

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

### Section 77, Pages 2281 - 2310

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

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Surely the colored race have been crushed long enough by our people, for our highly favored Government to do a liberal part toward starting them as a people, on the road to self support, and independence, as an integral part of our great commonwealth—!

For encouragement of donors, acknowledge at earliest convenience.

With true regard thy friend

G. P. Wood

<sup>Friends of Iowa yearly meeting</sup>  
P.S. We are earnestly working to start a Normal School at Parsons Kansas for qualifying colored teachers for their own people; but have not quite reached the requisite amount for commencing the building— and may fail, but we hope not.

With true regard

G. P. Wood

J. P. St. John

No. 4675 Book C Page 632  
From G. P. Wood

Wingdale Iowa  
27. 1881



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

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long enough by our people, for our highly  
favored Government to do a liberal part  
toward starting them as a people, on the road  
to self support, and independence, as an integral  
part of our great commonwealth!  
For encouragement of donors, acknowledge at earliest  
convenience.

With true regard thy fa

G. P. Wood

Friends of Iowa Exodusters, meeting to start a Nor-  
mal School at Parsons Kansas for qualifying  
Colored teachers for their own people; but  
have not quite reached the requisite amount  
for commencing the building - and may fail,  
but we hope not.

With true regard

J. P. St. John

No. 4695 Book @ Page 632

From G. P. Wood

Place Springdale Iowa

Date S. 27. 1881

Rec'd

G. P. Wood



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Clyde Ohio March 30. /88

Hon. J. P. St. John.

\$5.00

Dear Sir.

I am informed  
that you receive and distribute  
funds sent to the colored refugees  
who are in need in your state.

Accordingly I send you herewith  
five dollars for those needy colored  
people - Please acknowledge

the same to Miss Elizabeth Starn  
of Green Spring - Ohio

And oblige yours truly  
J. S. Artell.



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 4644 Book C Page 624

From J. S. Artell

Place Clyde Ohio

Date J. O. 1881

Rec'd

us'd

X





## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

3.

CAPITAL \$ 500,000.00.  
ROBT. McCURDY, President.  
WM H. BALDWIN, Cashier.

The First National Bank.

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO, Apr 2 1881

Governor St. John,  
Topeka, Kansas.

Sir: I enclose for the benefit of the colored Refugees in Kansas a chq. dft to your order for \$66<sup>62</sup>. Of this amount \$20<sup>00</sup> is contributed by the Sunday School of the First Presbyterian church of this place and \$46<sup>62</sup> by the church itself.

In acknowledging receipt a few words directed especially to the Sunday School, to be read to them, would be thankfully received by

Yours Very Truly

Wm H. Baldwin

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 4643 Book C Page 625

From W. H. Baldwin

Place Youngstown Ohio

Date 4. 3. 1881

Rec'd

Ans'd

EXTRACT.



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Waupun, Wisconsin, Apr. 4<sup>th</sup>/88.

Governor St. John;  
Sir;

House hold help is scarce here and if among the refugees there are any capable women who are used to house work we would like to get one. Having a family of small children and living on a farm I could not undertake to get along with an inexperienced hand, but could promise steady work to one who would suit. Hoping you will find time to reply I am Respectfully Yours Mrs C. M. Howland.





## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 4685 Book C Page 631

From Mrs C. W. Howland

Place Waupun Wis

Date 24, 4, 1881

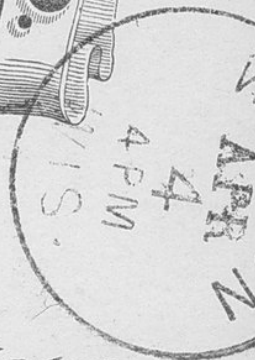
Rec'd

Ans'd

acc.

St. John.

MESSAGE ON THE OTHER



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Parsons, 4/8/81.  
Dear Friend & Gov.,  
Thine of 6<sup>th</sup>  
inst. at hand; contents very acceptable.  
The aged, sick, crippled, & new-comers,  
still need looking after here; hence thy  
remittance is judicious; thanks for it.  
Sincerely thy well-wishing friend, Wilmer Walton.



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. *68* Book *D* Page *9*

From *W. Walton*

Place *Parsons, Ks*

Date *4. 8. 1881*

Rec'd

ACT





## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

T. A. BECK, President.  
J. M. BROWN, General Superintendent.

C. A. SPERRY, J. W. BRAXTON, Vice Presidents.  
JOHN D. KNOX, Treasurer.

LAURA S. HAVILAND,  
SECRETARY.

### The Kansas Freedmen's Relief Association.

Incorporated May 8, 1879.

The purpose for which this corporation is formed is to relieve, as far as possible, the wants and necessities of destitute freedmen, refugees, and immigrants coming to this State; to provide necessary food, shelter, and clothing for them when unable to provide for themselves; to succor the aged, the feeble, and the sick; to aid and assist them in procuring work, and finding homes, either in families, or when they wish to locate on government or other lands; and to do and perform such other acts of charity and benevolence as the necessities of such freedmen, refugees, and immigrants may require, and humanity suggest.

Columbus,  
NORTH TOPEKA, KANSAS, April 11, 1881.

Gov<sup>t</sup> St John  
My dear Friend

I supposed you hadet gone on thy Eastern trip until rec<sup>d</sup> this afternoon the draft of G. P. Wood. This mail takes a rec<sup>d</sup> to him at Springdale Iowa for the same.

I find a great many refugees in the S.E. part of Kas. who cannot get employment. After having a consultation with our Friends of Kas. Yearly Meeting's Com<sup>ee</sup> we have pretty much decided to purchase a section of cheap fertile land, place a thoroughly practical farmer upon it, who will employ every refugee who comes for aid, at fair wages, combine with this a Training Institute in agricultural & domestic arts that men & women boys & girls, can all be employed & taught. We think of having broom corn & castor beans cultivated & a broom factory.

Our arrangements are not yet fully matured yet, but we do not omit book learning & Bible schools. Those who are so eager to possess a little land of their own may be able in time to purchase a few acres of the land in part payment of their wages.



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Our Friends of Iowa Yearly meeting have subscribed nearly \$3000 (Three thousand dollars) & purchased land at Parsons with a view for a training school there. I expect to go round to our other Yearly Meetings to plead with them to "go & do likewise". If all the other Churches do as much in proportion to their numbers as the Quakers are doing, there will not be so much suffering next winter as there was last.

If thou approve our plan of starting this Institute in Paw. Kas. wilt thou be so kind as to request the Com<sup>ee</sup>, of which thou art one, in rounding up the affairs of the N. F. R. A. to pack up & send to us all the beds, bedding, furniture desks tables stoves &c. a full car load & send down here, to Baxter Springs, for this purpose.

With kind regards to thy wife & daughter & a grateful sense of the support & aid thou hast given us in our work for the poor

I am Thy sincere friend

Oliver L. Comstock.

A few lines expressing of thy approval of our plan will be a strength & comfort to us. A letter will find me here for 10 or 12 days from date & then I go to New York D. C.

CT.  
in charge  
-impd-  
men to  
overmen



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Our Friends of Iowa Yearly meeting have submitted nearly \$3000 (Three thousand dollars) & purchased land at Paw-saw with a view for a training school there. I expect to go round to our other Yearly meetings to plead with them to "go & do likewise". If all the other Churches do as much in proportion to their numbers as the Iowa Yearly are doing, there will not be so much suffering next winter as there was last.

If thou approve our plan of starting this Institute in Paw. Kas. write them be so kind as to request the Com<sup>rs</sup> of which thou art one, in writing up the affairs of the W. H. R. S. to pack up & send to us all the beds, bedding, furniture, desks, tables, stoves &c. a full car load & send down here, to Baxter Springs, for this purpose. With kind regards to thy wife & daughter & a grateful sense of the support & aid thou hast given us in our work for the year.

I am thy sincere friend  
Eliza H. C.

A few lines expressing of thy appreciation will be a strength & comfort to us. Find me here for 10 or 12 days from a go to New York N. Y.


No. 100 Book D Page 13  
From Mrs E. L. Comstock  
Place Columbus Mo  
Date 4. 11. 1881  
Rec'd  
Ans'd

ACT.  
purchase  
employ  
men to  
oversee



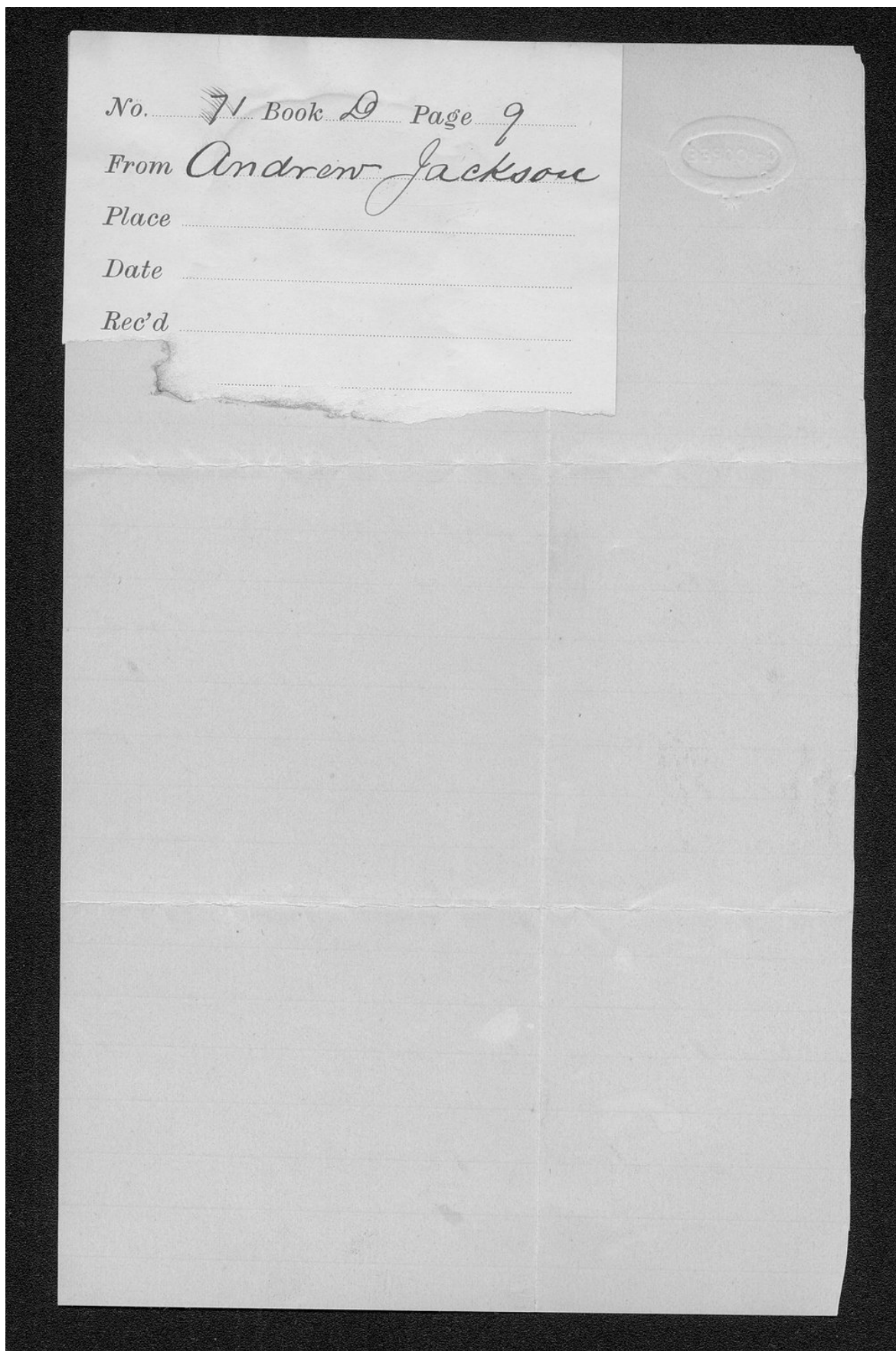
## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

April 13 1881


  
 Governor St John the people  
 say they have not a saw  
 and their wood like to have  
 one if you please when the is  
 cold days they have no wood  
 to make a fire if you please when  
 you read this letter look  
 up found it and if you please  
 send it to use and how use a  
<sup>saw</sup> saw to pay it if you please  
 we have our land and how  
 we to make it and when we  
 want to get our things we want  
 to pay some body to hold it  
 we Bagging you help if you please  
 so now we will close your letter  
 Good bye and say hello  
 Andrew Jackson



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence





## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Kingston,

Apr. 14 - '81

His Excellency,  
J. R. St. John,  
Governor, &c. —

Dear Sir: I fear that I may have omitted to acknowledge your kindness in responding to my letter of inquiry relative to the condition of the Freedmen in Kansas. —

If so, please pardon my neglect, and accept my sincere thanks for the information afforded.

Some our sanguine people are, and will continue to be, disappointed with the progress made by the colored people; but, fairly judged, the progress made here in Kansas, and elsewhere, justifies very large hopes for the future of that race. —

I have the honor to be

Yours, very truly,  
Geo. H. Hicks

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 67 Book D Page 9  
From G. W. Hicks  
Place Kingston Mo  
Date 4. 14. 1881  
Rec'd  
Ans'd



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Saline, Mich. April 14<sup>th</sup>  
1881.

Gov St. John

Enclosed I send you sixty  
dollars - (four of which I have collected  
here) for the education of the colored  
people that have emigrated to your  
state

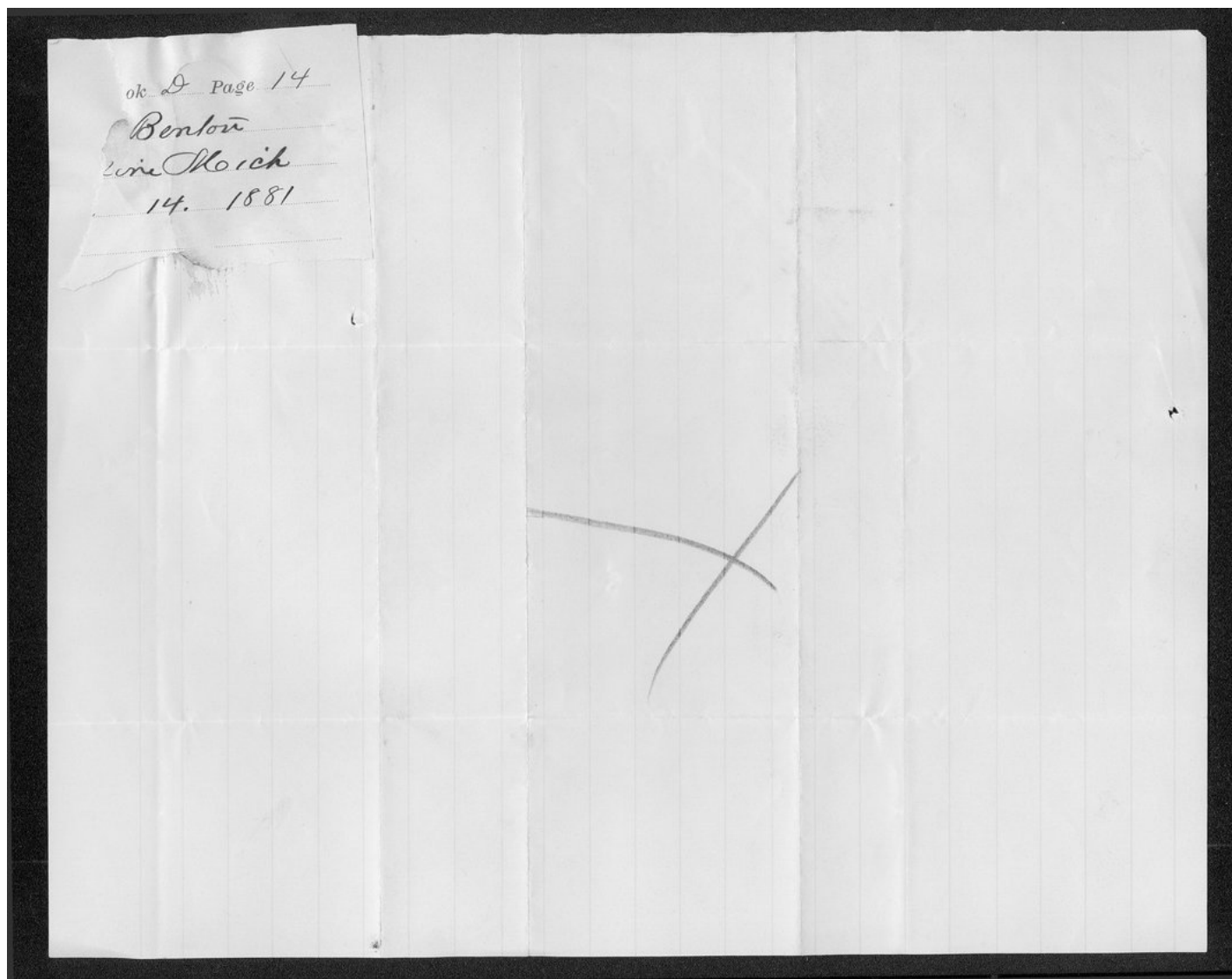
Yours Resp.

Eli Benton.

P.S. Please send me the Comstock report  
for the last year.

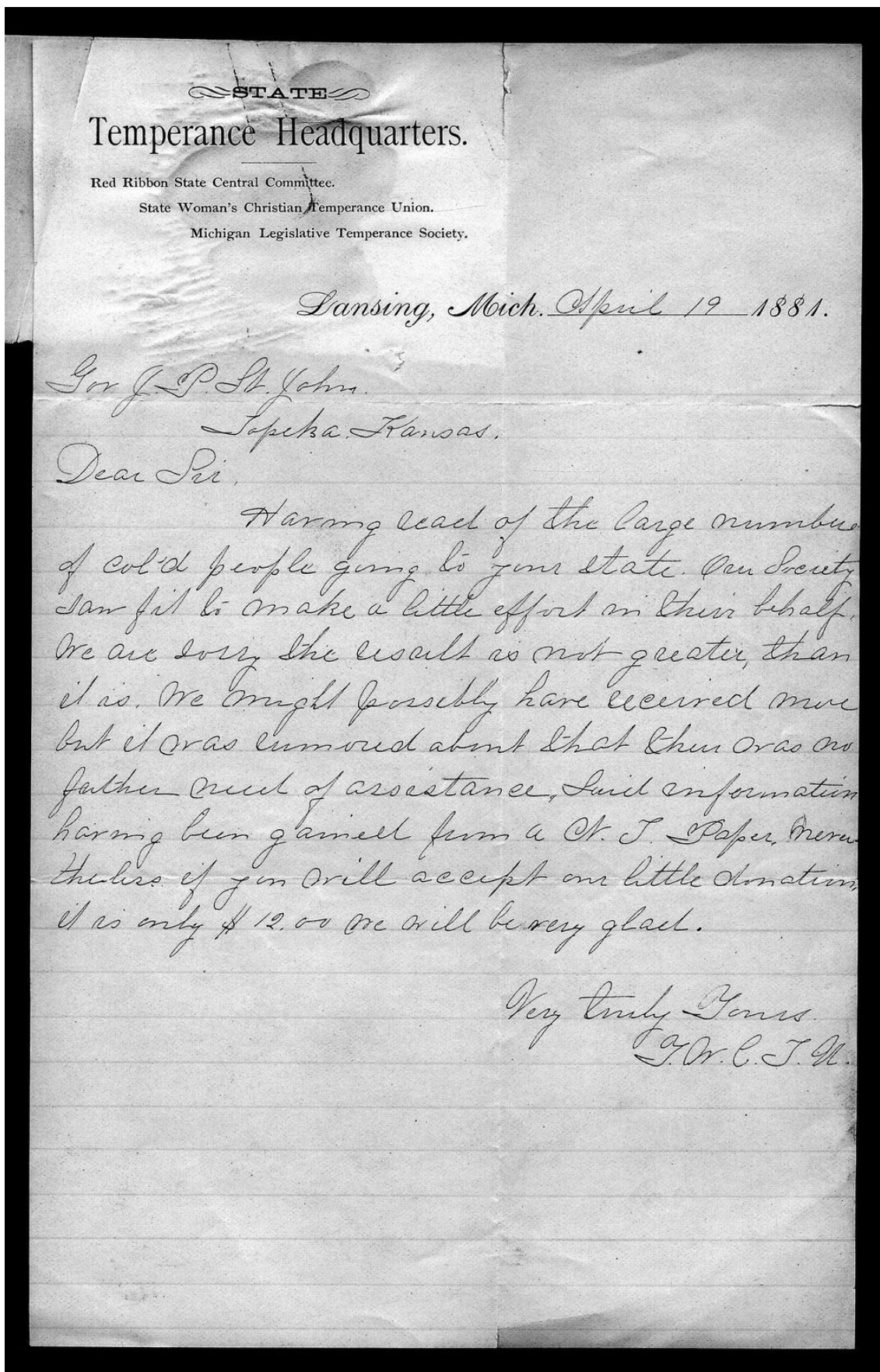
E. B.

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence





## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence







## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 108 Book D Page 14  
Womens Christian  
From Temperance Union  
Place Lansing St Moich  
Date H. 19. 1881  
Rec'd





Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Ap. 21 / 81  
Haverstraw N.Y.  
Gov St John

Dear Sir  
I enclose you a  
post office money order  
for \$50.- which you  
will please hand  
over to the good  
ladies to help the  
pilgrims from the  
south, who have  
fled to Kansas.  
Please inform me  
of receipt.

Yours in name of  
temperance & religion  
P.S. please don't  
publish this. L S West



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 109 Book 9 Page 14

From L. D. West-

Place Haverstraw N. Y.

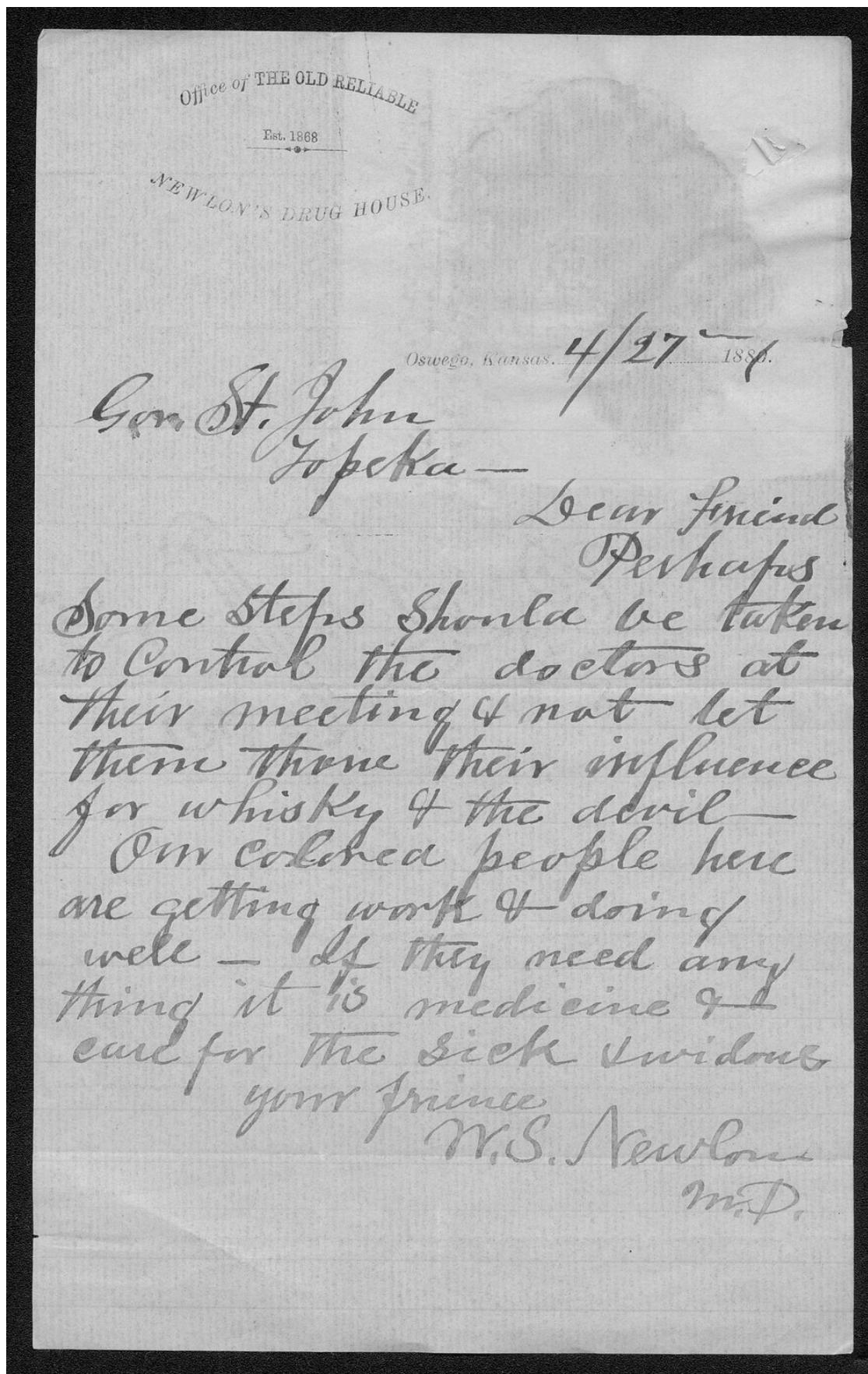
Date 4. 21. 1881

Rec'd

*[Faint, illegible handwriting, possibly a signature or crossed-out text]*



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence





## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 139 Book D Page 20  
From W. J. Newlon  
Place Oswego Ks  
Date 4. 27. 1881  
Rec'd  
Ans'd

ABSTRACT.  
Meeting of the doctors  
at Topeka.



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Mediapolis Ia 4/38/81  
Gov. - Dear Sir  
The Presbyterian  
Band of Mission Helpers  
and some M.E. Ladies have  
collected two Bbls clothing  
&c and some money and  
ask me to ship them <sup>off the Bbls</sup> to  
the Kansas Freedmen Relief  
Assn. I asked for free transp.  
over W.C.R. & N. and C.B. & Q. Roads  
which has been granted and  
I start goods today with a  
note to Agts other roads to  
ship free if they can get permit  
from Hopkins on. The money  
will go forward in a few days  
at least as soon as free trans-  
portation of goods is secured  
so no expenses left to pay  
Please acknowledge to Ladies  
when money arrives  
Yours truly M. Hale





Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 184 Book D Page 28

From J. St. Hall

Place Indianapolis Iowa

Date 4- 28. 81

Rec'd

Ans'd

ABSTRACT.



WRITE THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE - THE MESSAGE

Gov. St. John  
President Kansas

J. St. Hall



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Paris Henry Co  
Tennessee  
April the 28 1881  
Gornor St John  
your Exellent onar ser  
& Rite you to Pay  
in the Regard of the  
conditon of the Colard  
population of Kansas  
The Whites Hear is  
sayinges to the Colard  
the the Colard in  
Kansas is Starving  
and is out of implem  
ent. & there is ex  
great many here  
preparing to come out  
there. this fall & Rite  
you in order find out



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Whether this talk is  
 for C & S Bin  
 disappointed & migration  
 Norliney expect &  
 Redeemed it necessary  
 that I should write you  
 to no if there is any  
 im ployment that they  
 can get they Whits  
 in the south says  
 that there is no public  
 in the state that can  
 be permpeted premed sir  
 C & S have just  
 returned from a trip  
 from miss and geor and  
 Alabama White &  
 will remain here 10  
 or 11 days you be please  
 to furnish me with some  
 Relibel im per mation  
 of Kansas





## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 160 Book D Page 23

From J. C. Black

Place Paris Tenn

Date 4. 28. 1881

Rec'd

if you can  
please O Blice cot  
you Earlest comviney  
Paris Tenn  
post office cdd dress  
Box 61 Cnner  
soon J C Black  
Emigration Franlines  
Ctgent