

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 87, Pages 2581 - 2610

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

94 x 500 have been in
 the township County, Kan
 will find them all

West Chester Penn
 Aug 27 1882
 Hon John St John
 My dear Sir
 From the time
 I left home no man on earth
 could have spoken more highly
 of an other than I did of you
 at a Camp Meeting in Cal
 umet Ohio I spoke before
 5000 people and I said that
 there never was a more honor
 able or worthier man ever
 sat there post an Kansas
 sail and stated the efforts
 you had made and the



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

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good you had done for these
unfortunate colored people
and that every dollar that
came to your hands for
them was honestly and
faithfully applied. I spent
some days in Philadelphia
and then came here and all
the paper in this place done
nobly by me & the cause
I then went to New York
but could not find a sin-
gle person that I ever
knew before they were
either absent or dead
but the Editors of the

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New York Tribune and
Times wrote excellent arti-
cles but I only got things
fairly under way then I
came to Plainfield New
Jersey seen all the Editors
there and met Rev. Lydia
Sexton 84 years of age she
told me she had visited late-
ly those unfortunate beings
and saw their suffering
condition just as I had
described only worse & she
is at work then I returned
to this place intending
barn here to make my
own little

They will prepare poor articles unless
they see your letter



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way back and found your
letter published in The
West Chester Republican
and near an earth in a
long and eventful life
was I ever placed in so
unfortunate and disagree-
able position the people
at first stared at me and
took me to be an impostor
and my paper all forged
god help me my good wife
and afflicted daughter
had it not been for your
letter and the Sevenworths
times I could have had

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in a short time \$10,000 on
the way to Independence
but you have utterly dis-
trayed all my prospects and
not a dollar to pay ex-
penses home what I am
to do heaven only knows
when I arrived in Philadel-
phia I found your agents
ahead of me soliciting aid
to renaminate you for Gov-
ernor one of your friends
told me he had just give
your agent \$25.00 for you
he would not tell the name
of the agent but I heard

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of him whenever I went, now
by your cause you have
crushed me and my pros-
pects I saw the condition
of those people in Southern
Kansas you never did &
they are now getting up
a thousand names in
the South part of the State
in contradiction to reports
that the refugees are all
dying well and substan-
tiating what I have said
now you know I dislike
a fight but you have
organized it and self



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defense is the first law of na-
ture how in gods name
could you look my wife and
an afflicted daughter in
the face after ruining there
husband and father's prospects
for himself and suffering
humanity here among entire
strangers and not a dollar
in my pocket You have taken
the advantage of your in-
fluence as Governor to com-
municate through a land
agent to vent your spleen
against a man who has in
days gone by rendered his

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

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Country and humanity
same service while in Hayti
I absolutely gave every dollar
I had an earth and river
in debt \$1166.00 to save
the lives of 400,000 Colored
people taking out there
and abandoned in a des-
titute condition on a
barren Island see daily
New York Tribune 2 April
1864 I had them sent back
and 200 went into the army
they were nearly all males
that were sent to Hayti
and now while working

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in a noble god like cause
you have been the means
of securing me at an ad-
vanced age 71 75 day of
this Month My wife and
lonely daughter are now
living in Lawrence
go there and tell them
what you have done
for their household
& Father god help them
and me you have been
the means of placing
me in a worse condition
than those poor wretches
whose suffering I have
been trying to alleviate

Yours &c
James Deary

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

When you gave me the letter
of indorsements I told you
my business and you gave
me the names of Miss Har-
iland and Mrs Canstock
and said they could be-
come my good friends
god help me what do you
mean I told you I had
just seen the conditions
of those people and I
told a lie of course
from your letter I did
when did you find out
that I am a liar & fraud



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 3932 Book D Page 555

From James Delong

Place West-chester Pa

Date 8. 27. 1882

Rec'd



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

2111 Walnut st
Aug 27th /82

Gov St John

Dear Sir -

Enclosed

is a letter from a colored
woman, Mrs Sumie E Kemp, ^{living now at Stoka - I. T. y)}
which she has requested me
to forward to you. I met her
^{her} accidentally a few years since
and finding her an intelligent,
educated negro, urged her to
quit domestic service, in which
she was then engaged, and
teach instead. Since ^{then} I have
followed her work with
interest, and so far as I can
judge, ^{she} has been a most

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

efficient, self-sacrificing
worker. ~~for the people~~.
Should you find it con-
venient to aid her in
her desire, I've no doubt
she will ^{continue to} work faithfully,
and do good, wherever
she may have her field
of work. She had been
teaching before I met
her, but for some reason
had given it up.

I believe her to be an
earnest, christian woman.

Hoping that you may
find it in your power
to grant her request.

I am Respectfully
Mrs Mary Kenda Houston
2111 Walnut St

St Louis Mo



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 3899 Book D Page 551

From Mary A. Houston

Place St. Louis Mo

Date 8. 27. 1882

Rec'd

at
4th / 82

Gov St John

Dear Sir -

Enclosed

is a letter from a colored woman, Mrs Annie E Kemp, (living now at Atoka - I. T. T.) which she has requested me to forward to you. I met her ^{hus} accidentally a few years since and finding her an intelligent, educated negro, urged her to quit domestic service, in which she was then engaged, and teach instead. Since ^{then} I have followed her work with interest, and so far as I can judge ^{she}, has been a most

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Indian Territory
Atoka, Choctaw Nation

August 24th, 1892.

My Kind & Remembered Friend,
Governor St. John;—

Seeing your name so honorably
mentioned, lately, in the New York
Witness, caused me to remember
your kindness to my people,
at the time of the great Exodus from
the South. I come to express
my heart's gratitude for the same,
& to beg a favor at the kind hand,
that helped them, to home, & work.

Will you please, Sir, to drop me
a line, & tell me where Christian work
& teaching is most needed, in
Kansas, among the colored people?
I have been in the work, 17 years;
travelling & laboring mostly among
the poorer classes. Have been
here, going on three years, laboring
under the auspices of the American

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Miss B. D. Canfield, 1111 1/2 Broadway, New York, N.Y.
Miss B. D. Canfield, 1111 1/2 Broadway, New York, N.Y.
 Baptist Home Mission Society.
 But being sent so far away,
 out in the Western prairies,
 from the railroad, my little
 paper & being so lonely, out there,
 I had to beg brother Maccham to
 accept my resignation,
 this month. I want to continue
 in Christian work, & teaching;
 & wish to come to Kansas to live.
 The enclosed letter will give the address
 of the Society I have been working for.
 Mrs. Mary Bondar, Houston, 211 1/2 Walnut
 St. Louis, Mo., would speak kindly
 of me to you. She has been an excellent
 & constant friend to me, during my
 missionary labors, here.
 Will you aid me, Governor, in
 my efforts to make an honorable
 living & to do good, among the poor
 of my people? If you can possibly reply
 soon I can get it here.
 Most Truly, Gratefully, & Respectfully, Yours,
 Annie E. Kemp

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

OFFICE OF
B. F. WATSON,
COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
—FOR THE—
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Wichita Kansas City, Mo. *Apr. 8th* 1882

Address me at..... Care of.....

Hon. J. St. John

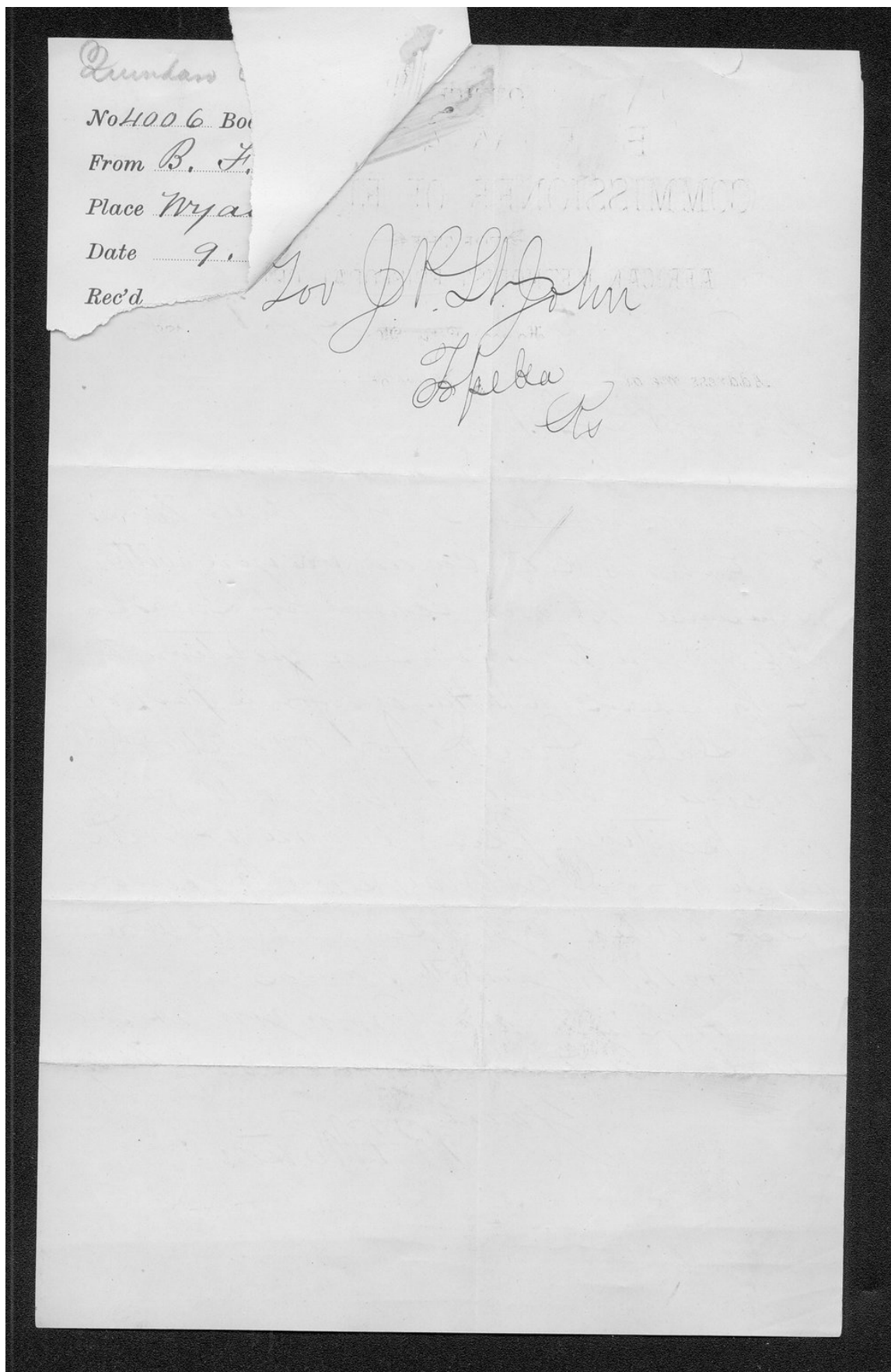
Dear Governor

You remember I with Elder Turner
of Kansas City called upon you with
reference to our school at Lindana
asking you to endorse a petition to
ex President R. B. Hayes for a part of
the Slater fund for our school.
enclosed herewith you will find
our petition. Please endorse it with
such words as may seem proper or
best suited to yourself and return
to box 141 Wichita Kansas

Hoping to hear from you at an
early date I remain very truly

*Yours
B. F. Watson*

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence





Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Quindaro Colored School
No *4006* Book *D* Page *566*
From *B. H. Watson*
Place *Wyandotte Ks*
Date *9. 1. 1882*
Rec'd *for J. St. John*
Exoduster

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

(Sept 1st 1882

Exoduster
Sept 1st 82
John P. St John Governor
of Kas.
Dear Governor
The Colored People of
Lyon County and the State
at large have made
arrangements to Celebrate
President Lincoln's Emanci-
pation Proclamation on the
22nd Inst. and desire
that you deliver the Procla-
mation address. And as
this is the first time that
the Colored Citizens of Lyon
County even ask a favor
of their Gov. we hope you will
not refuse. With you we
believe our Celebration will



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

be a success. while with-
out you we might fail
Please answer by return
mail and by so doing
greatly oblige you
Humble servt
G. A. W. Lewis

To Gov. J. P. St. J.



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 4012 Book D Page 567

From G. S. W. Lewis

Place Emporia Ks

Date 9. 1. 1882

Rec'd



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

WM. E. OTIS, Treasurer.
REV. LYDIA SEXTON,
REV. J. W. SMITH,
REV. A. FAIRFAX,
D. VOTAW, Sec'y.

Traveling Agents.

THE KANSAS

REFUGEES RELIEF ASSOCIATION.

DANIEL VOTAW, SECRETARY.

The Kansas Refugees Relief Association in care of a Committee of Friends, organized at Independence, 5th Mon the purpose of assisting those who are unable to help themselves, to encourage the industrious, in procuring work an on Government or other lands and do such acts of charity as humanity demands. Admonishing them to abstain from intoxica drinks, the use of tobacco and all pernicious habits, living in the fear of the Lord and giving God the praise

JOE
JAN
ANE
MA
JOS
RUT

No. 3784 Book
From 8. No.
Place
Date

Independence, Kas., 9 Me 4 1882

Hon. J. St John

The within Circular speaks for its self. We thought honestly that unless these destitute families who are settled on Government lands, with nothing but their hands, hoes, Mattocks &c to work with could not live over winter without help, as their little crops hacked in with hoes &c are now exhausted, and men & widow women and children are now putting up corn shocks for the white farmers for their subsistence and when this work is done work for them will almost cease and it is impossible for them to live unless aided largely, and as the citizens of South Kansas are not able to divide means with them and as Eastern Friends had offered if need be to aid us one more winter we thought it right to accept with the understanding that this work was to cease in the coming Spring. The people of this town

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I have not as Mrs. Whitcher did last spring that the colored
 has paid out hundreds of dollars to support colored
 Widows & their children and as the doors of the poor house
 are closed against them we were tiring over the burden
 and as the state had never helped us any, we could not
 expect it now notwithstanding our good crops. We have
 done all we could and much more than we were able to.
 My home is Mortgage for means for the refugees to live upon
 last Spring when they were dying of hunger. My wife said
 help them if it cost our home but we had good promises
 from the East & North that we should not loose but how
 changed the scene now. My wife (who was second to no woman)
 Sacrificed her life in the cause. And since thy letters have
 gone East the work is so checked that I cannot expect the
 promised help and yesterday put my home in the hands
 of Land Agents for sale. as I can pay the \$300. I am left
 for the refugees. 5 copies of thy letter has been sent to leading
 men here from West Chester Pa. We all think that thee ought
 to have accepted those poor under my care and think thee ought
 to reconsider. Judge De Long & Mother Sexton are in New Jersey
 and neither ever took a dollar of aid money, & are now without a dollar
 to come home with. Many Friends both here & East think thee has been thought

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Washington D.C.
Sept. 5- 1882
Hon. J. R. St. John
Gov. of Kansas
Topeka Kansas
My Dear Sir
Information has just
reached me that there
are over fifty-thousand
of the colored refugees
lately from the South
starving to death in your
State. Knowing that you
would give me a correct
statement of the condition
of those people in your
State I concluded to write
to you for information
concerning them and
please inform me of.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

the progress among
them if any they are
making as I am anxious
for their welfare
Quite a number of
people here have ask
me about their
starving and I tell
them I know nothing
of it. Are there any
still coming into
your state?
Hoping to hear from
you soon I am
very respectfully yours
Saml L Perry

Address 2nd Comptroller
Office Treasury Dept
Washington D.C.



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

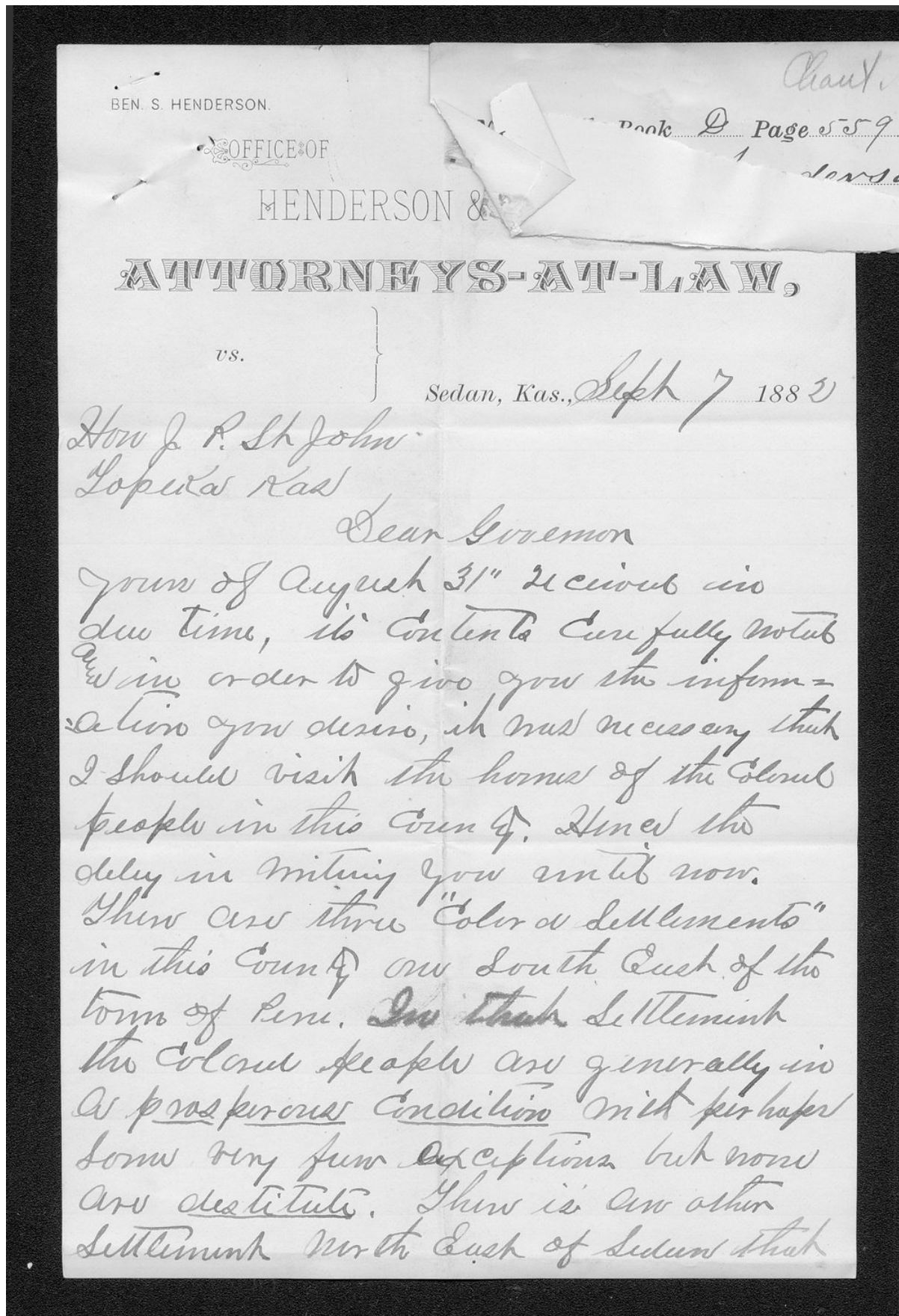
No. 4024 Book D Page 5-68
 From S. L. Perry
 Place Washington D.C.
 Date 9. 5. 1882
 Rec'd

Gov. J. St. John
 Gov. of Kansas
 Topeka Kansas

My Dear Sir

Information has just
 reached me that there
 are over fifty-thousand
 of the colored refugees
 lately from the South
 starving to death in your
 State. Knowing that you
 would give me a correct
 statement of the condition
 of those people in your
 State I concluded to write
 to you for information
 concerning them and
 please inform me of.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

BEN. S. HENDERSON.

J. D. McBRIAN.

OFFICE OF

HENDERSON & McBRIAN,

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW,

vs.

Sedan, Kas., 2 188

I can safely say is equally as
prosperous as the New Settlement.
The this Settlement is eight miles
East of Sedan & I find that Settlement
in a very bad condition, and it is
no fact of this. In this Settlement
I find Eighteen families that much
have help. The aggregate number is
Sixty three. I took the trouble to write
the name of the head of each family
together with the number in each family.
These people have been treated very
badly. They have been imposed upon
and I am sorry to say, by some of our
own citizens.
In the first place the action of Mr
Potter in placing them where he did
needs criticism. I know Mr Potter