

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 81, Pages 2401 - 2430

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

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Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

P. O. Box 3791.

HAYWARD, PERRY & FRANKLYN,

~~HAYWARD & PERRY~~

Average Adjusters and Insurance Brokers.

AGENTS FOR UNDERWRITERS IN CHINA, BOMBAY, JAVA & ROTTERDAM,

CUSTOM HOUSE BROKERS & FORWARDING AGENTS,

NOTARIES, (Notaries for Hanover Nat'l Bank.)

NO. 47 WILLIAM STREET
54 WALL STREET.

New York, September 2, 1881
Hon John F. St. John.
Governor of Kansas

Sir
On the 21st & 24th Januarynd the 7th Feb 1881
we gave bonds (for the Kansas Refugee goods) for
the production of Certificates signed and
sealed by you. Will you kindly do
the needful and return the enclosed Certificates
to us at your earliest Convenience.

Yours truly
Hayward Perry & Franklyn
JCK

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 1. Insts 9/7 '81

To John P. St. John, Gov

Hon. Friend- at the last meeting of our Board Directors held 8 month 20th at the office of their Secretary the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved that the President shall invite the Gov. John P. St. John to visit and address the Agricultural and Industrial Inst. at the expense of our Board

We will be - we feel - greatly benefitted by your presence among our people as well as before the public and if this invitation is accepted, you will please let us know when it will be convenient, that we may meet you at the depot in Columbus.

J. E. Pickering, Pres
S. W. St. John, Asst Secy

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Cherokee

No. 1101 Book *D* Page 160

From *J. C. Pickering*

Place *President, Agr. & Mech. Institute for Colored,*

Date *9-7-1881*

Rec'd

Ans'd

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

P.S. I understand that Elizabeth expects to be here a short time, near the close of this month. I shall urge her to go to Topeka to investigate matters unless I can get John M. Brown to do something sooner for those I used to call my pets, Angèle, Peter and Philip the blind negro, give dear love to my wife and children, Laura S. Haviland, Emily

THE INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE
FOR THE COLORED PEOPLE.
(Chartered April 22d, 1881.)
Elizabeth E. Co

The purposes of this corporation are the education, furnishing employment, and training people of the work our martyred President began! He crowned the labors of Abolitionists. It is left to the Church to crown his great work. Through your noble work in the South the great work of our Master is being glorified. With faith in Him, under whose guidance we direct our steps, we pledge to faithfully apply any charity bestowed.
J. E. PICKERING, President.
ELIZABETH L. COMSTOCK, Treasurer.
LAURA S. HAVILAND, Secretary.
LINDLEY M. PICKERING, Superintendent.

Rec'd

Columbus, Kansas, Industrial Inst., 7th 1881

John P. St. John Gov. of Kansas;

My dear Friend: My health is much better than when I left Kansas late in Nov. last, for which I am daily thankful. The cause of my absence is seen in my circular letter. As it is necessary for the Supt. to be absent a few weeks before school opens, also Elizabeth wished to visit all the Yearly Meetings this fall, she thought ^{it} important that I be here until she returns, which will be late in Oct. I had my book nearly printed, the balance of proof, they have sent me and as the binder had a heavy job on hand, it will be 15th or 18th inst. before they will be ready for delivery. Consequently I left orders to send a few to various points, and 30 books to me at this place, one of which I will send thee. We are indulging the hope of seeing thee here soon. — I have no doubt received an invitation to visit us. I shrink from public controversy. I have written private letters to individuals that I hope will prevent the necessity. There is enough to do for these poor people without censuring masters in any department whatever. We have received more

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

May our continued prayers for the restoration of my President be answered. We praise him for present indications of peace. I have received a letter from Sir George Officor, I shall write John M. Brown today. But I shall not intrude to him that I have received through that channel, correspondence. Truly what I have received through the public, I have inquired after Uncle Peter, and request him to look after him. Blind Philip is living with his children and it seems to me ought to receive rations from your country as he has been there so long. Could there be a snug cabin built on the R.R. land by the side of the tracks? I do not know as that is practicable. But I do not see how I can take them in this industrial lot. I can do more for Uncle Peter there than in this school. Elizabeth was there and knows just what was left there, and how it was left. I think she is the one to investigate this matter. But she will not get here until the last of the month. Truly they are for up their noses.

There were letters within the year past for women, that could not be found skilled in the work required. Then I have seen men and women walk day after day for work, and return to us for work, as rations, with blistered feet, and say "only give us work and we'll take care of ourselves." Now the most important part of our present plan is to systematize labor and study, in school so as to enable young people especially to obtain an education with their labor. A few young men are donating a month's work for the sake of the mechanical, as well as gardening and fruit growing as well as to enjoy the manual department we anticipate attaching to this Institute. I am satisfied continued giving has its demoralizing effect. Yet it could not be avoided last winter, and when they were coming by hundreds. I have seen during the week past, two families of new arrivals. One from Tenn. the other from Ky. who report less hanging and shooting, only occasional threats by an occasional company of masked night riders, that have made no personal visitations. ^{John} Mahan's Readingers, Etc. I hope, there are lessons being learned in the South, by which they see their shotgun policy is unwise. Please write the signed letter in their own hand, on that account it was rejected at one office, but I succeeded in getting a pass, of H. H. authorities who had given passes.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

HAYWARD, PERRY & FRANCKLYN,
CUSTOM HOUSE BROKERS AND FORWARDING AGENTS,
Average Adjusters and Insurance Brokers,
AGENTS FOR UNDERWRITERS IN CHINA, BOMBAY, JAVA & ROTTERDAM,

NOTARIES, (Notaries for Hanover Nat'l Bank)

No. 54 WALL STREET.

New York, Sept 8th 1881

Mr. Excellency
Gov. John P. St. John
for, Topeka
Kansas.

Your favor of the 6th inst. reached
us safely with enclosures in order,
for which please accept our thanks.

We are sorry to have
~~to have~~ been obliged to trouble you
in this matter, but all our services
have been gratuitous, and we being
sureties on the bonds, could not
get them cancelled without

Yours with great respect
Hayward Perry & Francklyn



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 1142 Book D Page 167

From Hayward Perry & Francklyn

Place New York

Date 9. 9. 1881

Rec'd

Ans'd



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

J. L. GRIGSBY, Superintendent.
Rev. J. W. SMITH, } Traveling Agents.
Rev. A. FAIRFAX, }

DANIEL VOTAW,
SECRETARY.

Rev. W. F. HEDGMAN, } Vice-Presidents.
Wm. CARR, }
Wm. E. OTIS, Treasurer.
D. B. GARRETT, Locating Agent.

The Kansas Freedmen's Relief Association,

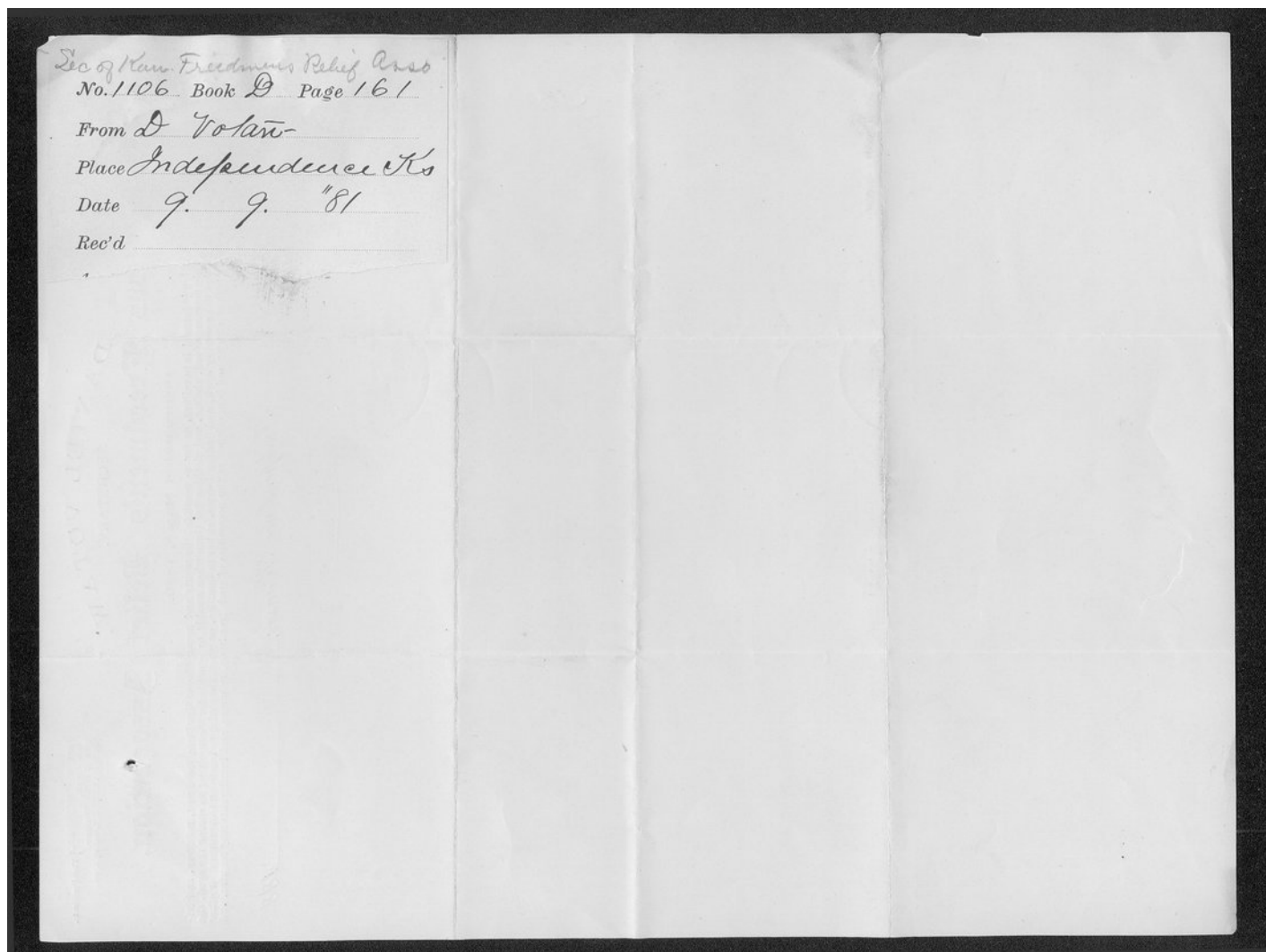
Incorporated May 8, 1879.

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.

Dear Governor Independence, Kansas, 9th Moth 1881 1881

It seems necessary for us briefly to know our situation. The truthful circular will speak for its self, but the Workers for the Institute near Columbus oppose us so much that they make it hard for us to make the right impression on the people East & North. notwithstanding Kansas as a State is Opposed to the premature move of the sitting up of the Agricultural Institute. D. B. Garrett was the first to oppose the Institute, but because he could not run it his own way, he ^{said he} will burst the whole work. he was our locating Agent, but did not give satisfaction and as there was no such Office in the Original Organization we dispensed with that Office which so enraged him that he now opposes us every way he can and threatens us with Governor St John, John Mc Brown, J. C. Hubbard and others write us that he is dishonest, and they will work with us faithfully but will not work with him. We have two Traveling agents out John W. Smith a Quaker Minister in Iowa. And Rev A Fairfax (Colored) at Chicago now, both eloquent speakers and both write that Governor St John is favorable to our work of first getting homes relieving actual want, and then Educate if necessary in high Schools they can have wonderful success as they want to hear how Kansas stands as a State in this matter. So we beg thee to send us a few lines of approbation, to send to our Agents & Please grant us this favor as it is the mind of the masses Daniel Votaw Sec. W. F. Hedgman

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

J. L. GRIGSBY, Superintendent.
Rev. J. W. SMITH, } Traveling Agents.
Rev. A. FAIRFAX, }

DANIEL VOTAW,
SECRETARY.

Rev. W. F. HEDGMAN, } Vice-Presidents.
Wm. CARP, }
Wm. E. OTIS, Treasurer.
D. B. GARRETT, Locating Agent.

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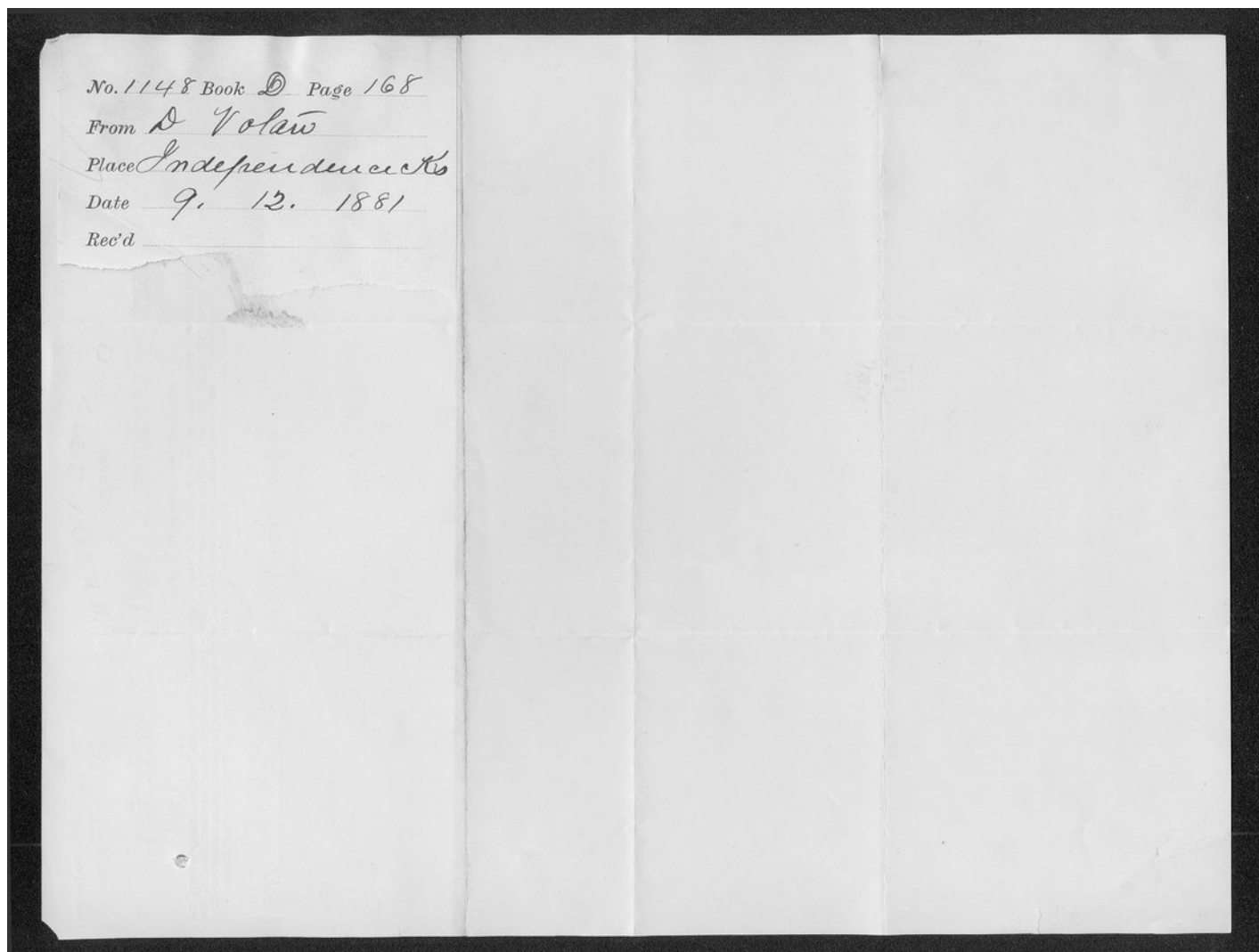
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J. P. St John Independence, Kansas, 9 Mo 12 1881
Dear Friend

Thine of 10th Inst at hand to night and I like it, thy head is always level, I shall try further for a reconciliation altho they were the aggressors. they will not come and see the deplorable situation of the refugees here but I will go over there ^{to the Institute} (probably) day after to Morrow and do all I can to have differences ended speedily. The women leading are both old and have forgotten some very essential things that they have written and ordered done and when I show them their misses as well as mine, they will see things in a different light. I can show them that they have through Pickering financially ruined me, but as I am not covetous. I can give it all up I have many letters from the East & North who say the Agricultural Inst. was a premature move as homes ought first to be secured by loans without interest (or gifts) We get a good deal of help for homes on time. Miss J. P. Moore of Chicago sent us on the 10th Inst \$500.00 for to buy a 40 acre home, others are doing so and our prospect is better now than a month ago. 11 different women have sent me money to buy homes on time, with no interest. So we are doing better now, but may in unity do more good Daniel Votaw

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

THE INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE FOR THE COLORED PEOPLE.

(Chartered April 23d, 1881.)

Elizabeth L. Comstock, Foundress.

The purposes of this corporation are the education, furnishing employment, and training people of the colored race. We prosecute the work our martyred President began! He crowned the labors of Abolitionists. It is left to the Christian Philanthropist of our age to crown his great work. Through your noble work in the South the great work of our Master is being glorified. The Exodus has transmitted thousands of these people to our State, whose condition still claims your charity. We volunteer as your agent, as their benefactor. With faith in Him, under whose guidance we direct our steps, we pledge to faithfully apply any charity bestowed.

J. E. PICKERING, President.
ELIZABETH L. COMSTOCK, Treasurer.

LAURA S. HAVILAND, Secretary.
LINDLEY M. PICKERING, Superintendent.

Columbus, Kansas Plainfield, Ind. 9.20. 1881

Gov^r St John

My dear Friend

I have just directed a car load of supplies, that I have been collecting for the refugees, to be shipped by the Alton & St Louis R.R. addressed

"Gov^r St John, Columbus, Kas." "Notify, E. L. Comstock for Kansas refugees". I am sorry to trouble thee about them, but the Comp^y refused to ship them free, unless thy name was on them.

Will thou be so kind as to write me an order for them, so that the Comp^y will deliver them up to me, or my agents at Columbus.

I expect to be in Kas. at our Friends' Yearly Meeting to commence on the 6th Prov^d at Lawrence. It may hold a week, immediately after it, I hope to go to Topeka.

Art thou likely to be at home then? If not I will try to be there when thou wilt be at home as I want to see thee very much. Emma Malloy lectures here tomorrow night on Perseverance.

With love to thy wife & daughter Thy friend truly

Elizth L. Comstock.

address Richmond Ind. for one week, after that, Columbus, Kas.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 1320 Book D Page 192
From Mrs C. L. Comstock
Place Plainfield Ind
Date 9. 20. 1881
Rec'd
Ans'd

ABSTRACT.
*Sends one car load of
ies for tre.*

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

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J. E. PICKERING, President.

ELIZABETH L. COMSTOCK, Treasurer.

LAURA S. HAVILAND, Secretary.

LINDLEY M. PICKERING, Superintendent.

Columbus, Kansas, Ninth Mo. 28 1881

John P. St. John
Governor.

Topeka Kans.

Dear Friend

In your letter of the 9th inst. in answer to our invitation to you to visit our Institute, you say you might possibly arrange to get here in October or November and that if you could you would gladly do so.

The first annual meeting of the Board of Directors, is on Monday the 17th prox. and our school opens on Tuesday the 18th. Your friends in this locality are very desirous to see and hear you.

Can't you arrange to be with us on one of the days mentioned above.

As ever your Friend,
L. M. Pickering.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Industrial Inst. Colonel
No. 1224 Book D Page 179
From L. W. Pickering, Supt.
Place Columbus Mo
Date 9. 28. 1881
Rec'd

TRACT.
to Gov to
Industrial

[Handwritten text follows, mostly illegible due to cursive and fading. The text appears to be a list or ledger of some kind, with columns of numbers and names.]

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Lawrence Oct 3rd 1881

Kind Friend

Pardon me for encroaching
on thy valuable time

As our yearly meeting
convenes this present week
We want to know whether the
benevolent work among the
colored Exodites in Southern
Kansas is approved by thee.

Or whether it will not make
many more seek for help by
coming to this state.

Please answer soon, just
thy mind in the case.

Very truly - Drusilla Wilson

Clerk of Women's Y. meetg

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Douglas
No. 1271 Book *D* Page 185

From *Drusilla Wilson*

Place *Lawrence Mo*

Date *10. 3. 1881*

Rec'd

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



T. G. Yeomans,
L. T. Yeomans,
E. L. Yeomans.

Walworth, N. Y.,

OCT 3, 1881.

Gov. St. John
Topeka Kansas

The Citizens of this Town
have been contributing
Cash & Clothing for the relief
of sufferers by fire in Michigan
& information is now received
that no more clothing is
needed there

During the past year
or two it has been said
that refugees or others in
your State were in need
of such articles as clothing &c
Will you please advise
if any such relief is now
needed in Kansas & where
Yours truly
T. G. Yeomans



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 126 2 Book D Page 184

From F. G. Geomans

Place Walworth ~~Mo~~ N.Y.

Date 10. 3. 1881

Rec'd

Ans'd

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Geneva Ill Oct-13^{ch} 7/89

Gov St. John

Sir - We have just
dispatched a box of clothing (per
North Western Railway) for the
"Kansas Refugees" Consigned to
your care via - Chicago Kansas
Will you please acknowledge its
receipt - as soon as received,
will more be acceptable? - and
where and to whom shall we
consign them -

Please address

Mrs J. N. Henshall
Geneva Kane Co

Ill.



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 1356 Book D Page 197

From Mrs. J. W. Kendall

Place Geneva Ill

Date 10. 3. 1881

Rec'd

STRACT.

no 1 1/2



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 1360 Book 8 Pa

James S.
Princeton

October 19. 1881

Princeton Bureau, Co. Ills

Sir Governor St. John. I thought I
would write you a few lines to
ask you a bit your work with my
People. Now are they getting a long.
And if you want me to work on
I will work. I am doing a little for
them. But I am a slave to do as
much as I would like to do. I see that
the people at large is willing to help
them if they need help. And am told
that they are in need of help. I
have got 14 barrels of goods for Graham, Co
for the Colomes of Mikeadines a call.
It is getting cold. I cant see how a people
can come as poor as my people was
And get self strong so soon. Well I hope

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

That God will bless you
in your work pray much and
God will bless you. I have lost my
Boy he died July. 20. I write soon and
let me know all about it
yours in Christ

James Suggs



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 1360 Book D Page 199

From James Suggs (colored)

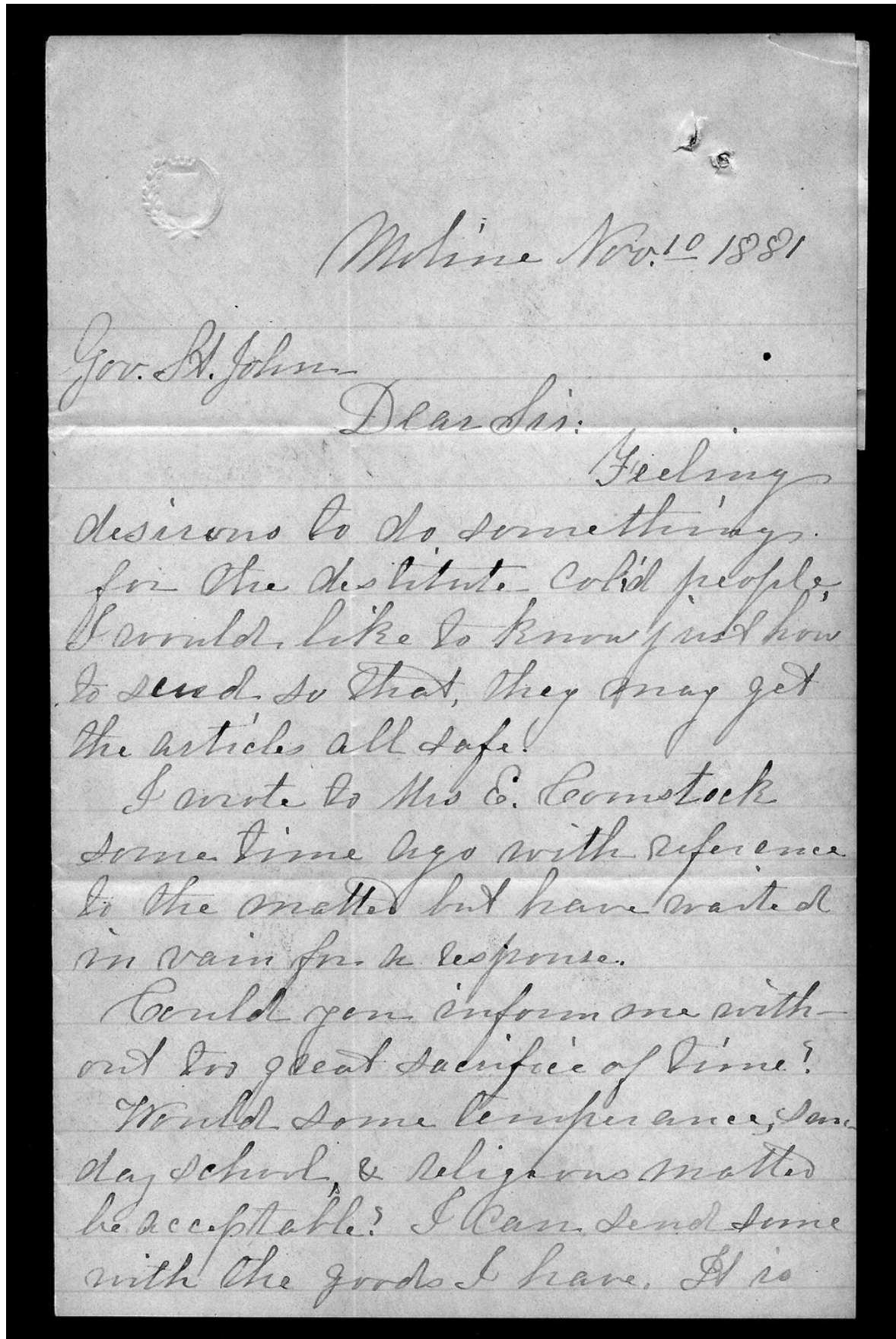
Place Princeton Ill

Date 10 October 1881

Princeton Bureau, Co. Ills

Sir Governor St. John. I thought I would write you a few lines to ask you a but your work with my People. How are they getting a long. And if you want me to work on I will work. I am doing a little for them. But I am a slave to do as much as I would like to do. I see that the people at large is willing to help them if they need help. And am told that they are in need of help. I have got 14 loads of goods for Abraham, Co for the Colones of Nickerdimes a call. It is getting cold. I cant see how a people can come as poor as my people was And get self strong so soon. Well I hope

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

but little I have to send for
I am poor in this world's goods,
but will do all I can to help the
poor things along through the
cold winter that is fast coming.

And my dear Sir, may
I also add that, I have read
your sentiments contained in
the Liberator, & your letter to
Mr Adams published in his "Morn-
ing" & while I read, my soul
was stirred to its depths, & tears
of joy would flow, to give vent to
the deep emotions of my nature.

I feel as though I would
love to take every earnest &
faithful worker for the cause
of total abstinence, & prohibi-
tion by the hand, & bid them
"God Speed".

Since a child of nine
years old, I have tried in

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

my weak way, & with the help
of my "Elder Brother" to do all
I could towards pulling down
the sun-power, & building
up the poor, good & true.

And I can see the cause
moving, widening & spreading.
Slowly it seems to human eyes,
but, God works "in a mysteri-
ous way, His wonders to perform."

No doubt some blood will
be shed, for every grand reform
has had its martyrs, but God,
"The God of Jerushalem" Reigns! &
He will triumph.

The assassination of Col. W.
B. Smith of Omaha should
stir the head of every true pa-
triot, & Christian of this land
of Bibles & blessed printings.

But I will not weary
you longer, or consume



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No 1508 Book D Page 261

your time, & will only add
that I pray for you in your
carnest endeavors for Kansas.
& often wells up in my heart.
God bless Gov. St John of Kansas
Yours for the right, the
good & true; praying for the
time when rum, tobacco, &
all manner of impurity
shall be swept from Colum-
bia's soil.

Ms M. E. Stewart
Box 1874 Moline
Rock Island Co.
Ill.



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 1508 Book D Page 221

From Mrs M. E. Stewart

Place Moline Ill

Date 11 - 10. 1881

Rec'd

Ans'd

often wells up in my heart.
God bless Gov. St John of Kansas
Yours for the right, the
good & true; praying for the
time when rum, tobacco, &
all manner of impurity
shall be swept from Colum-
bia's soil.

Mrs M. E. Stewart
Box 1874 Moline
Rock Island Co.
Ill.