Thomas Pratt Tidball, World War I soldier

Around 1919, the Kansas State Historical Society and the American Legion solicited biographical information from returning veterans (primarily members of the 35th and 89th infantry divisions) and the families of those who died in service, notably from the Gold Star Mothers. Each veteran or family member was asked to provide letters, photographs, a biography, and military records. This file contains information on Thomas Pratt Tidball, Company H, 4th Infantry. Thomas died on October 8, 1918 from injuries he received in action.

Date: 1917-1919

Callnumber: World War I Coll. #49, Box 45 Kansas Soldiers

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 225197

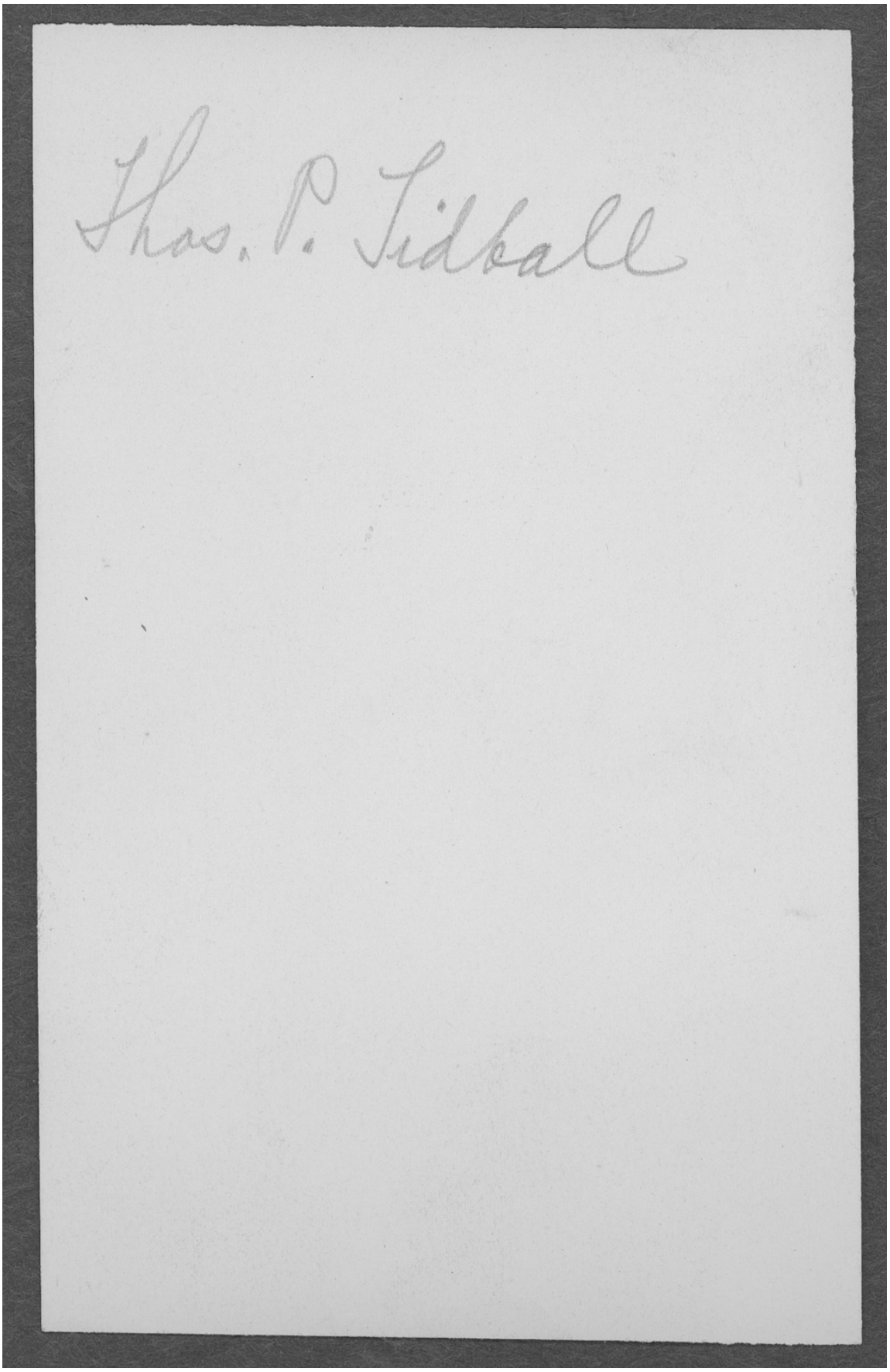
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www.kansasmemory.org/item/225197

Thomas Pratt Tidball, World War I soldier



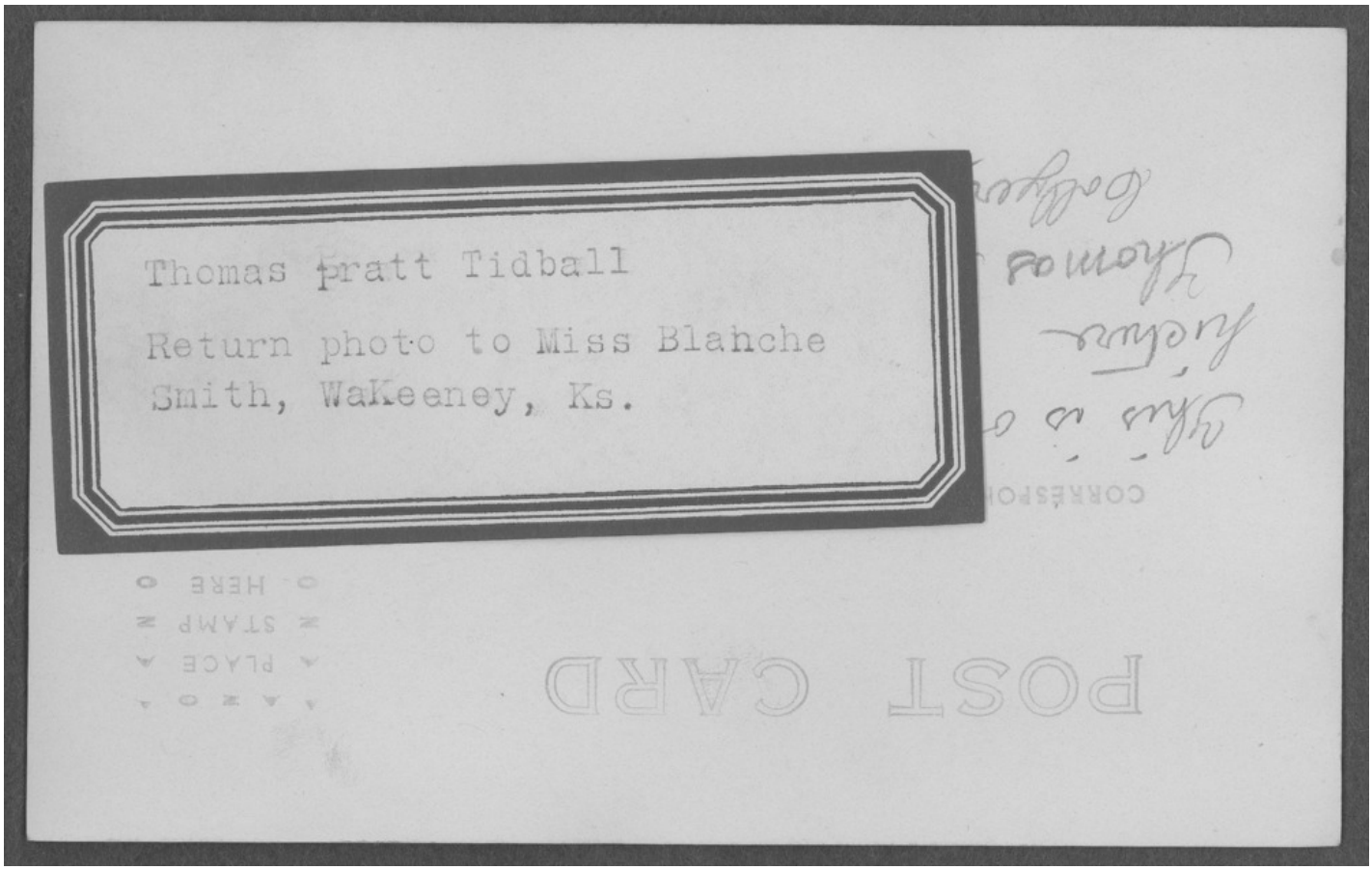
Thomas Pratt Tidball, World War I soldier



Thomas Pratt Tidball, World War I soldier



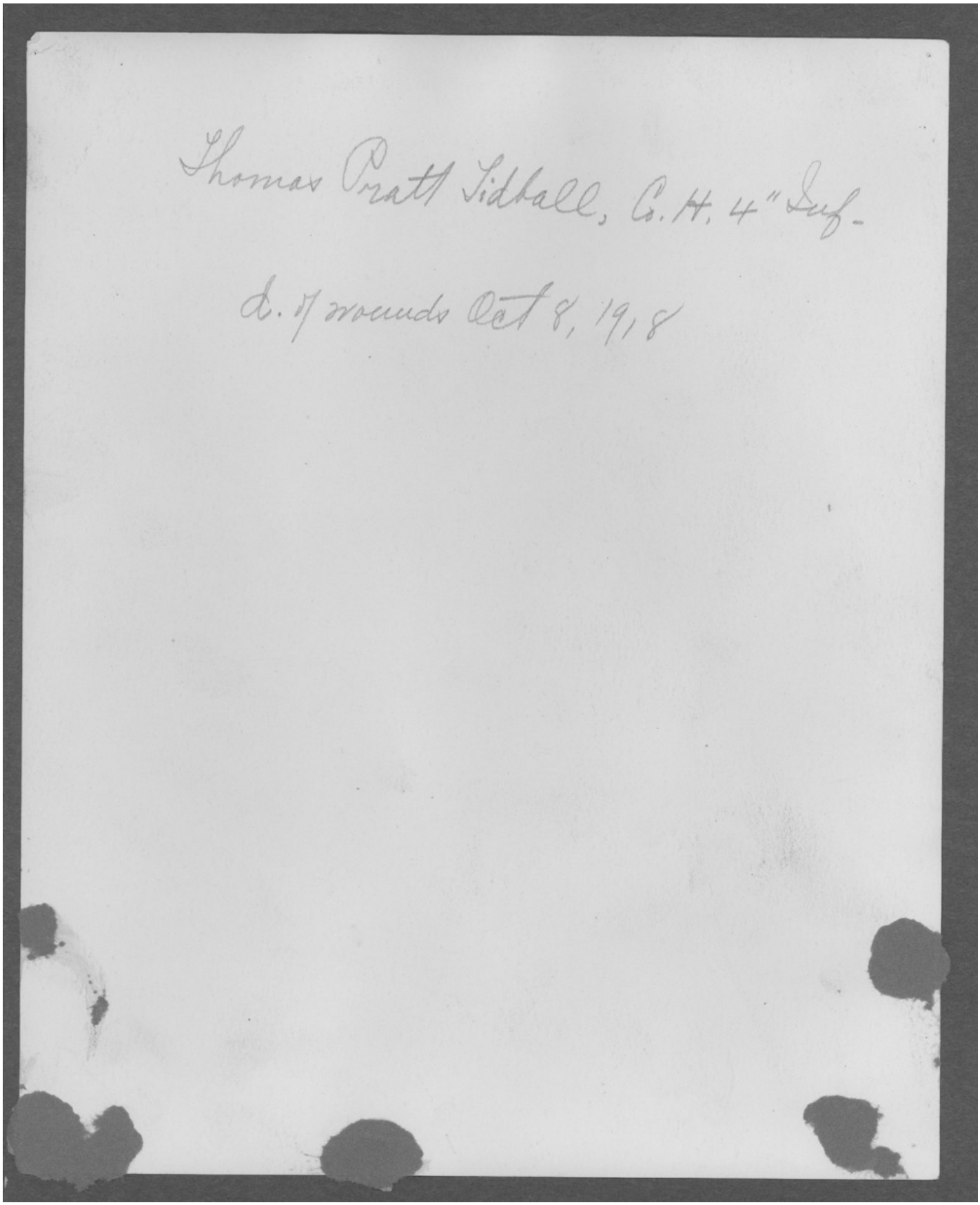
Thomas Pratt Tidball, World War I soldier



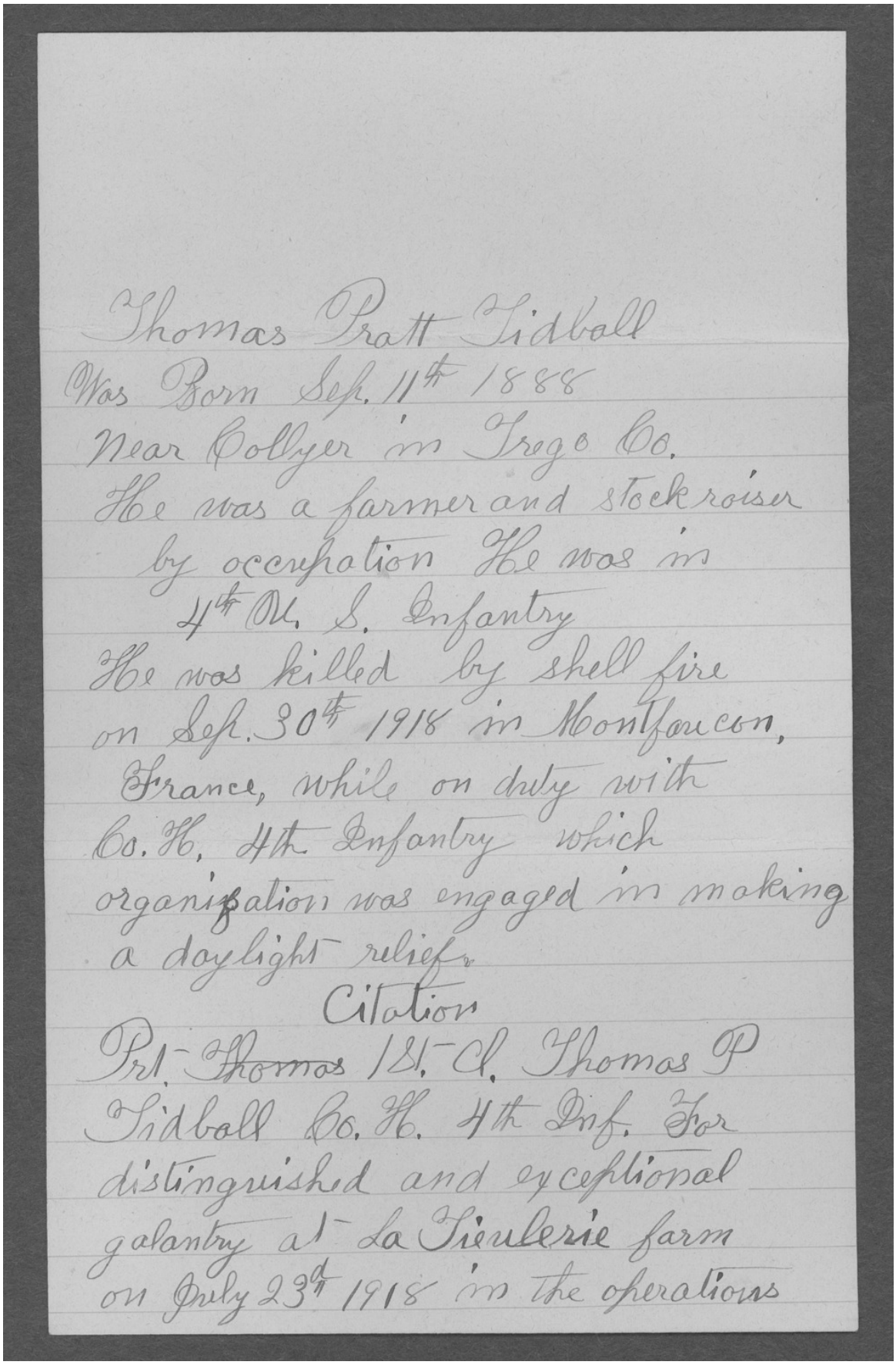
Thomas Pratt Tidball, World War I soldier



Thomas Pratt Tidball, World War I soldier



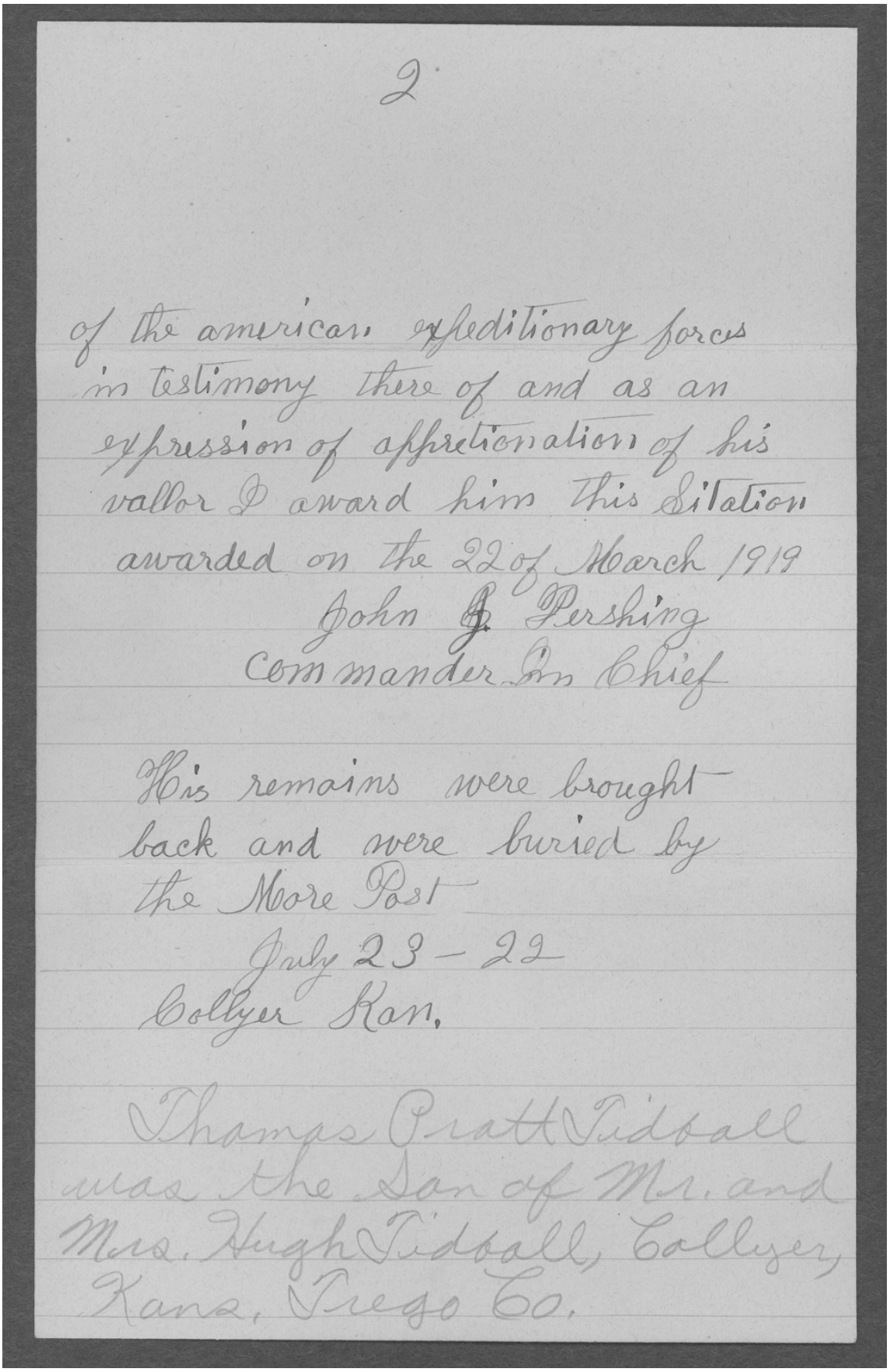
Thomas Pratt Tidball, World War I soldier



Thomas Pratt Tidball
Was Born Sep. 11th 1888
Near Collyer in Trego Co.
He was a farmer and stock raiser
by occupation He was in
4th U. S. Infantry
He was killed by shell fire
on Sep. 30th 1918 in Montfaucon,
France, while on duty with
Co. H. 4th Infantry which
organization was engaged in making
a daylight relief.

Citation

Pvt. ~~Thomas~~ 1st. Cl. Thomas P
Tidball Co. H. 4th Inf. For
distinguished and exceptional
galantry at La Tieulerie farm
on July 23d 1918 in the operations

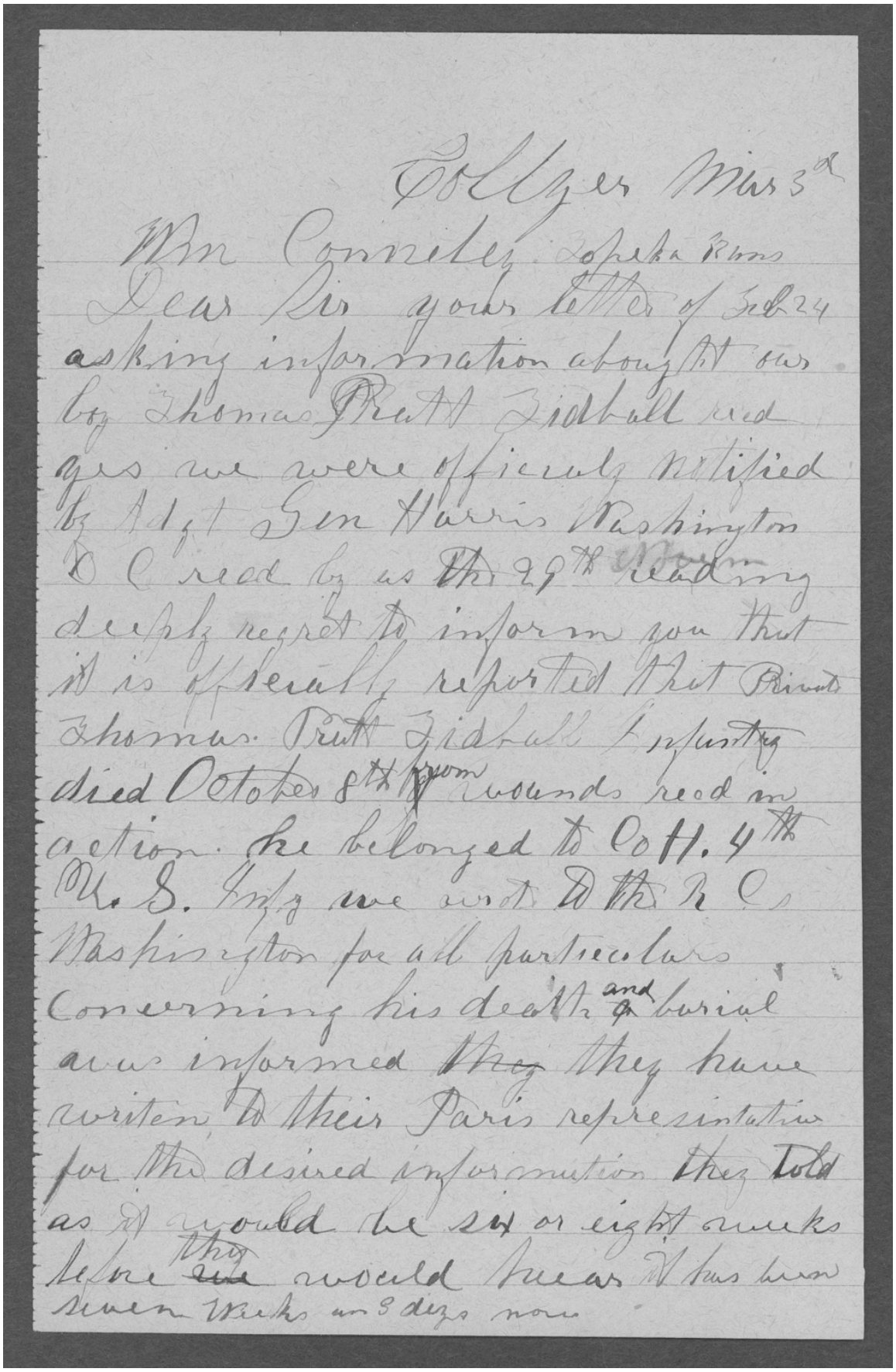


2

of the american expeditionary forces
in testimony there of and as an
expression of appretionation of his
vallor I award him this Silation
awarded on the 22 of March 1919
John J. Pershing
Commander In Chief

His remains were brought
back and were buried by
the Moore Post
July 23 - 22
Collyer Kan.

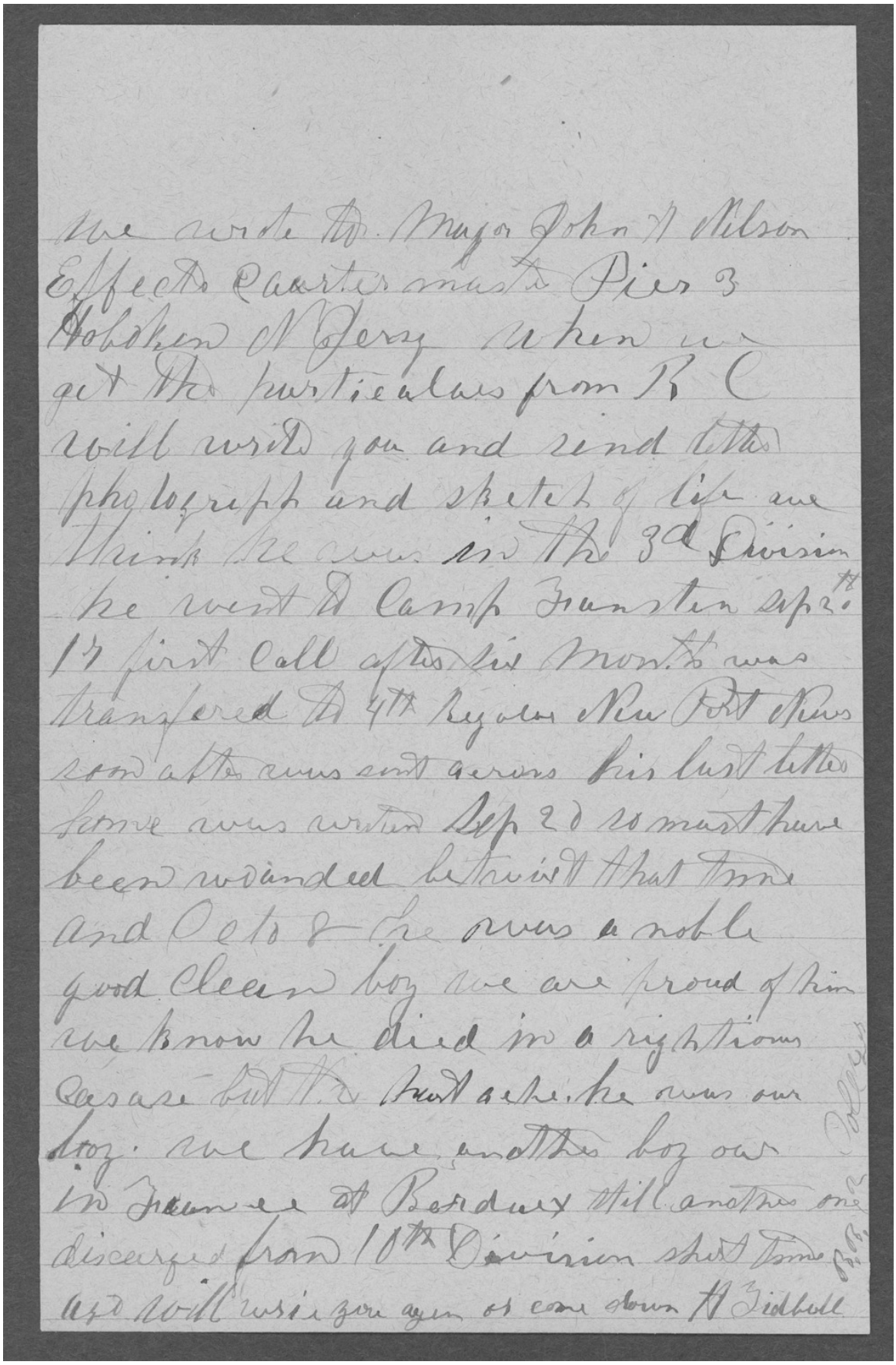
Thomas Pratt Tidball
was the Son of Mr. and
Mrs. Hugh Tidball, Collyer,
Kans. Trego Co.



Tolley Mass 3rd

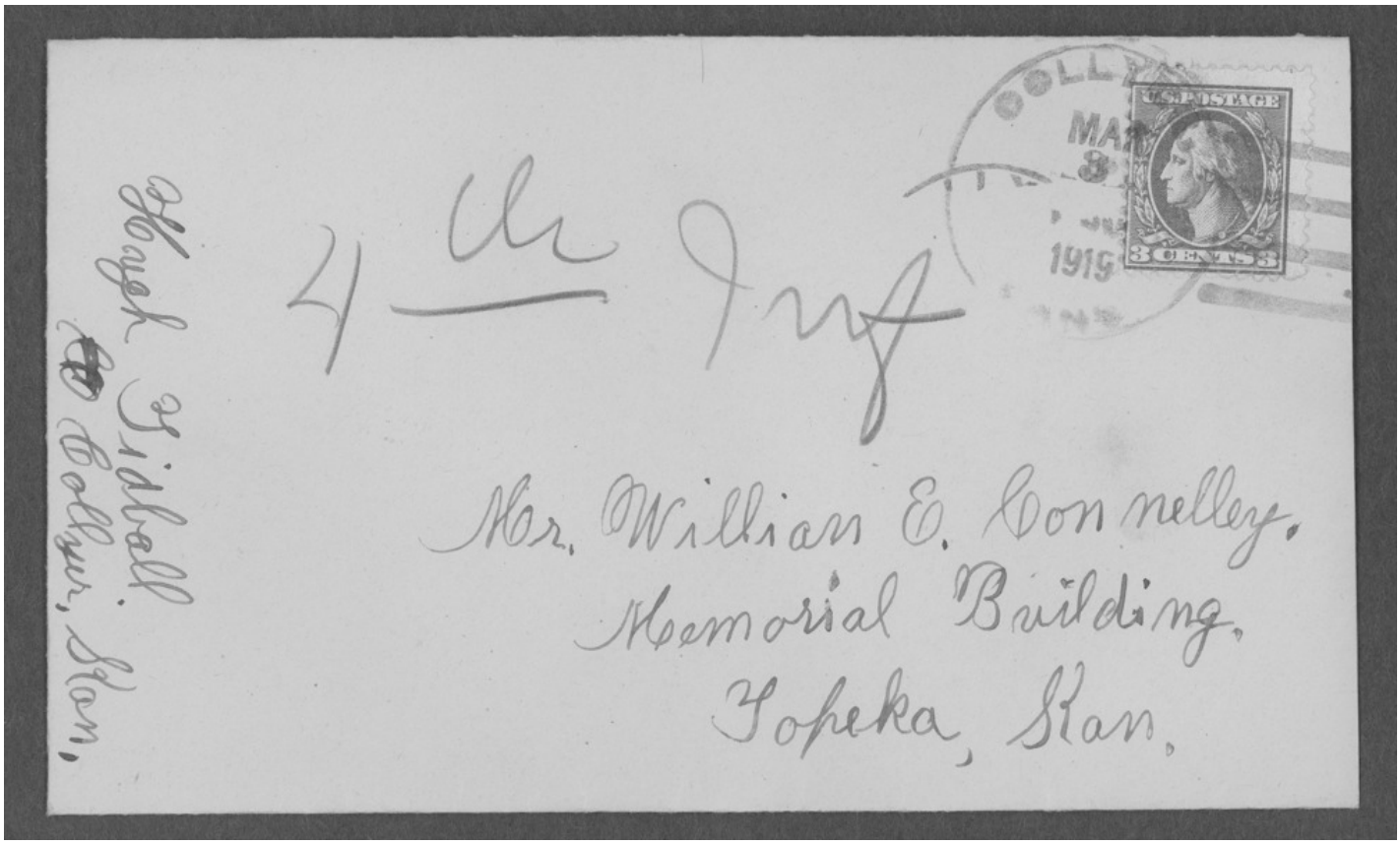
Wm Connely Topeka Kans

Dear Sir your letter of Feb 24 asking information about Pvt who by Thomas Pratt Tidball and yes we were officialy notified by Adjt Gen Harris Washington D C read by us the 29th reading deeply regret to inform you that it is officially reported that Privt Thomas Pratt Tidball Infantry died October 8th from wounds recd in action. He belonged to Co H. 4th U. S. Inf we wrote to the A G Washington for all particulars concerning his death and burial and was informed they have writen to their Paris representative for the desired information they told as it would be six or eight weeks before they would hear it has been seven weeks and 3 days now

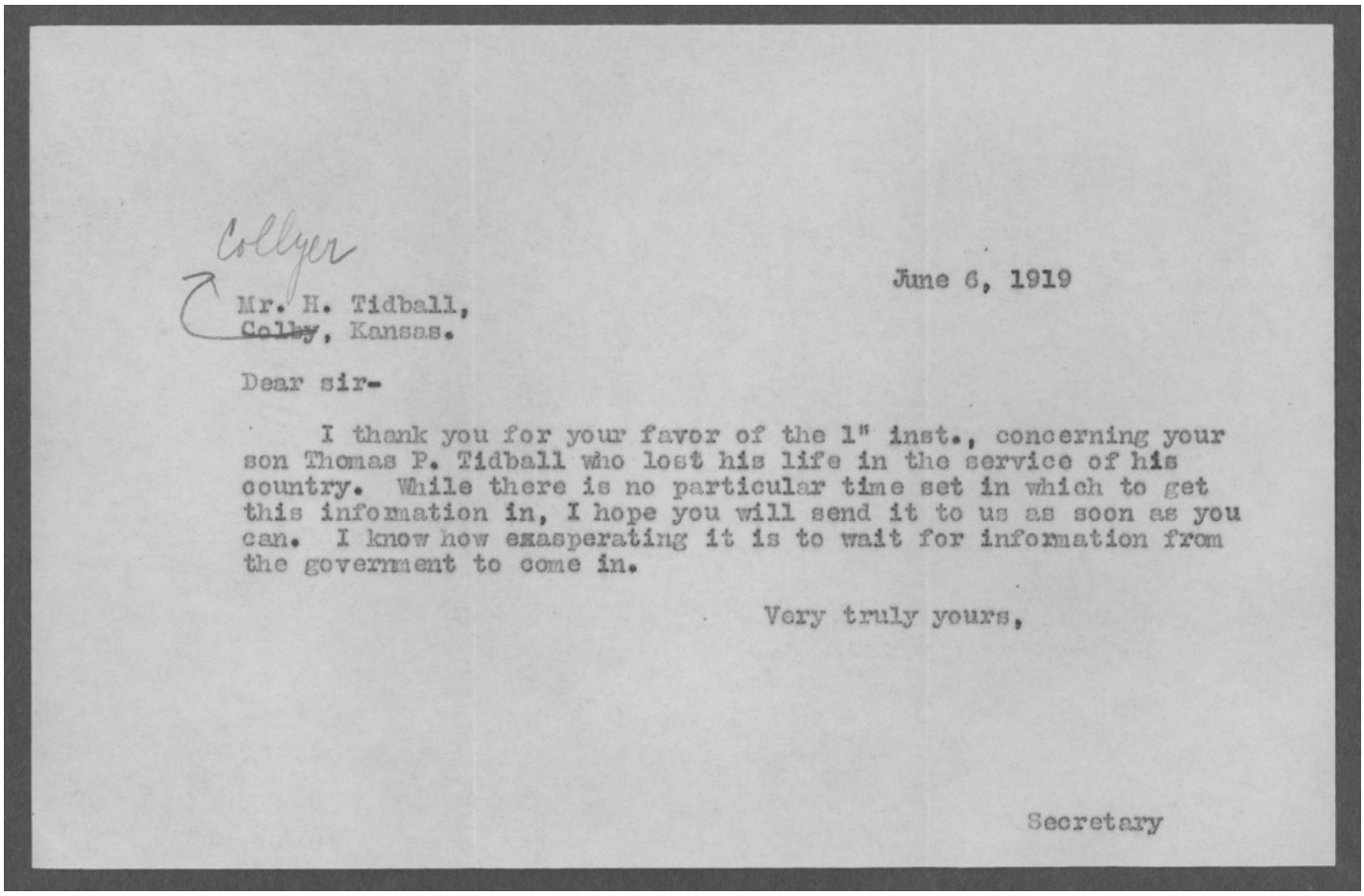


we wrote to Major John H Nelson
Effects Quartermaster Pier 3
Hoboken N Jersey when we
get the particulars from K C
will write you and send Tells
photograph and sketch of life we
think he was in the 3d Division
he went to Camp Funston Sept 2nd
17 first call after six months was
transfered to 4th Regular New Port News
soon after was sent across his last letter
home was written Sept 20 so must have
been wounded between that time
and Oct 8 he was a noble
good Clean boy we are proud of him
we know he died in a righteous
cause but it is hard as he was our
boy. we have another boy over
in France at Bordeux still another one
discarged from 10th Division short time
ago will write you again as soon as Tidball

Thomas Pratt Tidball, World War I soldier



Thomas Pratt Tidball, World War I soldier



Collyer

June 6, 1919

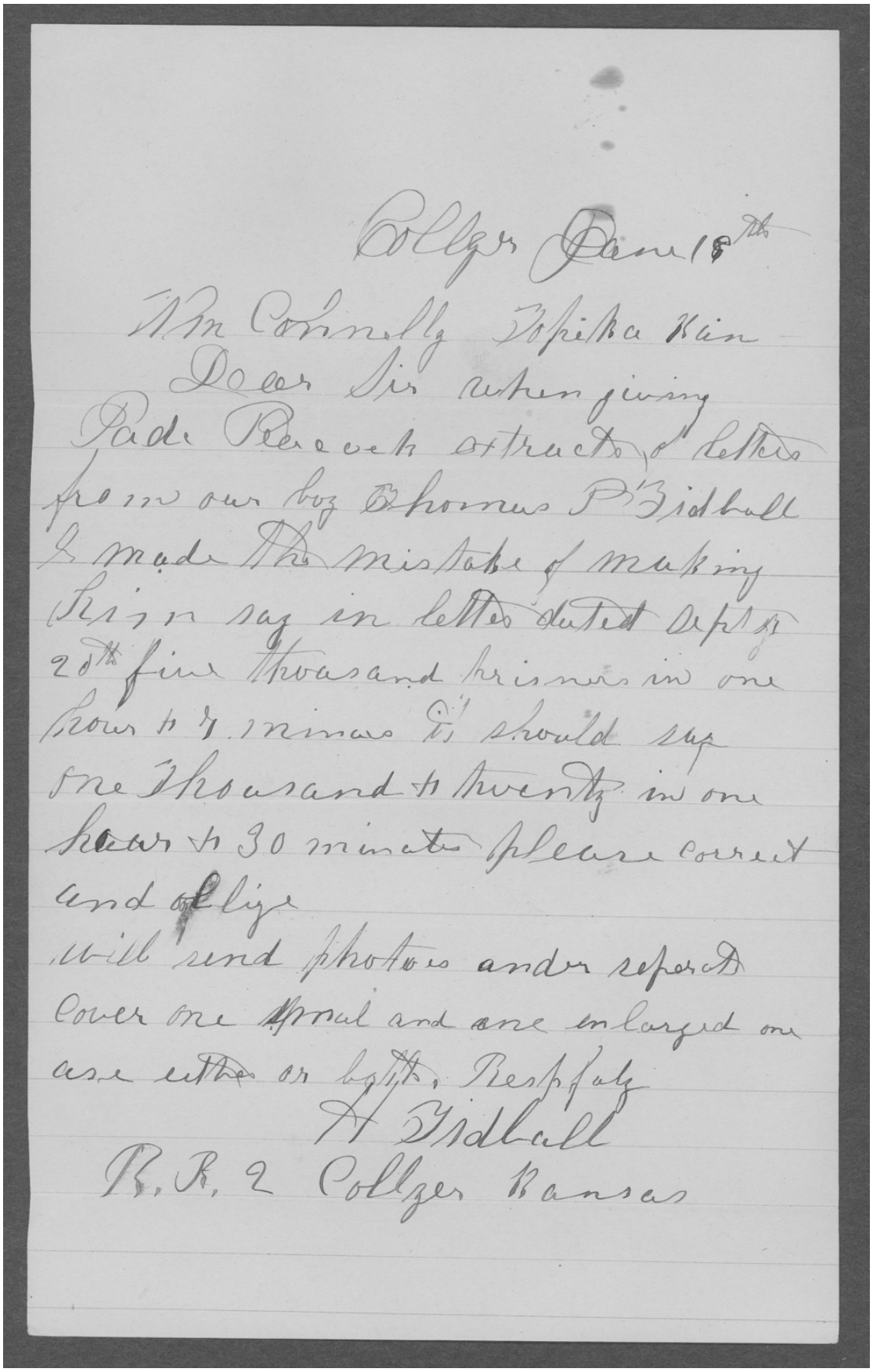
Mr. H. Tidball,
~~Colby~~, Kansas.

Dear sir-

I thank you for your favor of the 1" inst., concerning your son Thomas P. Tidball who lost his life in the service of his country. While there is no particular time set in which to get this information in, I hope you will send it to us as soon as you can. I know how exasperating it is to wait for information from the government to come in.

Very truly yours,

Secretary

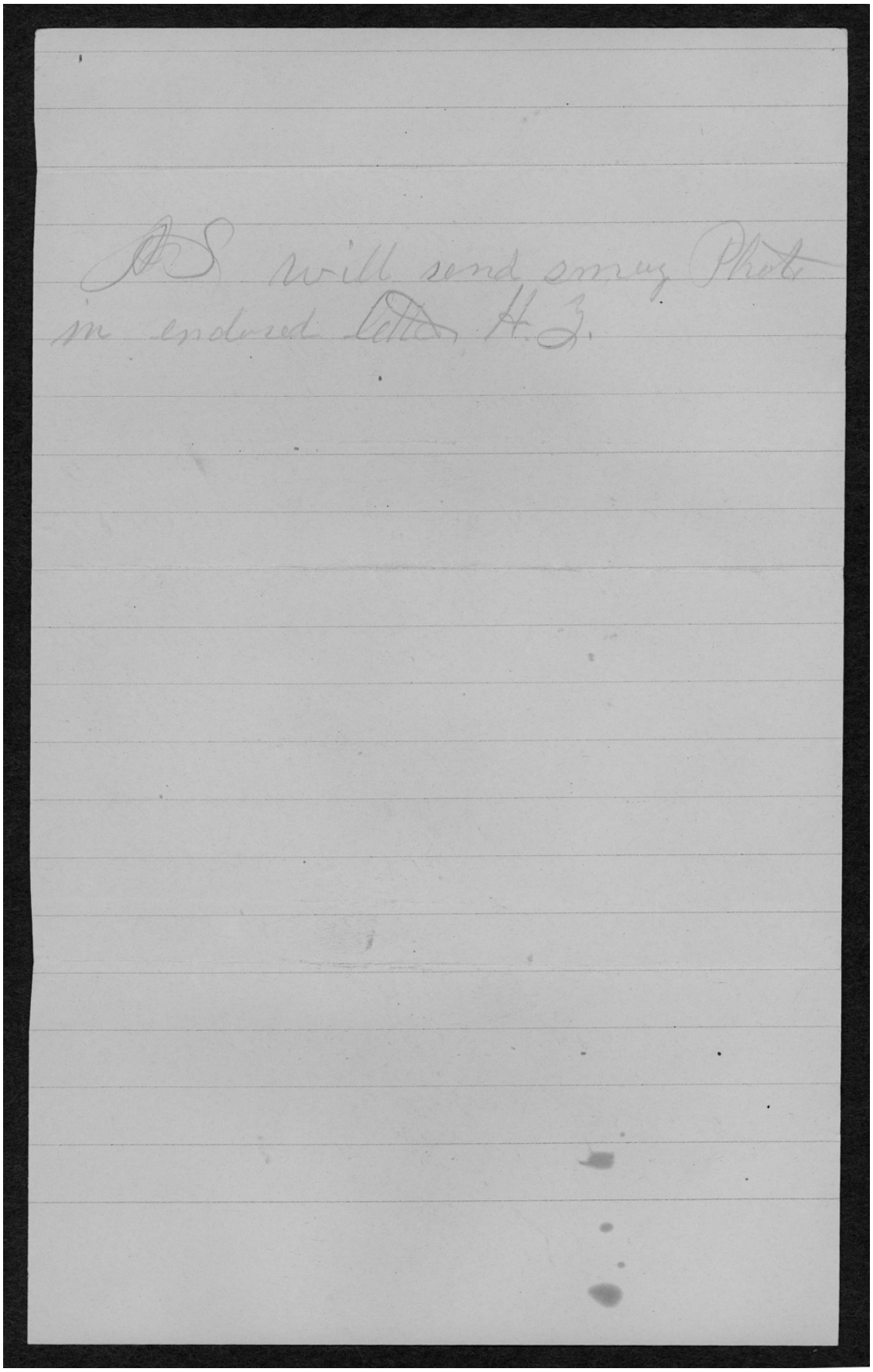


Collyer Dec 18th

Wm Connelly Topeka Kan

Dear Sir after giving
Pade Receeit of tracts & letters
from our boy Thomas P Tidball
I made the mistake of making
Him say in letter dated Sept
20th five thousand kisses in one
hour & 9 minutes It should say
one Thousand & twenty in one
hour & 30 minutes please correct
and oblige
will send photoes under separate
Cover one Spiral and one enlarged one
use either or both. Respfully
A Tidball
R. R. 2 Collyer Kansas

Thomas Pratt Tidball, World War I soldier

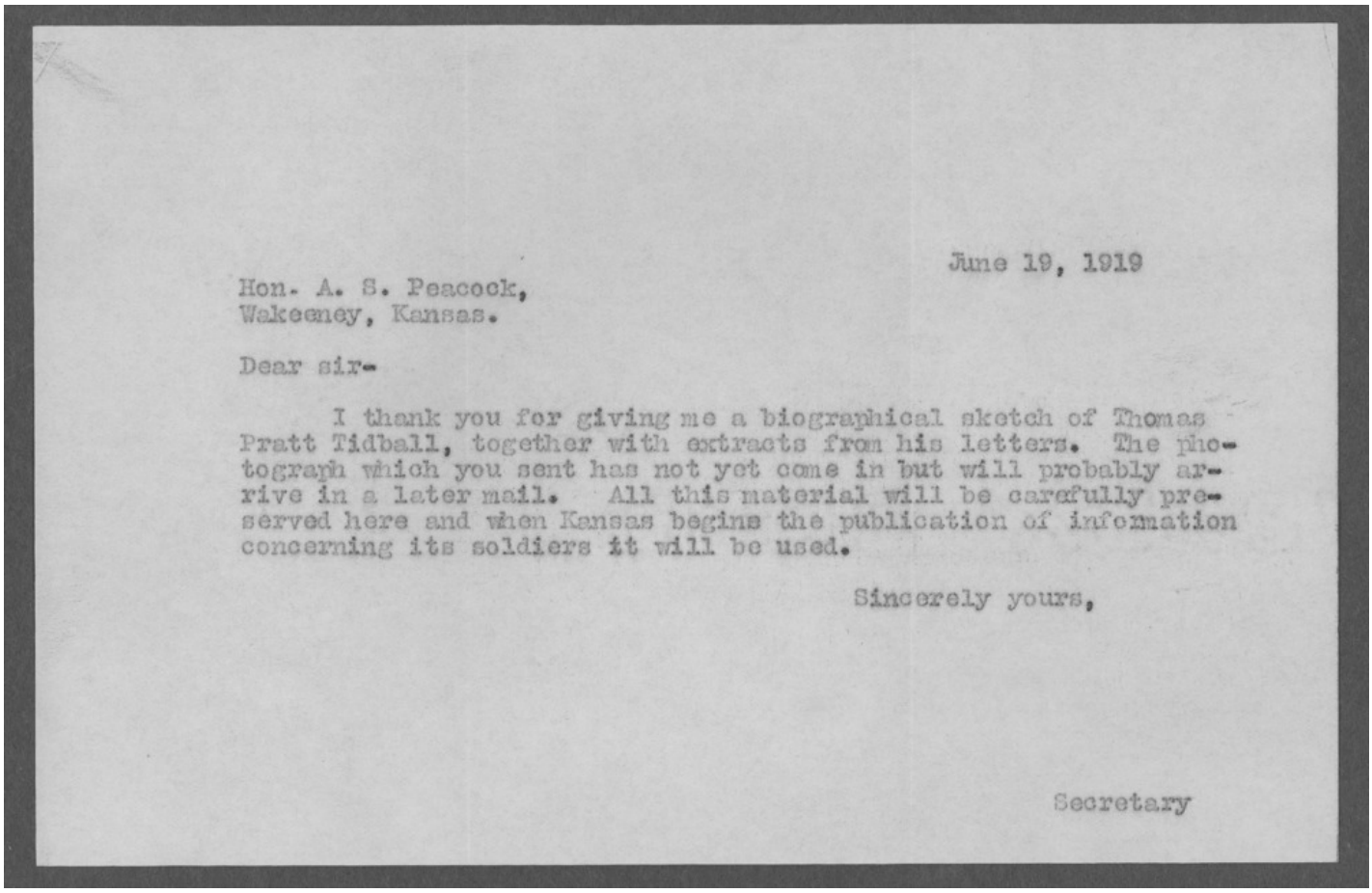


Collyer Kans Nov 1st 19

Wm E Connelly Missouri Valley Ia

Dear Sir. Although the 1st of March we recd your request for photograph extracts of letters from him at that time had only recd the official notice that he died October 8th of wounds recd in action we have delayed sending the desired information hoping to get particulars through the R.C. or some other source but have been sadly disappointed all the particulars we have recd was from Lt Col Charles C Pierce Q.M.C. Chief Grave registration saying Thomas Pratt Tidball is buried at Romagne of Nantillois Meuse Trench. We will forward extracts of letters photograph and sketch of his life in few days. Will write you more at length soon. We have another boy over there but have not heard from him for a week H Tidball R.F.D. 2 Collyer Kans

Thomas Pratt Tidball, World War I soldier



June 19, 1919

Hon. A. S. Peacock,
Wakeeney, Kansas.

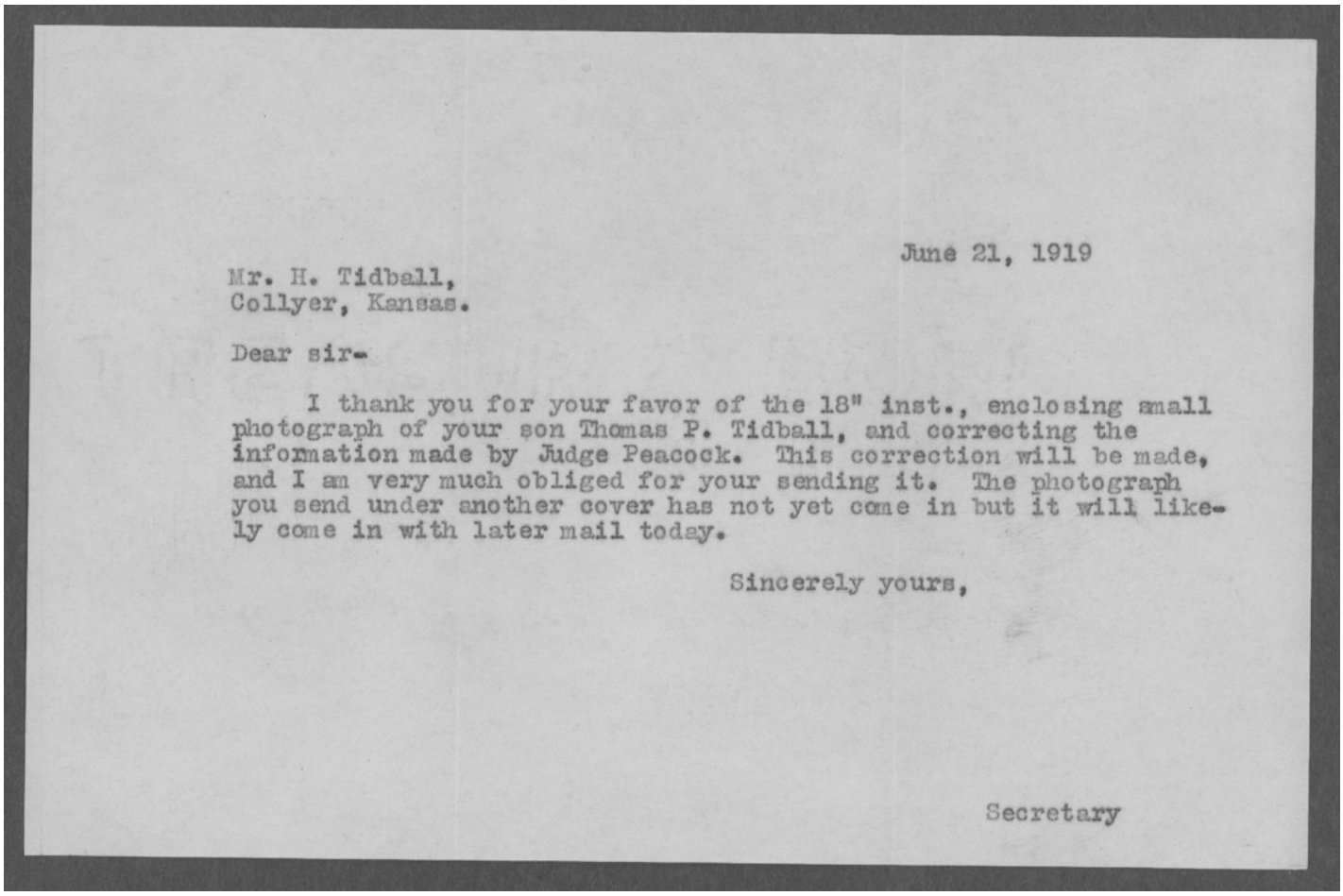
Dear sir-

I thank you for giving me a biographical sketch of Thomas Pratt Tidball, together with extracts from his letters. The photograph which you sent has not yet come in but will probably arrive in a later mail. All this material will be carefully preserved here and when Kansas begins the publication of information concerning its soldiers it will be used.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

Thomas Pratt Tidball, World War I soldier



June 21, 1919

Mr. H. Tidball,
Collyer, Kansas.

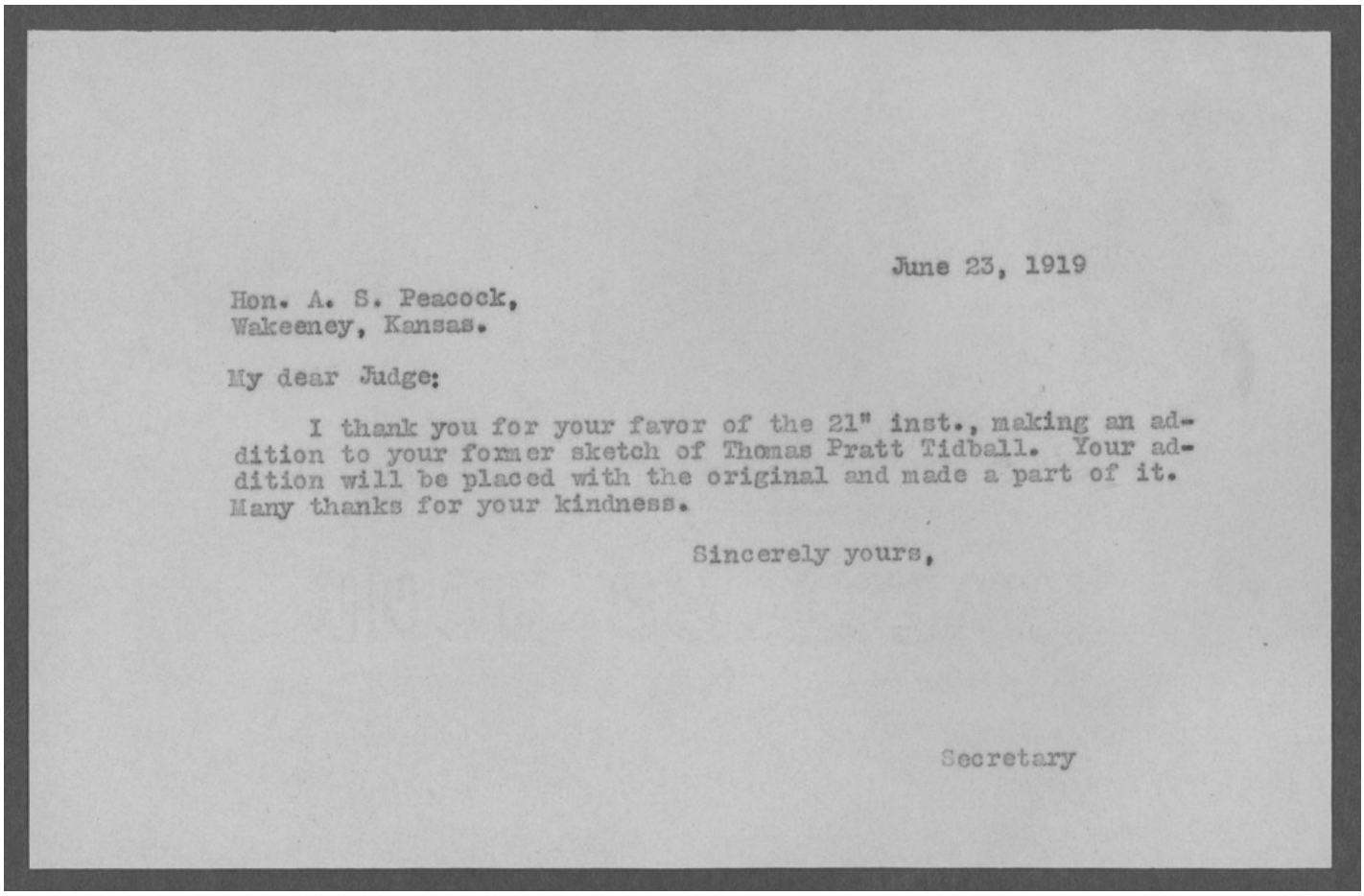
Dear sir-

I thank you for your favor of the 18" inst., enclosing small photograph of your son Thomas P. Tidball, and correcting the information made by Judge Peacock. This correction will be made, and I am very much obliged for your sending it. The photograph you send under another cover has not yet come in but it will likely come in with later mail today.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

Thomas Pratt Tidball, World War I soldier



June 23, 1919

Hon. A. S. Peacock,
Wakeeney, Kansas.

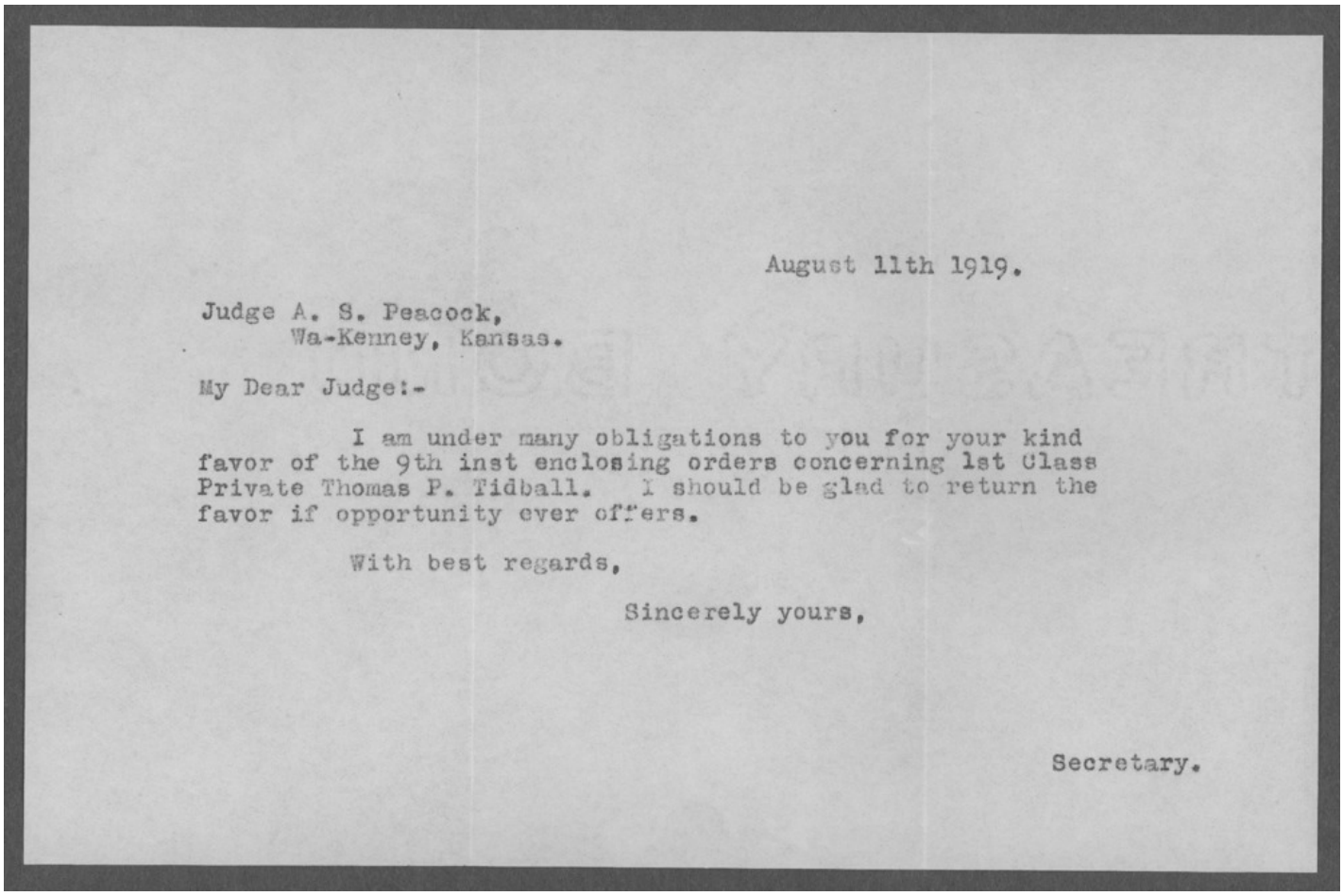
My dear Judge:

I thank you for your favor of the 21" inst., making an addition to your former sketch of Thomas Pratt Tidball. Your addition will be placed with the original and made a part of it. Many thanks for your kindness.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

Thomas Pratt Tidball, World War I soldier



August 11th 1919.

Judge A. S. Peacock,
Wa-Keeney, Kansas.

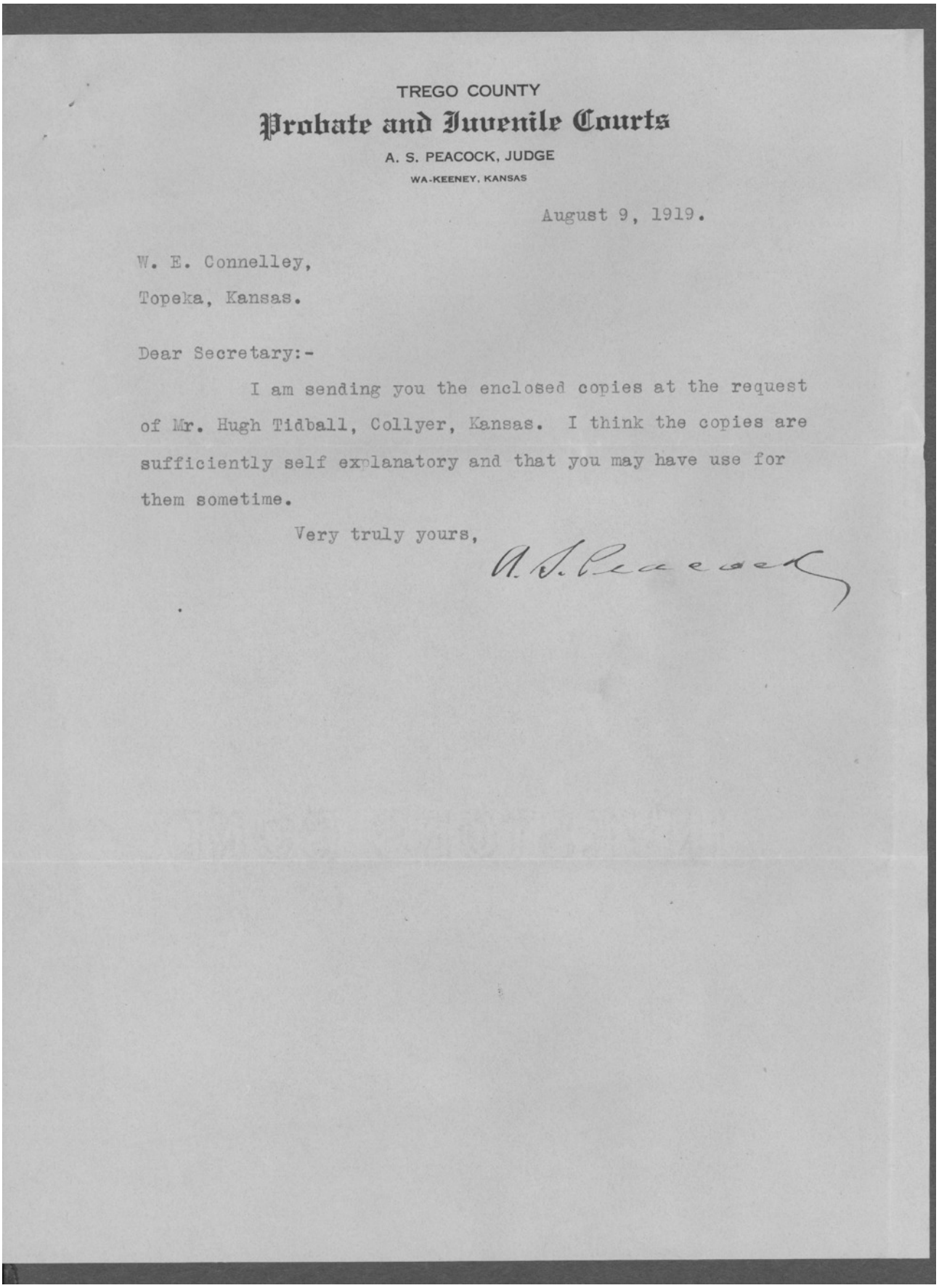
My Dear Judge:-

I am under many obligations to you for your kind favor of the 9th inst enclosing orders concerning 1st Class Private Thomas P. Tidball. I should be glad to return the favor if opportunity ever offers.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Secretary.



TREGO COUNTY

Probate and Juvenile Courts

A. S. PEACOCK, JUDGE

WA-KEENEY, KANSAS

August 9, 1919.

W. E. Connelley,

Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Secretary:-

I am sending you the enclosed copies at the request of Mr. Hugh Tidball, Collyer, Kansas. I think the copies are sufficiently self explanatory and that you may have use for them sometime.

Very truly yours,

A. S. Peacock

Copied from,

G. H. Q.
American Expeditionary Forces.

Citation Orders No.4. France, June 3, 1919.

-------- ooo -------

Pvt. 1st Cl. Thomas P. Tidball, 2214729, Co. H. 4th Inf.

For gallantry in action near La Tieulerie Farm, France, 23 July, 1918, in crawling forward across an open field swept by machine gun fire and attempting to capture a house containing enemy machine guns.

-------- ooo ------

CENTRAL RECORDS OFFICE,
ADJUTANTS GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.
A. P. O. #902 France

201 Tidball, Thomas P. June 5, 1919.

Mr. H. Tidball,
Collyer, Kansas. U.S.A.

My Dear Sir:-

This office has been requested by Senator Charles Curtis, to furnish you with information relative to your son, Pvt Thomas P. Tidball.

It is with deep sorrow that I must inform you that your son was killed by shell fire on September 30, 1918, in Montfaucon, France, while on duty with Company H., 4th Infantry, which organization was engaged in making a daylight relief.

Private Tidball was buried by Chaplain Blais of the 4th infantry in the Commune of Nantillois, Dept of Meuse. The grave is marked by a cross to which is attached an identification tag, and is under government care, thus receiving constant attention.

Trusting that this information may be of some consolation to you in your bereavement of a son.

I am,
Most sincerely,

H. M. Nelly
Adjutant General.

Phot follows by mail

TREGO COUNTY

Probate and Juvenile Courts

A. S. PEACOCK, JUDGE

WA-KEENEY, KANSAS

T H O M A S P R A T T T I D B A L L.

THOMAS PRATT TIDBALL, ~~xxxxxx~~ the son of Hugh and Grace E. Tidball, was born in Trego County, Kansas, September 11, 1888, and grew to manhood there. He received his education in the schools of his native county and engaged in farming to which occupation he was trained from childhood. He registered for service in the army in the call of June 5, 1917, was sent to Camp Funston September 20, 1917, where was assigned/ to Company H., 4th U. S. Infantry. He sailed April 5, 1918, from Newport News, ~~xxx~~ on the transport Great Northern and landed at Brest, France, April 15, 1918. After drilling at La Chapelle about three weeks the regiment was ~~sent~~ into the front lines ~~xxfirst~~ and served to the close of the war as a part of the 3rd division, the subject of this sketch taking part in the several actions in which his regiment was engaged until severely wounded and sent to the hospital where he died October 8, 1918. He was buried in the Commune of Nantillois, in the Department of the Meuse, France.

Extracts from letters: " I might as well try to answer some of the mail that has been accumulating while we have been giving the Dutchmen a run for their money, and believe me, they did some running, too! As we came back across the Marne river we were greeted by the band. Although we were a tired bunch it seemed to put new life into us and when we got a bath and some clean clothes we felt better. For my part I am glad that I am where I am, for that Kaiser has to have his eyeteeth cut and I don't want to have it done in the States. I will be glad to have it all done on German soil, where he will soon get enough.

"I was out this afternoon where they were cutting wheat and tried my hand. I bound one bundle but an old lady tore it to pieces- it wasn't done to suit her. Then I tried to run the old man's cradle, and ran it into the

ground and got laughed at, so I decided I wouldn't make a very good harvest hand and went back to camp.

" I sure like to shoot, and they have to get up and step lively to shoot faster than I can as I have an automatic and it shoots a pretty good hickory, all right.

"We have been having a h_____ of a time, believe me! I have been picking up a few souvenirs- for instance, I have a watch that I took off a dead Dutchman. How is that for a kid! I have a knife that the law would forbid my carrying in the States, the blade being about five inches long. Some knife, eh?

"I have just been figuring it up. It has been just one year since we went to Camp Funston, and it has been some year, believe me! I got my wish, all right- got to see what was on the other side of the briny deep. Five thousand German prisoners have passed us in the last hour and seven minutes, and they have been passing that way for several hours. Don't worry about me- prisoners are the only Germans we are seeing these days.

The extract last given above is taken from the last letter Mr. Tidball wrote to his parents.

Four brothers of Thomas P. Tidball were registered and ready for service in the army, two of the four being being called. Barnhill H. Tidball was sent to Bordeaux, France, but saw no fighting. McKinley Tidball was mustered out with the 10th division at Camp Funston. Hugh Tidball, the father of these boys, served three years and five months in the 16th Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. His brother, Abram, served ninety days in the Union army. Thomas Tidball, another brother, was a soldier in the war with Mexico, and Thomas Tidball, the grandfather of Thomas Pratt Tidball, was a soldier in the War of 1812.

Thomas Pratt Tidball, World War I soldier

TREGO COUNTY

Probate and Juvenile Courts

A. S. PEACOCK, JUDGE

WA-KEENEY, KANSAS

June 21, 1919.

Wm. E. Connelley,

Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Secretary:-

The sketch of Thomas Pratt Tidball was written at the request of Hugh Tidball, of Collyer, Kansas, father of the deceased soldier, who now finds that he was mistaken in one particular- the number of prisoners, etc., the corrected statement being "1,020 prisoners in one hour and a half". Mr. Tidball feels chagrined that he should have made the extravagant statement, and wants it corrected.

I am enclosing a card invitation issued by the Masonic lodge of Wakeeney, which will explain itself and may be of some interest to you. I would say that while Topeka and Shawnee County claim Lieut Glen E. Haughey (M.D.), he went into service from this place- this was his home for some time prior to his enlistment and he was a member of the local Masonic lodge.

The two Monroe brothers mentioned were born and reared here- both killed in the early days of the Argonne fight. They were nephews of Judge Lee Monroe, of Topeka.

Very truly yours,

A. S. Peacock