# J.C. McCoy to W.W. Cone

In this letter to W.W. Cone, John C. McCoy discusses the early settlement of Kansas, including his belief that Napoleon Boone was the "first white child born within the limits of the state of Kansas." McCoy, who first came to the "territory" in 1830, lists some of the early settlers living in the eastern portion of the area. McCoy also discusses a stone house built by the U.S. Government for White Plume, head chief of the Kansa Indians.

Creator: McCoy, John Calvin, 1811-1889

Date: August 1879

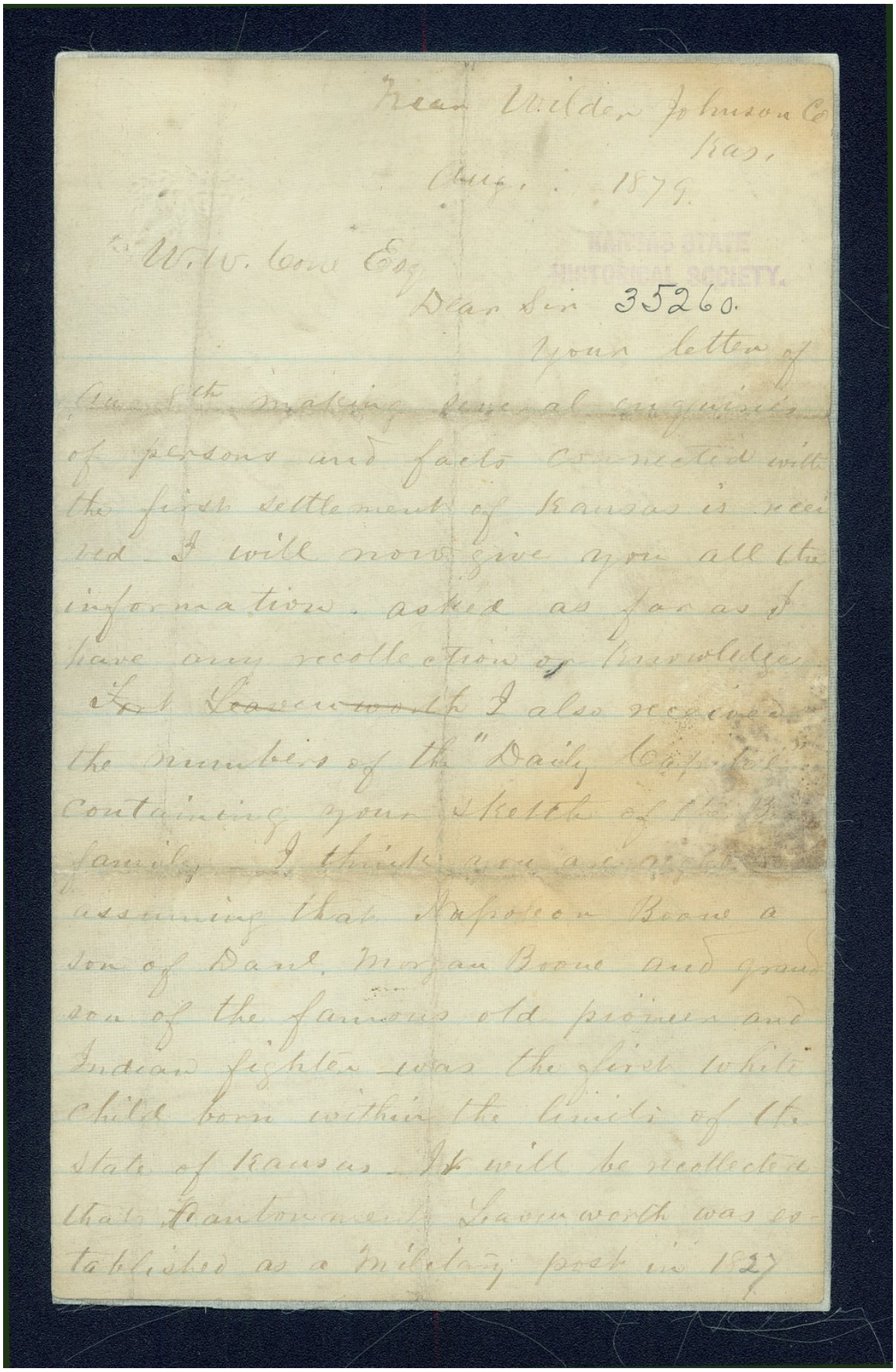
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# J.C. McCoy to W.W. Cone



Near Wilder Johnson Co
Kas.
Aug. 1879.

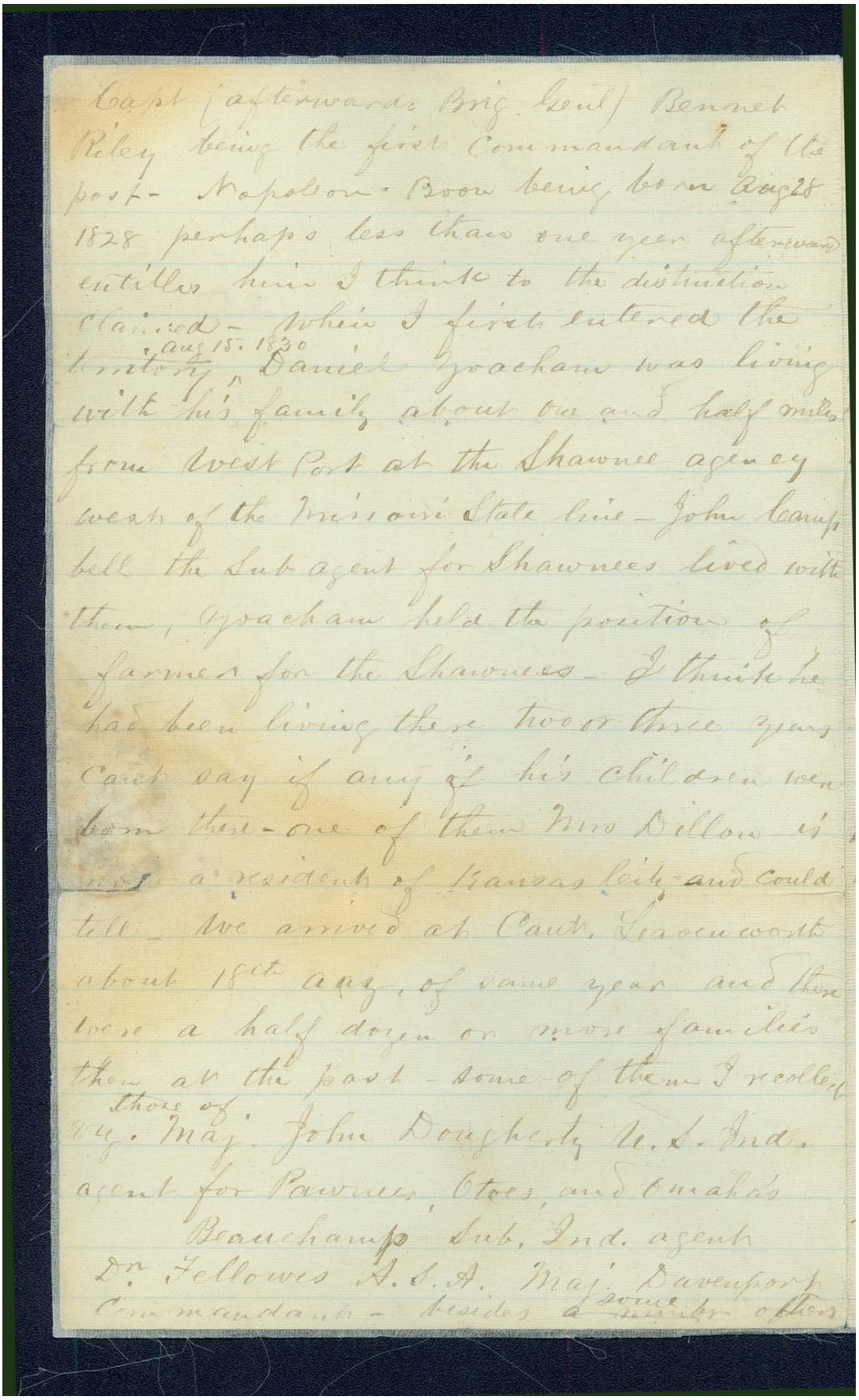
W.W. Cone Esq

Dear Sir 35260.

Your letter of
[illegible] making several inquiries
of persons and facts connected with
the first settlement of Kansas is rece
ived I will now give you all the
information asked as far as I
have any recollection or knowledge
of Fort Leavenworth I also received
the numbers of the "Daily Capitol"
containing your sketch of the B
family I think you are right
assuming that Napoleon Boone a
son of Danl. Morgan Boone and grand
son of the famous old pioneer and
Indian fighter was the first white
child born within the limits of the
State of Kansas It will be recollected
that Cantonment Leavenworth was es-
tablished as a Military post in 1827

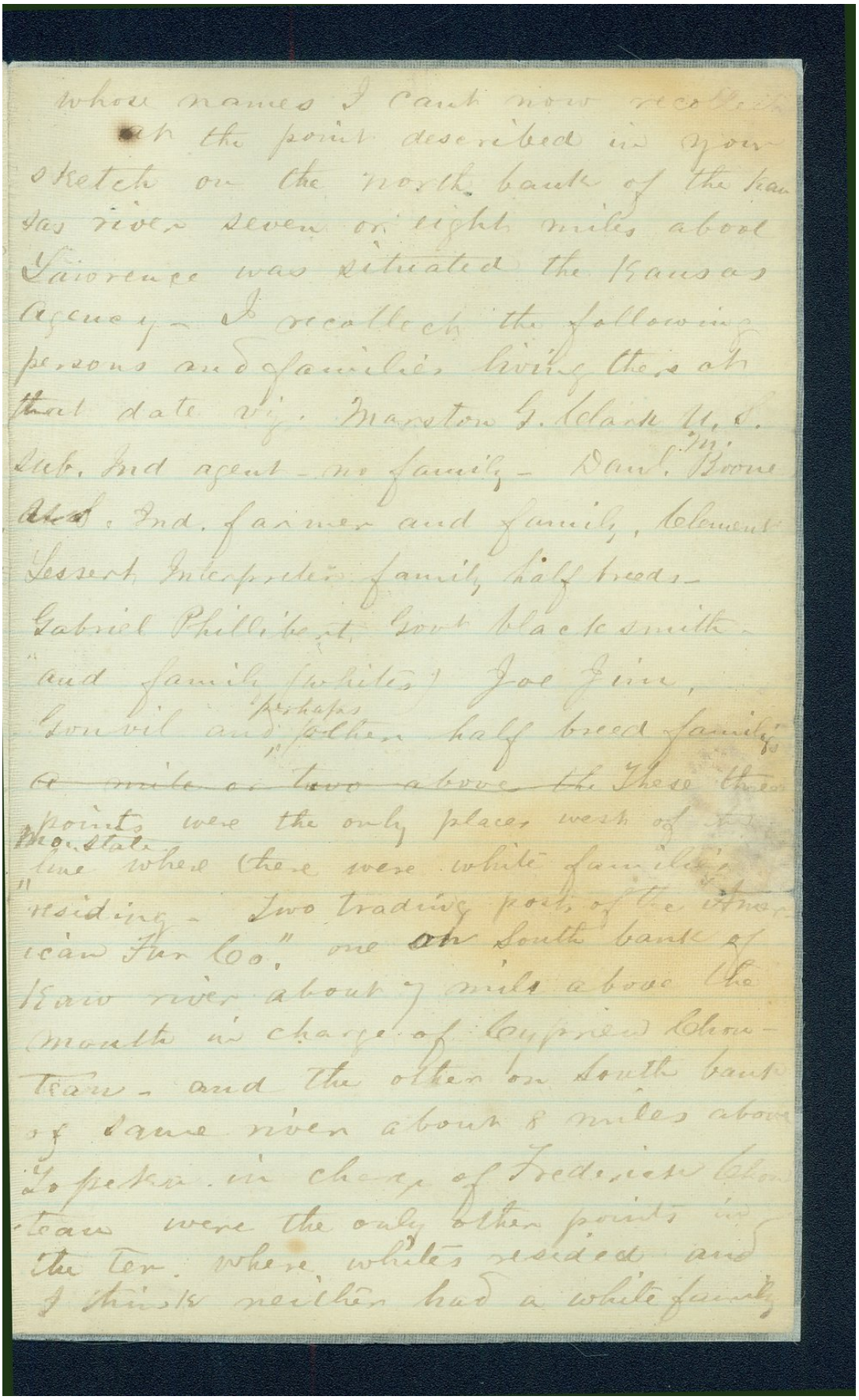

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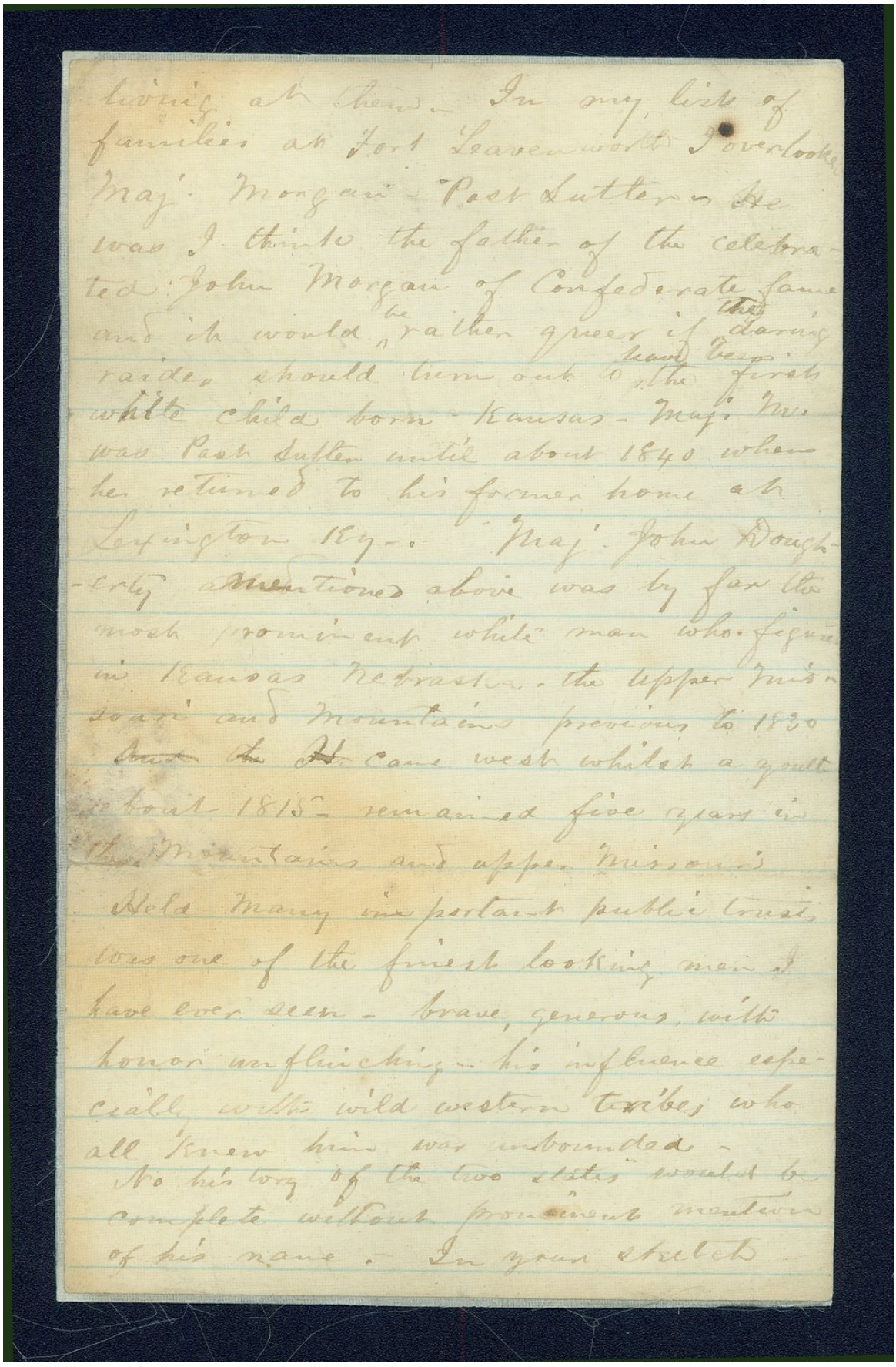
Capt (afterwards Brig. Genl) Bennett
Riley being the first Commandant of the
post - Napoleon - Boon being born Aug 28
1828 perhaps less than one year afterward
entitles him I think to the distinction
claimed - When I first entered the
territory, aug 15. 1830 Daniel Boacham was living
with his family about one and half miles
from West Port at the Shawnee agency
west of the Missouri State line - John Camp-
bell the Sub agent for Shawnees lived with
them, Boacham held the position of
farmer for the Shawnees - I think he
had been living there two or three years
Can't say if any of his children were
born there - one of them Mrs Dillon is
now a resident of Kansas City and could
tell - We arrived at Capt. Leavenworth
about 18th Aug. of same year and there
were a half dozen or more families
there at the post - some of them I recollect
those of
Maj. John Dougherty U.S. Ind.
agent for Pawnees, Otoes, and Omahas
Beauchamp Sub. Ind. agent
Dr. Fellowes A.S.A. Maj. Davenport
Commandant - besides a number others
some

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whose names I cant now recollect
at the point described in your
sketch on the north bank of the Kan
sas river seven or eight miles above
Lawrence was situated the Kansas
Agency - I recollect the following
persons and families living there at
that date viz. Marston G. Clark U. S.
Sub. Ind agent - no family - Dan'l. Boone
Asst. Ind. farmer and family, Clements
Tessert Interpreter family half breeds -
Gabriel Philibert Govt blacksmith -
" and family (whites) Joe Jim,
Louvil and (perhaps) other half breed families
~~6 mile or two above the~~ These three
points were the only places west of the
Mo. State line where there were white families
residing - Two trading posts of the Amer-
ican Fur Co." one on South bank of
Kaw river about 3 miles above the
mouth in charge of Cyprien Chou-
teau - and the other on South bank
of Dave river about 8 miles above
Topeka in charge of Frederick Chou-
teau were the only other points in
the Ter. where whites resided and
I think neither had a white family

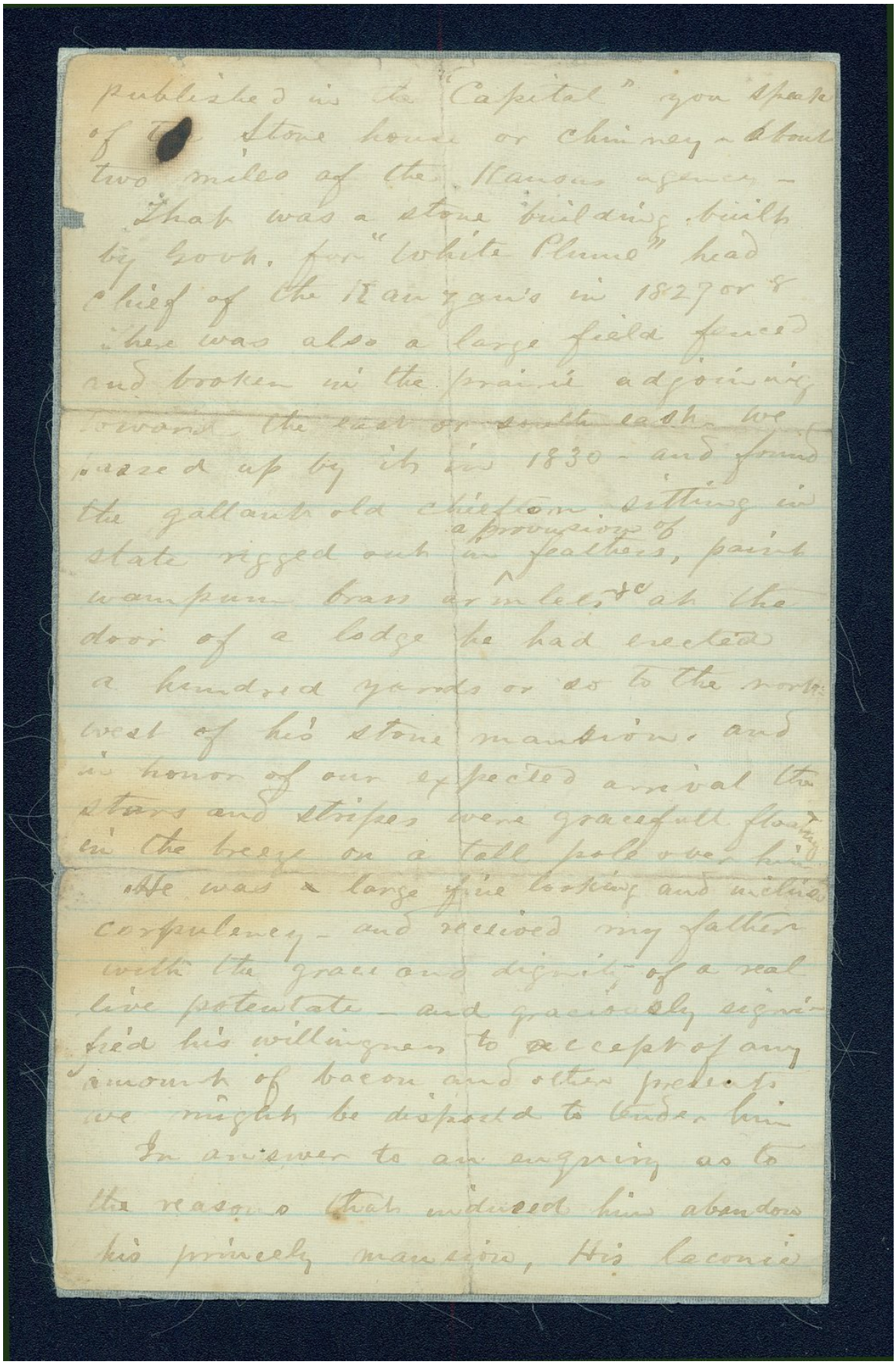
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living at them. In my list of families at Fort Leavenworth I overlook Maj. Morgan - Post Sutlers &c he was I think the father of the celebrated John Morgan of Confederate fame and it would rather queer if this daring raider should turn out to be the first white child born - Kansas - Maj. Mc was Post Sutler until about 1840 when he returned to his former home at Lexington Ky - Maj. John Dougherty above mentioned above was by far the most prominent white man who figured in Kansas Nebraska - the Upper Missouri and Mountains previous to 1830 [illegible] came west whilst a youth about 1815 - remained five years in the Mountains and upper Missouri Held many important public trust, was one of the finest looking men I have ever seen - brave, generous, with honor unflinching - his influence especially with wild western tribes, who all knew him was unbounded -

No history of the two states would be complete without prominent mention of his name. In your sketch

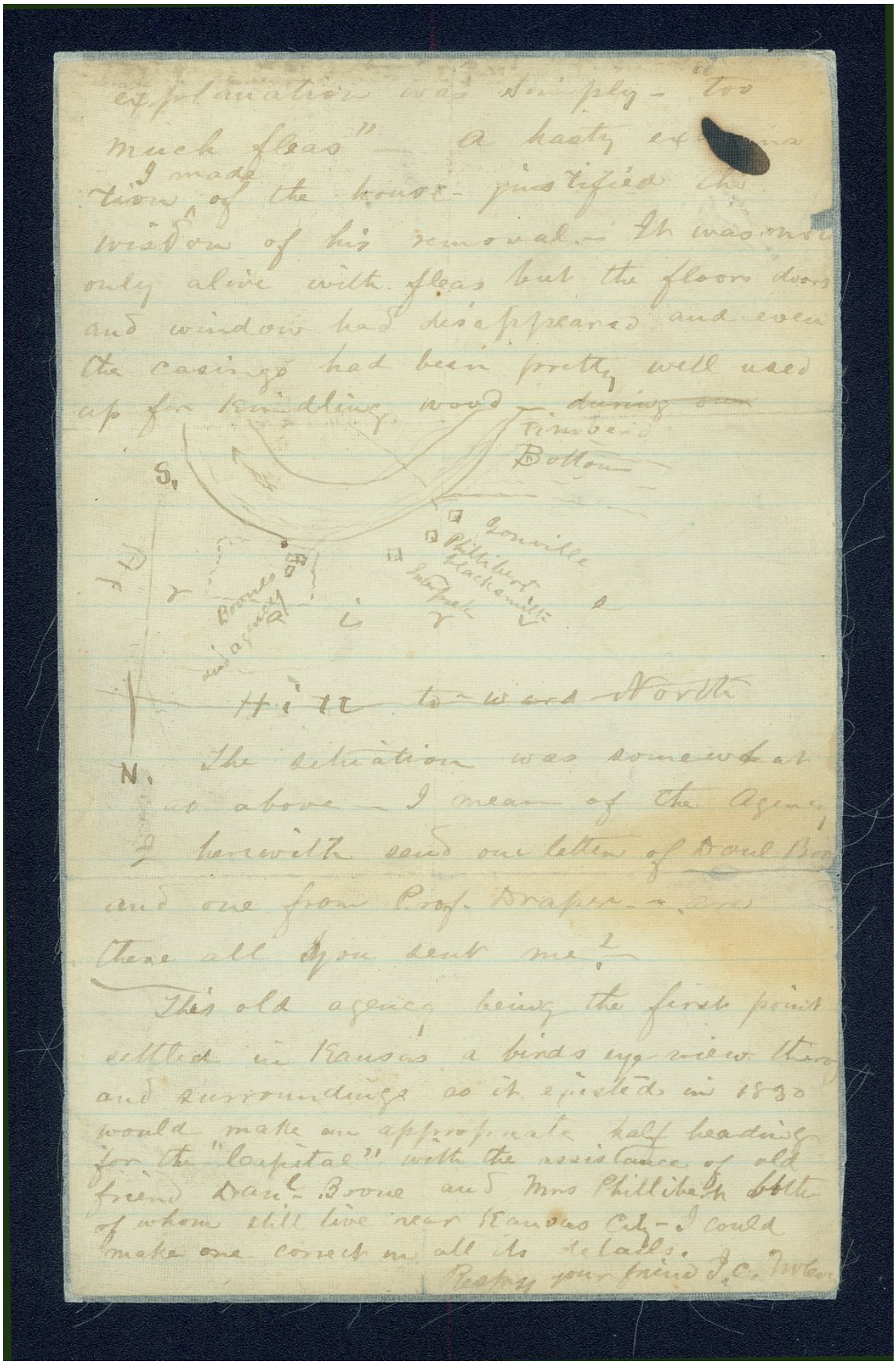
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published in the "Capital" you speak of the stone house or chimney about two miles of the Kansas agency - That was a stone building built by Govt. for "White Plume" head chief of the Kaw-yaw's in 1827 or 8 there was also a large field fenced and broken in the prairie adjoining towards the east or south each we passed up by in in 1830 - and found the gallant old chieftain sitting in a procumbent state rigged out in feathers, paint wampum brass armlets, &c at the door of a lodge he had erected a hundred yards or so to the north west of his stone mansion, and in honor of our expected arrival the stars and stripes were gracefully floating in the breeze on a tall pole over him. He was a large fine looking and noble corpulency - and received my father with the grace and dignity of a real live potentate - and graciously signified his willingness to accept of any amount of bacon and other presents we might be disposed to tender him.

In answer to an enquiry as to the reason that induced him abandon his princely mansion, His laconic

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explanation was simply – "too much fleas" – a hasty examination of the house – justified the wisdom of his removal. – It was not only alive with fleas but the floors doors and window had disappeared and even the casings had been pretty well used up for kindling wood – during our winter Bottom

S.

Louisville
Philibert
Blackmore

Road to Agency

N.

Hill to wood North

The situation was somewhat as above – I mean of the Agency. I herewith send our letter of Daniel Boone and one from Prof. Draper – are these all you sent me?

This old agency being the first point settled in Kansas a birds eye view thereof and surroundings as it existed in 1830 would make an appropriate half heading for the "Capital" with the assistance of old friend Danl Boone and Mrs Philibert both of whom still live near Kansas City – I could make one correct in all its details.

Ready your friend J.C. McCoy