Kansas Memory

KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

J.R. Mead to George W. Martin

A letter from J.R. Mead of Wichita, Kansas, to George W. Martin, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas. Mead writes of his early years in Kansas, focusing mostly on his experiences with Indians.

Creator: Mead, James R. (James Richard), b. 1836

Date: April 10, 1909

Callnumber: Historical collections: Lincoln County

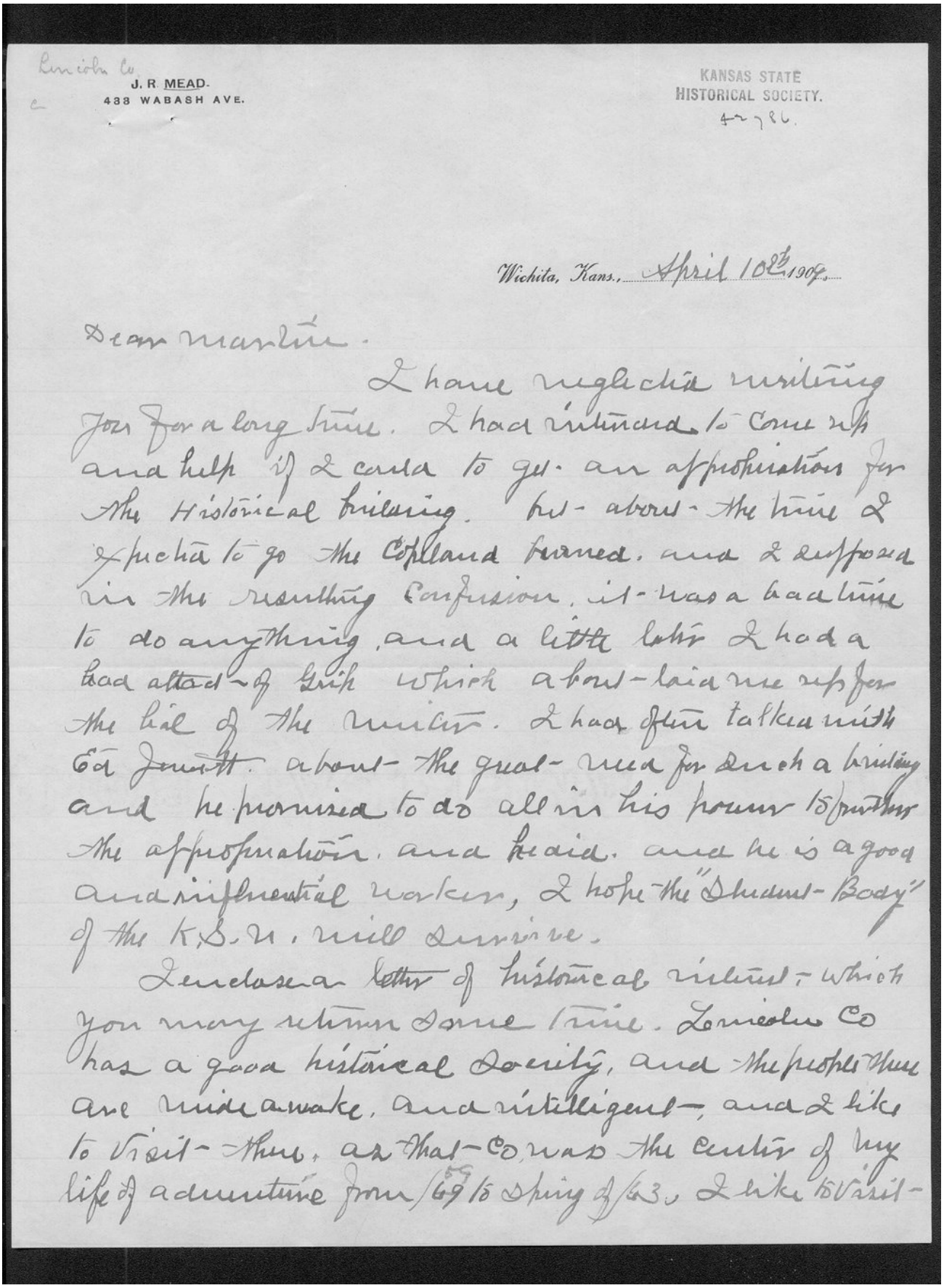
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Lincoln Co.

J. R. MEAD.
433 WABASH AVE.

KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
4-786.

Wichita, Kans., April 10th 1907.

Dear Martin.

I have neglected writing you for a long time. I had intended to come up and help if I could to get an appropriation for the Historical building. but - about the time I expected to go the Cowland burned, and I supposed in the resulting confusion, it was a bad time to do anything, and a little later I had a bad attack of Grip which about laid me up for the bal of the winter. I had often talked with Ed Jarrett about the great need for such a building and he promised to do all in his power to further the appropriation, and I said, and he is a good and influential worker, I hope the "Student-Body" of the K.S.U. will survive.

I enclose a letter of historical interest - which you may return some time. Lincoln Co has a good historical Society, and the people there are wide awake, and intelligent -, and I like to visit - there, as that - Co was the center of my life of adventure from '69 to Spring of '73. I like to visit -

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J. R. MEAD.
438 WABASH AVE.

Wichita, Kans., 190

my old camping grounds, and the places where I had adventures with Indians, and wild animals, somehow I cannot write the story of those times half as interesting as it actualy was. at the time I was there, there was no settlers on the Saline, except my self above Salina, and during those years but two persons were killed by Indians, on the Solomon, Saline and Smoky Hill, which was our Range, there were "Tommy Thorn" killed on Plum Creek, and "Chas Dean" who went up the Saline hunting with his Bro, and another man, he failed to return to camp one day and never was found. he might have been killed by a Buffalo, or by an accident he was a carpenter, and helped build my house on the Saline, of historical interest he was hunting South of Spillmans Creek.

If possible I will attend the dedication of the Mammut on may 31st, and perhaps visit some of the scenes of my adventures.

I have not heard of Bro Wrights for a long time I hope he is well, he is a good man, and one of the few who has seen it all, and still lives I hope

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J. R. MEAD.
433 WABASH AVE.

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Wichita, Kans., 190

If you have not found that Vol of Wisconsin Historical collections send to them and get another, and I will pay for it. Cheerfully. I have no recollection of the book, and have failed to find it among my books.

I have recently received a new book. "The Life of a Fossil Hunter." by Chas H. Sternberg of Lawrence, which should be in your Library. it tells a good deal about early life on the plains of Kansas. it would interest you. it is a Valuable Text-book.

I am feeling pretty well now Family are well. We have a pleasant home with blue grass. flowers and trees. nothing to worry about. I am taking life easy.

I am glad "Bent" has a position to his likes. I believe I will write him an article on, "Fishes in Kansas. before its Settlement" Something I never wrote about; nor any one else so far as I know, Very truly Yours

J.R. Mead,