

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

### Section 84, Pages 2491 - 2520

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



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 2580 Bo  
From H. V.  
Place Washburn  
Date 3.  
Rec'd  
Ans'd

Washington March 7, 1882

Hon John St. John  
Sir

Knowing that you are always  
willing to help a young man when he wishes  
to help himself I have taken the liberty to  
write to you at this time. I have been for  
some time desirous of locating in Kansas  
but not wishing to leave a certainty for  
an uncertainty I have remained where  
I am until I could find out something  
in relation to the same. My friends advised  
me to consult you relative to the same know-  
ing that from you I could get the de-  
sired information. I am a colored young  
man twenty-five years of age, born and  
educated in Boston Mass receiving a  
degree of L.B. from the Boston University  
at the age of twenty two, being the only  
colored young man in the class which



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

numbered fifty nine (59) students - I am  
at present holding a clerkship in this  
city with a good salary, but I wish  
to be engaged in something where I  
can feel like and be a man. When I  
was in Boston I was connected with the  
Colored Women's Refugee Society and had  
occasion to hear you spoken of as the young  
man's friend. I am willing to do any thing  
that is honorable and where I can make  
an honest and upright living; of course  
I do not expect to receive the salary I now  
do, and would not expect it. I have  
recommendations from Mr Phillips Brooks  
Judge Edmund Bennett, Ex Gov Wm Gaston  
and others and if necessary could have  
Gov John A. Long's. If you can give me any  
information relative to what I desire, I shall  
be extremely obliged to you.

Very respectfully  
J. S. Smith  
#  
1712 P. St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C.



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Mediet Insitut  
 Columbia, S.C. 3/4/82  
 Gov. St. John Lopekatam  
 My dear Sir,  
 I am seeking suitable  
 homes for 10000 colored people.  
 They have some \$300 each and  
 good citizens hardworking  
 & peaceable. that simply desire  
 to escape from the oppression  
 laws in their native state  
 and find homes where they  
 can have their rights  
 and can have homes of  
 their own. Although other  
 states offer many attractions  
 I am seeking toward Kansas



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

*Freedom Ring,*  
 No 2686 Book *D* Page 380  
*A. H. Baker*  
 provided the Climate is  
 sufficiently warm they  
 can raise cotton.  
 What has Kansas to offer them,  
 I am referred to you by Washing.  
 friends for advice & information  
 I prefer to take these people to a  
 temperance & not a  
 Republican State like Kansas  
 than to risk their happiness  
 in Arkansas.  
 Shall hope to hear from  
 you at your convenience  
 I am yours with respect  
*Samuel A. Carter, Jr.*  
 Columbia  
 South Carolina






## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

*Frederick*  
 No 2686 Book *D* Page 380  
 From *J. H. Baker*  
 Place *Columbia, S.C.* ~~is~~ *is*  
 Date *3. 7. 1882* *am* *other*  
 Rec'd  
 Ans'd  
 What has Kansas to offer them,  
 I am referred to you by Washington  
 friends for advice & information  
 I prefer to take these people to a  
 temperance & without a  
 Republican State like Kansas  
 than to risk their happiness  
 in Arkansas.  
 I shall hope to hear from  
 you at your convenience  
 I am yours with respect  
*Samuel J. Carter, Jr.*  
*Columbia*  
*South Carolina*



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence


 Freedmen's work, Lab.  
 Parsons, Kans, 3<sup>rd</sup> mo 10<sup>th</sup> /82.  
 Dear Govt;  
 I spent part of this am,  
 at Aug & Wilson's very pleasantly,  
 having a lengthy, satisfactory talk  
 with our mutual friend Ella B. Wilson.  
 We both appeared to be "moved by  
 the Spirit" (as Friends often express it),  
 to make some preliminary arrange-  
 ments which we hoped would result  
 in the amelioration of the colored  
 people in Kansas now & of others  
 arriving here from the South.  
 We were united in sentiment & feeling  
 so far as expressed, and our only regret  
 seemed to be that we could not have  
 our esteemed Governor present to consult  
 with upon this important subject.  
 It was our united opinion that it would  
 be very desirable — & perhaps good would



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

result from our (we three) meeting  
as soon as opportunity may be afforded.

I wish thou could come down soon as  
convenient and address the citizens of  
Parsons upon the Prohibition question;  
and we three could have an interview at  
the same time, upon the "refugee" subject.

I have very recently been thinking that while  
we should all be glad to have thee represent  
our State in Washington, yet it will probably  
be safer (for the Temperance cause) to retain thy services  
here as Govt during another term, so that  
there may be no danger of a backset in the  
great work of Temperance reform.

Please accept my thanks for those books  
& papers; I read portions of them aloud and  
distributed them at the recent large meeting  
of the colored people that I called in How's Hall.  
I have not time now to comment upon the  
said meeting; but I believe it was a right thing  
and will result in good to both speakers & hearers.  
Hoping for the pleasure of meeting thee soon in  
Parsons, I am truly thy friend Wilmer Patton,





## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

*Freedmen's work, Lab.*  
*No 2612 Book D Page 369*  
*From Wilmer Wallcut*  
*Place Parsons Ks*  
*Date 3. 10. 1882*  
*Rec'd*  
*Ans'd*

*Parsons*  
*Dear Gov*

*I was glad of this arm,*  
*at Aug 8 Wilson's very pleasantly,*  
*having a lengthy, satisfactory talk*  
*with our mutual friend Ella B. Wilson,*  
*We both appeared to be "Moved by*  
*the Spirit" (as Friends often express it),*  
*to make some preliminary arrange-*  
*ments which we hoped would result*  
*in the amelioration of the colored*  
*people in Kansas now & of others*  
*arriving here from the South.*

*We were united in sentiment & feeling*  
*so far as expressed, and our only regret*  
*seemed to be that we could not have*  
*our esteemed Governor present to consult*  
*with upon this important subject.*

*It was our united opinion that it would*  
*be very desirable — & perhaps good would*



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Verdiurette, Sherman Co,  
Neb. March 14<sup>th</sup> 1882,

To the Hon.  
Gov. St. John, Kansas, U. S.

Dear Sir. = It may surprise  
you a little to be thus addressed by  
one of whom you have never heard.  
But it will not offend you when  
you know that my whole soul has  
been in sympathy with you through-  
out your noble struggle and grand tri-  
umph in Kansas on the temperance  
question. I hope yet to be of the  
number who shall follow your high  
and holy example in its application  
to Nebraska. It will not surprise  
you that I write you to ask that a  
Colored man of vigorous strength be sent to  
me to work by the month, when I tell  
you that I was an early Abolitionist,  
voting for Hale & Van Buren while  
Seward and Sumner were yet in the  
old Whig party. My lot was to be a  
Wesleyan preacher, one of the hated number  
that organized the Wesleyan Church at  
Utica, N. Y. in 1843. Though not in that  
Convention, I was soon afterwards in  
the organization, and have remained  
there ever since, & am there now.  
In 1862 I went South as Capt. of Co. B.  
88<sup>th</sup> Regt. Ills. Vols. and for three years,  
lacking only 34 days, fought as I had  
been praying & preaching for years previous  
to that. I have read with great inter-  
est the movement that brings so many

Colored Labor.  
No. 2673 Book D Page 378  
W. M. Snyder  
N. Y.



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

colored men to Kansas. We should not object to a man with a wife and children. We can furnish them work, pay them, give them good quarters, and eat at the table with them if they will keep themselves in tidy condition. There are homesteads here yet, quite a number of them, and they can easily secure good land. The time is most opportune too, for the two great R. R. Companies, viz. Union & Pac. &c., & Burlington & Missouri are surveying routes right through the center of the country, and one or both are about due to be built this coming summer. This has the effect to make it difficult to get hands, as they are now paying \$1<sup>75</sup>/<sub>100</sub> per day, with every prospect that it will be \$1<sup>75</sup>/<sub>100</sub> in a very short time. It will swallow up these homesteads very soon. So if you can send me a good man, I will both hire him & pay him, & show him a farm for \$14<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub>. I have not a doubt that a hundred such men could get work, if not on farms, then on the R. R., provided they can only reach here.

If you wish any references, I would refer you to Rev. J. Blanchard, President of Wheaton College, Wheaton Ill., Or to the world renowned scholar an Christian, Rev. J. B. Walker of the same place. Or to almost every Wesleyan Preacher in Kansas, though I think the Wesleyan Preacher in Topeka would only know me by reputation. He must reach Kearney or Grand Island in coming here, after which it will be any for him to reach Sherman Co. A good man, able to do full work, would be worth \$15<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> per month to us. Please let us know if one can be expected.

Very Respectfully, even affectionately J. M. Snyder  
Yours very truly



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Department of the Interior,  
PENSION OFFICE.

Washington, D.C. May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1882

Hon John P. St. John  
Dear Sir

Your favor of the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. is at hand. I thank you cordially for the information contained in the same and will endeavor to follow it. It is my intention however to visit your city this summer, thereby combining business with pleasure, and should an opening present itself at that time I think I would remain. I have got to make a start sometime, and am of the opinion the sooner the better. I thank you for your offer of assistance and would further ask if at any time you should see or hear of an opening and advise me as to the same I shall be extremely obliged to you, and you will confer a favor upon me that I shall greatly





## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

*appreciate*

*Remani*

*Very respectfully*

*Hamilton S Smith*

*# 1712 P. St. n. w.*

*Washington W. C.*

Rec'd

Date

3

83.

Place *Washington D. C.*

From *A. D. Smith*

No. *277e* Book *2* Page *891*

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Morroe, Green Co., Wis.  
March 28, 1882

Gov. St. John:

Dear Sir:

We have been sending clothing and money to the colored refugees at Independence, Montgomery Co., this winter, and are still raising some means for them, have some now on hand.

I write this for information. There is now in this city, a gentleman purporting to be from Kan. who says that the story of suffering refugees is the greatest humbug ever palmed off upon a generous public. We supposed from the best information we could get that there was real destitution, <sup>which</sup> we felt ~~it~~ duty <sup>to</sup> alleviate, as far as we could. Have we been imposed upon or is the story report ~~on~~ in circulation here untrue? Please answer by return mail.



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Have you any knowledge of Daniel Botaw,  
Secretary of Kan. S. R. Association? Is he reli-  
able? Yours, in the interest of humanity,  
E. R. Gillett.

*Freeborn*  
No. 2811 Book D Page 397  
From E. R. Gillett  
Place Monroe Mo  
Date 3. 28. 1882  
Rec'd

DEPT. OF  
AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Parsons, Kans., 3<sup>rd</sup> mo. 31<sup>st</sup>, 1882.  
To Gov. J. St. John;  
Highly esteemed friend;  
I enjoyed the perusal of thy recent letter to Ella B. Wilson, and was pleased to learn therefrom of the probability of thy getting to this place in the near future. Thou wilt see by the inclosed slip which I cut from the Parsons Eclipse of the 25<sup>th</sup> instant, that "A. Call" has gone forth for a Convention of the col<sup>d</sup> people of So. Kans., to assemble on the 27<sup>th</sup> of the incoming month, at this place. I desire to cordially invite thee to attend said Convention if possible. In case thou cannot arrange to be present, - I feel sure that any communication from thee to be read in the Convention, would prove truly acceptable. The object of the Convention is to afford the col<sup>d</sup> people an opportunity of expressing - in a concentrated form - their present needs.



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

condition; what the mass of them  
desire to do; and to appeal to the  
National Congress for suitable aid to en-  
able them to become self-supporting.

I should be glad to receive some preliminary  
suggestions from thee in reference to the  
Convention and the best way of accomplishing  
the object in view. I have thought for a  
long time, that Congress should act in this  
important matter; and I have only been waiting  
for "the right time" to arrive in which to have  
the subject properly brought before that body.

From my recent & present feelings I believe  
that such a time is now near at hand.

While the worthy Jas. A. Garfield was in the  
U. S. Senate, I corresponded with him upon  
the subject of "National aid for the Freedmen".

While he approved my plan, yet he thought  
the time had not then arrived in which it  
could be adopted & successfully carried out.

In the proposed Convention, I suppose  
it will be best - after organizing - to have the  
Delegates express their sentiments and compare



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

views as to their condition, prospects & wishes,  
Then at a suitable time read &  
discuss the merits of a proposed form of written  
appeal to Congress in behalf of their people.  
But before such an appeal is prepared, Ella  
B. Wilson & I both desire to receive information  
as to what has been done since the close of  
the War for the Freedmen, by the "Freedmen's  
Bureau"; what Bills have been passed by  
Congress for their benefit; and a brief  
history of Oklahoma, including its present status.  
We had an interview yesterday; and as she  
is very busy with the Library matter, she wished  
me to write to thee for both of us, requesting thee  
to please furnish the desired information  
at thy earliest convenience.  
I have a crude, imperfectly arranged plan  
to offer to the Convention; but I have not  
time now to even state the substance of it.  
At the monthly meeting of the Union  
Temperance Assoc<sup>n</sup>, held in the opera house last  
First-day evening (the 26<sup>th</sup> inst), there was a full house  
& effective work for "Prohibition." Sincerely thy friend,  
Wilmer Walton.





## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

*Freedmen*

No. *2899* Book *D* Page *411*

From *Wilmer Walton*

Place *Parsons, Ks*

Date *3-31-1882*

Rec'd .....

Ans'd .....

ABSTRACT.

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



139 - N 7<sup>th</sup> St Phila Pa - 4.13.82

Gov St John

Hon Sir

I very much desire  
to ascertain the approximate num-  
ber of Refugees now in Kansas - that  
have gone there within the last past  
three years - who now own their homes,  
how many are tilling the Soil - ?  
do they incline to the Cities & thus in-  
crease the pauper & Criminal Classes?

Is there in the State, any orphan  
asylum for Colored Children -  
or old peoples Home? If so where  
located & with what success?

Now that there is a prohibitory  
Law in Kansas - is the State able  
to enforce it - without calling



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

on other States to help defray the  
expense of so doing -?

The foregoing questions are frequently  
asked me - none of which I can an-  
swer confidently - You will confer  
a favor to the cause of truth & justice -  
if you can consistently with your many  
duties find time for an early reply -

The Lecture you gave here in Jan-  
has been printed in Pamphlet form & is  
doing splendid work - many are  
the blessings daily & hourly invoked  
upon the name of the Christian Gov  
of Kansas - often are you held up in  
contrast with Pres Arthur

Gov Hoyt of Wyoming had a  
very enthusiastic meeting here a short  
time since - & we realize more  
day by day that God does reign

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Notwithstanding Lotan makes such  
a desperate effort to do so -

Our dear Mrs Comstock is still at  
Dandville - improving - slowly -

The probabilities are that the  
A.T.I. Institute at Columbus will pass  
into other hands before a great while  
I am giving time & thought to it -  
with signs of success -

With many thanks In part favors  
Very Respectfully Yours  
Emily T. Newcomb



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 2961 Book D Page 420

From Emily P. Newcomb

Place Phil Pa

Date 4. 13. 1882

Rec'd

Lansville - improving - slowly -  
The probabilities prove that the  
A.T.I. Institute at Columbus will pass  
into other hands before a great while  
I am giving time & thought to it -  
with signs of success -  
With many thanks in part favors  
Very Respectfully Yours  
Emily P. Newcomb





## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

REV. W. F. HEDGMAN, President.  
WM. CARR, Vice-President.  
N. HARRIS.  
REV. L. ESTES.  
W. F. TURNER, } Executive Committee.

DANIEL VOTAW,

SECRETARY.

WM. E. OTIS, Treasurer.  
J. L. GRIGSBY, Superint.  
J. M. BROWN.  
REV. A. FAIRFAX  
REV. LYDIA SE

## THE KANSAS FREEDMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION

Incorporated, May 8, 1879, Re-Organized 6th Month, 22, 1881

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

Independence

Kansas 4 Month 24 1882

John R. St. John  
Dear Governor

Thine of 20 came direct, but in my absence, I was in Chautauqua Co in company with A. D. Dunn, Editor of the Sedan Times who unfortunately published D. B. Garretts letter and after he received Wm. A. Pices letter, wrote me entreatingly to come & see him that we might go together and he see the deplorable condition of the refugees for himself. He paid for the use of a team & Buggy and we visited many of them in their leaky Wagonets and cabins, and as we went from hut to hut, he often said the half had not been told and I am so sorry that I published Garretts letter, but if it had been a white man I would not have published it, but thought as Gerritt was a Colored man his story must be true. He is a good young man and lost a Father & two brothers in our army. He is a staunch Union man and will publish our visit this week and I will send a copy to thee soon. I am getting such calls



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

as these all the time I sleep but 4 hours of a night am  
wearing out. Many Friend who know ~~the~~ that I have done  
all I could, and think thee must know all about the shame-  
ful failure at the A & O Institute and that Aunt L. S. Kim-  
land & Sister Comstock have resigned, are wondering why thee  
does not endorse this work, or at least give us a few words of  
cheer to counteract the unjust charges against this, the only  
charitable work now running. I held out the causes of thy  
silence to both the white & black who were skeptical and  
until recently convinced them <sup>that</sup> <sup>the</sup> thee was friend of all thy worthy  
subjects, but since Garrett's letter has checked the work both  
classes of the opposers are placing much of the blame on thee as  
well as myself. I am as well endorsed for my integrity by  
both political parties as any man can be both at home &  
a broad, and they say and write me why does your Governor  
not endorse you & it seems to me that the time has come  
for thee to do it, or come & see for thy self. I am only an  
ordinary man yet am thy best and strongest friend. Please give  
these things a passing thought & let me remain thy unworthy  
servant in great tribulation

Daniel Potaw







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WM. CARR, Vice-President.  
N. HARRIS,  
REV. L. ESTES, } Executive Committee.  
W. F. TURNER, }

DANIEL VOTAW,  
SECRETARY.

WM. E. OTIS, Treasurer.  
J. L. GRIGSBY, Superintendent.  
J. M. BROWN,  
REV. A. FAIRFAX, } Traveling Agents.  
REV. LYDIA SEXTON, }

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Independence Kansas 4 Months 19 1882

Honored Father of Reform

My Cross is very heavy and I am growing weary under it. This day and night work is wearing me out. My case is before thee, please hold out the golden Scepter and let me live. I do not wish to use deception, but tell thee truthfully that these last years arrivals here on their Government claims, can't live without help, there is 100 families of them that have no team and have nothin' to break their sod but Mattock, Spade & hoe, the few horses they had all starved to death except one and last weeks Siclone killed him, blowed down their dugouts & Cabins and did them great damage. We sent away to other places such as would be accepted by those who called for hands, leaving the large families on our hands, their white neighbors can't hire them especially those in Chautauqua Co. We are geting quite enough to keep them untill Gerrett, & Frank Henry Stout the white Rebel Slandered this work. Many here are now helping me to counter act the effect, and Friends East & North Endorse this Charitable <sup>work</sup> and they and I wish thee to say that help is needed. The A. B. I. Institute has gone down in disgrace. S. C. Mattock & Aunt Laura Hariland denounce their conduct. Please send a few words of cheer thy Friend Daniel Votaw

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 2974 Book D Page 422  
From D. Volaw  
Place Independence, Mo  
Date 4. 19. 1882  
Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Independence Kas Apt 22<sup>th</sup> 1882

Governor St John Topeka Kansas

Dear Sir  
I want to say something about the Kansas  
freedmen but in order that you may fully appre-  
ciate what I shall say let me first acquaint  
you with who I am, my home since 76 - has been in  
the city of Atchison Kans prior to 76 - I lived in  
Jefferson County, Kansas Township of Valley Mills  
8 years ago I was accepted as a member of the Kansas  
Annual Meeting Conference of the African M. E. Church;  
our last Annual Conference was held at Ottawa Kan  
beginning sep 28<sup>th</sup> concluding oct 4<sup>th</sup> from the rise of  
said Conference I received my appointment to  
this place Independence Kas I was here only a  
few days when I made my pastoral call and  
many of the people I found did not have so much  
as a head stead and were using good-byes for  
the same, many of them are in the same condition to  
day every thing else in this house corresponded very



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Kansas

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2 I tell the a bonse discription ( Yet I however have  
said but little about their condition but when I  
see such letters as those Mr. D. B. Garret and  
Mr. J. H. Stout I am compelled to say something  
for those gentleman certainly does not know the condition  
of these people for if they did and then dare to write such  
letters I can only say that such was maliciously  
and cruelly done I want to say that these people are  
in great want I do not belong to the relief association  
have nothing to do with it and am not acquainted  
with many of those that are and while there has been  
a great deal said concerning the acquit dealings of some of the  
members of the association you may expect me to say some-  
thing about the matter but I decline altogether because I  
know but little and what little I do know is not very  
dark and I hesitate to say that lest some one might  
think me attempting to take other mens burdens on my  
own shoulders But since those letters has greatly in-  
creased the suffering of the poor man I want to speak  
a word in aid to help suffering humanity Mr. Harris  
and Mr. Quatah gentlemen who live in this city as  
(Votah)



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

grants may require and humanity suggest.

Kansas

188

For the former I know but little of him the latter the race  
of the people speaks loudly for him Women and  
men as they come in to town make their way to the  
residence of Mr. P. Wataw and there pray for not  
a few of the gentleman for help. Which is answered  
so far as I know it painful to see Women walking  
25 miles from Chautauqua Co, for 25 lbs of meal  
and given to them by Mr. Wataw they gladly  
take the same on their backs and with swift feet  
they return home to give the little supper at  
the expense of their tail and ear in this way since  
they all look to Mr. Wataw I suppose he helps as  
he can I hope so that it will be remembered that  
these people indeed are suffering and to you  
I appeal for their asking you to help them I  
hope you will answer my prayer the trouble  
is that this people want to help themselves  
to get their grooves in shape to cultivate  
cultivate. Is yours truly W. B. Reed Sept 10th 1883  
If you will publish this letter you will  
confer a great favor upon your friend near  
West, soon