Governor John P. St. John letter press book

Section 5, Pages 121 - 150

This collection of governor's correspondence comprises letters written by Kansas Governor John St. John and copied into a letter press book. Governor St. John's term of office (1879-1883) embraced the Exoduster movement, prohibition, conflicts with Native Americans, and the growth of the railroad industry in the state. Many of these letters will concern those issues as well as other more mundane activities. This series includes many responses to letters St. John received. Many of those letters are available as "correspondence received" in St. John's gubernatorial records. Some of those letters are available on Kansas Memory as item no. 210296 (Exoduster received correspondence) or item no. 216777 (Prohibition received correspondence). This book is the first in a series of eight letter press books St. John created while governor of Kansas. Due to the inherent difficulties of copying a letter into a press book, many of the letters will be difficult or impossible to read. An alphabetical index of correspondents and subjects begins the volume.

Creator: Kansas. Governor (1879-1883 : St. John)

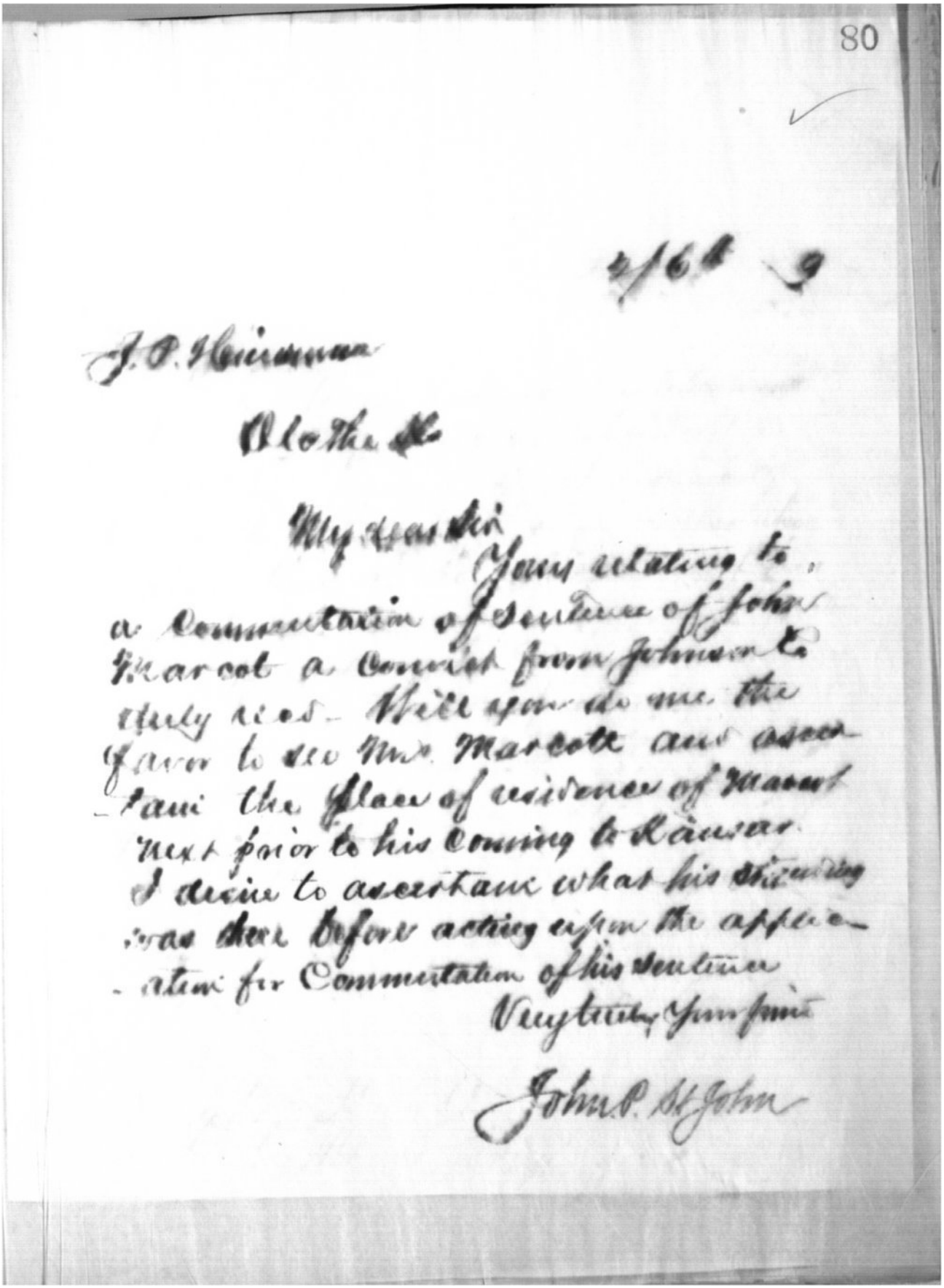
Date: January 14 - April 10, 1879

Callnumber: Governor's Office, Letter Press Books, St. John, Box 4-14, No. 14-46

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www.kansasmemory.org/item/210556



80

2/66 9

J. P. Hinman

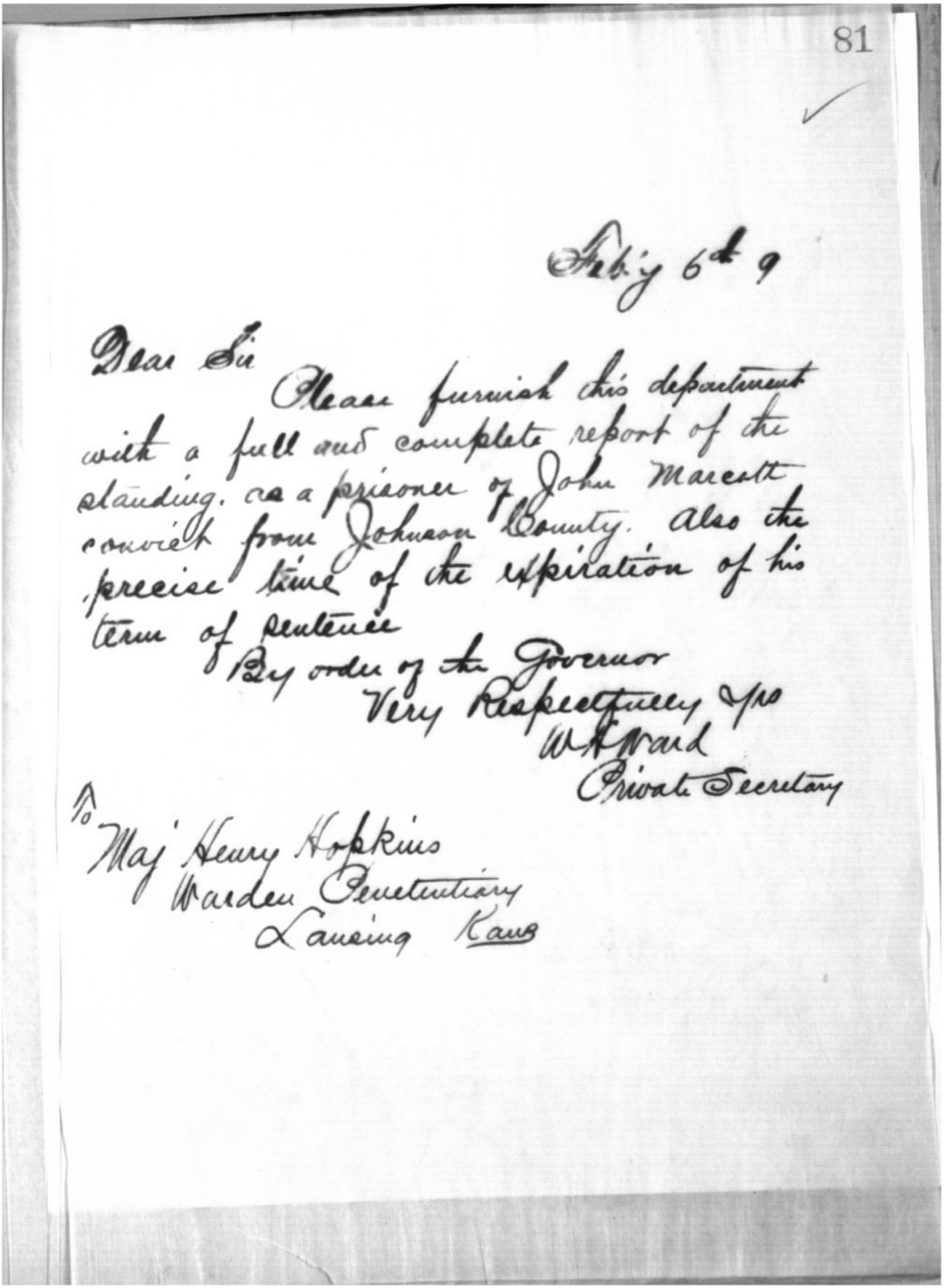
Oskaloosa Ks

My dear Sir

Yours relating to a Commutation of Sentence of John Marcott a Convict from Johnson Co. duly rec'd. Will you do me the favor to see Mrs. Marcott and ascertain the place of residence of Marcott next prior to his coming to Kansas. I desire to ascertain what his standing was there before acting upon the application for Commutation of his Sentence

Very truly Yours

John P. St. John



81

Feby 6th 9

Dear Sir

Please furnish this department with a full and complete report of the standing, as a prisoner of John Marcott convict from Johnson County. Also the precise time of the expiration of his term of sentence

By order of the Governor

Very Respectfully Yrs

W. H. Waid

Private Secretary

To

Maj Henry Hopkins

Warden Penetentiary

Lansing Kans

82

Feby 6th 9

Dear Sir

The County of Lane being unorganized, and unattached to any organized county for judicial purposes, it will be impossible for this department to commission a Notary Public with authority to do business within its limits.

Enclosed I return to you the petition of William F Alban, M C Ward and others for the appointment of B F Bonnell as Notary Public for said County of Lane

By order of the Governor

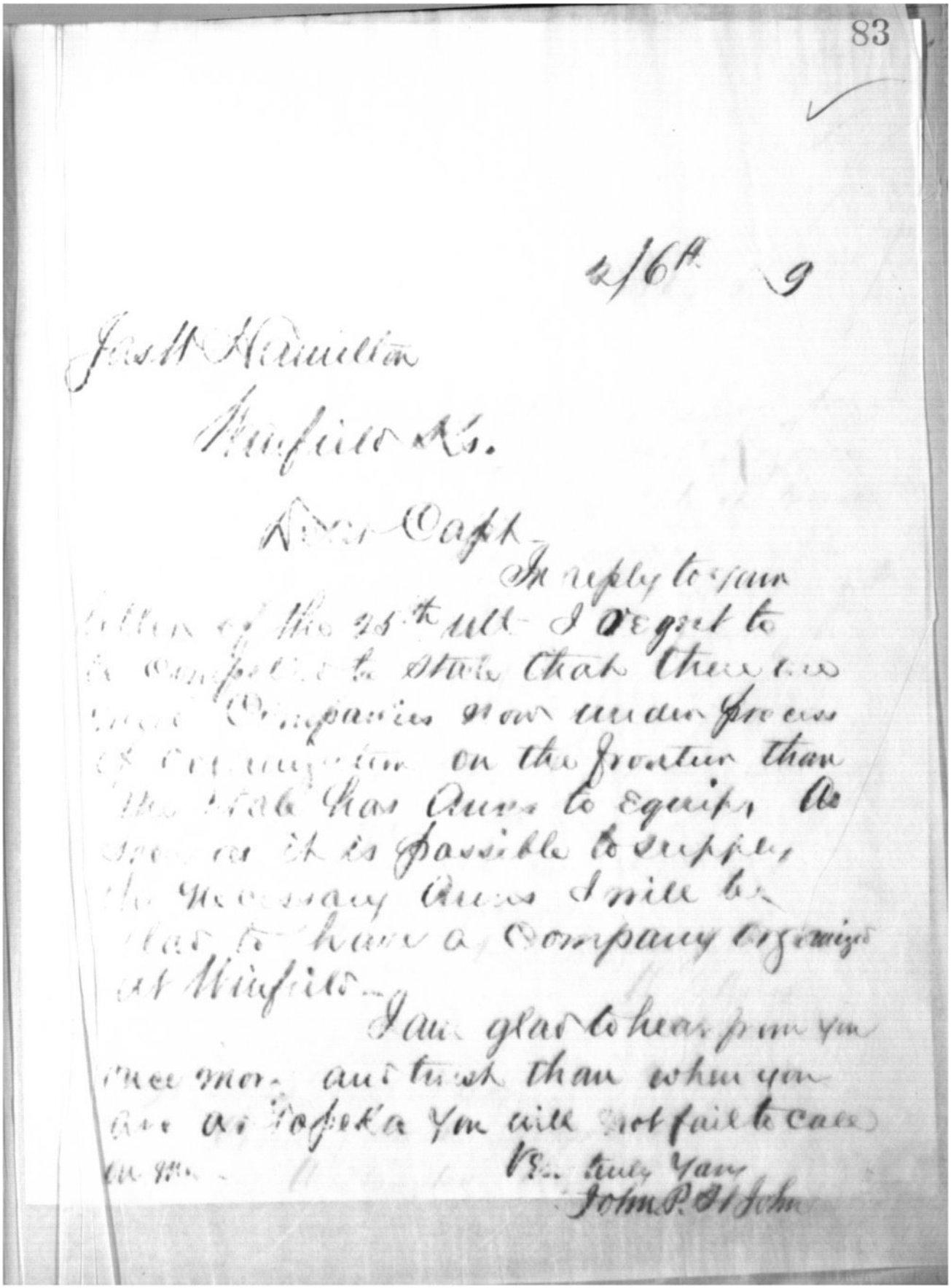
Very Respectfully Yrs

W H Ward

Private Sec'y

Hon E Walker

Rep 68 Dist



83

2/16A 9

Jas H Hamilton

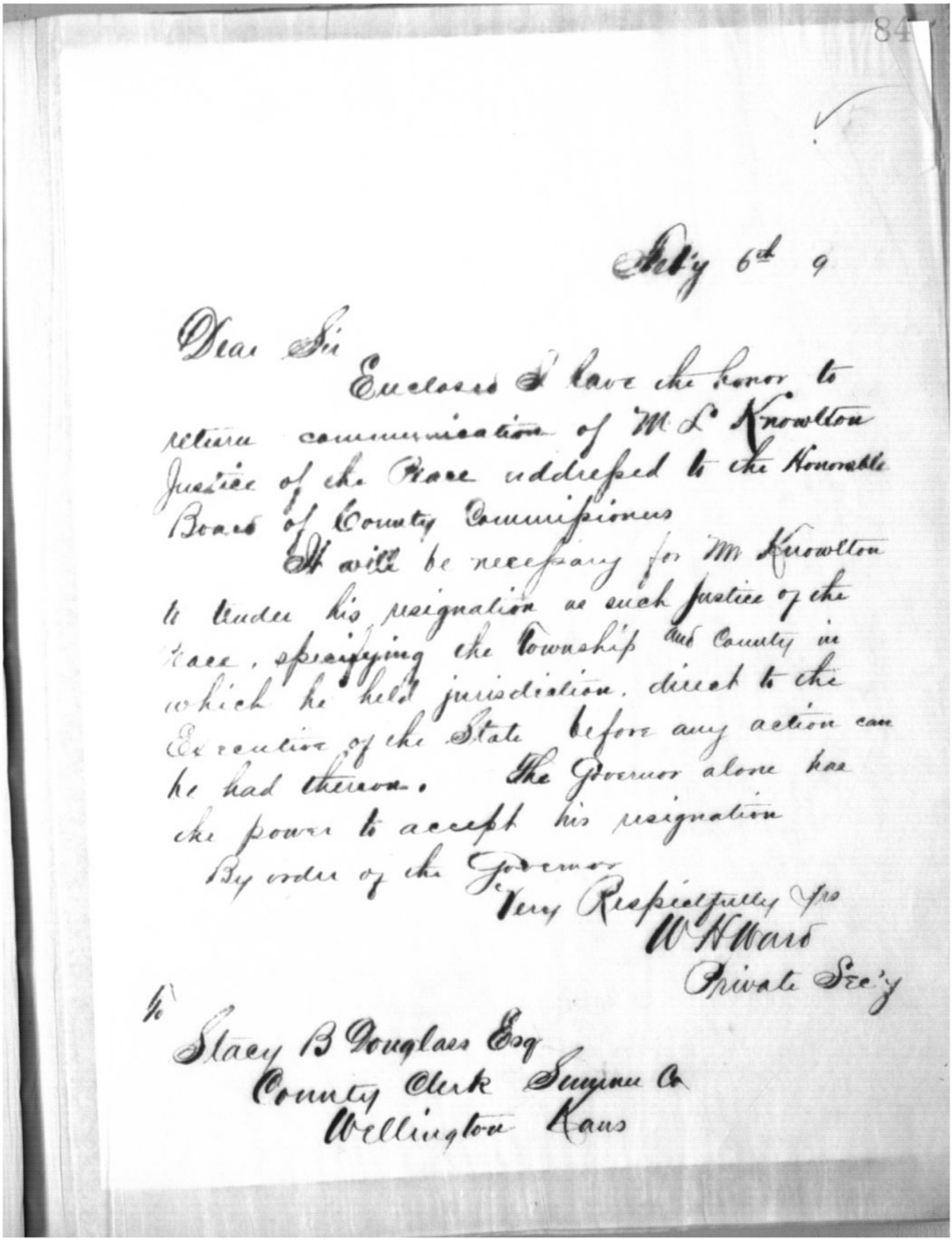
Winfield Ks.

New Oakk

In reply to your
letter of the 28th ult- I regret to
be compelled to state that there are
more Companies now under process
of organization on the frontier than
the State has Guns to Equip. As
soon as it is possible to supply
the necessary Guns I will be
glad to have a Company organized
at Winfield.

I am glad to hear from you
once more and trust that when you
are at Topeka You will not fail to call
on me.

Very truly Yours
John P. St John



84

July 6th 9

Dear Sir

Enclosed I have the honor to return communication of M L Knowlton Justice of the Peace addressed to the Honorable Board of County Commissioners

It will be necessary for Mr Knowlton to tender his resignation as such justice of the Peace, specifying the Township and County in which he held jurisdiction, direct to the Executive of the State before any action can be had thereon. The Governor alone has the power to accept his resignation

By order of the Governor

Very Respectfully Yrs

W H Ward

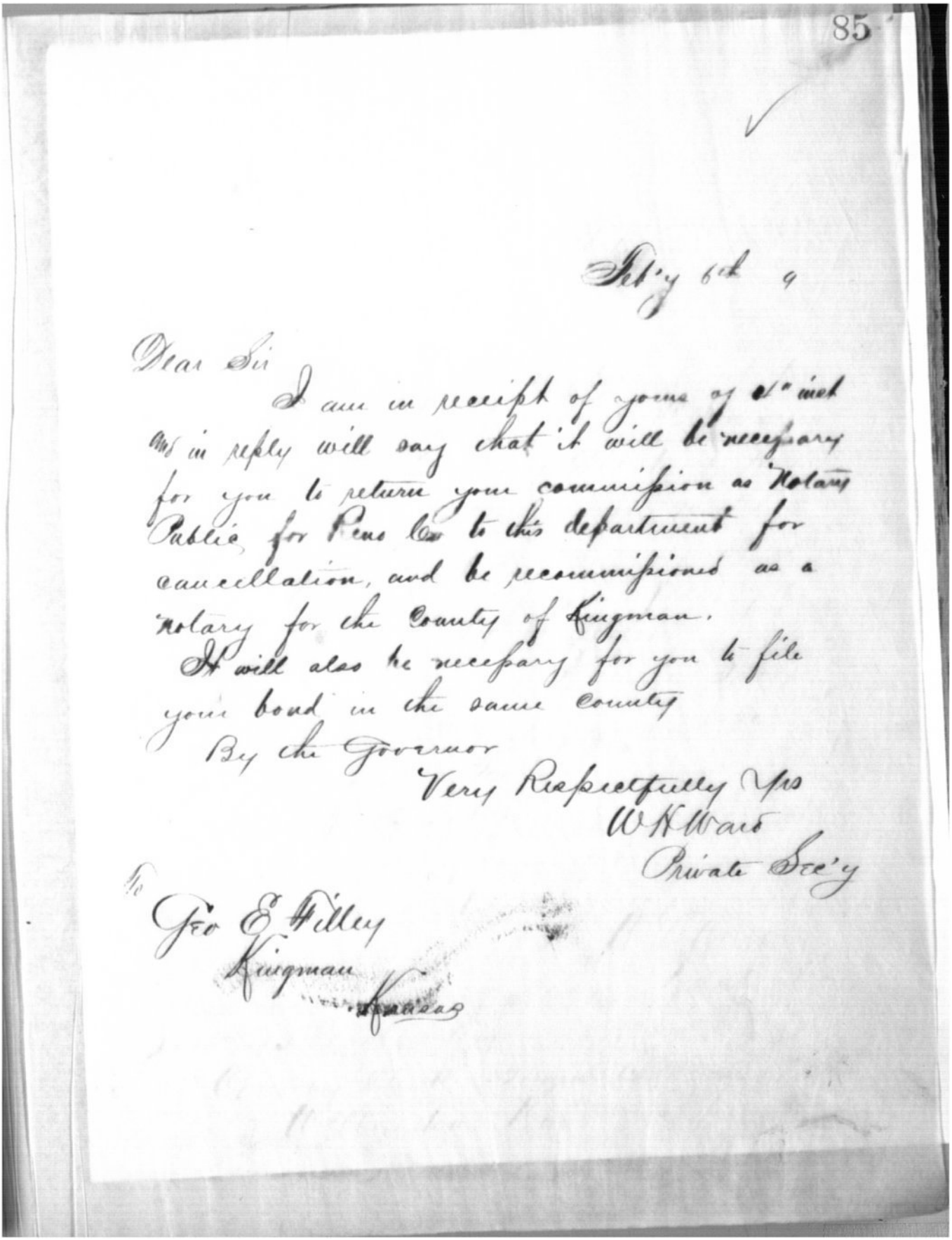
Private Sec'y

To

Stacy B Douglass Esq

County Clerk Sumner Co

Wellington Kans



85

Feb'y 6th 9

Dear Sir

I am in receipt of yours of 4th inst & in reply will say that it will be necessary for you to return your commission as Notary Public, for Pens & to this department for cancellation, and be recommissioned as a Notary for the County of Kingman.

It will also be necessary for you to file your bond in the same County

By the Governor

Very Respectfully Yrs

W H Ware

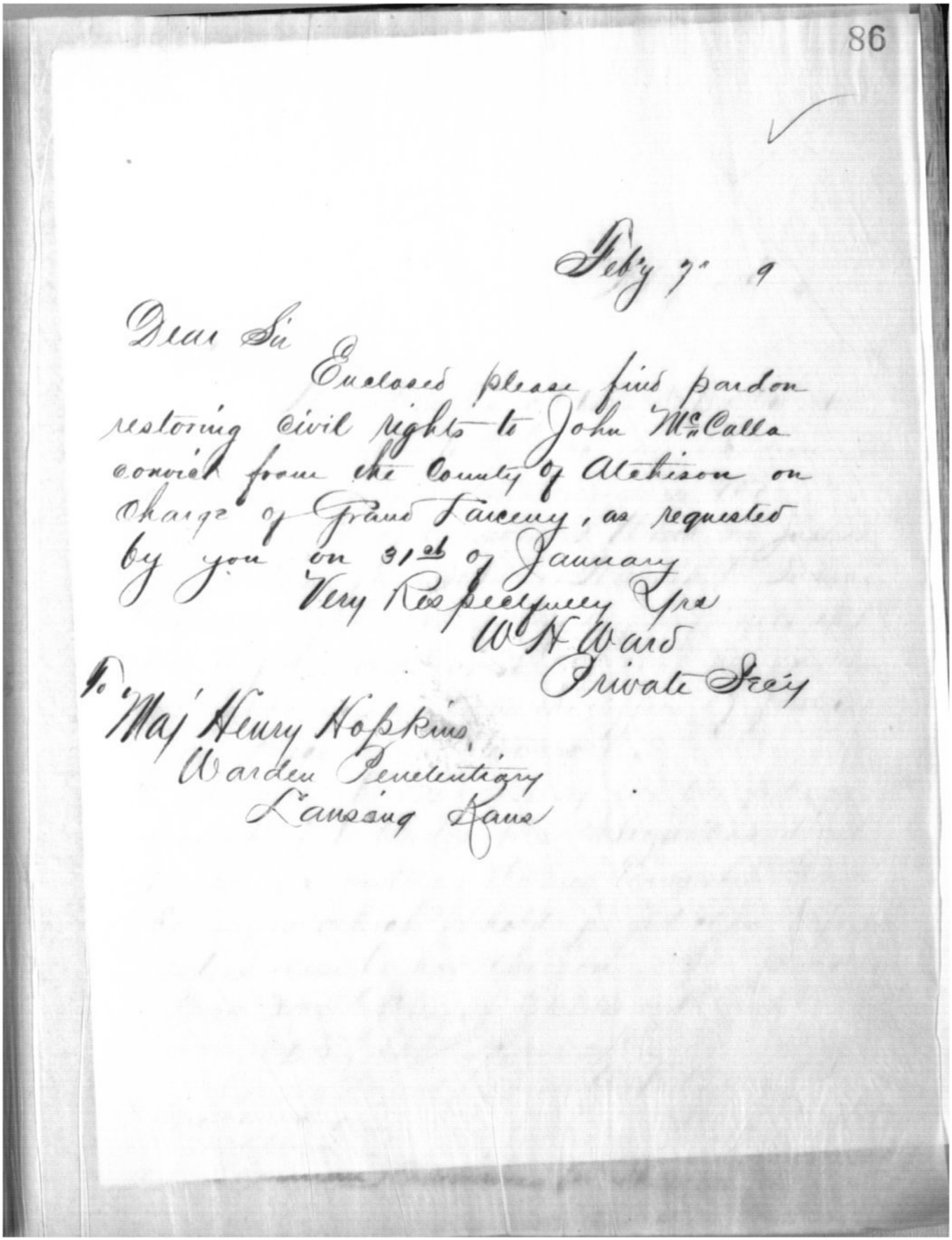
Private Sec'y

To

Geo E Tilley

Kingman

Kansas



86

Feby 7th 9

Dear Sir

Enclosed please find pardon restoring civil rights to John McCalla convict from the County of Atchison on charge of Grand Larceny, as requested by you on 31st of January

Very Respectfully Yrs

W N Ward

Private Secy

To Maj Henry Hopkins

Warden Penetentiary

Lansing Kans

Canceled
See page 88

Feby 7th 9

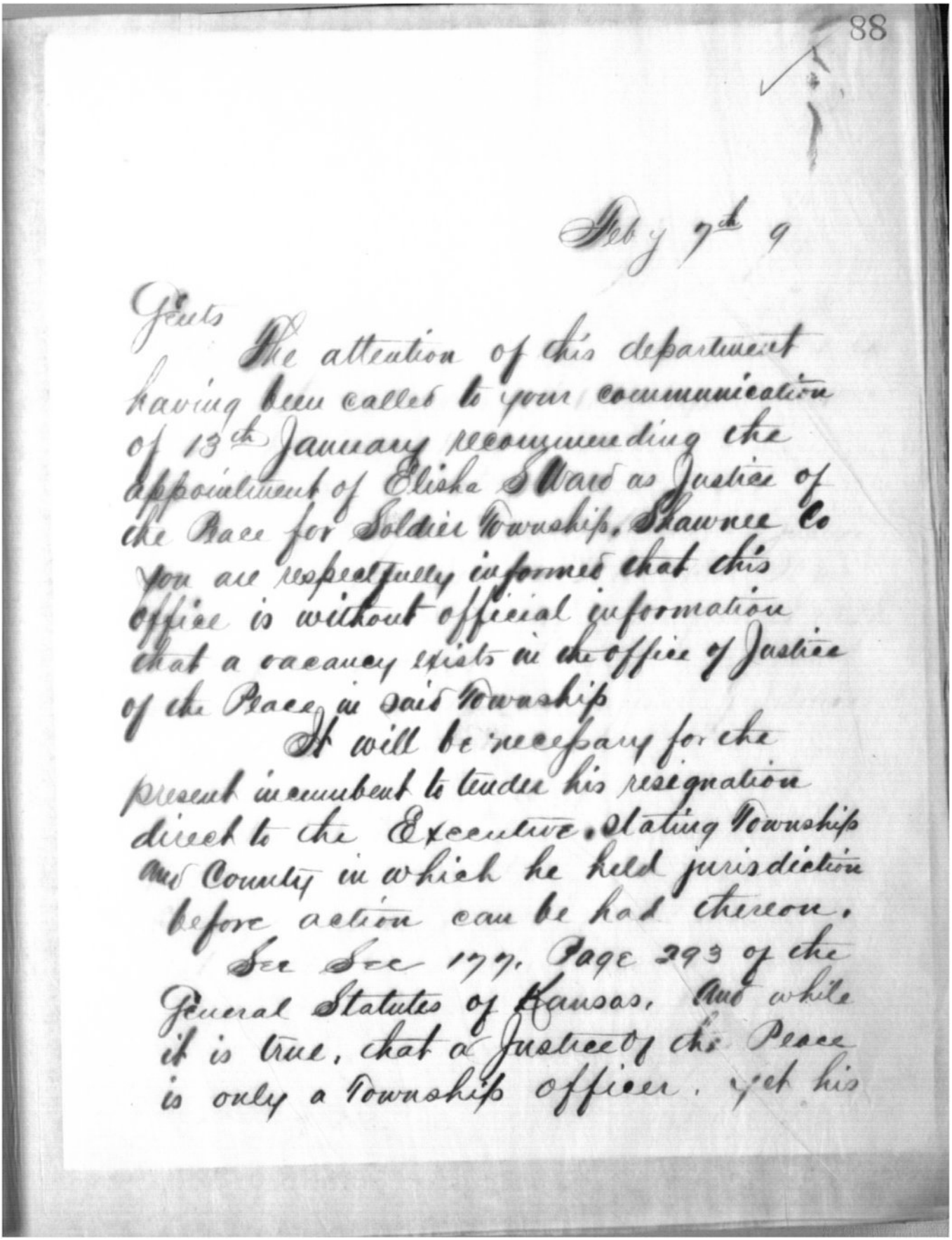
Gents

The attention of this department having been called to your communication of 13th January recommending the appointment of Elisha S Ward as Justice of the Peace for Soldier Township Shawnee County, you are respectfully informed that this office is without official information that a vacancy exists in the office of Justice of the Peace in said township.

It will be necessary for the present incumbent to tender his resignation direct to the Executive, stating Township and County in which he holds jurisdiction before action can be had thereon. See Sec 177 Page 293 General Statutes of Kansas

By the Governor
W H Ward
Private Sec'y

D Brockway 3
A Washburn 3
A C Sherman 3 Commissions for Shawnee Co



88

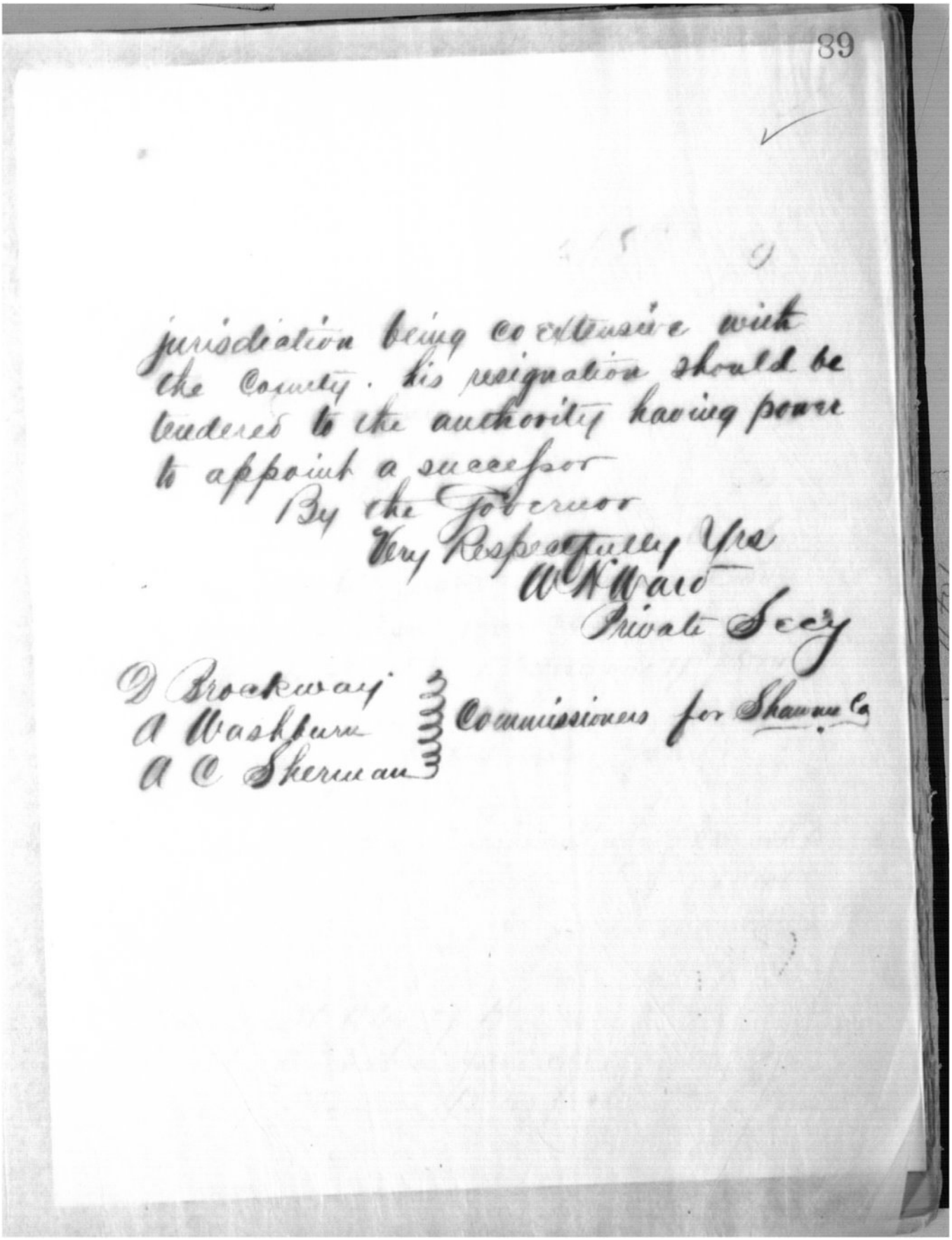
Feby 7th 9

Gents

The attention of this department having been called to your communication of 13th January recommending the appointment of Elisha Ward as Justice of the Peace for Soldier Township, Shawnee Co you are respectfully informed that this office is without official information that a vacancy exists in the office of Justice of the Peace in said Township

It will be necessary for the present incumbent to tender his resignation direct to the Executive, stating Township and County in which he held jurisdiction before action can be had thereon.

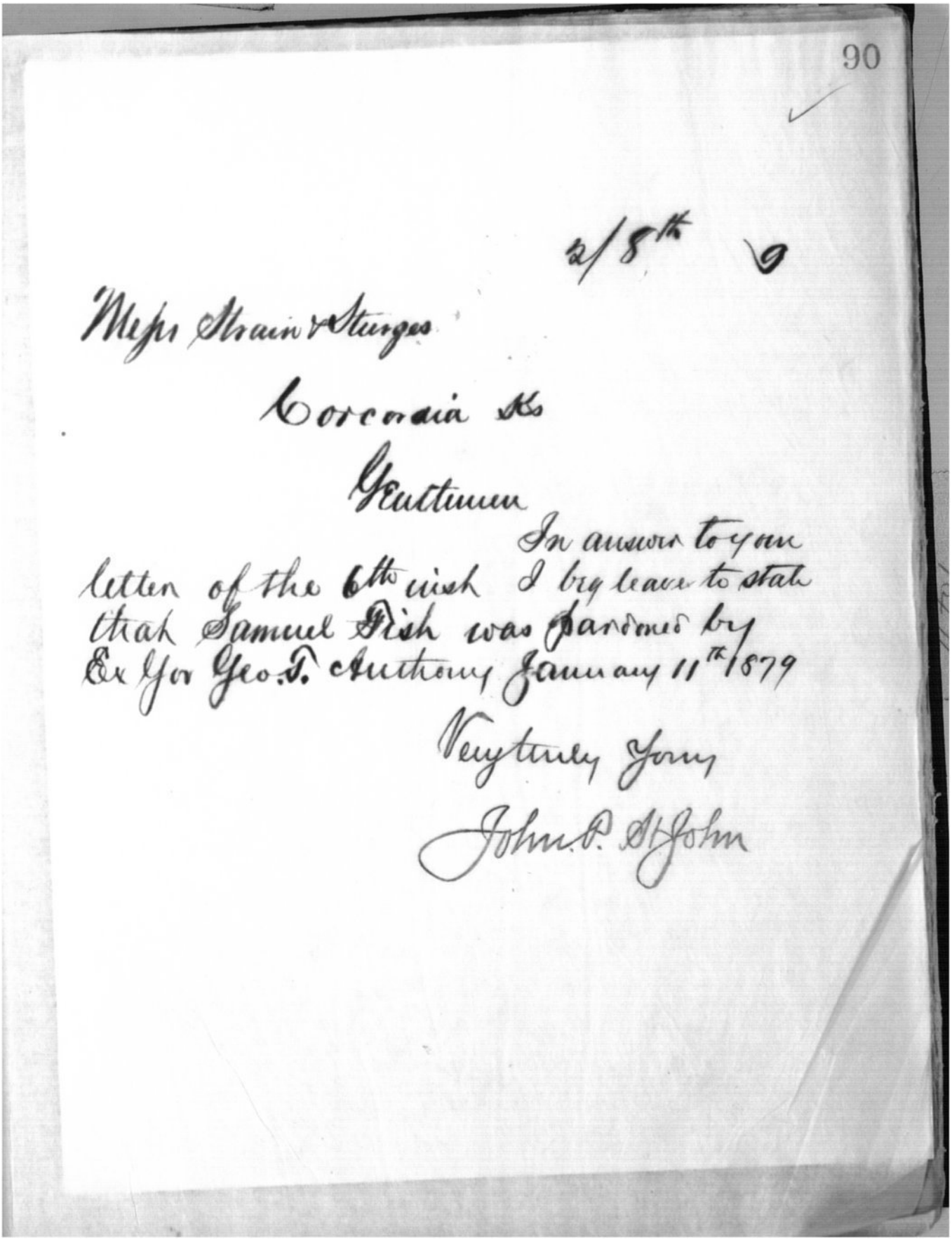
See Sec 177, Page 293 of the General Statutes of Kansas. And while it is true, that a Justice of the Peace is only a Township officer, yet his



jurisdiction being co extensive with the County. his resignation should be tendered to the authority having power to appoint a successor

By the Governor
Very Respectfully Yrs
W K Ward
Private Secy

D Brockway
A Washburn
A C Skeeman
Commissioners for Shawnee Co



90

2/8th

Messrs Strain & Sturges

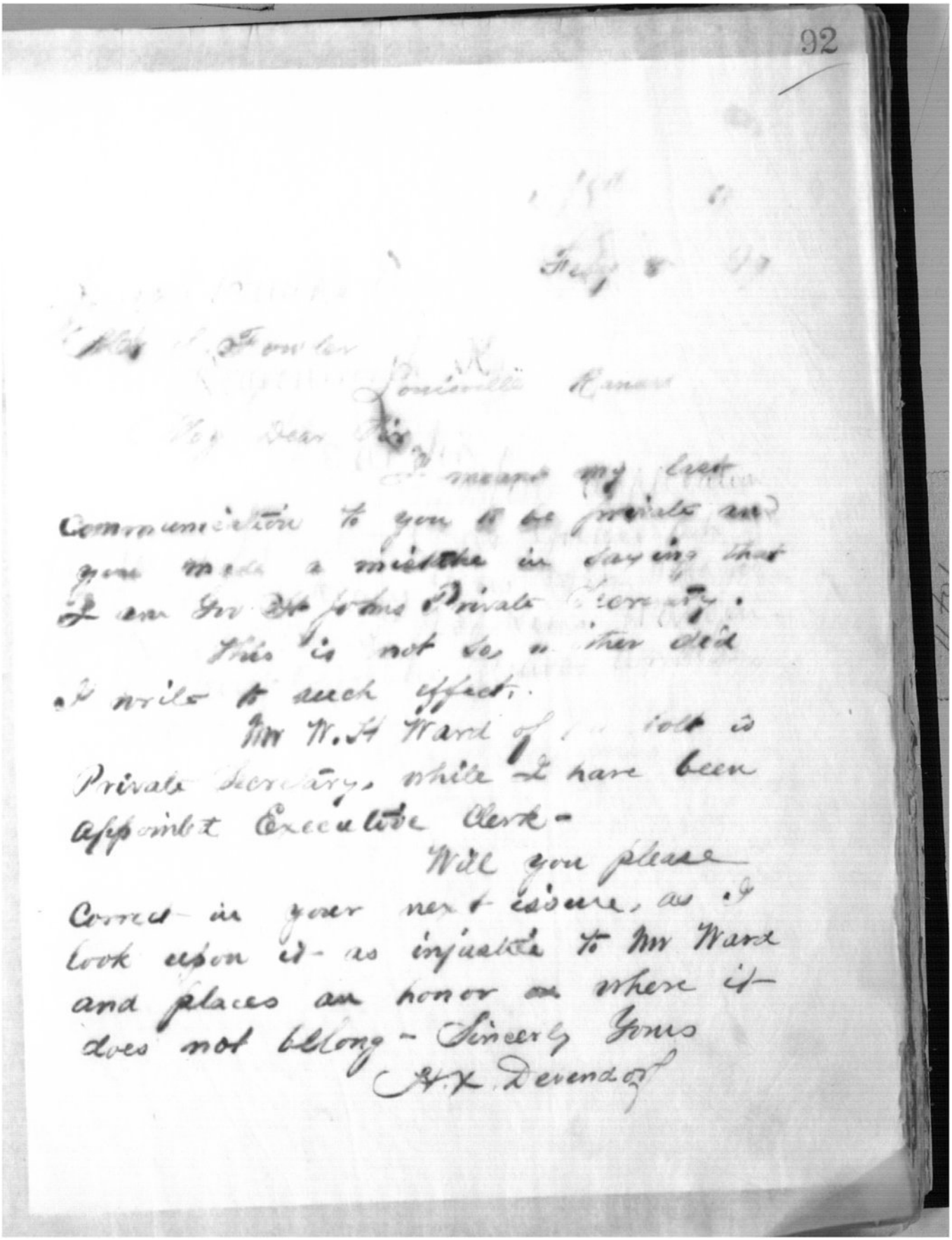
Corcoran Ks

Gentlemen

In answer to your letter of the 6th inst I beg leave to state that Samuel Fish was pardoned by Ex Gov Geo. T. Anthony January 11th 1879

Very truly Yours

John P. St John



92

July 8 [illegible]

[illegible] Fowler

Louisville Kansas

My Dear [illegible]

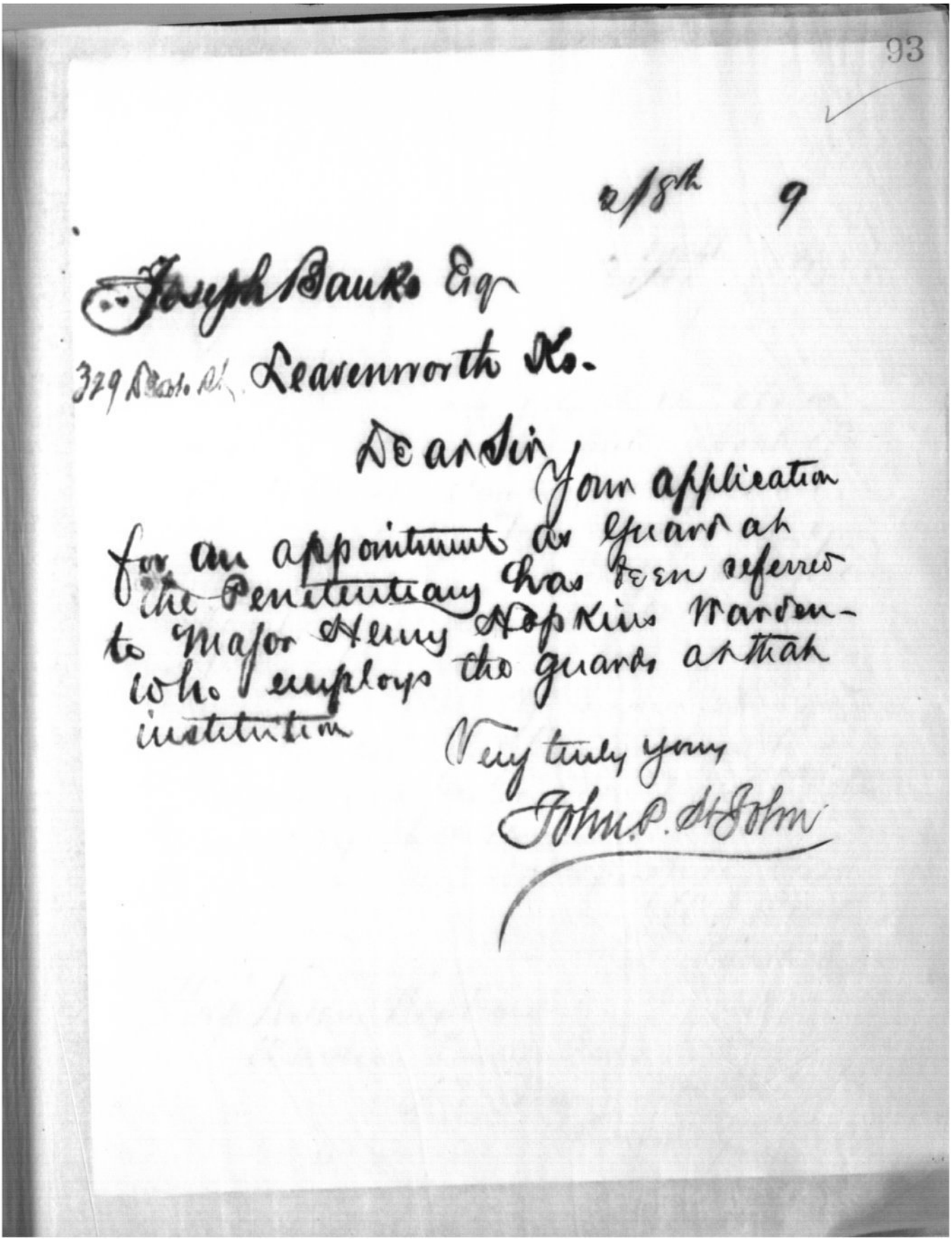
I mean my last Communication to you a be private and you made a mistake in saying that I am Gov [illegible] Private Secretary.

This is not so neither did I write to such effect.

Mr W. H Ward of [illegible] is Private Secretary, while I have been appointed Executive Clerk-

Will you please Correct in your next issue, as I look upon it- as injustice to Mr Ward and places an honor on where it does not belong- Sincerly Yours

A. X. Devendorf



93

2/18th 9

Joseph Banks Esq

329 Dakota St. Leavenworth Ks.

Dear Sir Your application for an appointment as Guard at the Penitentiary has been referred to Major Henry Hopkins Warden who employs the guards at that institution

Very truly yours

John P. St John

94

Feby 8. 79

Dear Sir

Please furnish this office with a full and complete report of the conduct, standing as a prisoner, and expiration of term of sentence of John W Bagby convicted in Crawford County of Manslaughter and sentenced to seventeen years.

Please state if in your opinion, his conduct has been such as to warrant a restoration of civil rights

By the Governor

Respectfully Yrs
W K Ward
Private Secy

Maj Henry Hopkins
Warden Penetentiary
Lansing
Kans

2/8th 9

Stephen Beck

Sherman Texas.

My dear Sir

By request of the County Atty of Neosho Kas I enclose herewith requisition on the Governor of Texas for — Harrington — Rogers & — Clark who are charged with the — Commission of a crime in Neosho Co.

Very truly Yours

John P. St John

Gov.

2/18 9

D.A. Rager
County atty
Erie Ks.

My dear Sir.

In compliance with your request of the 9th inst I have just mailed to Stephen Beck at Sherman Texas requisition on the Governor of that State for Harrington — Rogers & Clark

Will you please forward to this department duplicate Copy of the affidavit and your application accompanying the same to file here, and in the future do me the favor to always send two copies - one to attach to the requisition & one to be retained here

Very truly yours
John P. St John
Gov.

97

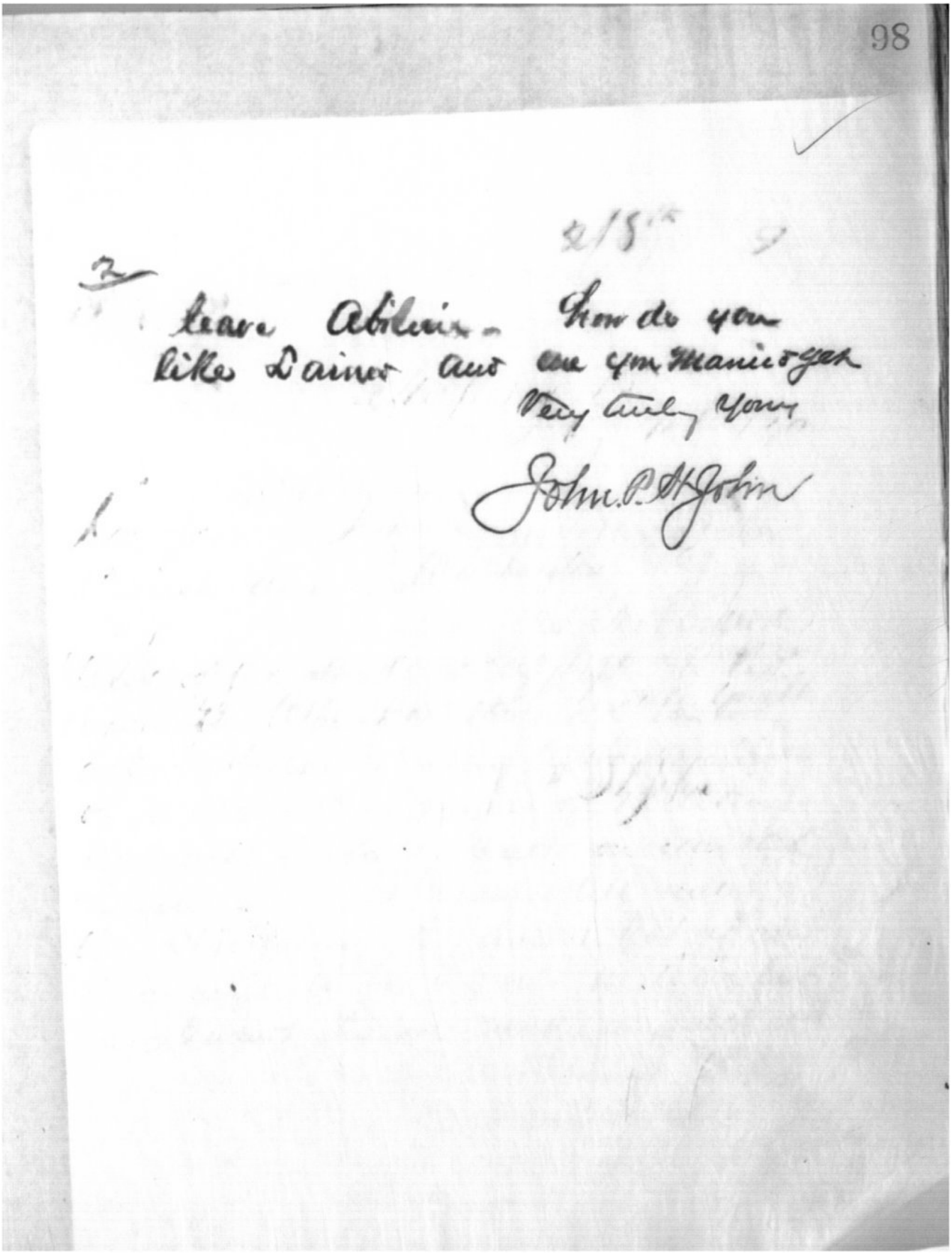
2/8th 9

P.A. Noble

Larned Ks

Dear Major Your letter of the 3th inst duly rec'd Col P.S. Noble Adjt Genl of the State will take a trip down the Santa Fe this week to look after matters relating to the Organizat of a few Companies of Militia and will probably call on you at Larned. I cannot tell until the Legislature adjourns what if any Changes will be in our Militia laws and cannot therefore make any definite arrangements about Officers until that time. When did you

Governor John P. St. John letter press book



Copy of Telegram

Topeka Ks
Feb'y 10th 1879

Hon John J Ingalls
Washington DC

No official notice of your election yet — Will have the matter brought up to day

J P St John

2. 8- 9

S. W. Dunn

Leav. City, Ks

Expenses of limited number of witnesses who can identify Indians will be paid and transportation furnished. Send names of witnesses to me by mail and I will notify you when they are required.

John P. St John

Copy of Telegram

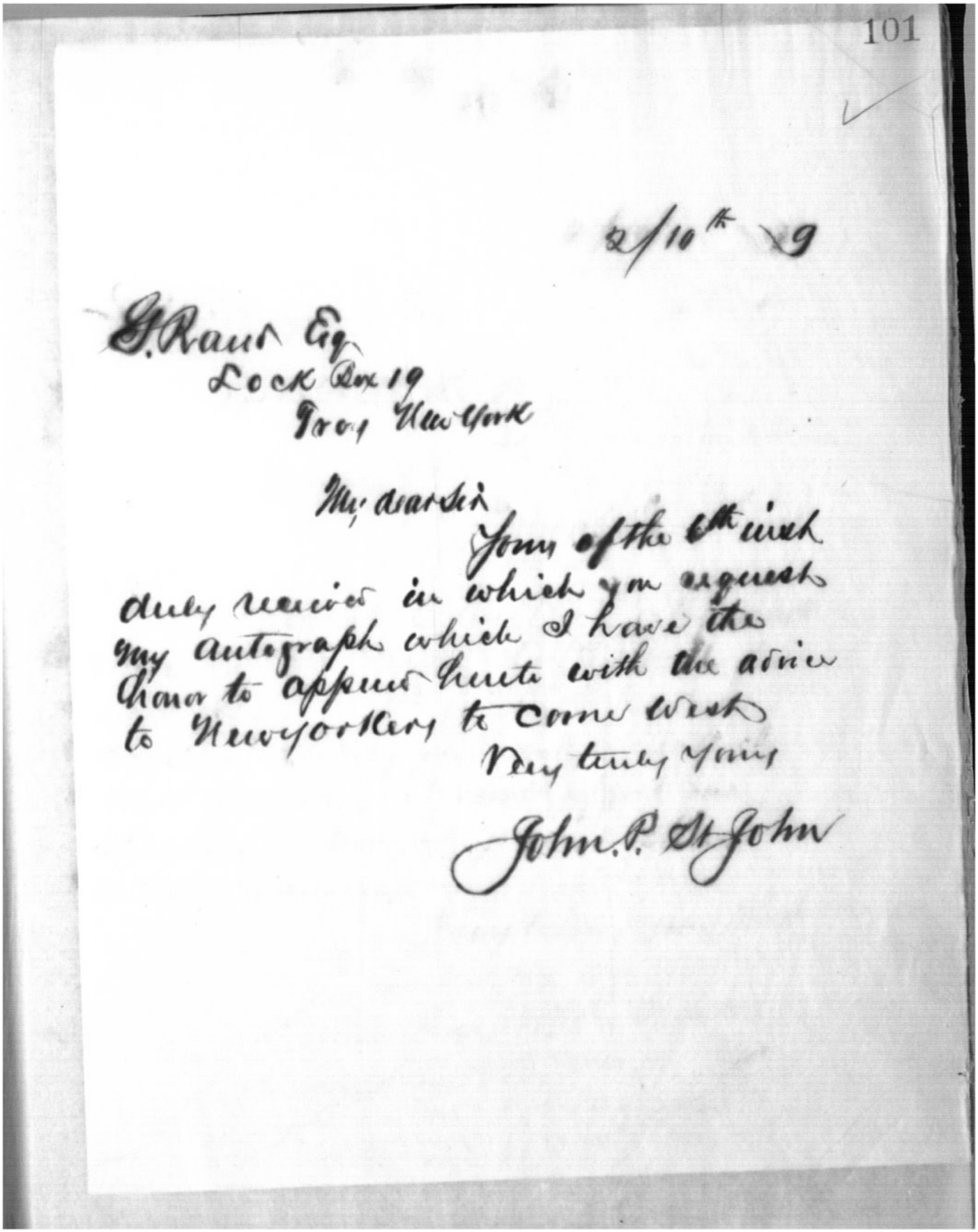
Topeka 2. 10, 9

Major Gen Pope Leavenworth Ks

Please notify me of the arrival of the Cheyenes. I think I can procure witnesses to identify them

John P. St John Governor

Copy



101

2/10th 79

G. Raun Esq
Lock Box 19
Troy New York

My dear Sir

Yours of the 6th inst
duly received in which you request
my autograph which I have the
pleasure to append hereto with the advice
to Newyorkers to come west

Very truly Yours

John P. St John

2/10 9

J. R. Campbell Esq

Fort Scott Ks

My dear Sir

Yours of the 8th inst
rec'd

I regret to say that at present
there is at least fifty Cats for
every "peg". I wish I had a
position at my disposal that I
could give you, it would afford me
pleasure - but at present there
is no vacancy.

Very truly your friend

John P. St John

Aug 10th 79

Jas H Mennis Esq

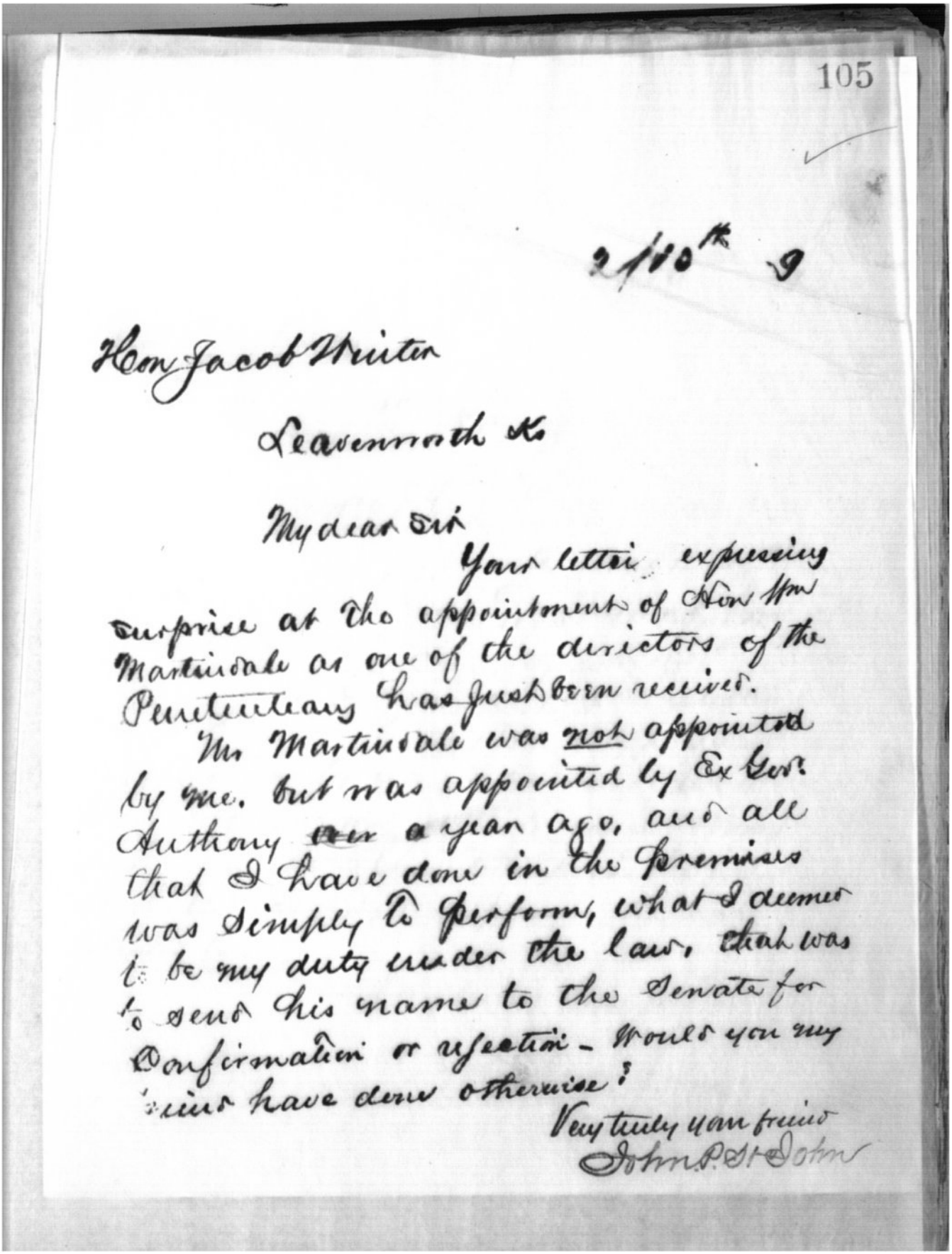
Kansas City Mo

Dear Sir

Yours - a reply
to my Message a Copy of which I
sent you will show that I have
already recommended the payment
of Price vais claim.

Very Respy

John P. St John



105

2100 K 9

Hon Jacob Winter

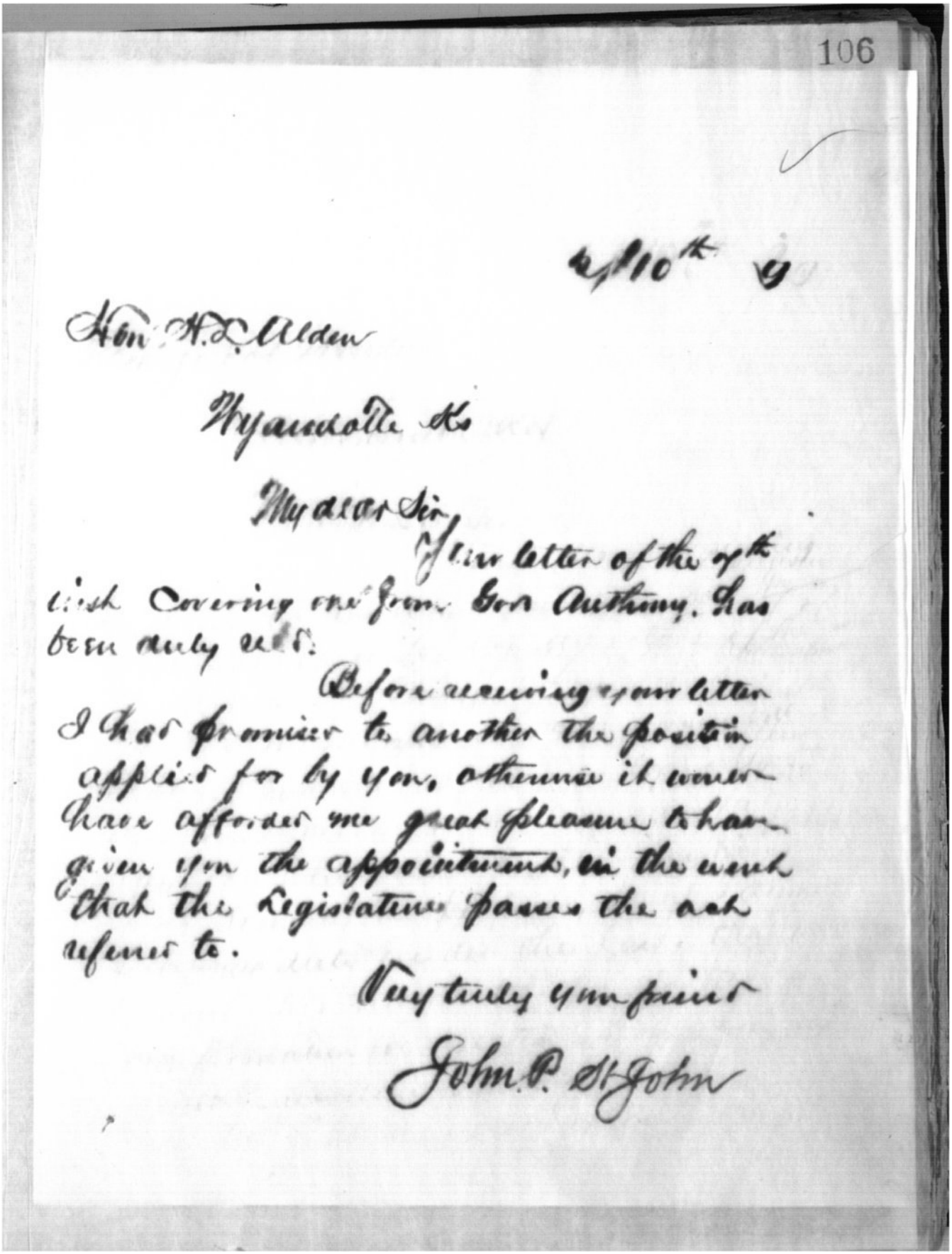
Leavenworth Ks

My dear Sir

Your letter expressing surprise at the appointment of Hon Wm Martindale as one of the directors of the Penitentiary has just been received.

Mr Martindale was not appointed by me, but was appointed by Ex Gov. Anthony over a year ago, and all that I have done in the premises was simply to perform, what I deemed to be my duty under the law, that was to send his name to the Senate for Confirmation or rejection - Would you my friend have done otherwise?

Very truly your friend
John P. St. John



106

April 10th 87

Hon. H. L. Alden

Wyandotte Ks

My dear Sir,

Your letter of the 9th inst. Covering one from Gov Anthony, has been duly rec'd.

Before receiving your letter I had promised to another the position applied for by you, otherwise it would have afforded me great pleasure to have given you the appointment, in the event that the Legislature passes the act referred to.

Very truly your friend

John P. St John

2/10th

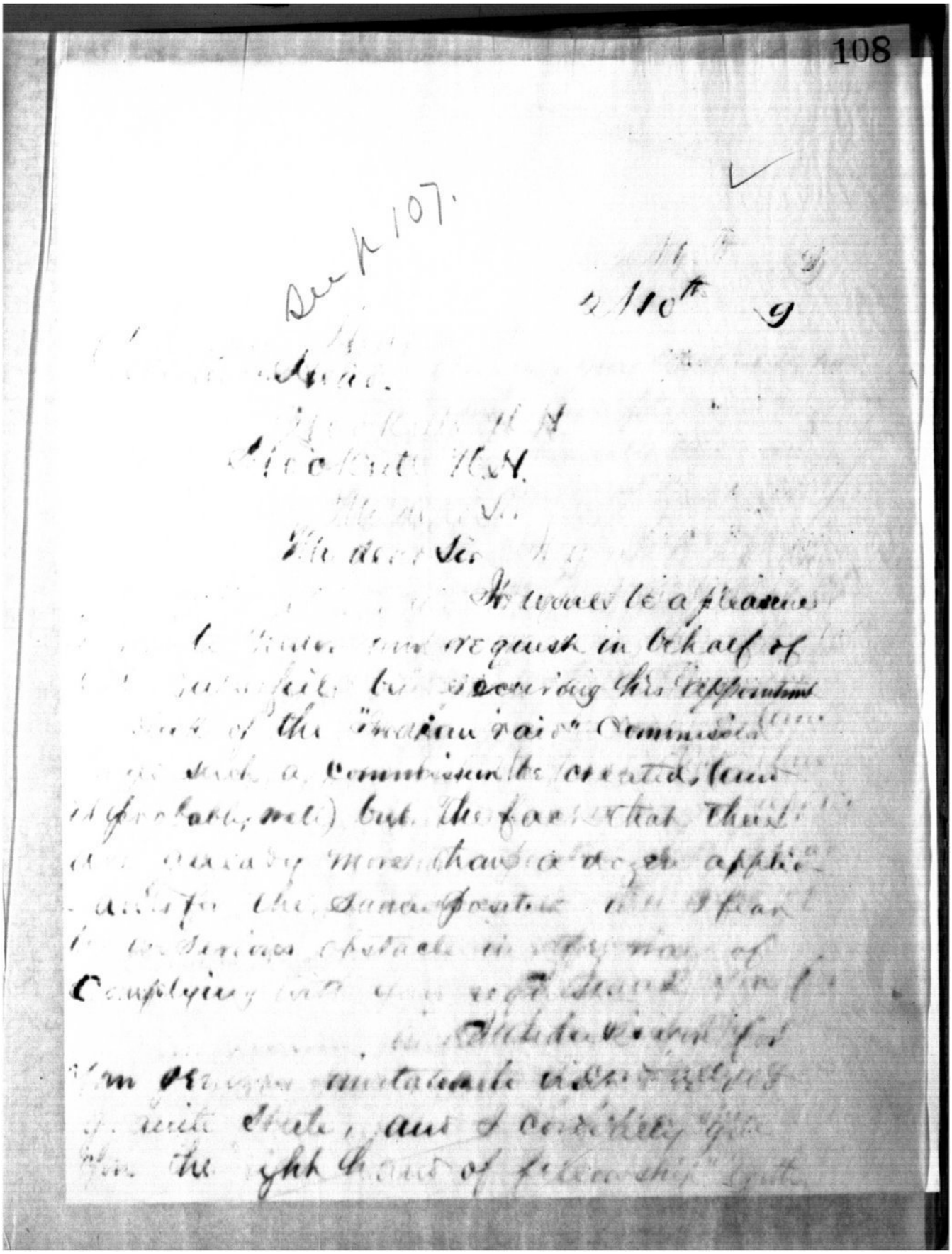
Governor Head.

Rockett N.H.

My dear Sir

It would be a pleasure to me to know your request in behalf of Col Butterfield by securing his appointment as clerk of the "Indian raid" Commission should such a Commission be created, (and it probably will) but the fact that there are already more than a dozen applicants for the same position will I fear be a serious obstacle in the way of complying with your request—

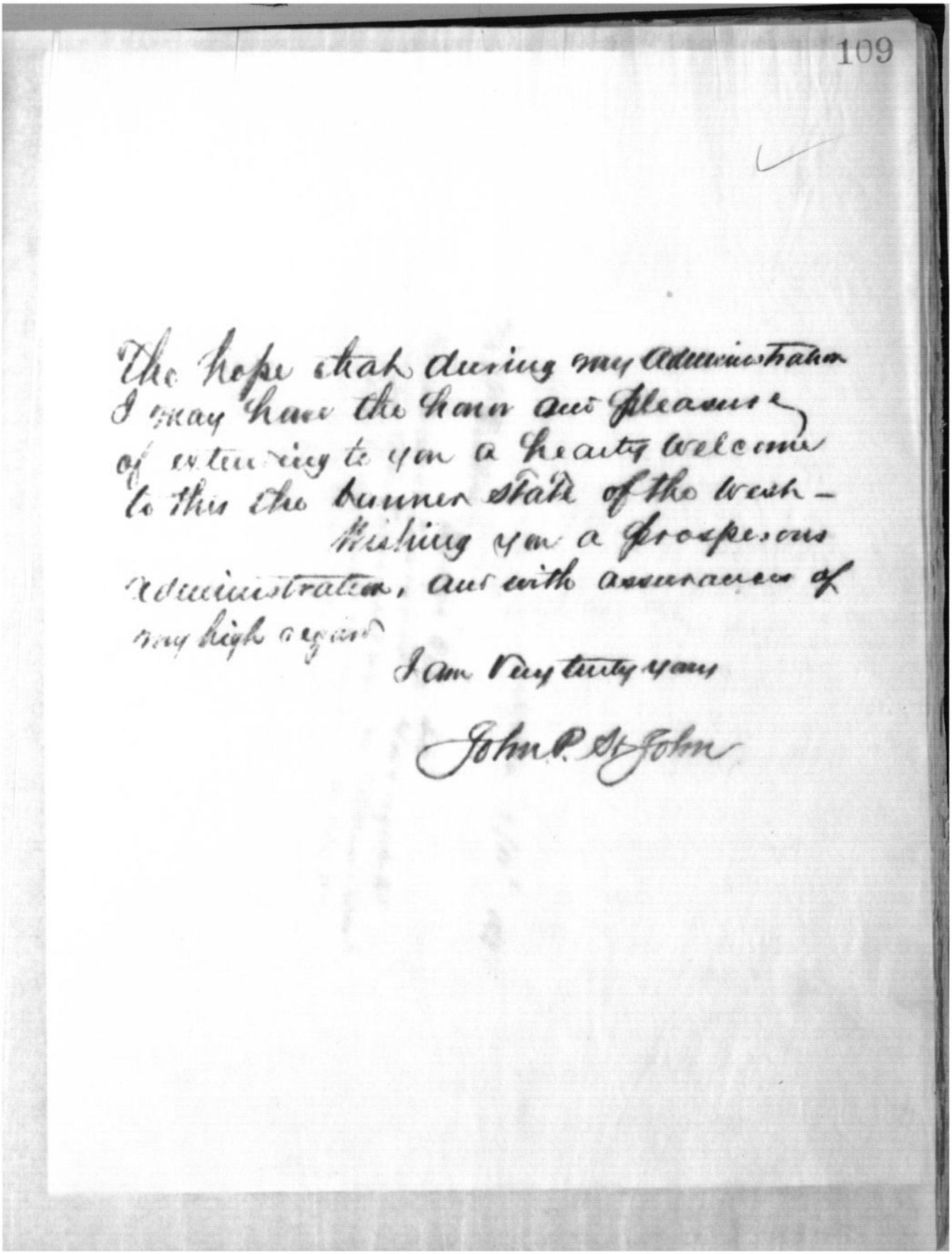
I thank you for your gracious invitation to visit the old granite State, and I cordially give you the "right hand of fellowship" with



108

Dec 107.

110th

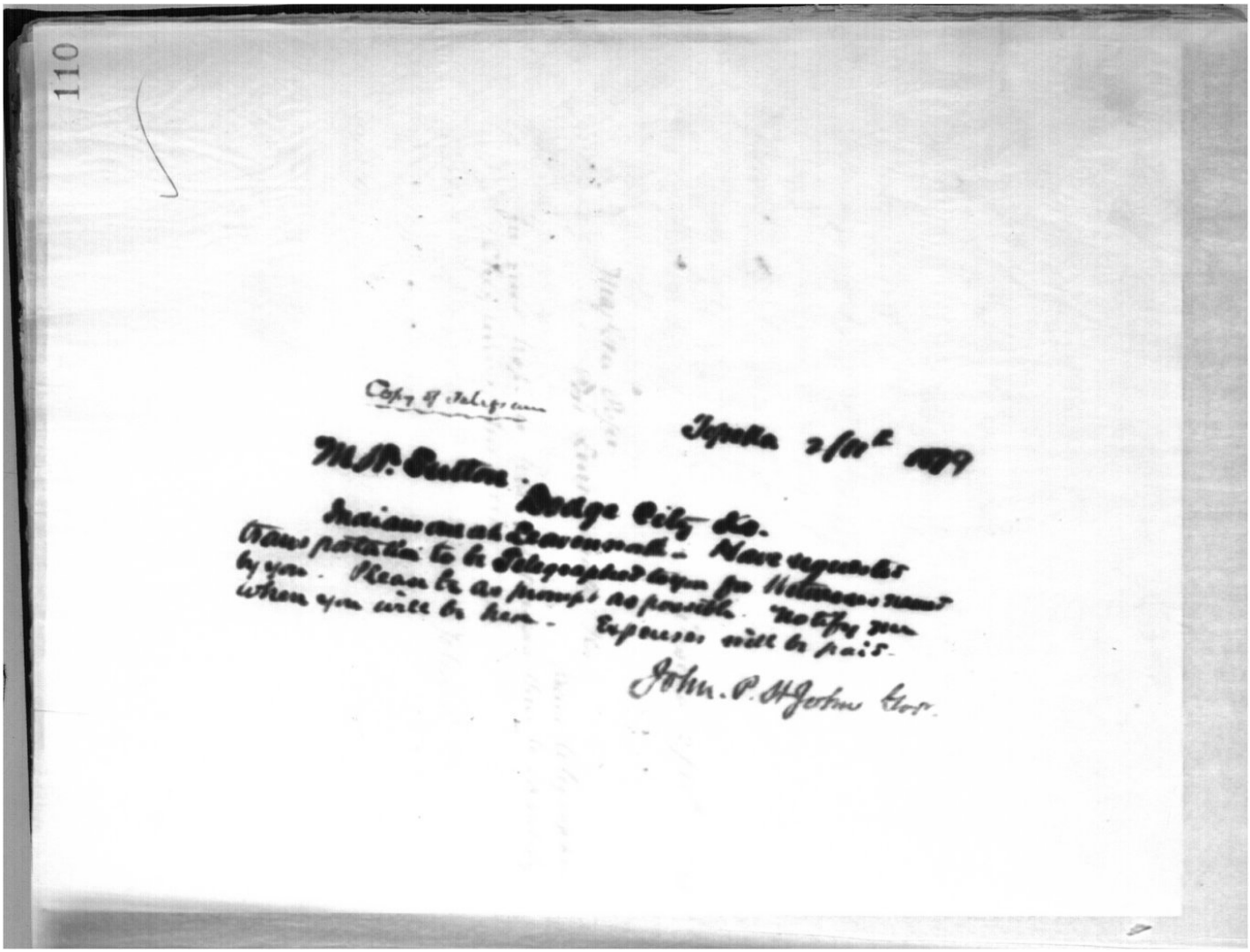


The hope that during my Administration
I may have the honor and pleasure
of extending to you a hearty welcome
to this the banner State of the West -
Wishing you a prosperous
Administration, and with assurances of
my high regard

I am Very truly yours

John P. St John

Governor John P. St. John letter press book


110

Copy of Telegram

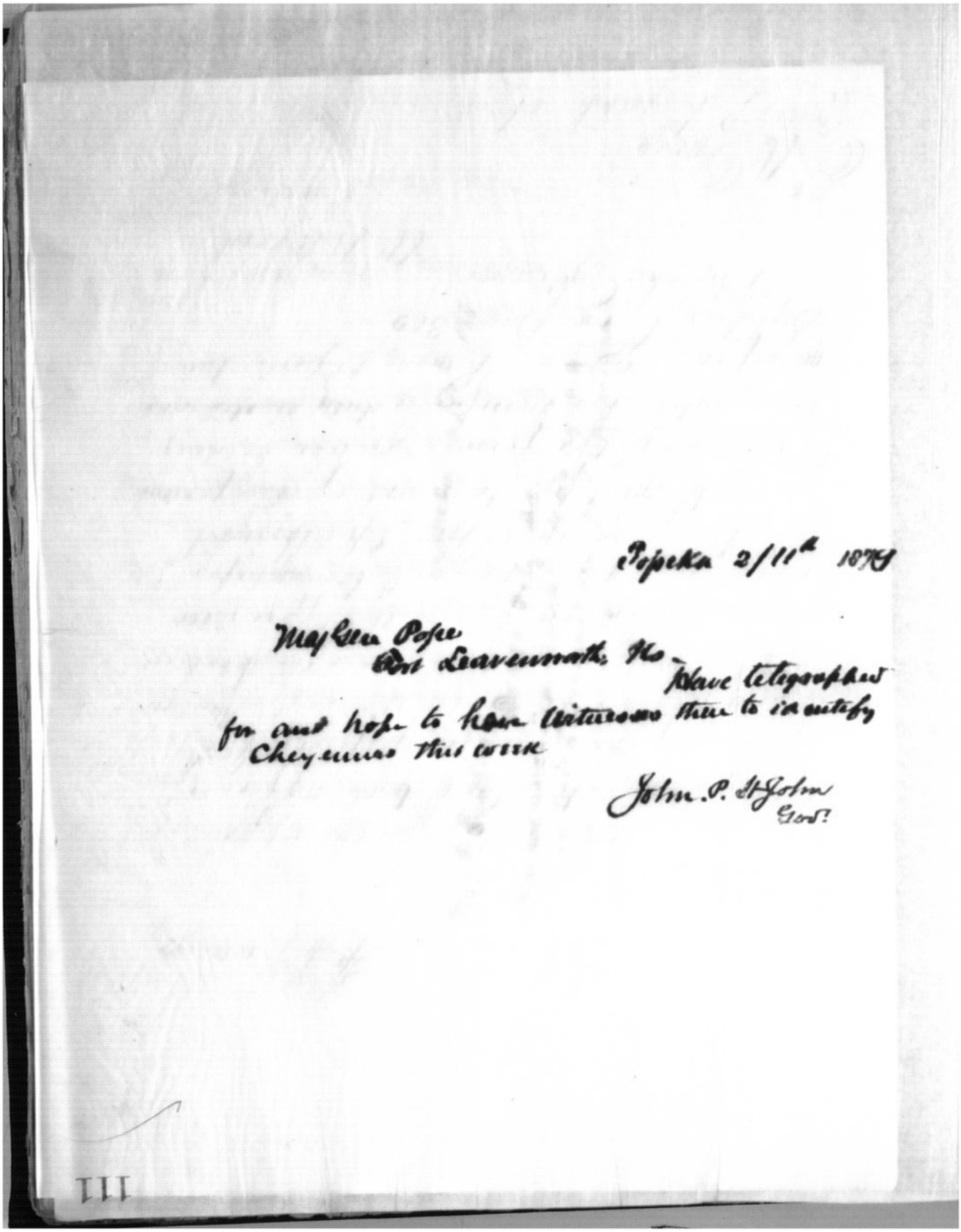
Topeka 2/11 1879

M.S. Sutton. Dodge City Ks.

Indians on ab Reservation. Have requests
Arms petitions to be Telegraphed upon for Hostiles raised
by you. Please be as prompt as possible. Notify me
when you will be here. Expenses will be paid.

John. P. St John Gov.

Governor John P. St. John letter press book



Topeka 2/11th 1875

Maj Gen Pope
Ft Leavenworth Ks.

Have telegraphed for and hope to have witnesses there to identify Cheyennes this week

John P. St John
Gov.

111