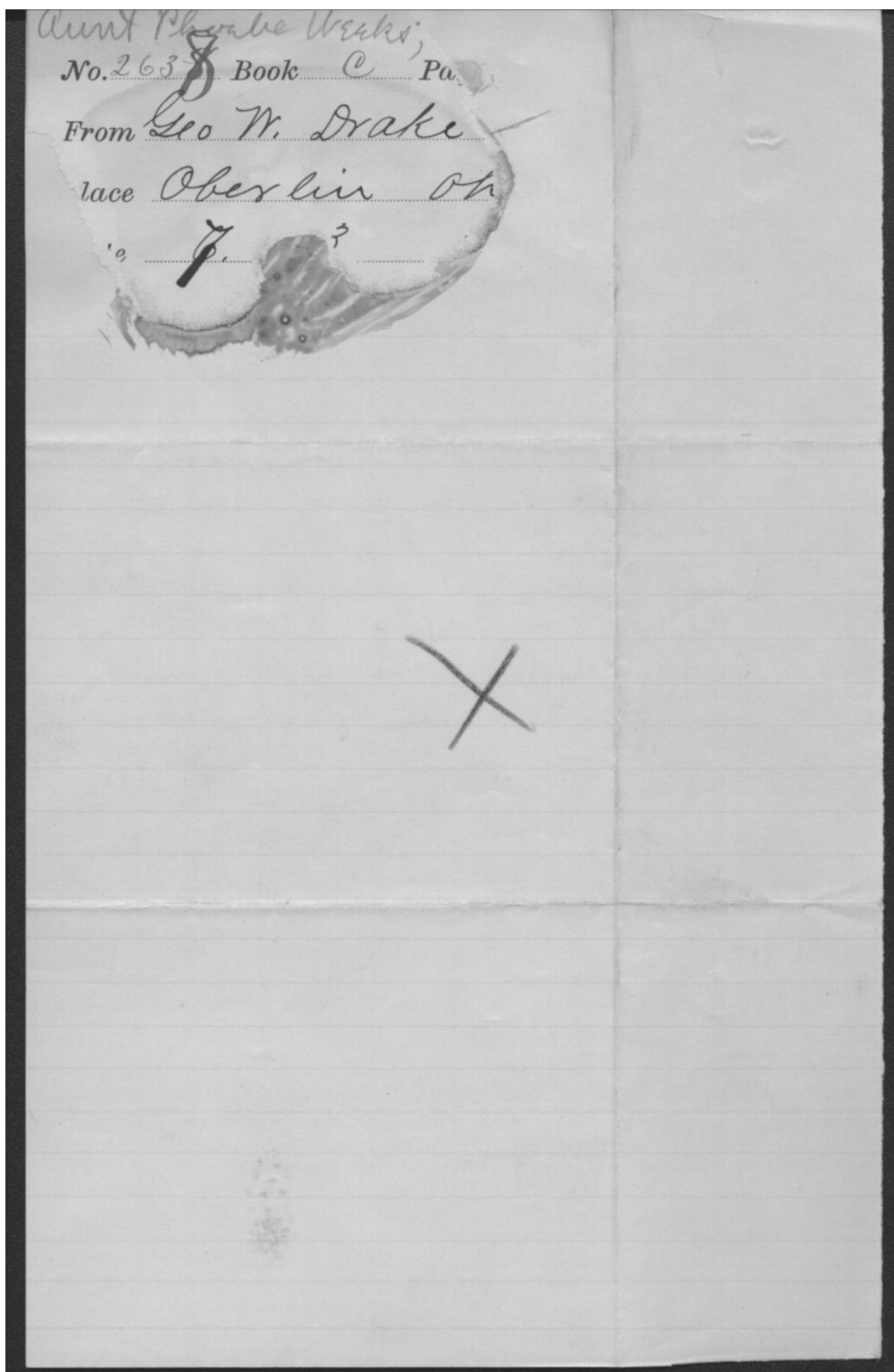
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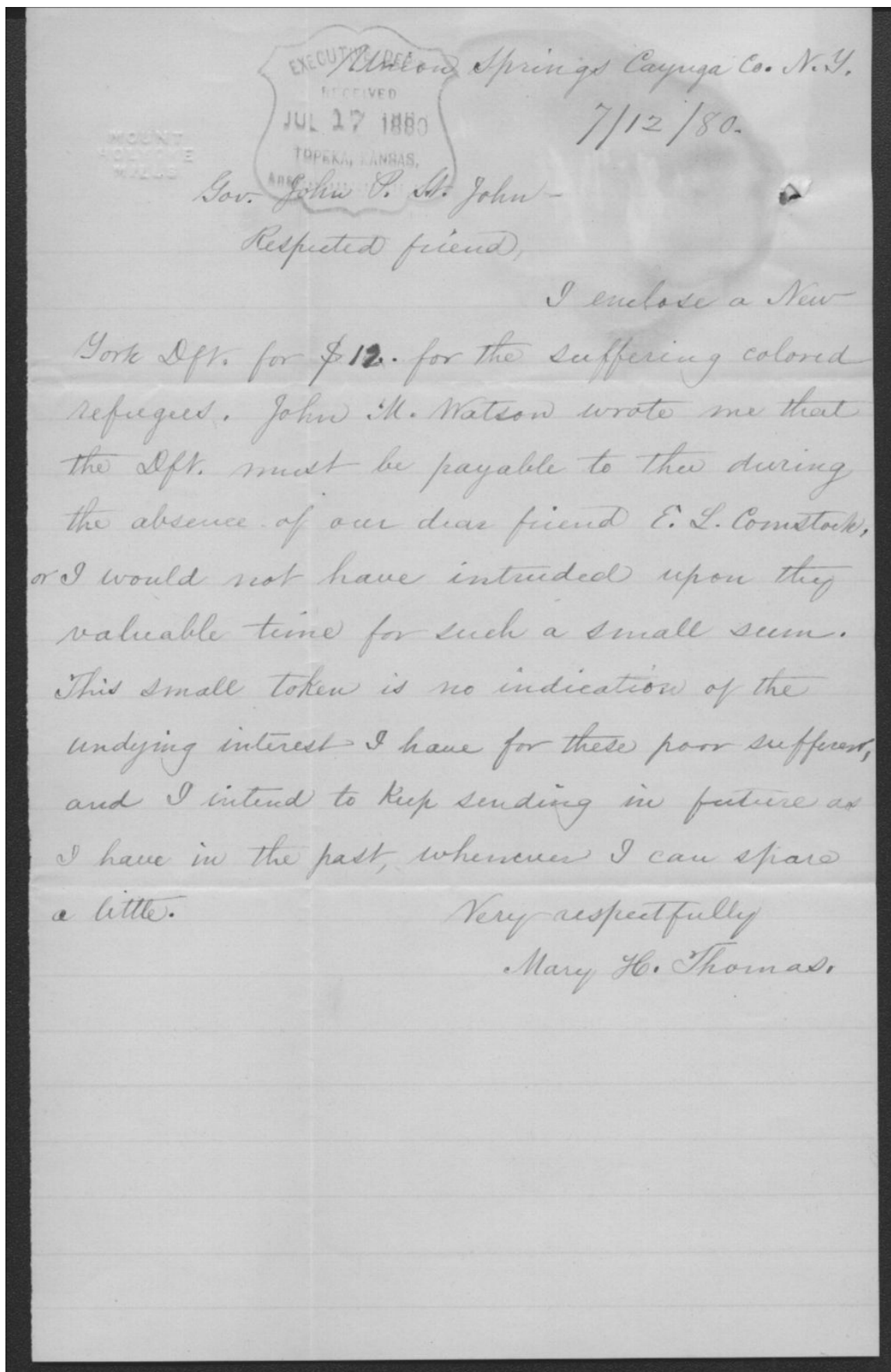
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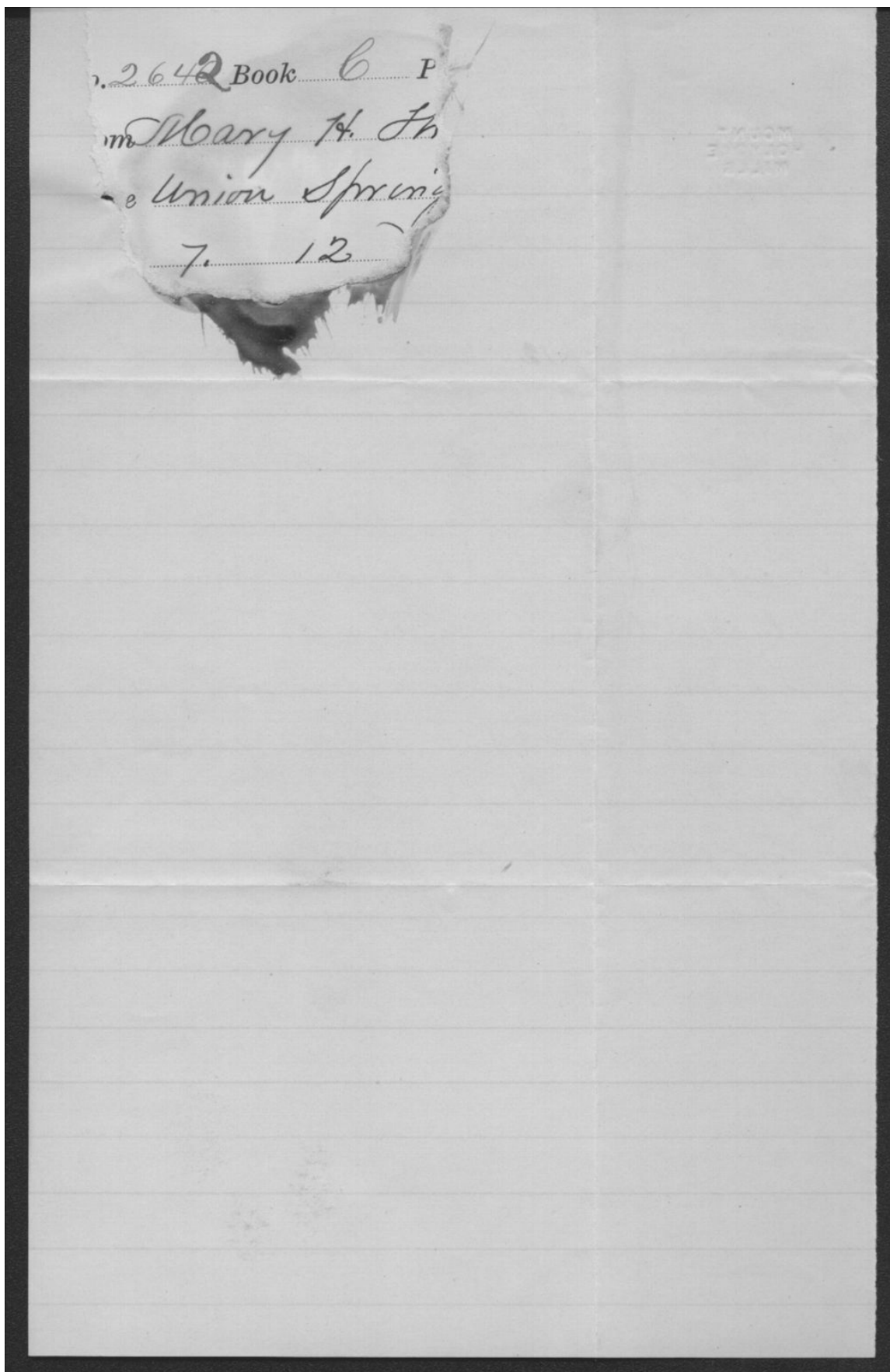
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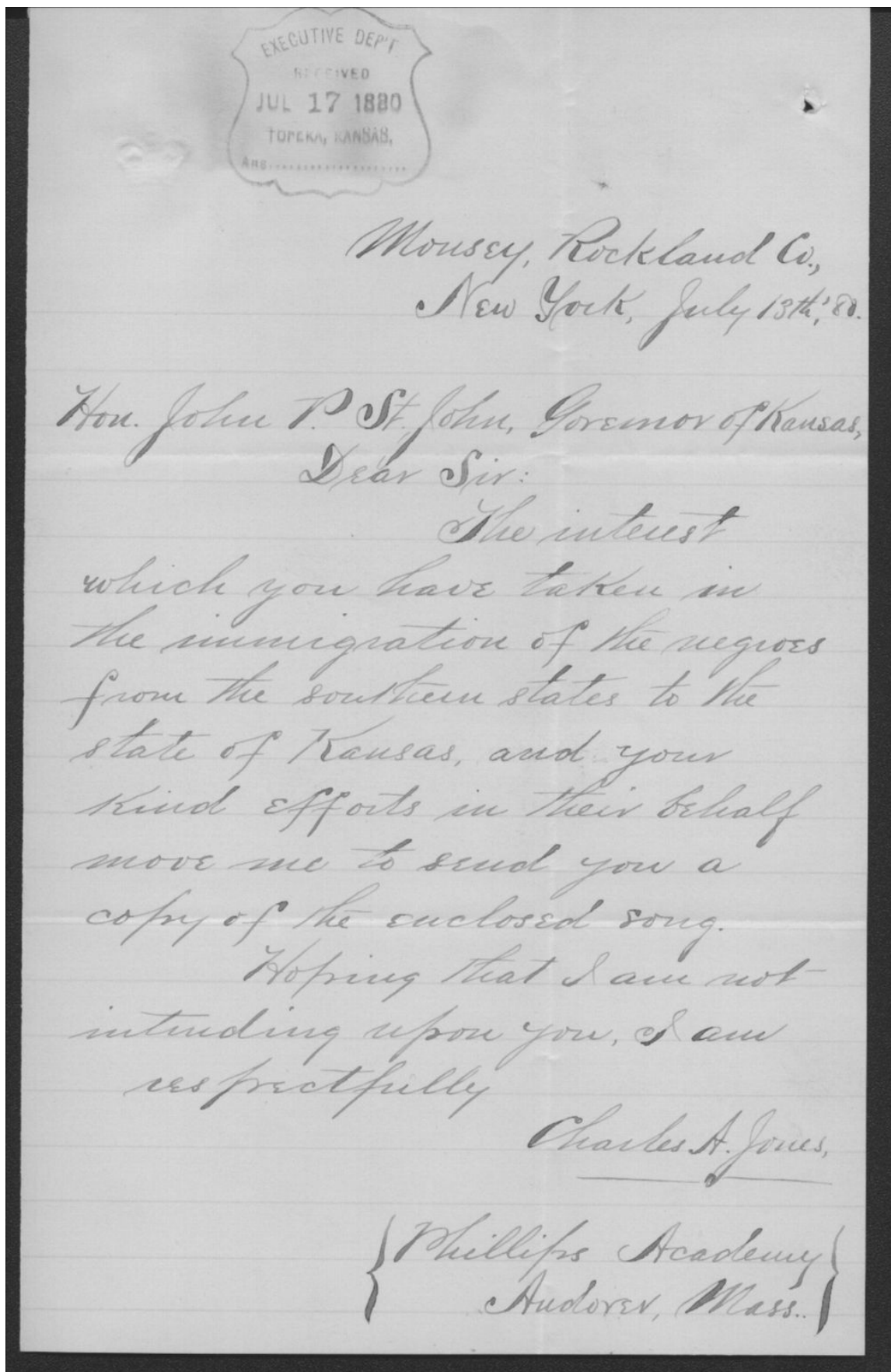
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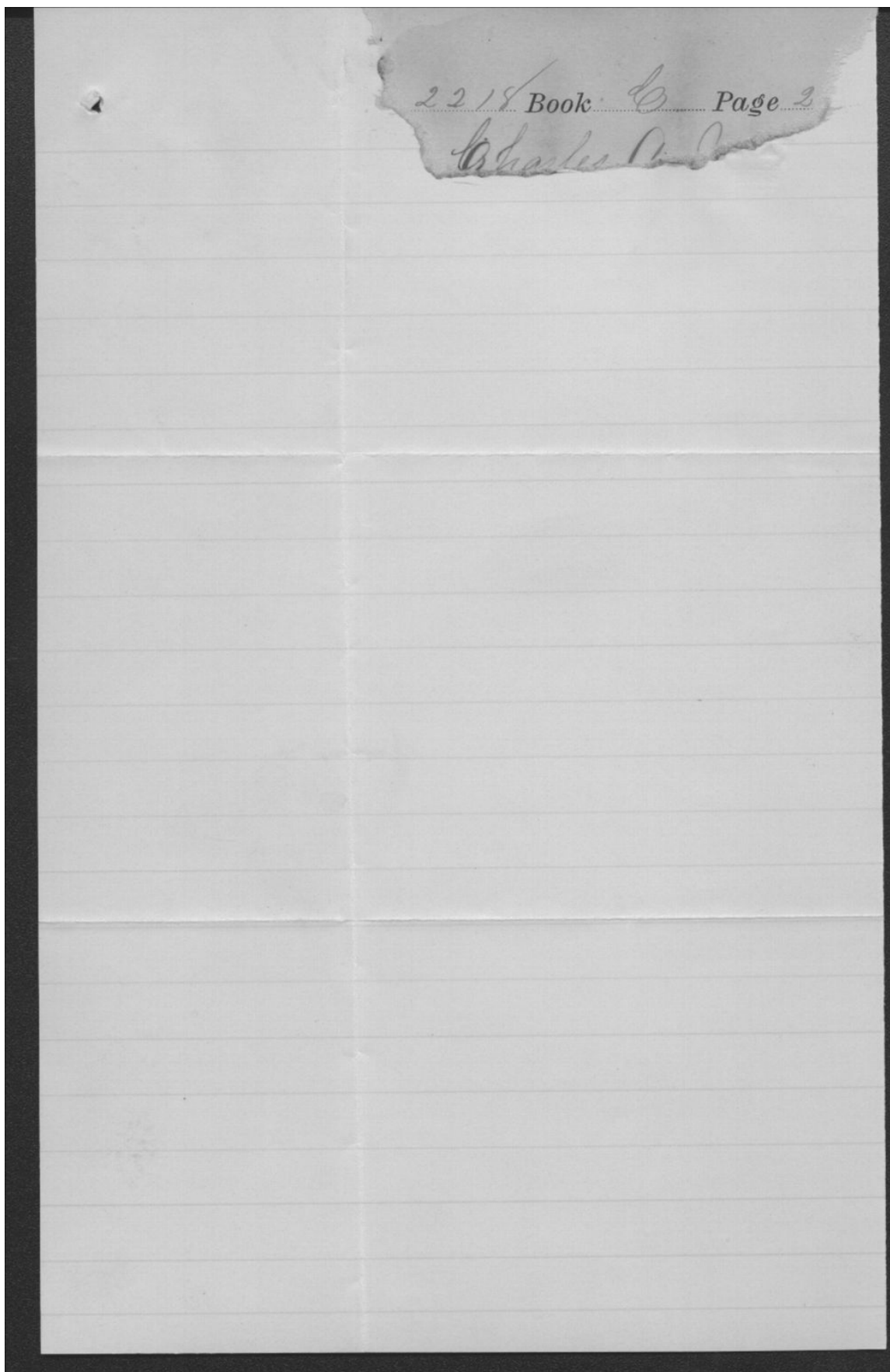
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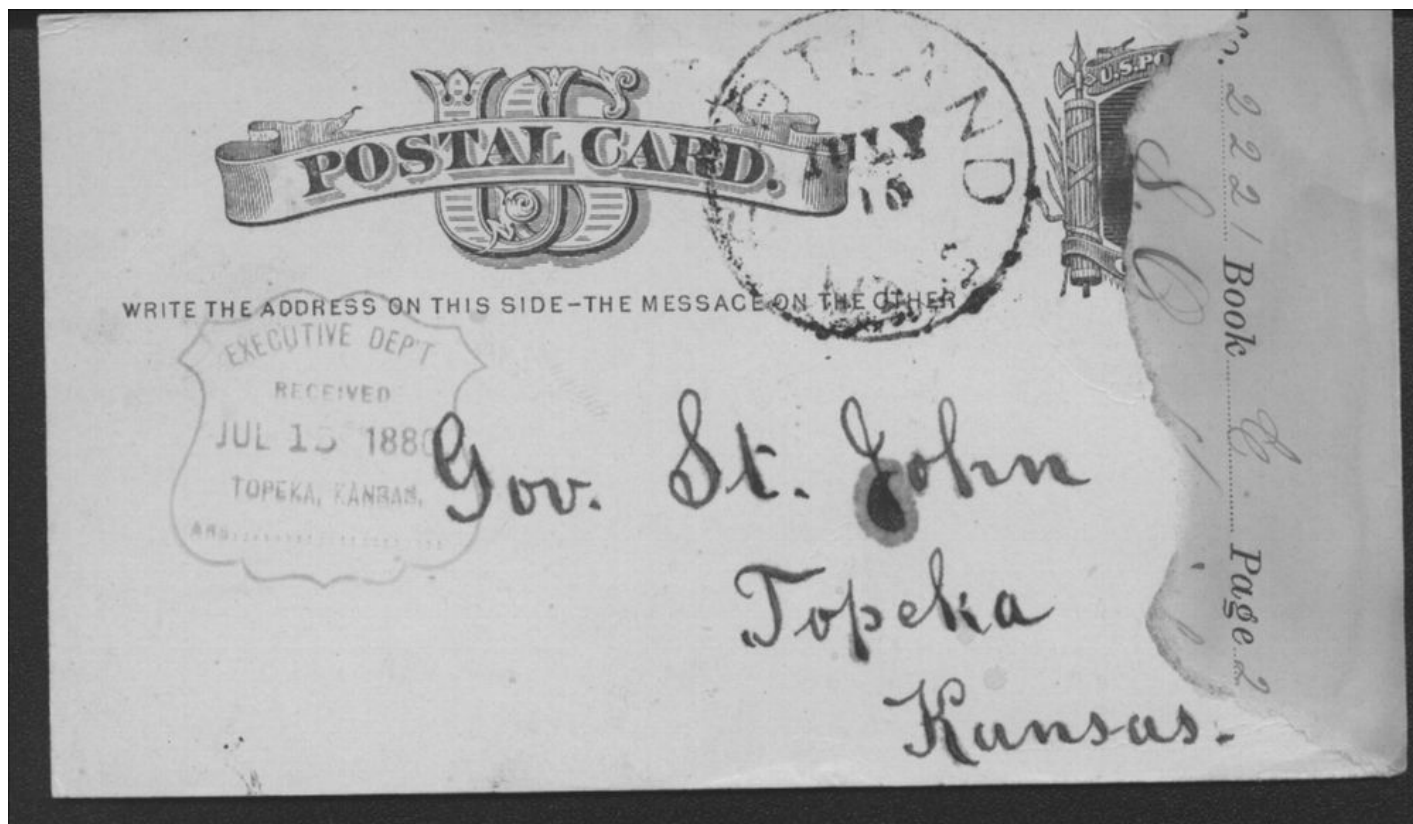
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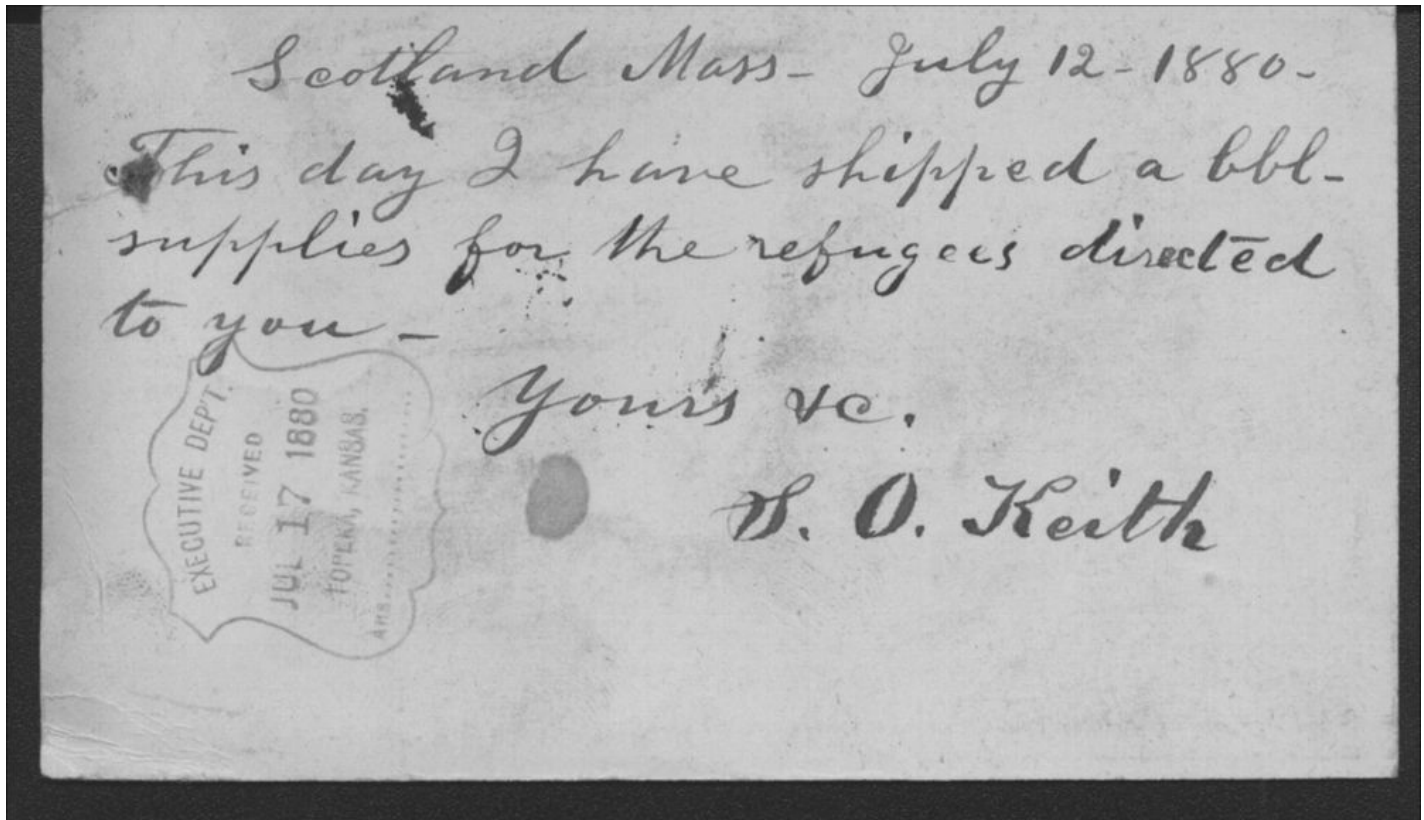
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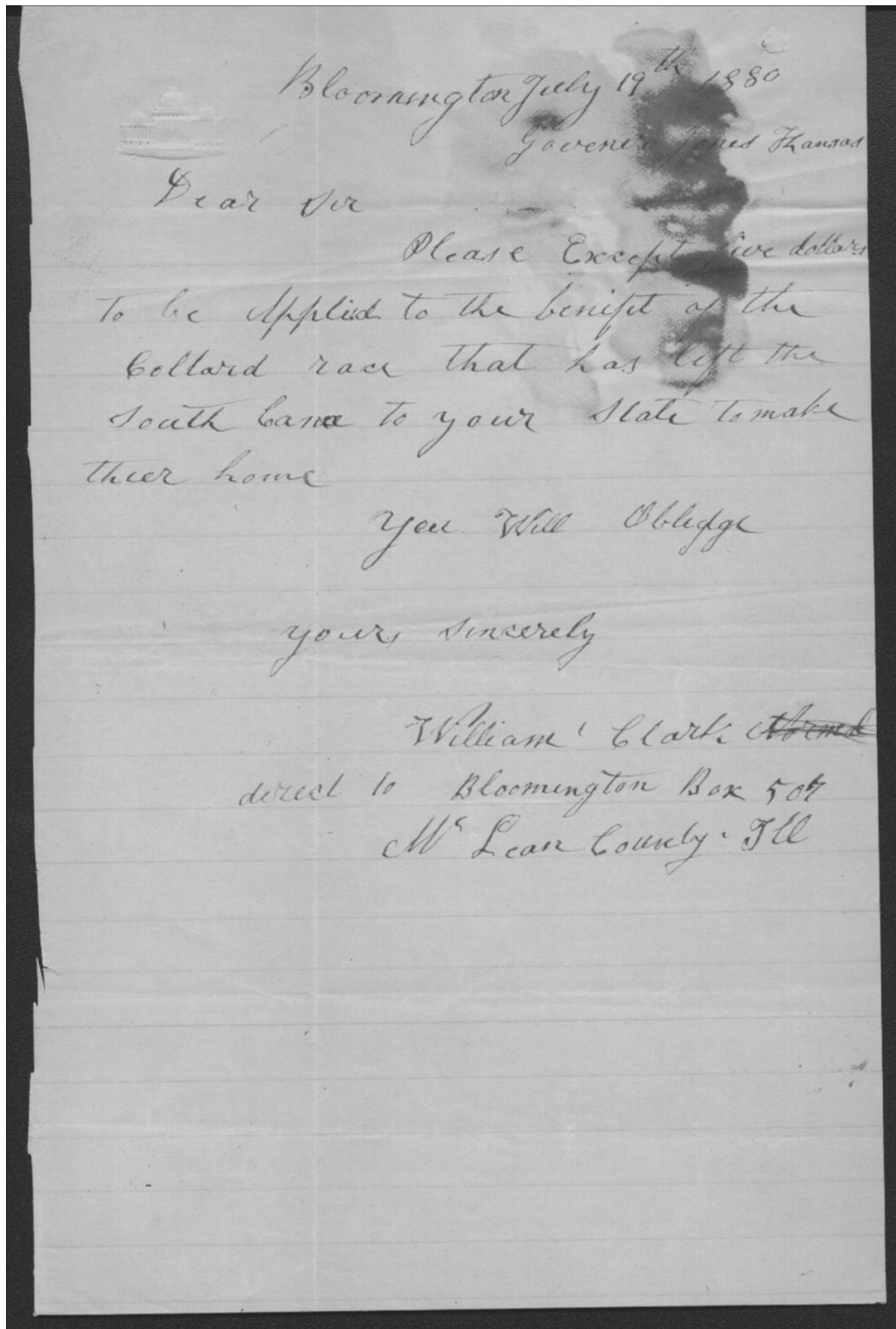
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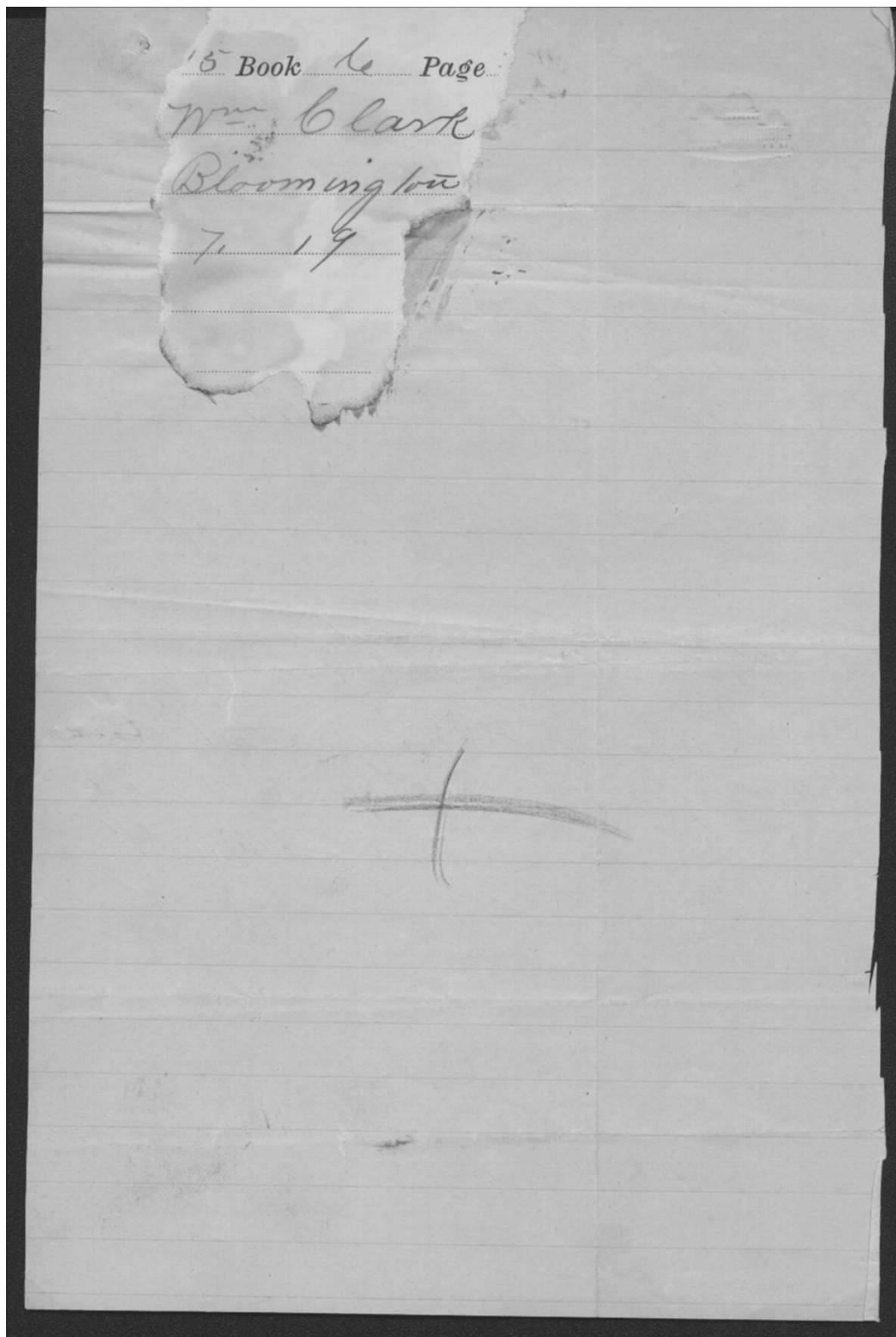
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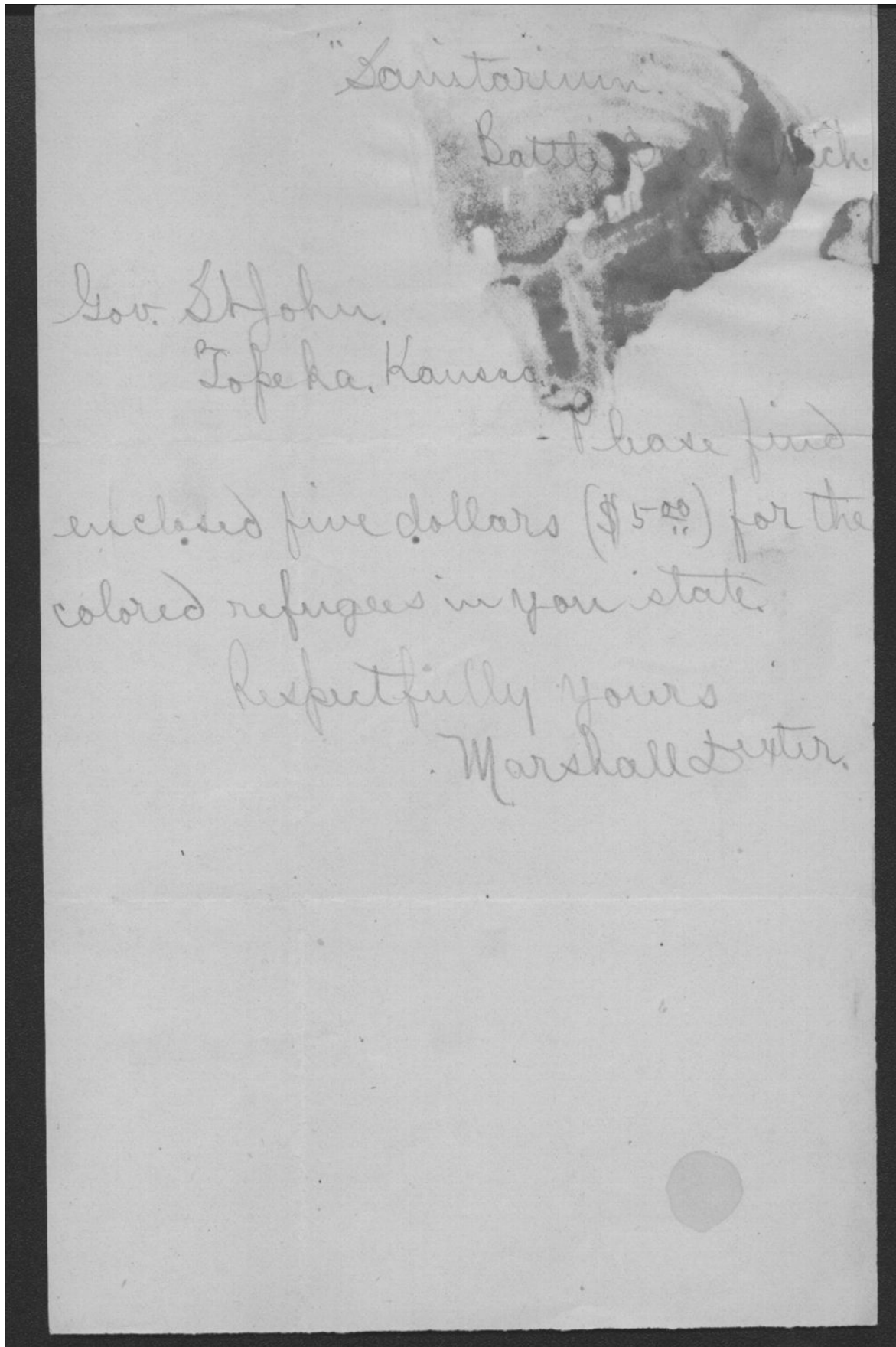
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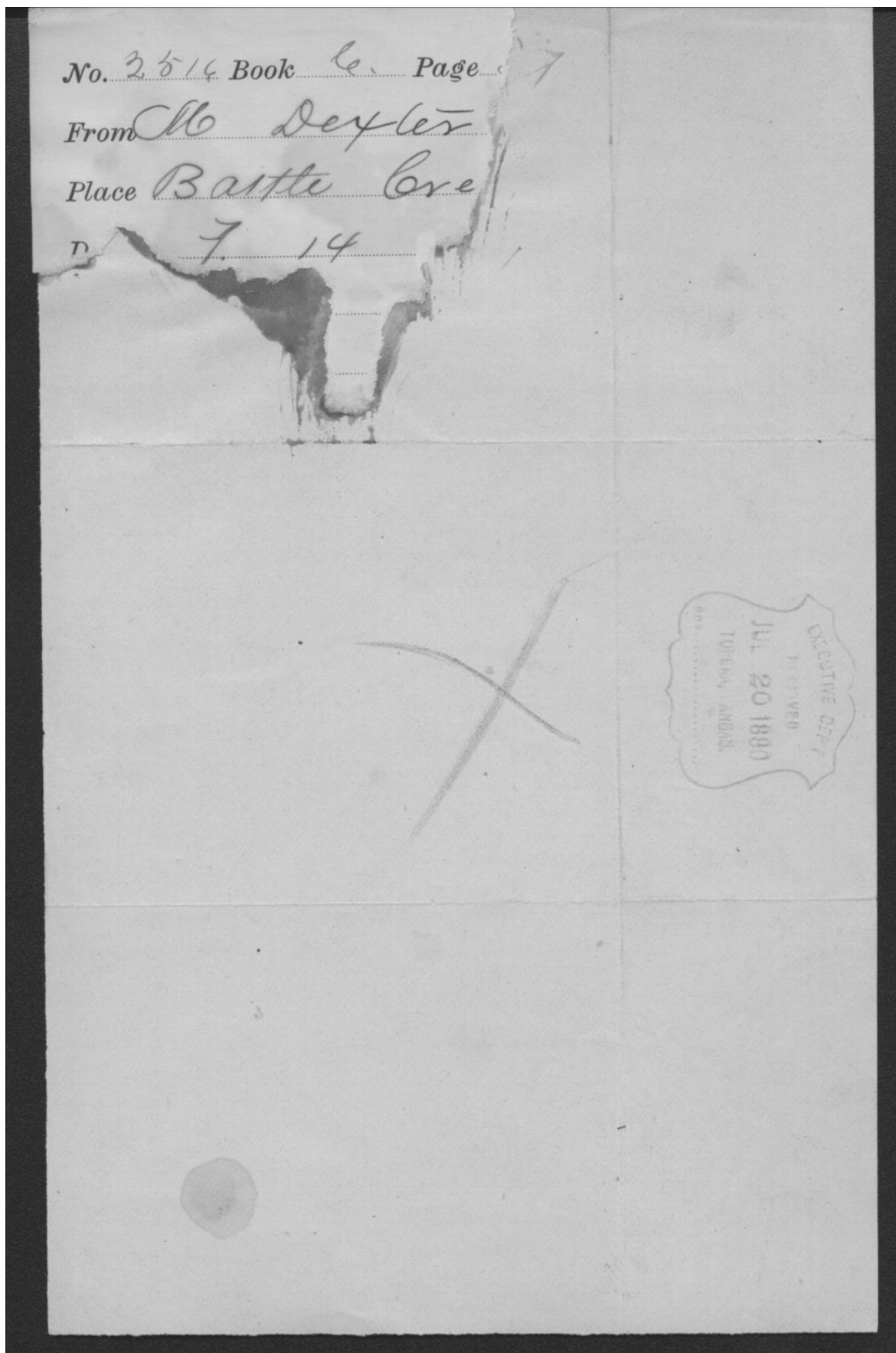
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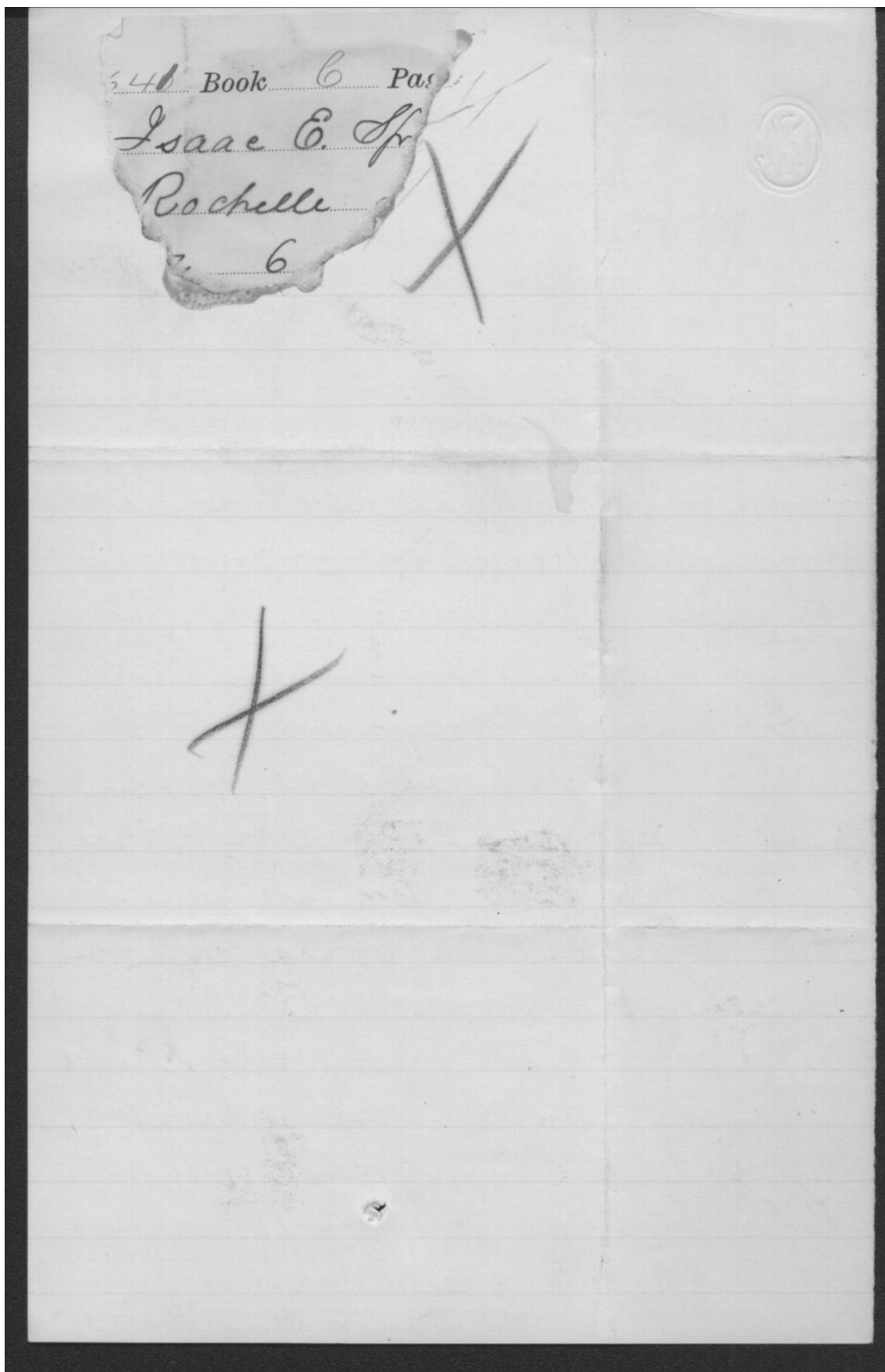
Rochelle Ill. July 6. 1880.
Gov. St. John, Gov. of Kansas
Topeka, Kansas.
Dear Sir.

A short time ago
a Rev. Jas. Suggs (colored), recommend-
ed by you, came here and solicited
funds for colored refugees. He left
no written directions for shipment
of goods. Consequently we have
been driven to the necessity of
shipping our boxes - five - to your
care. Enclosed, also find
my draft for \$2.50 being money
paid in after Mr. Suggs left.

Should the boxes arrive
safely - we shipped by B. C. B. & Co.
from Aurora, Ill. - we would regard
it as a favor if you would acknowledge
receipt, and turn goods over to proper
Relief Committee.

Maternally
Isaac E. Springer
Pastor M. E. Church.

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FREEDMEN'S EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.

Incorporated February 7, 1880.

OBJECT.

"The purpose for which this Corporation is formed, is to give to the colored people, especially to the adults, in Kansas and elsewhere, so far as the funds of the Society will permit, instruction in the elements of education by means of night schools and other fitting instrumentalities; to teach them the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, and prepare them, so far as possible, to properly discharge such duties and responsibilities in an intelligent manner; to work zealously for their moral and intellectual improvement, whenever and wherever opportunity may offer."—
Act of Incorporation, Article 2.

President, REV. J. E. GILBERT.

Cor. Sec'y, MRS. JULIET M. CLARK.

Vice President, F. W. GILES.

Sup't, MRS. M. E. GRIFFITH.

Treasurer, A. PRESCOTT.

The payment of Five Dollars, annually, constitutes a Membership; Twenty Dollars, at one time, a Life Member.

Topeka, Kansas, July 9 1880
Secunworth

Gov. J. P. St. John

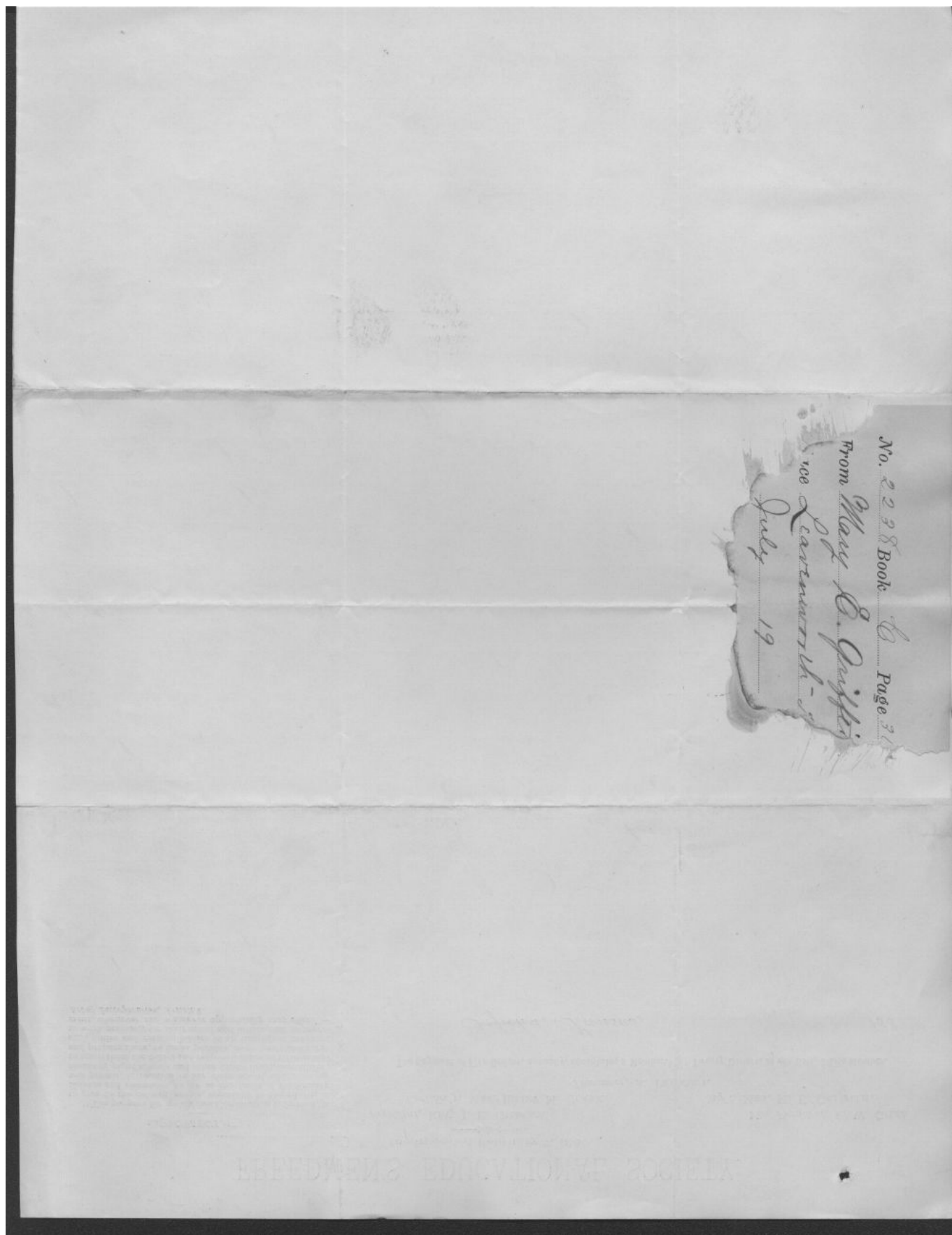


Dear Sir,

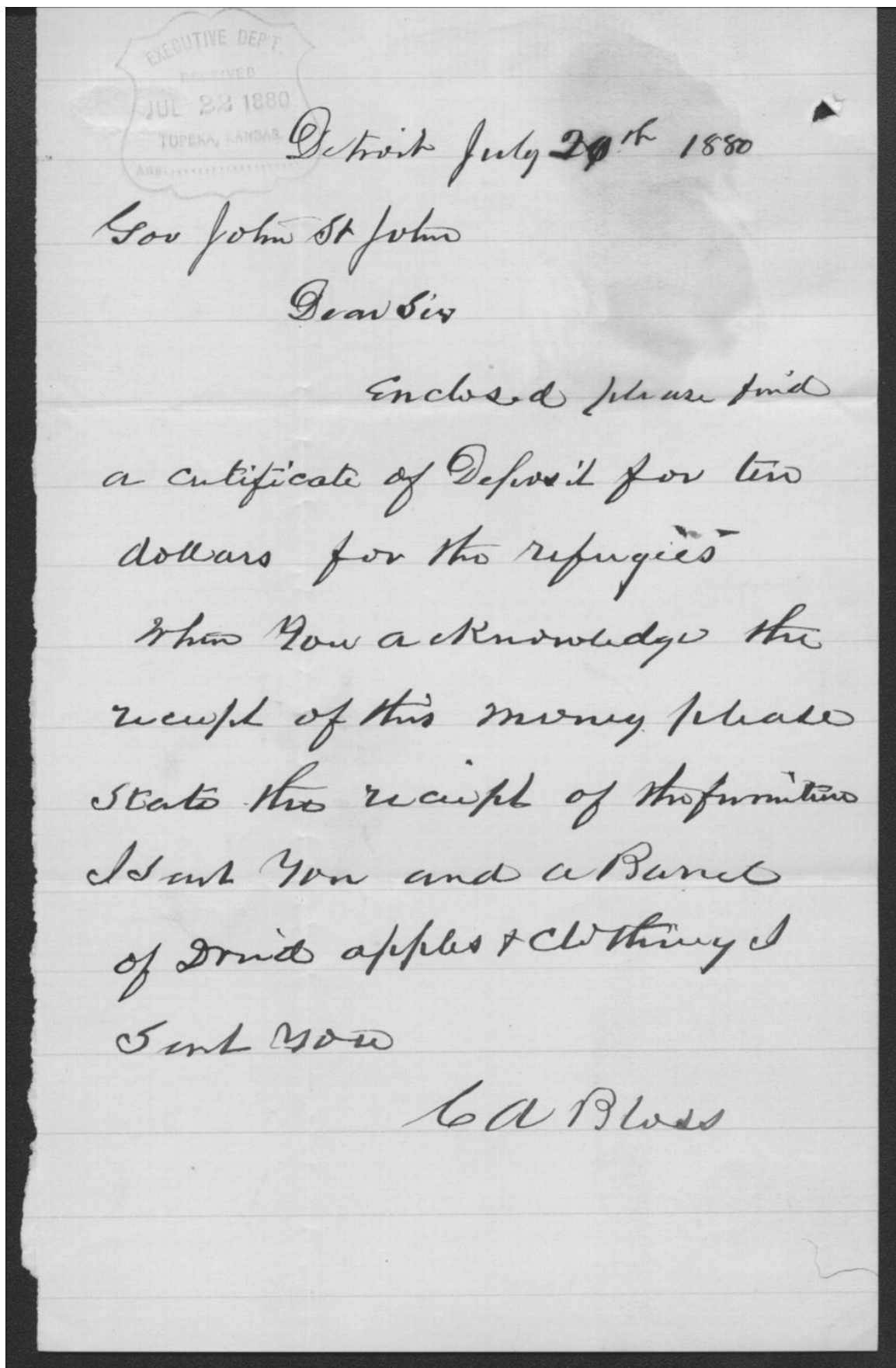
Permit me to introduce to your very kind and Mr. A. E. Griffith. He has been teaching in the Commercial College at our home in Ohio. As I am anxious to continue my Educational work among the freedmen in Kansas, he has come to your State hoping to find business & a home. If you should know of a vacancy—for a book-keeper—he would be glad to accept such a place. Or a position to teach in Washburn College Commercial Department. Your letter of last week rec'd. Thanks for your prompt action.

Sincerely your friend,
Mary E. Griffith.

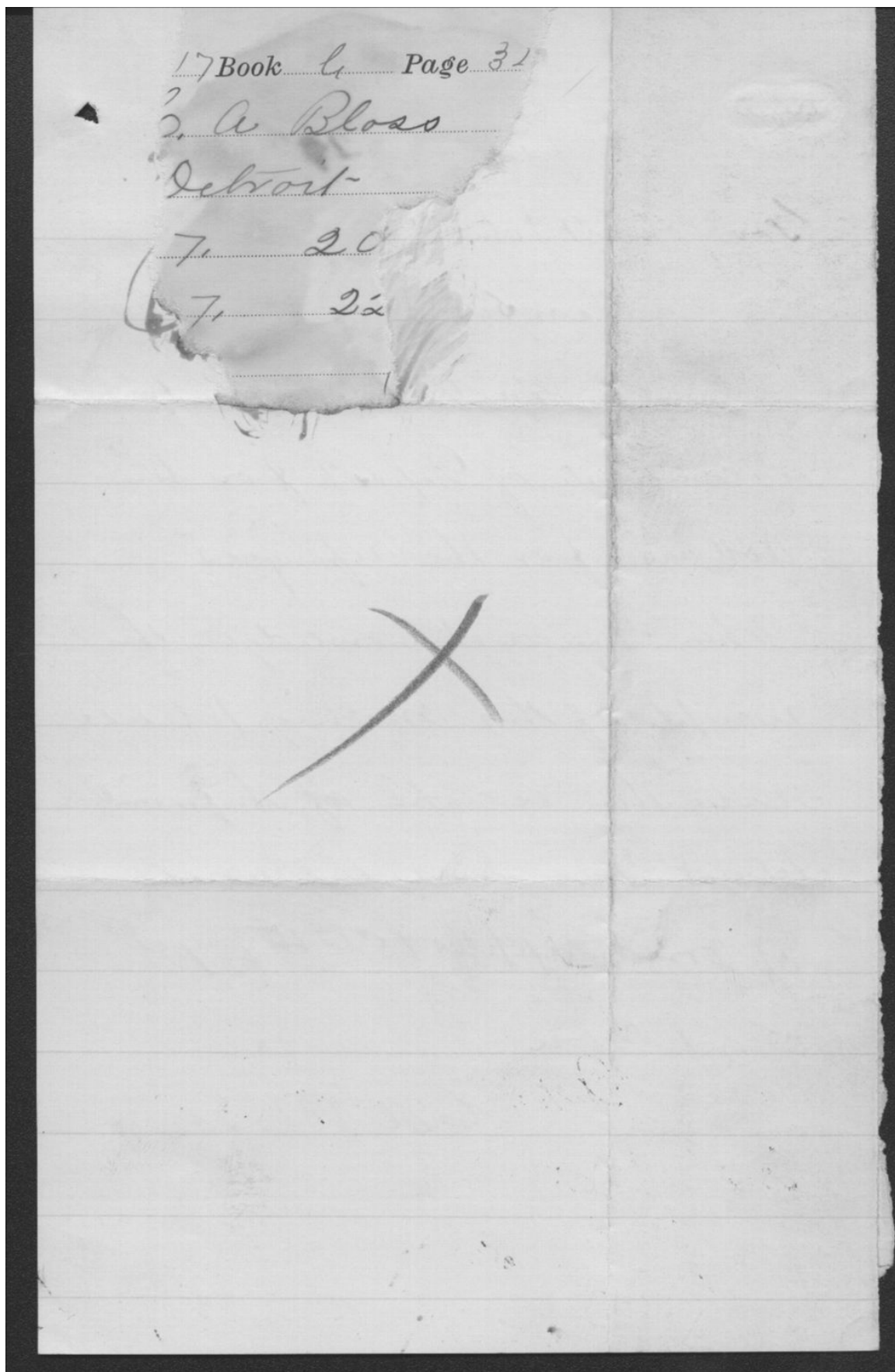
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643 Book 6
 Received
 24 1880
 TOPEKA, KANSAS.
 Laclede Mo July 22d 1880
 Laclede Mo
 Laclede
 J. Gov St John
 I have
 often thought I would like to
 help the poor colored refugee's
 that are flocking to Kansas
 & now as I have ten dollars
 that I wish to give to the Lord
 I think that it will please
 him best for me to give it
 into your hands for the
 benefit of the refugee's now
 will you please see that
 it goes to the colored people
 who are needy, as I suppose
 you know how to get it to
 them & I do not, only to send
 it to you, I will get a
 P.O. order & send you trusting
 that it will be all right
 I believe you live at Topeka



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Kansas, so I will direct this
to Topeka hoping that
it may do some good for
I have sympathy for the poor
colored race that have been so
badly used, and that are trying
to get away from their oppressors
Oh may the Lord bless them
bountifully in Kansas is my
prayer, I am so glad that you
are such a friend to the poor
unfortunates, & I think I can
trust you fully to deliver this
to them, I only wish I had as
much more to help them with
but the good Lord will see
that they are provided for bless
his holy name now I hope you
are a Christian, because you do
certainly do the work of a Christian &
don't let any one else have your crown
please acknowledge the receipt of this
by card or otherwise, Minerva L. Sharp

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



LAKE MOHONK MOUNTAIN HOUSE,
NEW PALTZ, ULSTER CO., NEW YORK.

A. K. SMILEY,
PROPRIETOR.

John P. St. John June 26. 1880.

My dear Friend

Our kind friends have
persuaded my daughter & self
to come & rest for 3 or 4 weeks du-
ring this very hot weather, so here
we are in a very lovely cool Mountain
house, with a beautiful tranquil
little lake in front, & lofty moun-
tains behind us. While thus

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resting we do not forget the poor
refugees in Kansas. We had a
meeting in this house last eve &
& took up a collection of near \$100 for
them, & shall have another in a
few days. I send frequent re-
mittances to my dear friend Emma
Stamland. Thro the kindness of
my friends all of our expenses are
met & all our wants abundantly
supplied without our having to
draw a dollar from money col-
lected for the refugees wh. is very
satisfactory to me. I have
taken the pen now to ask thy
advice regarding our future work.
It seems to me in looking over
the matter prayerfully & weighing
it well, that it may be wise for
us to open an auxiliary or branch

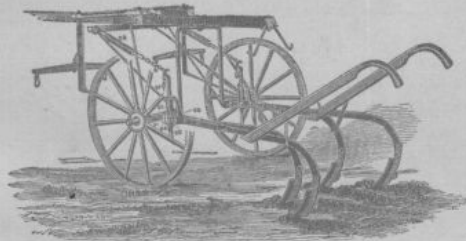
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to the Topeka work. We hear of large numbers of refugees flocking to the South Eastern part of the State Independence, Coffeyville, Osage, Columbus &c. We hear of great destitution there; & also of much dissatisfaction in Topeka, among the citizens, many of whom think that our doing so much there has drawn the refugees there. Don't you think it will be wise or right for us, to locate in the S. E. part of Kas. on our return in the Fall? Some have advised our drawing off & separating from the K. K. R. A. I confess, I am unwilling to do that. I fear that our doing so wd. tend to lessen public confidence & the funds & supplies wd. fail in consequence. But just to organize

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2714 7 3 10 Dec 22
 an auxiliary, & work harmoniously
 with the K. F. R. A. and not do so.
 If we decide upon this plan it
 will be needful to erect barracks
 Perhaps we may rent warehouse
 room & a place to live in for a
 while, but barracks for refugees
 are greatly needed there now we hear.
 If amid thy many duties & press-
 ing engagements thou canst spare
 time to let me know thy judg-
 ment in this matter I shall be
 much obliged With love to thy
 wife & daughter I am
 Thy sincere friend
 Elizth L Comstock.
 J. G. St John

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DEERE'S NEW SPRING CULTIVATOR.

In reply to yours of

OFFICE OF
WILLIAM PENROSE,
DEALER IN
Standard Farm Machinery,
No. 217 FRONT STREET.

Burlington, Iowa, July 26 1880

Gov. St John
Topeka Kansas.

Dear Sir,

I rec'd some very interesting
documents from you - few days ago. - for
which accept thanks.

Enclosed please find P. O. order for
Five Dollars (\$5.00) for Aid Society.

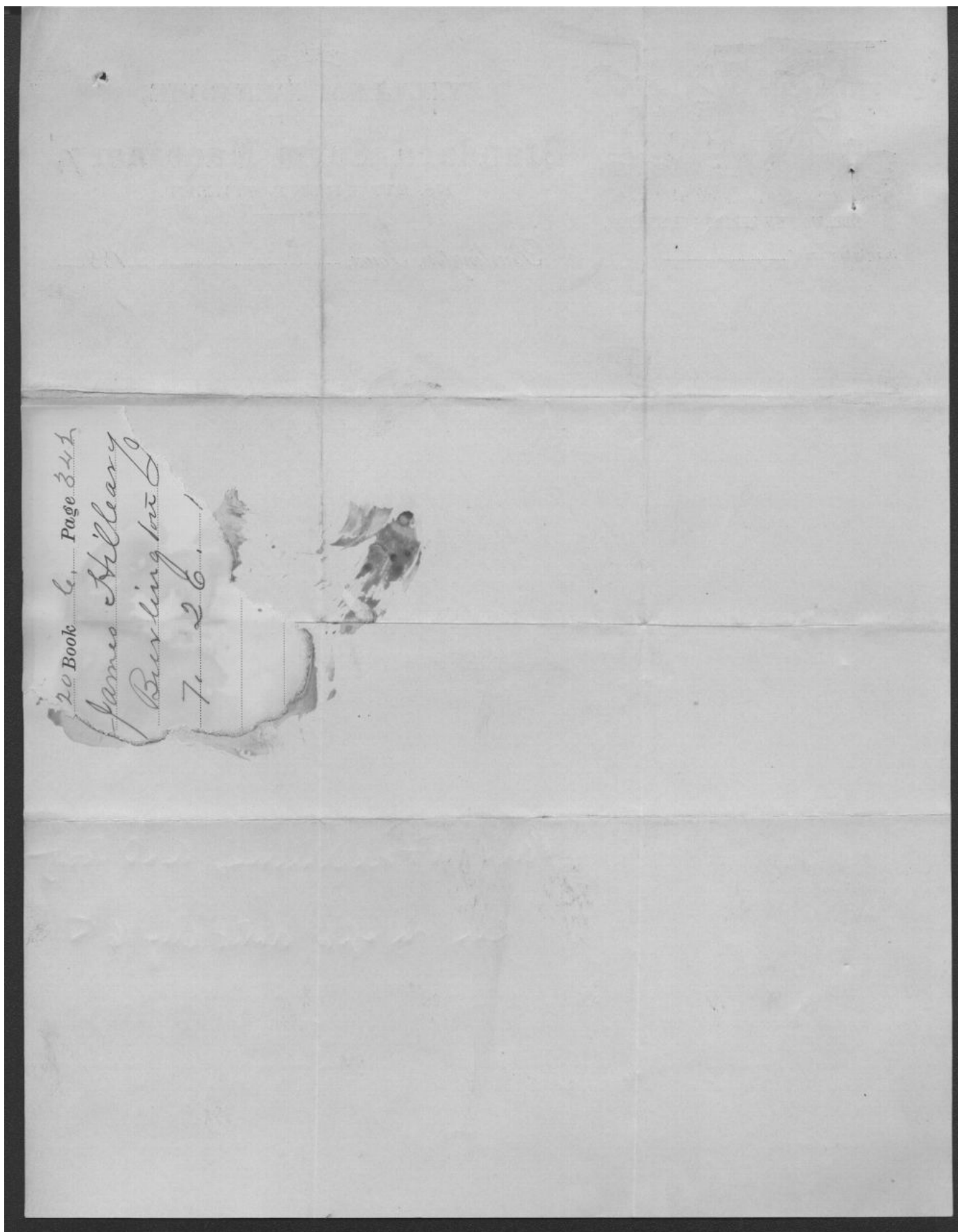
Yours truly

James Hickey

Paid to Freedmen's Aid Socy

see receipt dated Aug 16th

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Soldier Valley La
Aug 2^d 1880
Hon^{ble} J. P. St. John
Dear Sir
Please find enclosed
\$500 for the benefit of
the destitute settlers
on the frontier
Yours truly
W. G. Smith
N. B. Address as above

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