

# Kansas Memory



## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

### Section 18, Pages 511 - 540

This collection reflects E. P. Lamborn's life long interest in crime, criminals and law officers. E. P. Lamborn was an amateur historian and collector of sources on crime and criminals of the Middle West in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His interests ranged from bandits, peace officers, famous detectives, and buffalo hunters. The Correspondence and Research section, presented here, contains much information on these topics from friends, relatives, companies, law officers, etc., who had some connection or dealings with these individuals. The arrangement for this section, generally, is alphabetical by last name of the correspondent. A detailed, searchable calendar of correspondents is available by clicking on "Text Version" below or by accessing the full collection finding aid in the link below. A transcription of this correspondence is not yet available. This series comprises boxes 2 and 3 of the E. P. Lamborn collection. You can find individual items in the order they are described in the "calendar of correspondents" by using the page selection feature available when you are looking at a full sized page image.

Creator: Lamborn, E. P. (Edward Parker), 1890-1978

Date: 1915-1965

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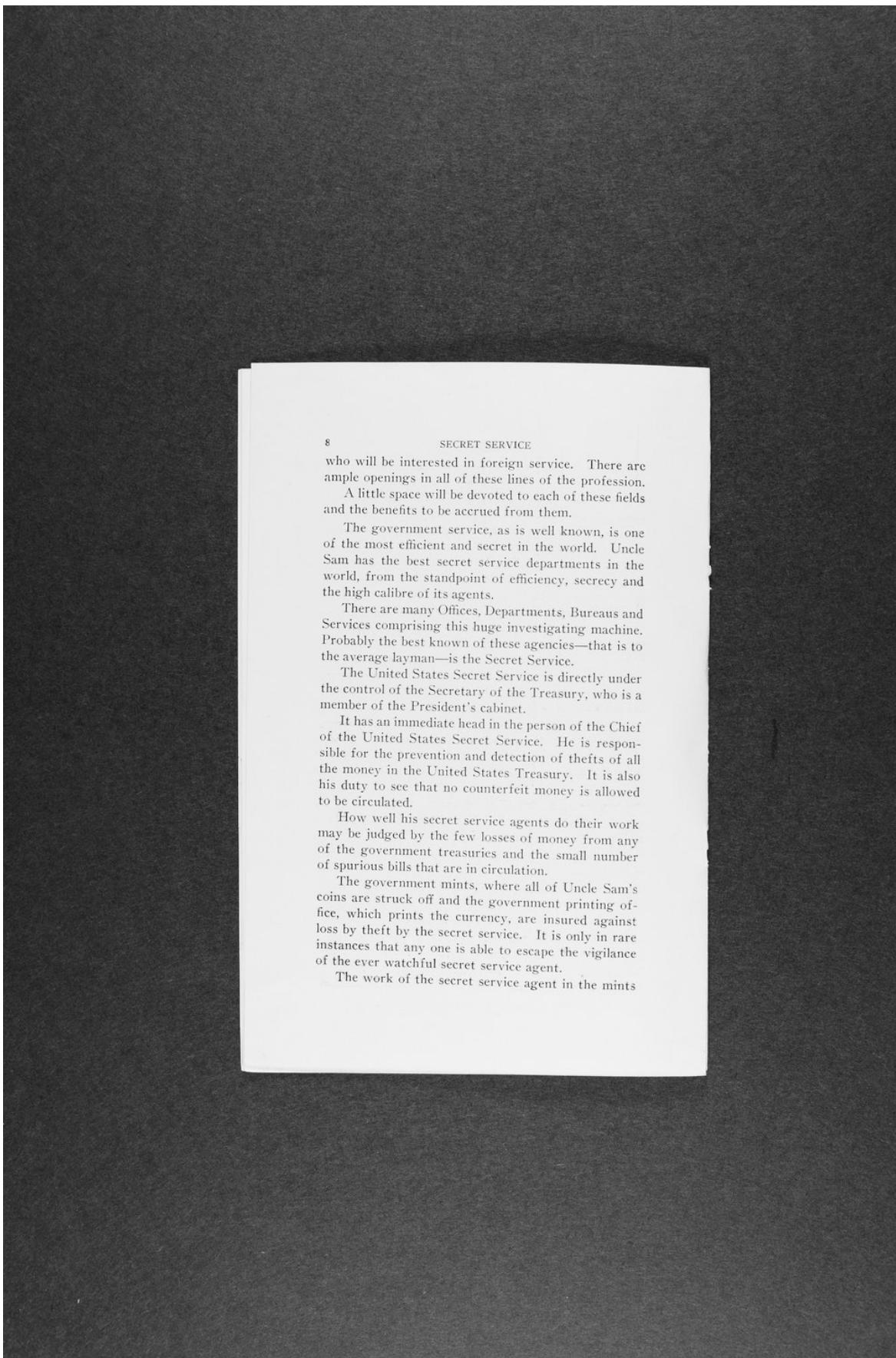
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HISTORICAL  
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# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers



8

### SECRET SERVICE

who will be interested in foreign service. There are ample openings in all of these lines of the profession.

A little space will be devoted to each of these fields and the benefits to be accrued from them.

The government service, as is well known, is one of the most efficient and secret in the world. Uncle Sam has the best secret service departments in the world, from the standpoint of efficiency, secrecy and the high calibre of its agents.

There are many Offices, Departments, Bureaus and Services comprising this huge investigating machine. Probably the best known of these agencies—that is to the average layman—is the Secret Service.

The United States Secret Service is directly under the control of the Secretary of the Treasury, who is a member of the President's cabinet.

It has an immediate head in the person of the Chief of the United States Secret Service. He is responsible for the prevention and detection of thefts of all the money in the United States Treasury. It is also his duty to see that no counterfeit money is allowed to be circulated.

How well his secret service agents do their work may be judged by the few losses of money from any of the government treasuries and the small number of spurious bills that are in circulation.

The government mints, where all of Uncle Sam's coins are struck off and the government printing office, which prints the currency, are insured against loss by theft by the secret service. It is only in rare instances that any one is able to escape the vigilance of the ever watchful secret service agent.

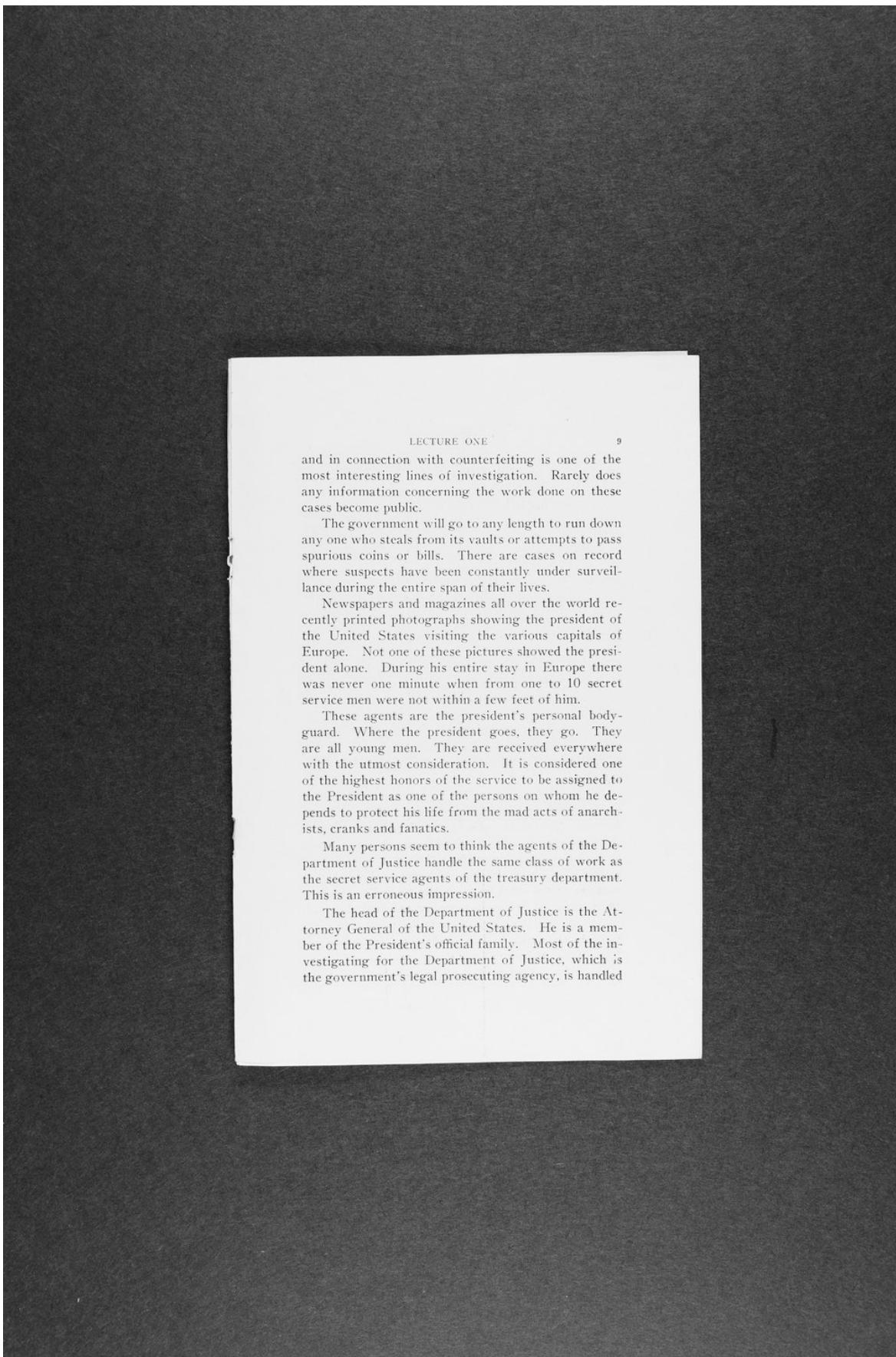
The work of the secret service agent in the mints

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers



LECTURE ONE 9  
and in connection with counterfeiting is one of the most interesting lines of investigation. Rarely does any information concerning the work done on these cases become public.

The government will go to any length to run down any one who steals from its vaults or attempts to pass spurious coins or bills. There are cases on record where suspects have been constantly under surveillance during the entire span of their lives.

Newspapers and magazines all over the world recently printed photographs showing the president of the United States visiting the various capitals of Europe. Not one of these pictures showed the president alone. During his entire stay in Europe there was never one minute when from one to 10 secret service men were not within a few feet of him.

These agents are the president's personal bodyguard. Where the president goes, they go. They are all young men. They are received everywhere with the utmost consideration. It is considered one of the highest honors of the service to be assigned to the President as one of the persons on whom he depends to protect his life from the mad acts of anarchists, cranks and fanatics.

Many persons seem to think the agents of the Department of Justice handle the same class of work as the secret service agents of the treasury department. This is an erroneous impression.

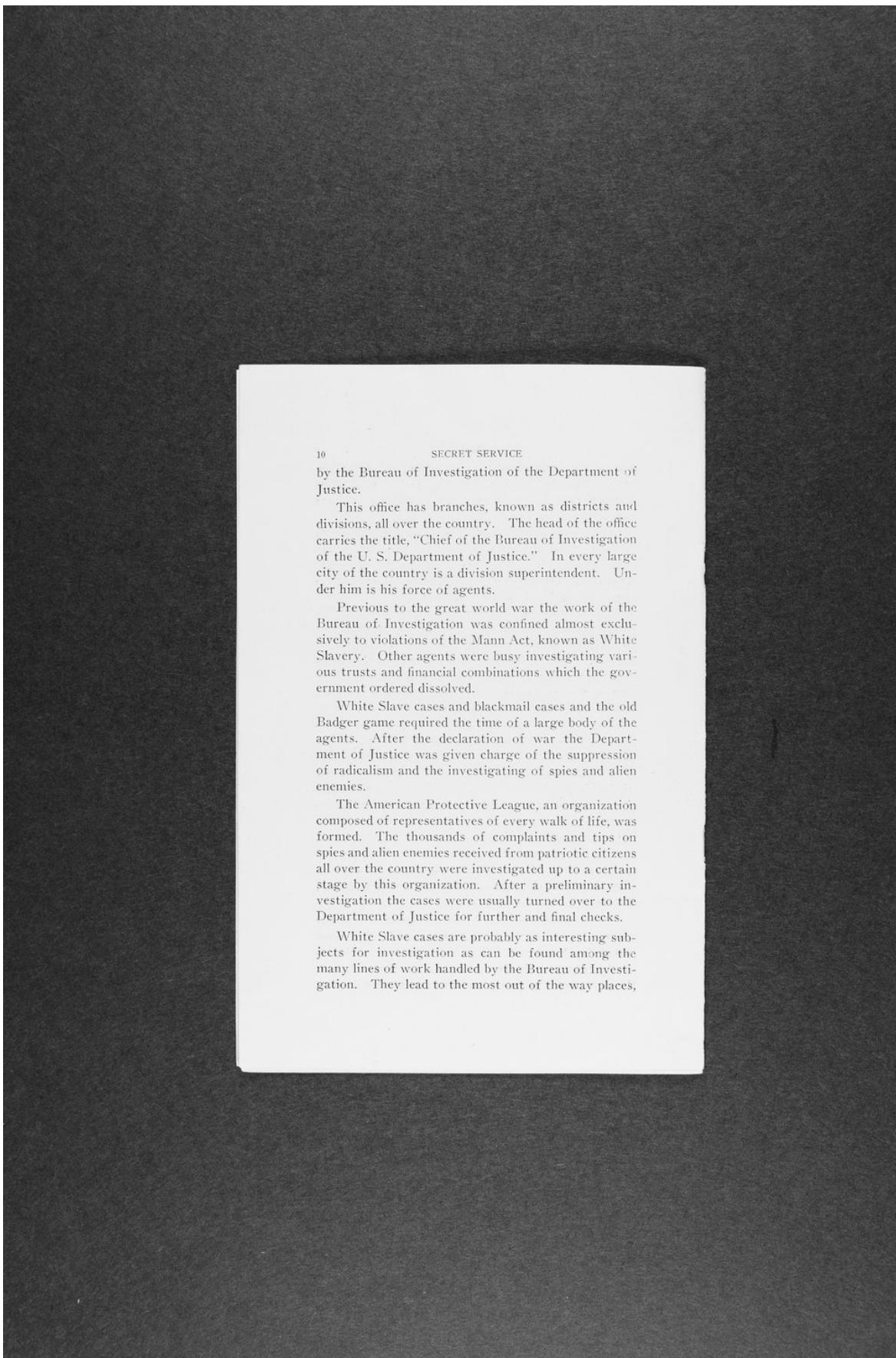
The head of the Department of Justice is the Attorney General of the United States. He is a member of the President's official family. Most of the investigating for the Department of Justice, which is the government's legal prosecuting agency, is handled

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

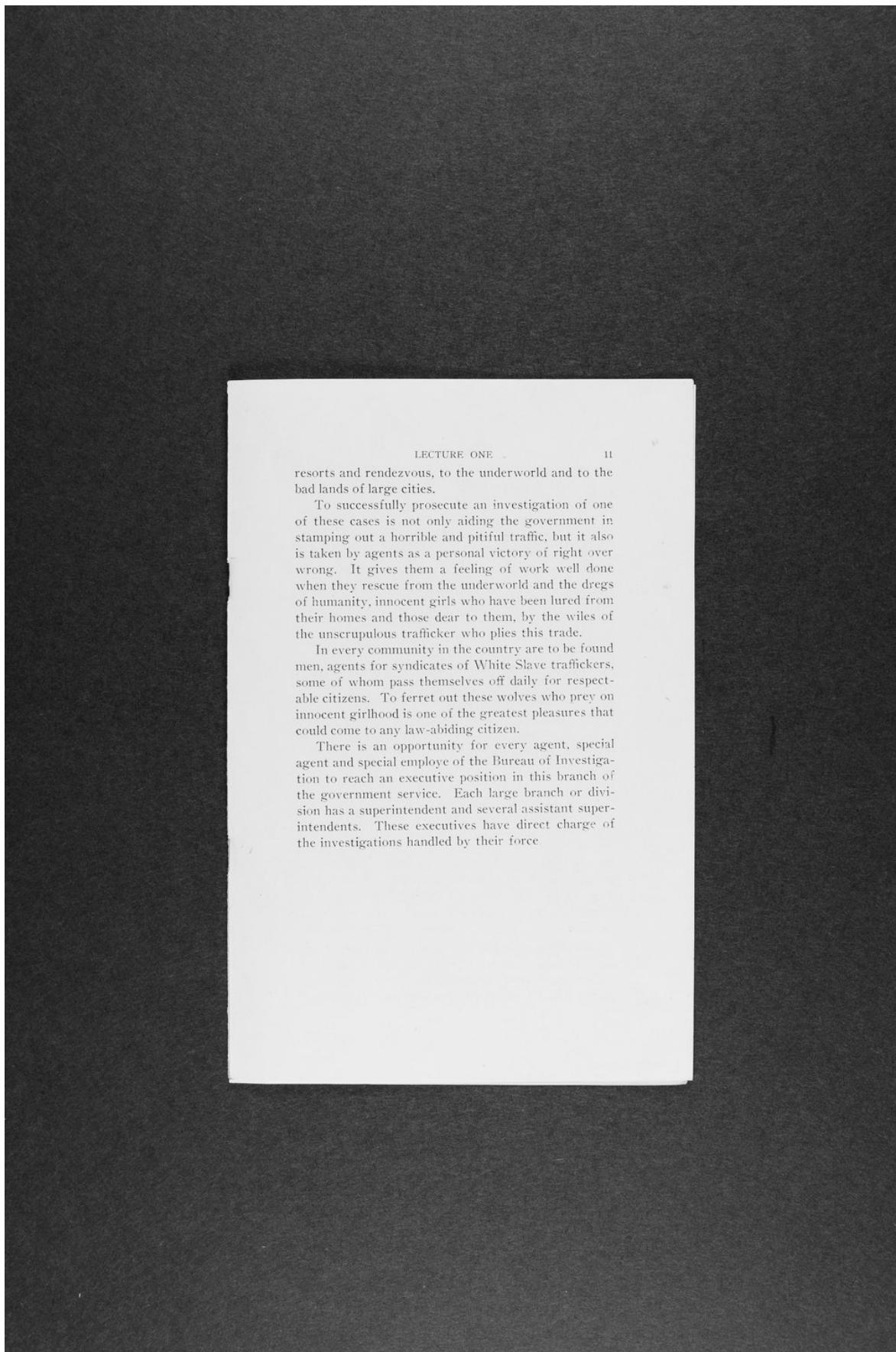


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SOCIETY

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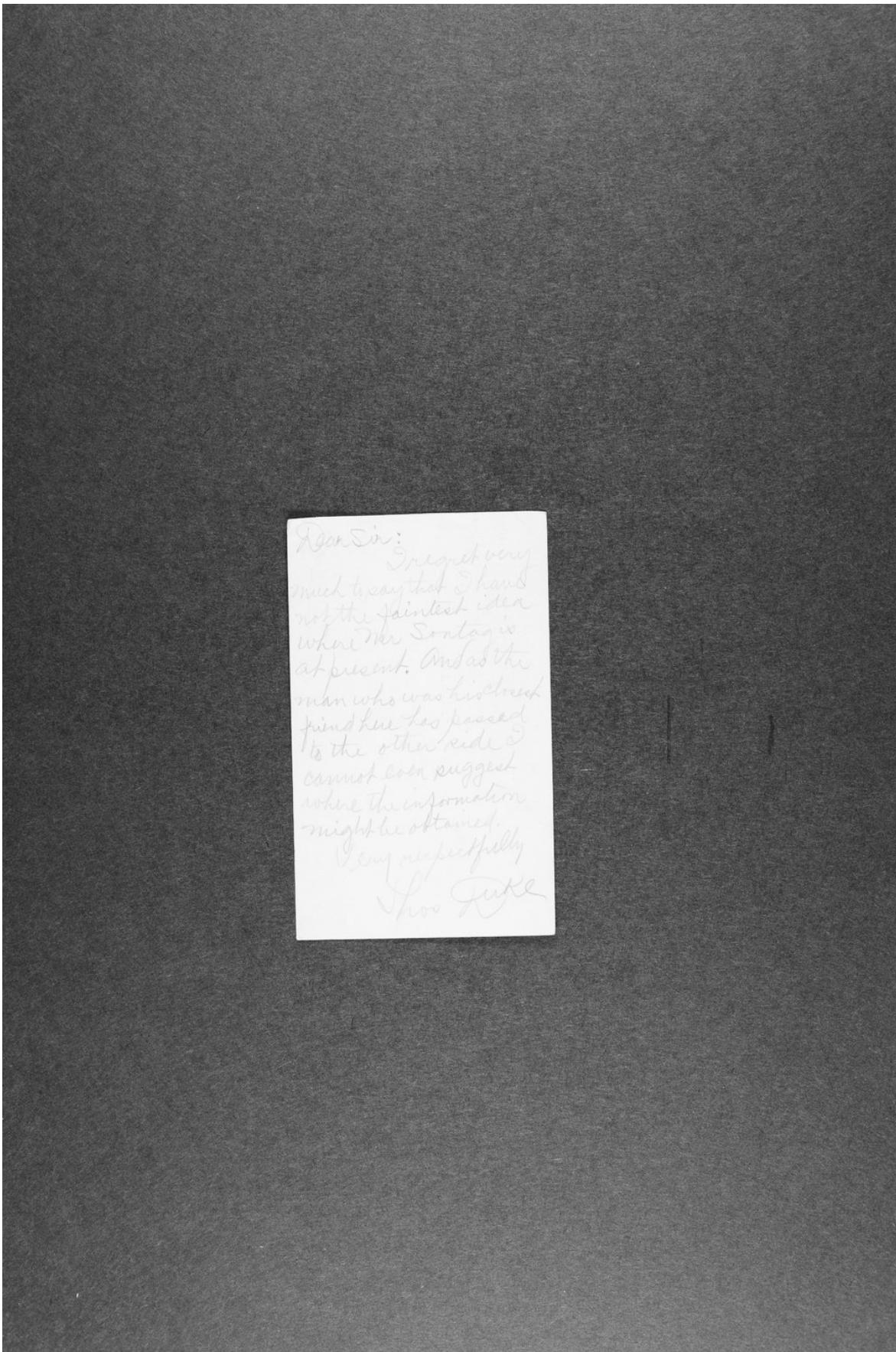


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SOCIETY

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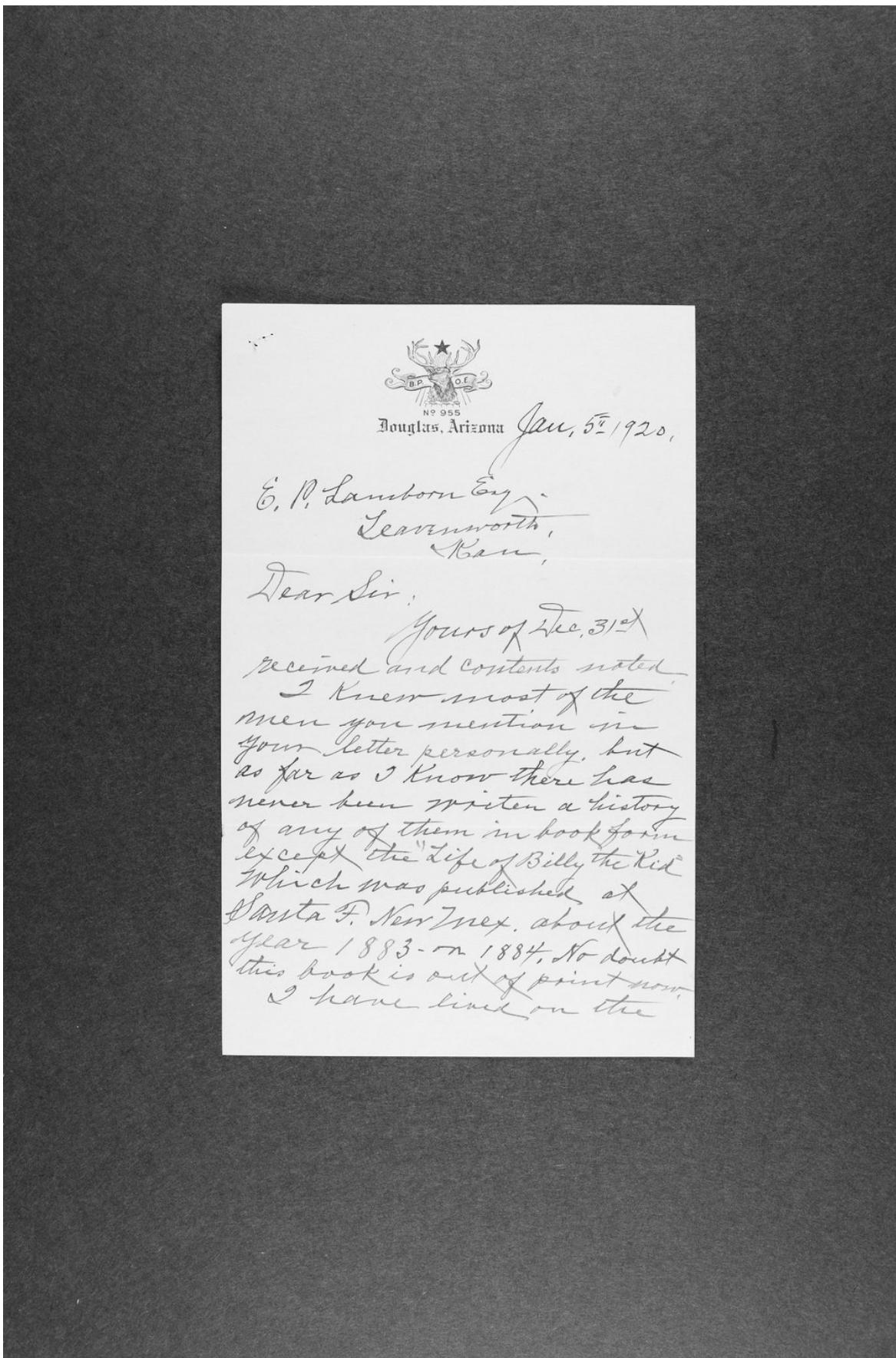
**Dunlap School of Finger Prints**  
1029 South Wabash Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

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## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

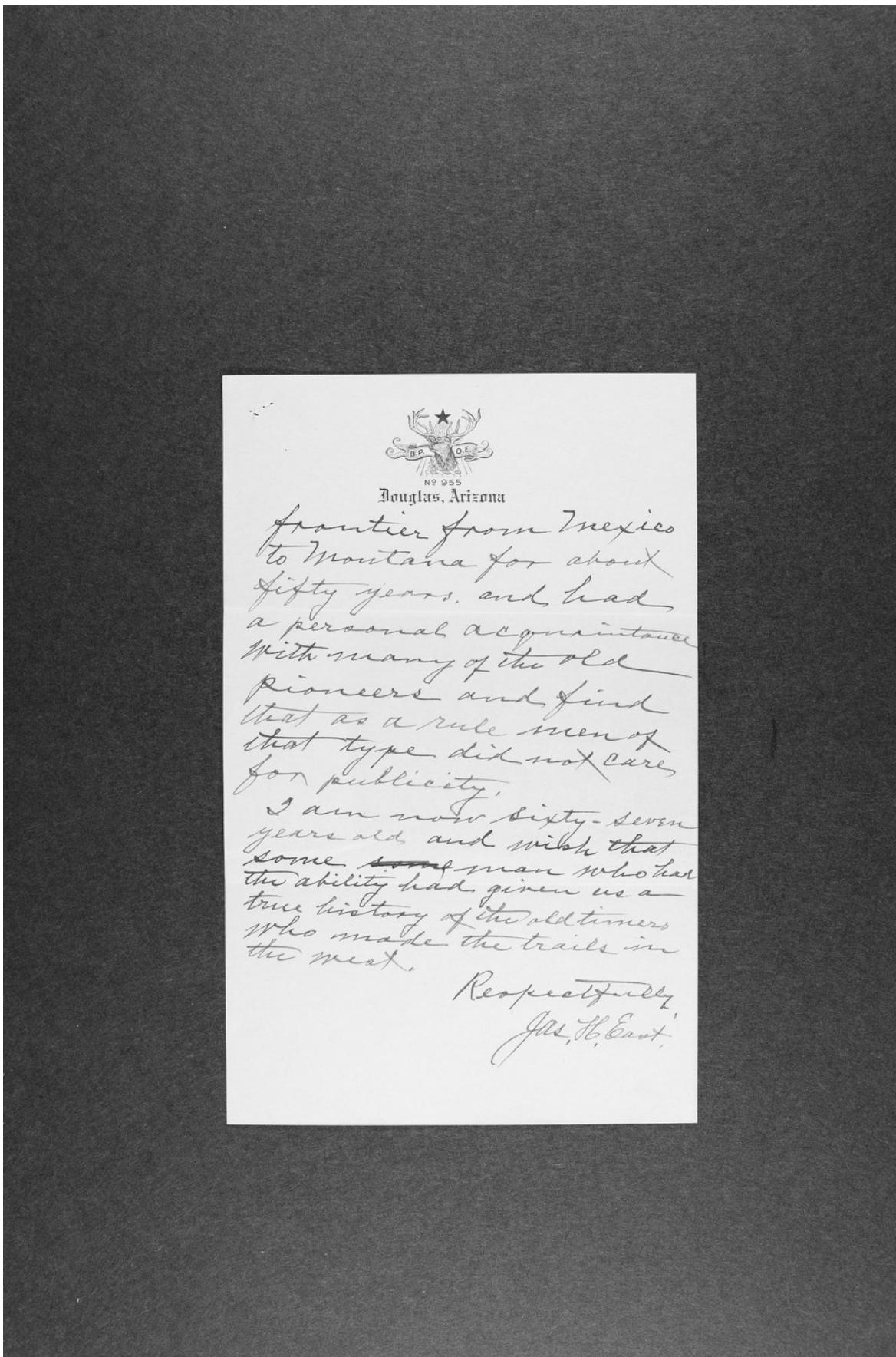


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SOCIETY

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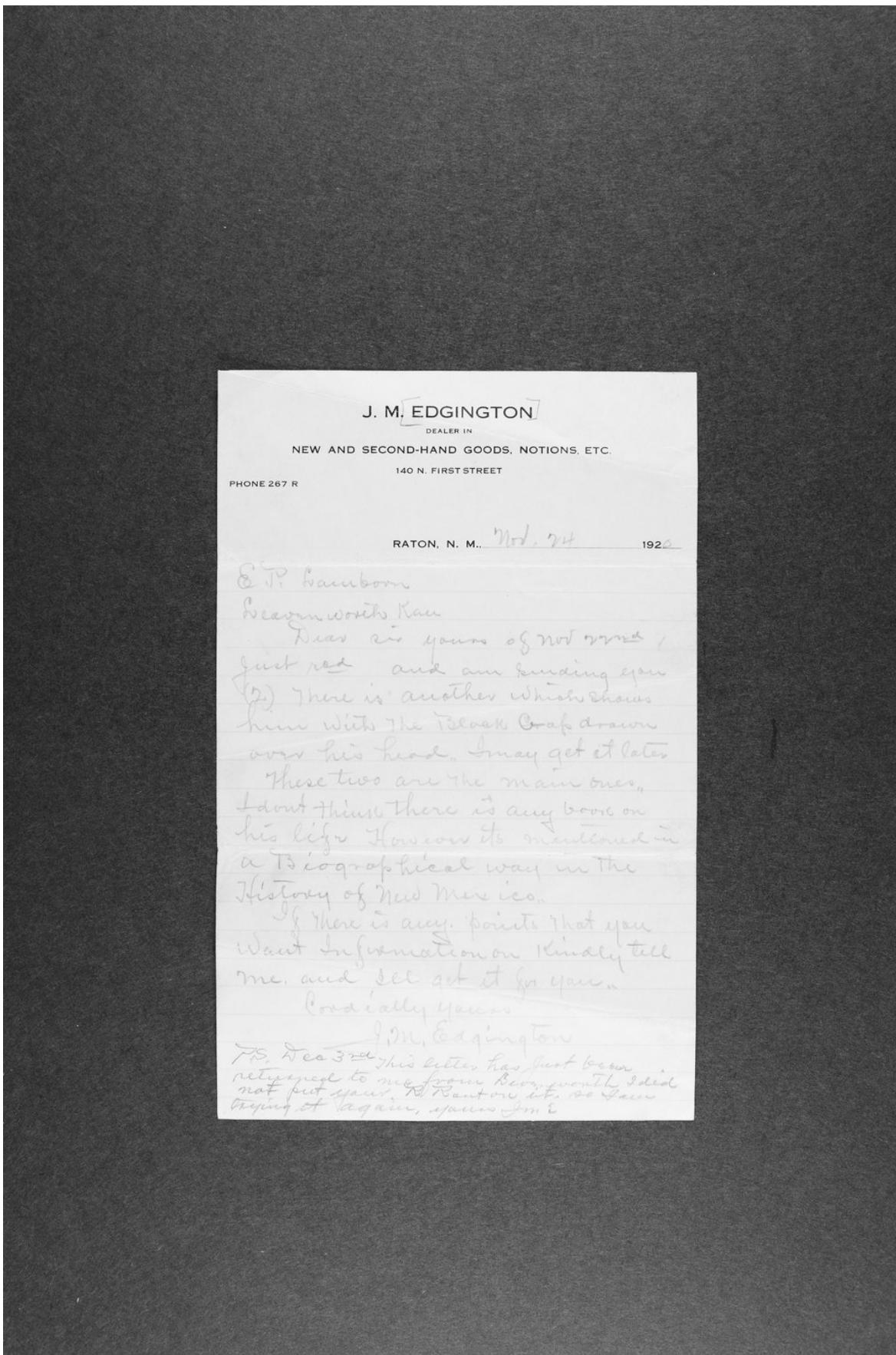


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KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

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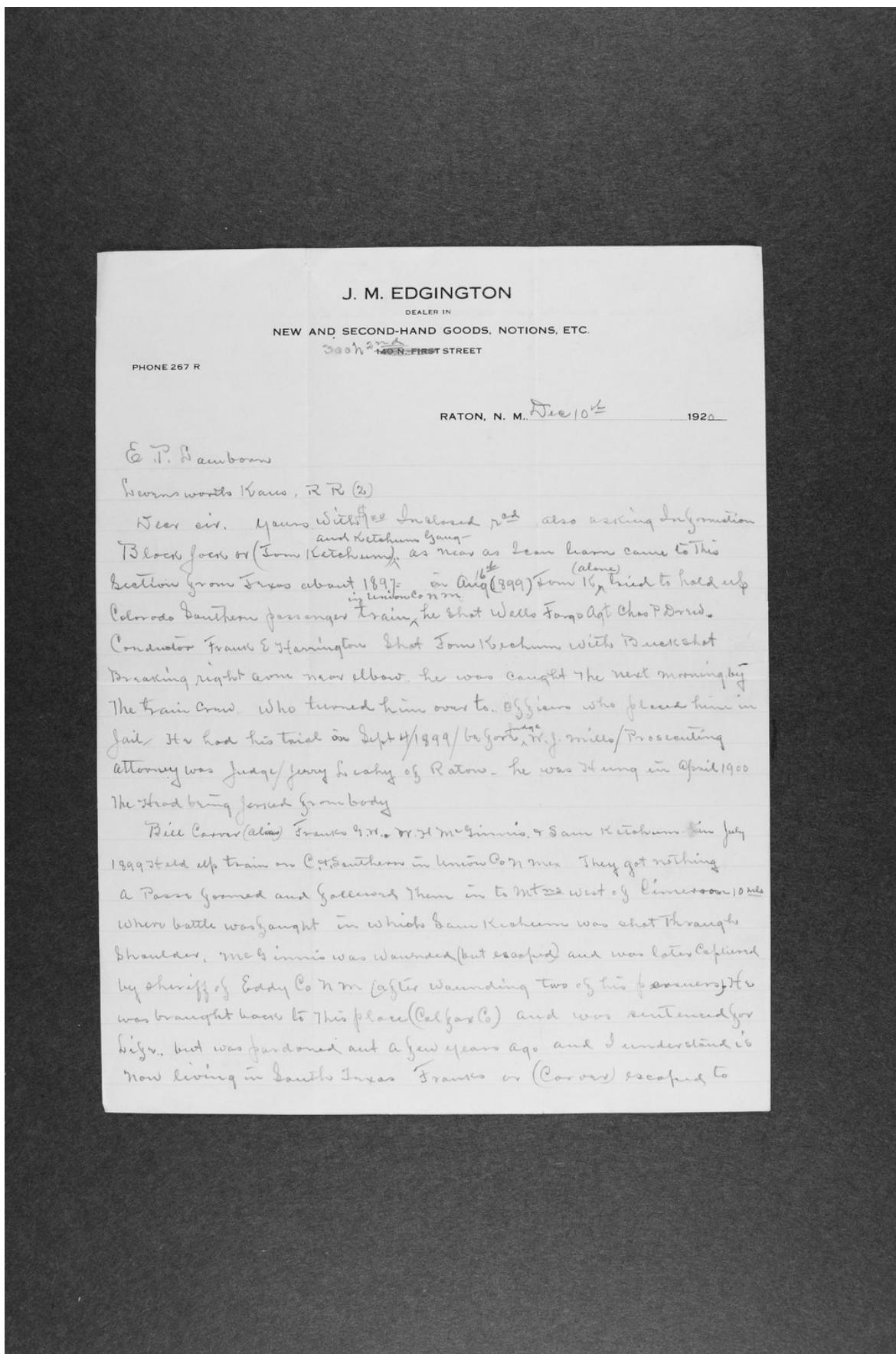


# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers



# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

to Old Mexico, where we understood he was killed in 1902  
by the Posse Edward Fast, and Boon was killed -  
Wilson Elliott, Wyo, St. Reno, and a man named Frakes were wounded  
only one man in Poore escaped a wound; Sam Ketchum was  
sitting behind a tree (14) in Diamond when hit the ball passing  
through the tree. He was taken to Santa Fe N.M. several  
days later where he died. I am under the impression  
that there was \$200 reward offered at the time.

You could find out many things that I am not familiar  
with by visiting Dep Sheriff Chas Thacker or Judge Jerry Seelye  
Raton, N.Mex. These are old timers & good men. Know these men

I understand there are some pictures in this section that  
might interest you one is the tree which Sam Ketchum was  
behind when shot. Showing Bullet hole & blood. It was taken the  
next day after battle.

- Will I have went to considerable trouble today to  
gather this data for you, and hope it's about what you want  
If I knew just what you wanted or was driving at I could  
perhaps do much better.

Yours  
J.W. Edington

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

Abilene Ks. May 4/32  
E. P. Lamborn  
endorse  
only a few minutes after  
I had mailed letter to you an  
answer to the Wilson letter  
& recd your letter to me  
There is but little I have  
to say in this as my first letter  
answered fully or nearly so  
your wants regarding Hickok  
& do not recall that I ever  
read what Ben Thompson and  
Hardin may have said regarding  
Hickok, tho' may and forgetters it -  
have read many a great many  
such write ups by different  
ones who much to say, but little  
that is facts, there are many  
publications that seem to be in  
the market willing to pay for  
anything they can get regardless  
of its being facts, anything so it

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

7/ furnish Hell + mania reading  
to their readers, I have had  
scores of letters coming from  
all parts of our land from  
men who write for papers +  
magazines, asking for information  
regarding "Wild Bill" excepting  
Connelly, and Wildcatch I have  
invariably turned them down.  
Some 6 or 7 years ago the K C Star  
copied from a New York paper  
an article also a purported picture  
of "Wild Bill" the article was a  
pound and the picture also a pound  
& called them down, they sent  
their man here for a write up,  
from me & enclose it with this  
and ask you to return it to me  
Hickok had when marshal here  
in 1871. Very little trouble excepting  
the Phil Colz matter, that called  
for action from Hickok to use his  
gun and it was effective, there was  
no other trouble during his stay  
here that called for such action

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

on his part, He made many arrests of course many went to the Calaboose and were fined &c &c but he killed only Cox + Williams here

Frank J Wilstach wrote and had published a Book on Hickok it came out about 4 or 5 years ago, it was a fairly good work any book store can get it for you, yes I have written some for our local papers here have been often asked to talk at meetings of the Rotary Club, the Lions Club &c

No one knows how many he killed during his services in the Civil war, he killed 3 at Rock Creek stage station one at Springfield Mo. two here and one or two at Hayes City Mo. that will very nearly cover all his killings outside the war and Indians

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

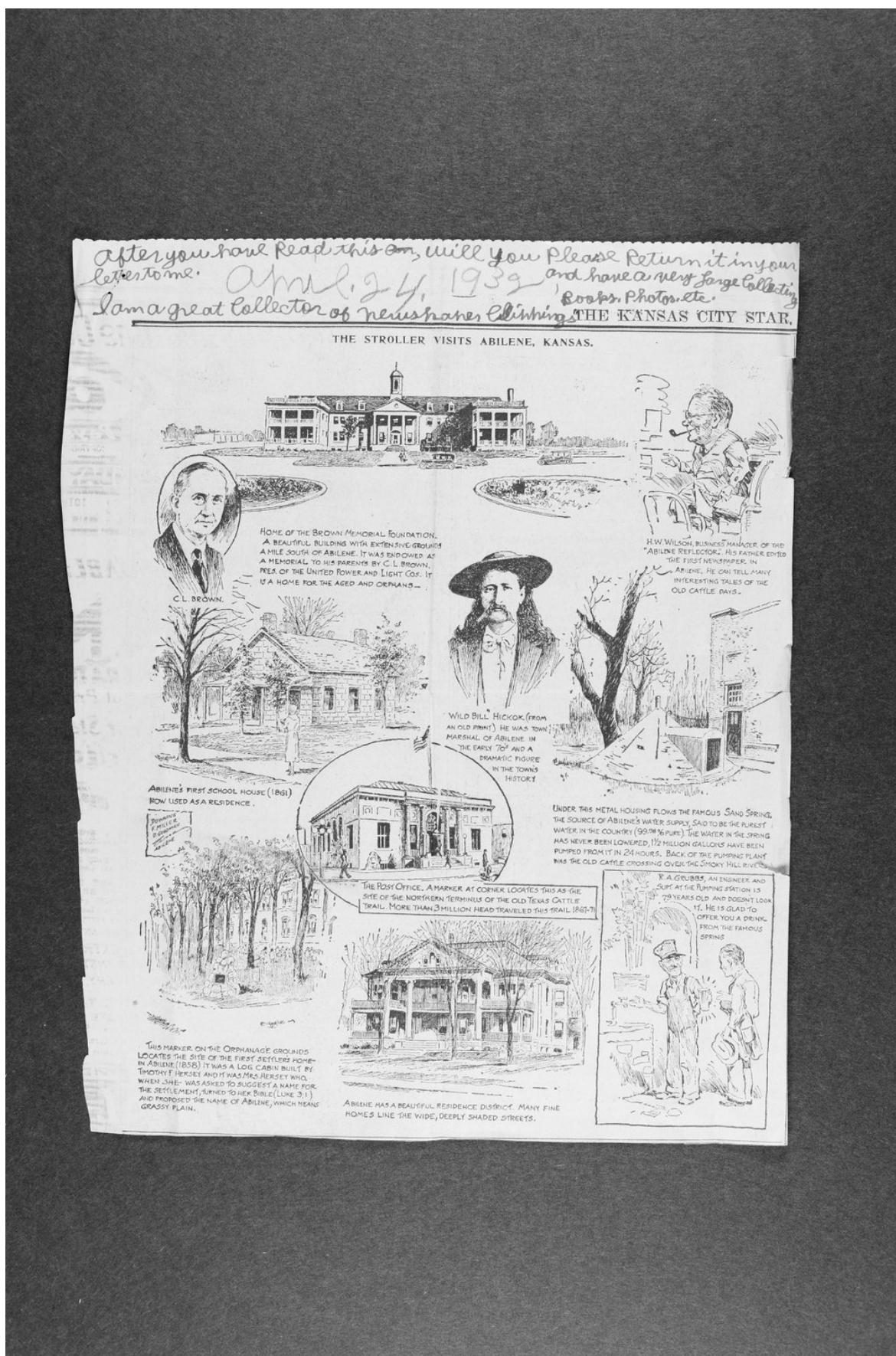
Through an incident that happened here in 1871. it came about that I got quite close and Chumy with him was a close friend, he was not a strict moral man, liked to gamble when not otherwise employed drank some but never to become intoxicated, He expected to die with his boat on finally, and did die that way  
There are people who consider him as being a cold blooded Murderer but I do not, He killed only when he had to and as I believe was fully justified  
I return your clipping  
Please return mine and the  
Yours J B Edwards

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers



# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

Coll.  
Box 2

Mr E P Lamborn  
Abilene Ks May 2d/32

Dear Sir

Mr Wilson of the Reflector here handed me your letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> to read, you ask in same some facts concerning Abilene early history - I was here during the Texas Cattle Trade days. came here at the age of 26 years, and think I know most of what was going on during that period here. I am nearly 90 years old but have kept vividly before me by writing the history of these early days, my memory as to the actual facts so will answer the questions you asked of Mr Wilson who was a small boy then. John W Hardin and Ben Thompson did not run a bluff on J B Hickok

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

I when he was marshal of Abilene  
any write ups you may have  
read as such matters is mere  
rat and nothing else.

II. Hickok was appointed City  
Marshall of Abilene by J. G. McCoy  
Mayor on the 18th of April 1871.  
and served until Dec 13th 1871.

III. Hickok killed two men here  
during the time of his service as  
marshal Phil Coe, a drunken bully  
and Mike McCoy Williams who was a  
private policeman for the Novelty  
Theater and a trusted friend of  
Hickok. He McCoy Williams rushing to  
Hickok assistance in the dark  
hours of the evening with revolver  
in his hand, Hickok seeing him  
with gun in his hand coming  
towards him, before recognized  
who it was shot him believing  
him to be one of Coe's gang  
He Hickok shed tears over the  
great mistake he made

IV. - there has been only one  
book published of the early days

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

3d<sup>n</sup>  
in absence excepting one copy  
Book published in 1874 which  
you say you have read, the other  
Book published in 1930, written  
by Stuart Henry, & its title "  
"Conquering the great American  
Plains," over 400 pages, illustrated  
by a no of Pictures, the price \$5.00  
is bought of the publishers, but  
can be bought of the Best Book  
Store here for \$3.75

V, I can furnish you a fine  
Photo of James Butler Hickok for  
one dollar, have sold nearly  
100 of them during the past 20  
years - it is a real photo of  
him and tho you have seen no  
doubt many which purported to  
one of him, the one I have is  
the only one that is really  
J.B. Hickok, "Wild Bill" the  
Kansas City Star had one of  
my photos in its Sunday Magazine

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

4/ Published Sunday Nov 16<sup>th</sup>  
1925. You may have seen it  
then, I assisted Wm E Connelley  
on his write up of Hickok, He  
Completed the work, got it  
ready for publication but  
failed to find a publisher  
who would put it out on  
terms that was satisfactory to  
him. His widow has the completed  
manuscript.

You are right not to  
believe all you read about  
Wild Bill Hickok

Yours etc  
J B Edwards

Publishers of Henry's Books  
are E. P. Dutton & Co

#300 - 4<sup>th</sup> ave, New York City

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

Abilene Ks. Aug 27/35-

Dear Mr Lamborn

I have yours of 26<sup>th</sup> & C will try  
answer best I can, I cannat tell you  
much about most of the men you  
ask about, I went to Dodge City in  
early part of June 1872. hauled lumber  
for store building from great Bend  
by wagons, as R.R. track had only  
got that far then, there were several  
days there on my arrival and my  
building was one of the first 3 built  
of lumber, my partner Smith  
whoon & met in great Bend  
went east from there for a stock  
of goods for the store, the goods  
came and were the first stock opened  
for sale in Dodge, we had a good  
trade, but Buffalo hides and carried  
on in Dodge until Dec 1872, took  
down the building loaded on cars  
with all the store stock went to  
Lakin and set up there until the  
track was finished to the Colorado  
state line late in December  
we again then moved in January  
1873 to end of track, we shipped

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

If the R.R. would continue building the next spring, but they did not so we closed out and I returned back to Abilene, thus you see I did not stay in Dodge only 6 or 7 months. Consequently I did not see the events of Dodge during its most lawless days. I knew well Bob Wright and his partner Rath and all the other people of the town as fast as they came up to the time we moved away in Dec 1872. I presume there was around 150 to 200 people there only not counting Buffalo hunters who came & went from day to day. While we were at Dodge, a photographer came there from Topeka and took a set of 4 pictures which showed all of Dodge at the time, I secured a set of them have preserved them had them copied and enlarged & have sold many copies of them they are greatly admired showing as they do a real frontier town in the early days - the pictures were taken in September 1872, I get \$5.00 for the set of 4 - and are 4 x 7 inches in size each of them - do not think —

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

3/ Merritt L Beeson has had the pamphlets printed yet, I have received many letters from him knew his father Chalk Beeson well, first met him in 1907 when in the Legislature at Topeka He did not go to Dodge until 1875 then became Sheriff of Ford County for several years when they had the Texas cattle trade during my days there, there were millions of Buffalo all the way from great Bend to into Colorado, I did some hunting for sport only, bought thousands of hides and had a great experience of frontier life beyond the borders of the frontier, with no law to govern any one, some of my experience I do not like to tell of even no man's life was safe from the lawless whiskey drinking class, I have a brief early history written up but not published I expect in time after I am laid away it may be my print by our historical association to whom I will donate it, —

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

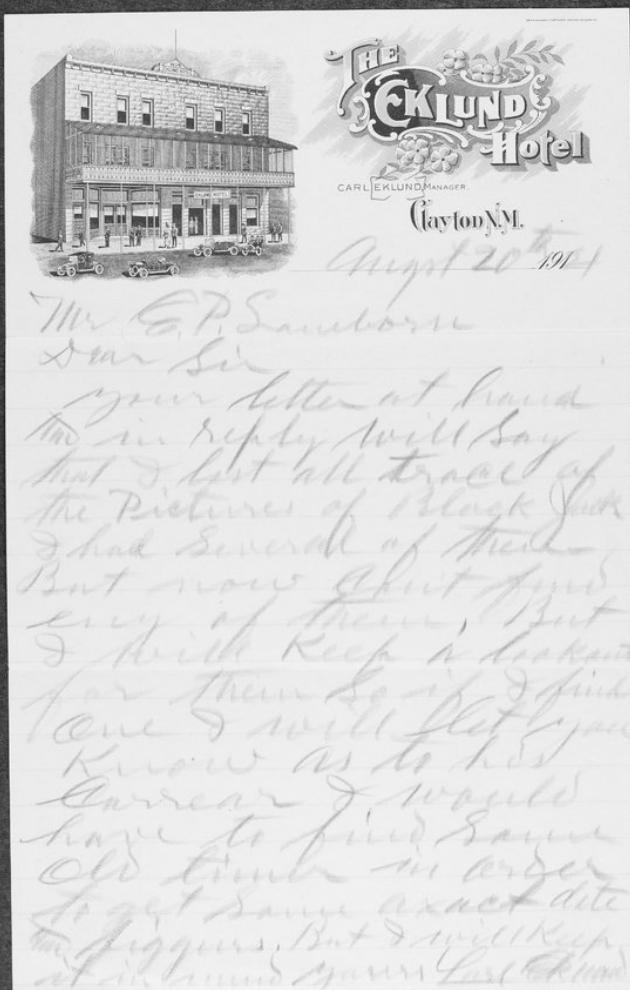
4 I have written you quite a long letter but have not answered but little you wanted to know about me I have explained why, perhaps you can get it from Beeson  
Yours etc  
J B Edwards

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

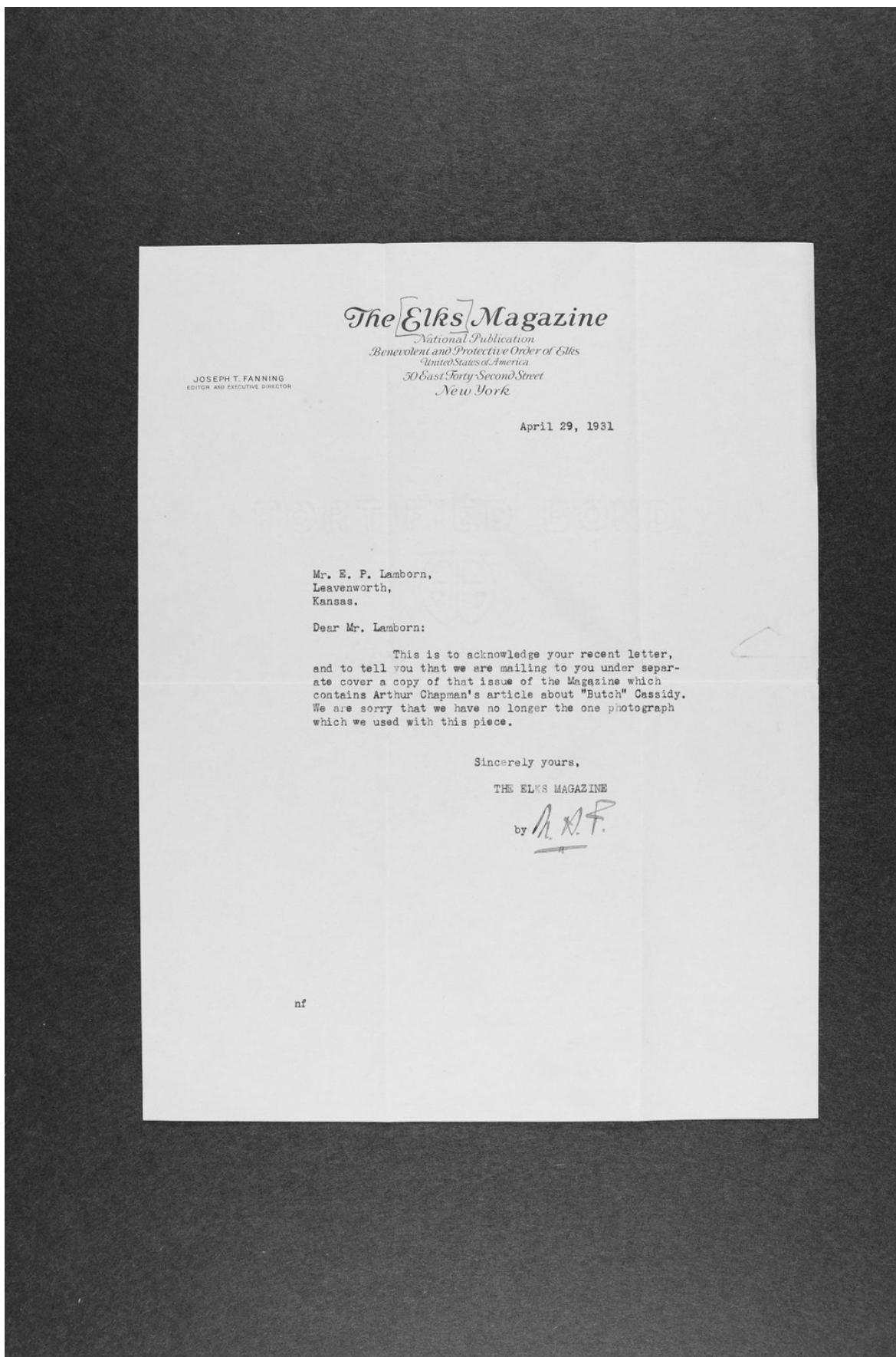


# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

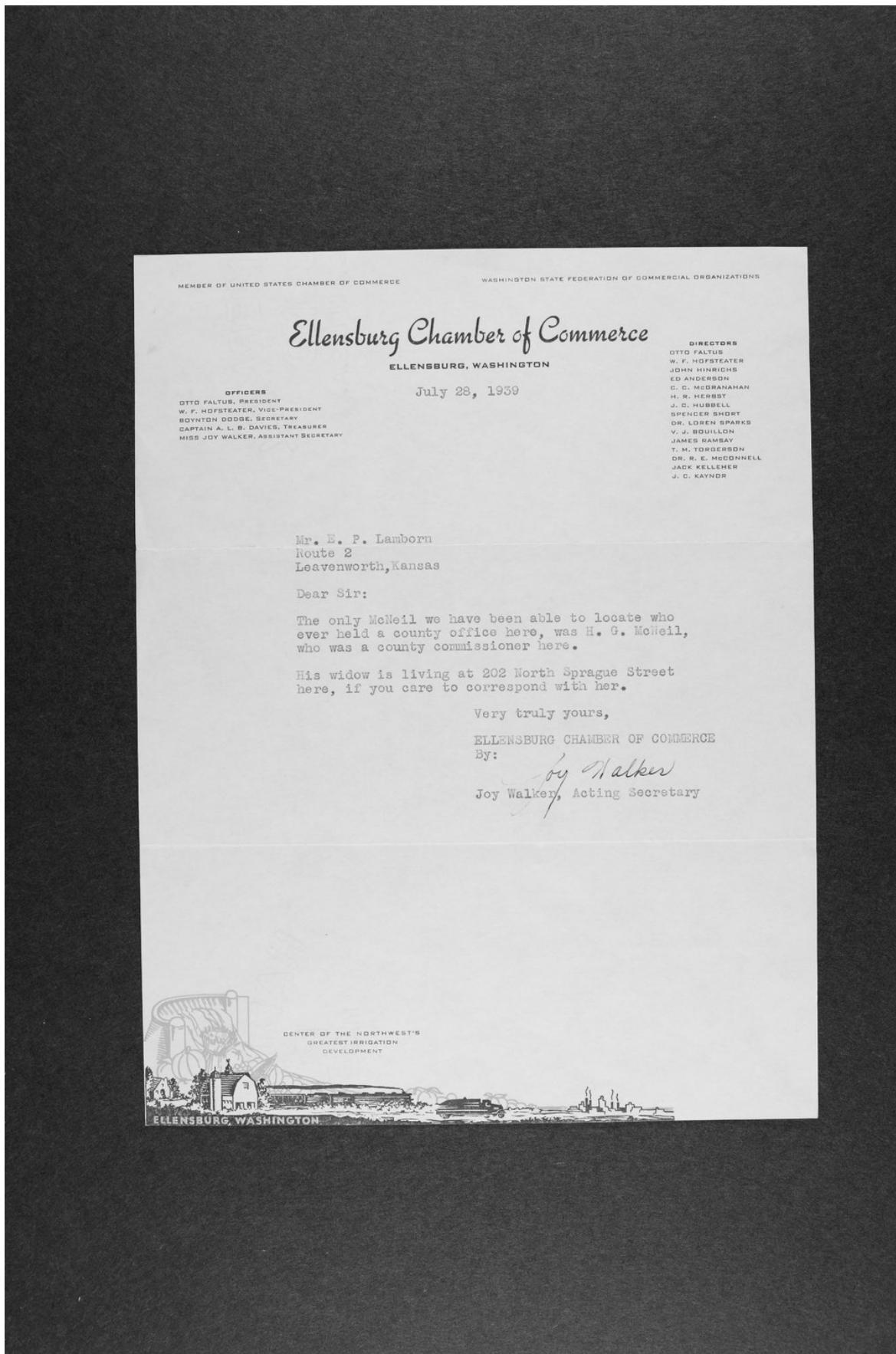


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HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

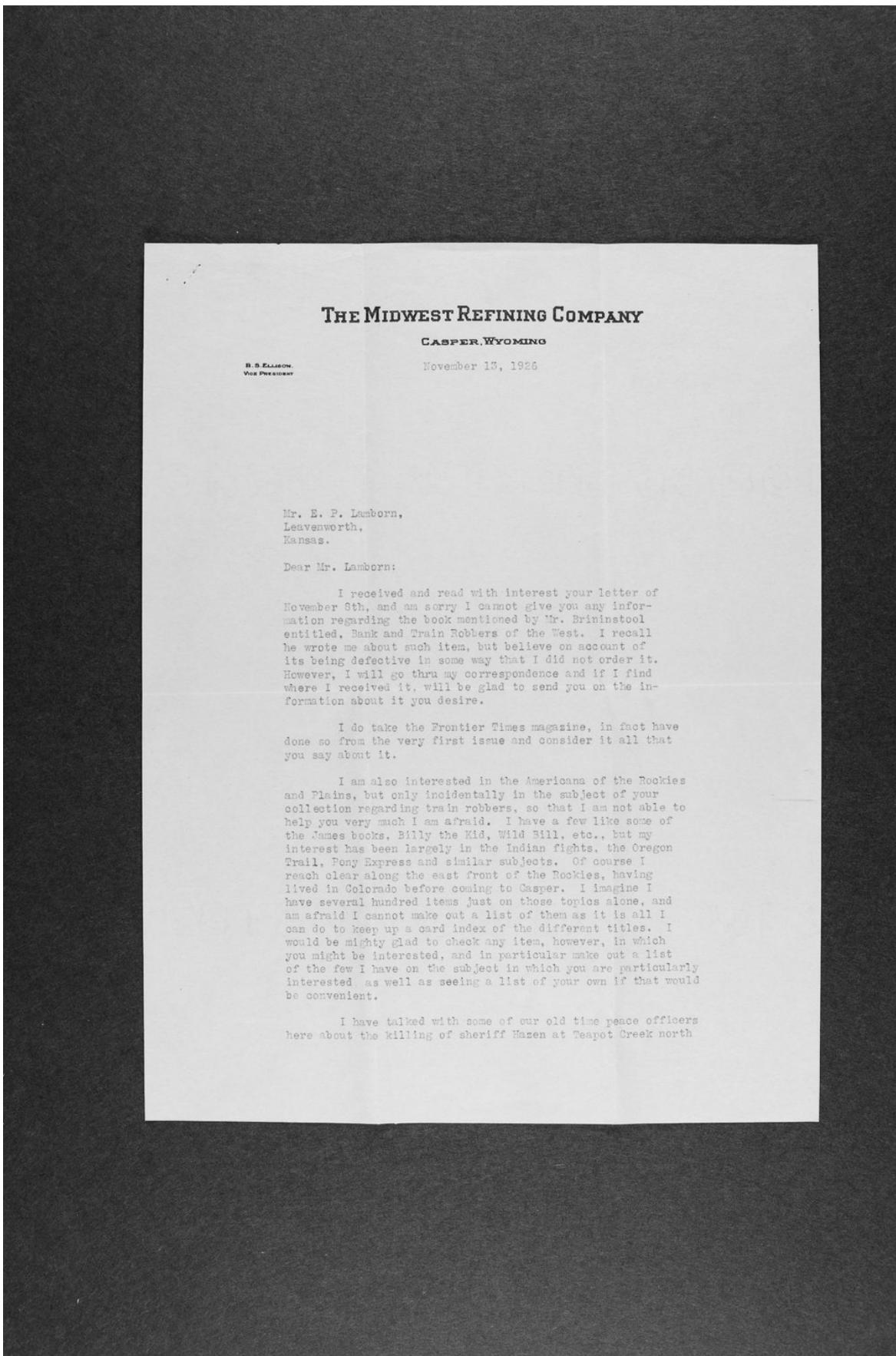


# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers



# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

