

Kansas Memory



Territorial troubles correspondence, 1855-1856

Section 9, Pages 241 - 261

Correspondence relating to Kansas territorial troubles. Topics include interference with law enforcement and the movement of prisoners, reports of raids, and letters from militia leaders. Many of the documents are petitions from communities, including Leavenworth, Sugar Mound (now Mound City), Fort Scott, Westport, Council Grove, Pottawattamie, and Lawrence, seeking relief from robberies and harassment, and the protection of militia escorts. Petitions came from pro-slavery individuals as well, as evidenced by the September 23, 1856 letter written on behalf of citizens of Anderson and Coffey Counties being driven out by abolitionists. The antagonists in these letters include Colonel Whipple (also known as Aaron Dwight Stevens), Captain Frederick Emory, and Sterling Price. A proclamation by Governor Woodson, dated July 4, 1856, forbids the assembly of the "bogus legislature" in Topeka. Another proclamation, dated August 24, 1856, declares the territory to be in a state of open insurrection and rebellion. Other important events, such as the Pottawatomie Massacre and the Battle of Hickory Point, are also mentioned.

Date: 1855-1856

Callnumber: Territorial Executive Department, Correspondence and Miscellaneous Documents, 1854-1856, Box 1

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 225774

Item Identifier: 225774

www.kansasmemory.org/item/225774

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The act is a fraud and has been perpetrated contrary to law. The act of transporting Holmes out of the Territory of Kidnapping a man under color of military authority, under pretence of law, by a party of men from another State or Territory will certainly impair, if not speedily wholly destroy the general reliance upon the military for public protection, and again excite the public mind to an alarming extent.

Unless you can solve the problem - afford some clue to the transaction mentioned I trust you will take measures to satisfy yourself without delay concerning these reports.

Deeming the information important I send it to you by one of the soldiers now here.

Respectfully
Your Servt
Edw. H. Chapman

Holmes was captain of the party at Lawrence and at Davis's house

His Ex^d J. W. Beary - Sir

If a Deputy U.S. Marshal is needed, please send word by bearer & I will send you one

J. B. Donelson

M. L. Mervin

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HOOGLAND, EDW. and JONES, JOHN A. W.

Nov. 29, 1856

Report of the Commission派往堪薩斯州南部
的調查委員會

To His Ex^Y Hon. John W. Geary
Gov^r. Kansas.

The undersigned respectfully Report, That, pursuant to your directions they left Leavenworth Nov. 15, and joined Captain DeSaussure's command of 1st Cavalry at Peotone on Sunday evening Nov. 17. The 18th was spent in making inquiries & obtaining information concerning the past and present condition of affairs in that vicinity. Nov. 19 passed through Osawatomie with the squadron and encamped near the residence of Judge Davis, in Linn County, about 50 miles south of Osawatomie, same evening. Nov. 20 - A large number of depositions were taken concerning outrages & felonies that had been committed in that vicinity during the past summer & fall, and warrants were issued for the arrest of a number of persons so charged. Nov. 21. W^m Partridge was arrested. Nov. 22. James Townsley, Carrie B. Vaughan, W^m Kilburn, Samuel W. Kilburn Hugh Kilburn & Henry Kilburn were arrested. During the night Hugh Kilburn made his escape. Nov. 23. - Sunday Prisoners brought into main camp. Nov. 24 - James Townsley examined & committed on a charge of murder, - (participated in the massacre of Wilkeson, Sherman & the three Doyles on Pottawatomie Creek May last.) W^m Partridge examined & committed for felony. Carrie B. Vaughan examined & discharged, and the three Kilburns examined & committed for felony. During a search of three days a considerable amount of stolen property was recovered, identified proven & restored to the owners, consisting of horses, cattle, clothing, bedding, firearms and a wagon.

The undersigned had but faintly commenced the business with which they were charged in that section of the Territory when Captain De Saussure informed them that he had been ordered into winter quarters at Topeka with his command, and that no further assistance could be rendered by him. Without a military escort no arrests could be made with certainty & safety and further operations were therefore suspended.

On Tuesday Nov. 28 the five prisoners committed were placed

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under arrest and taken to Leavenworth and committed to prison to await the action of the Grand Jury for the Second Judicial District then in session.

Although but little was accomplished in comparison with the number of complaints made and the amount of business brought to our notice in the vicinity of Pottawatomie & Sugar Creeks, we are confident that the moral effect of the expedition will be beneficial. Good citizens of both parties afforded us much assistance, and many vicious and suspicious persons were taught a lesson that will have a tendency to restore public confidence in that section and secure unity of action hereafter for the public peace and welfare. The citizens in the South eastern portion of the Territory desire and we believe it would be advisable to have a few U. S. troops stationed in that vicinity. Their presence would aid in restoring confidence.

In conclusion we beg permission to return our thanks to Captain DeSaussure & Walker 1st Cavalry for their courtesy and promptness; to the family of Judge Davis & other citizens for assistance, and especially to Sarah N. Jackson for her services as guide -

Dated Leavenworth Nov. 29th 1856.

Respectfully yours Stewart

Edward A. Stewart

U. S. Commiss^t K. T.

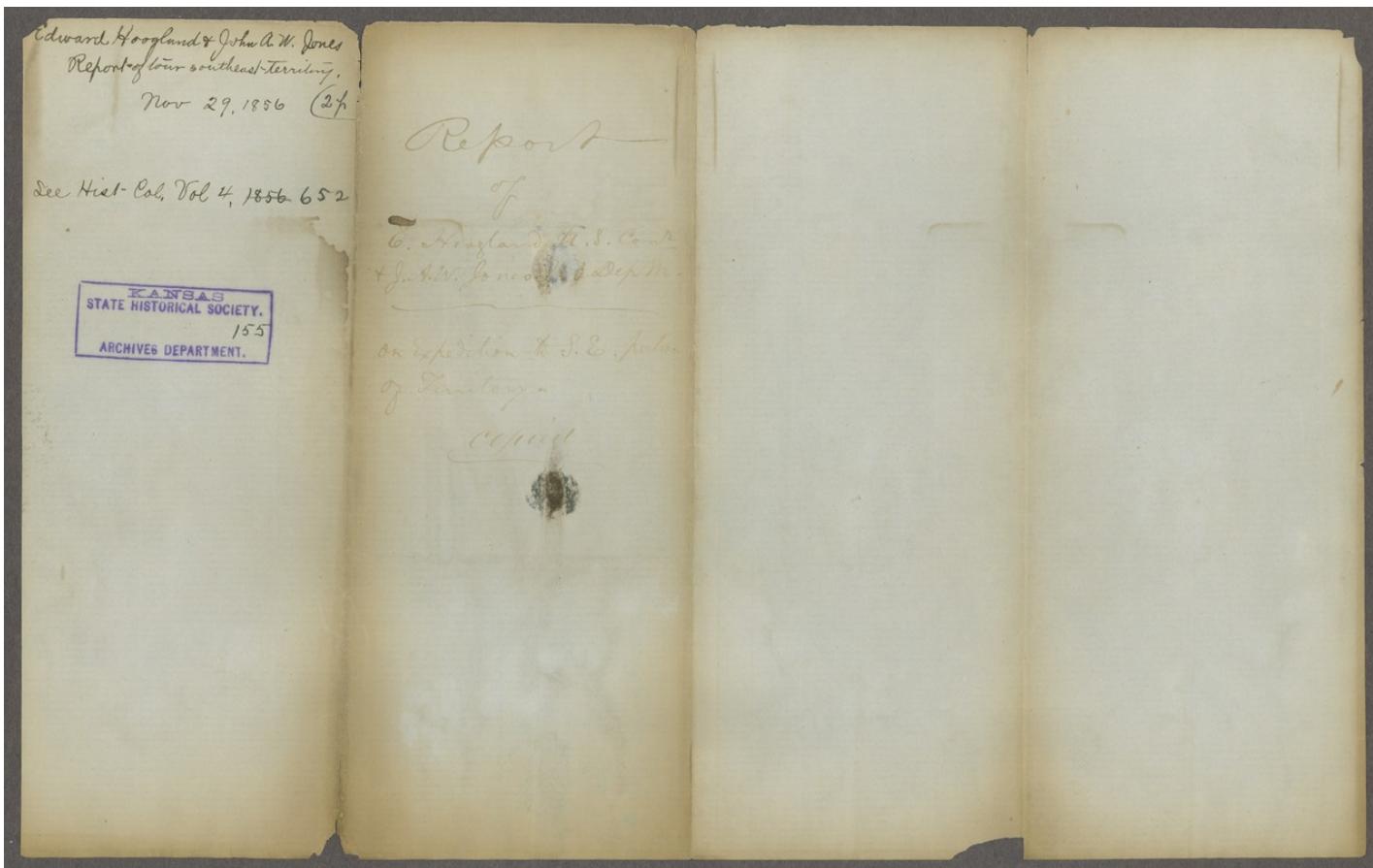
Mo. A. W. Jones,
Deputy U. S. Marshall

Nov 29th
App'd from U. S.

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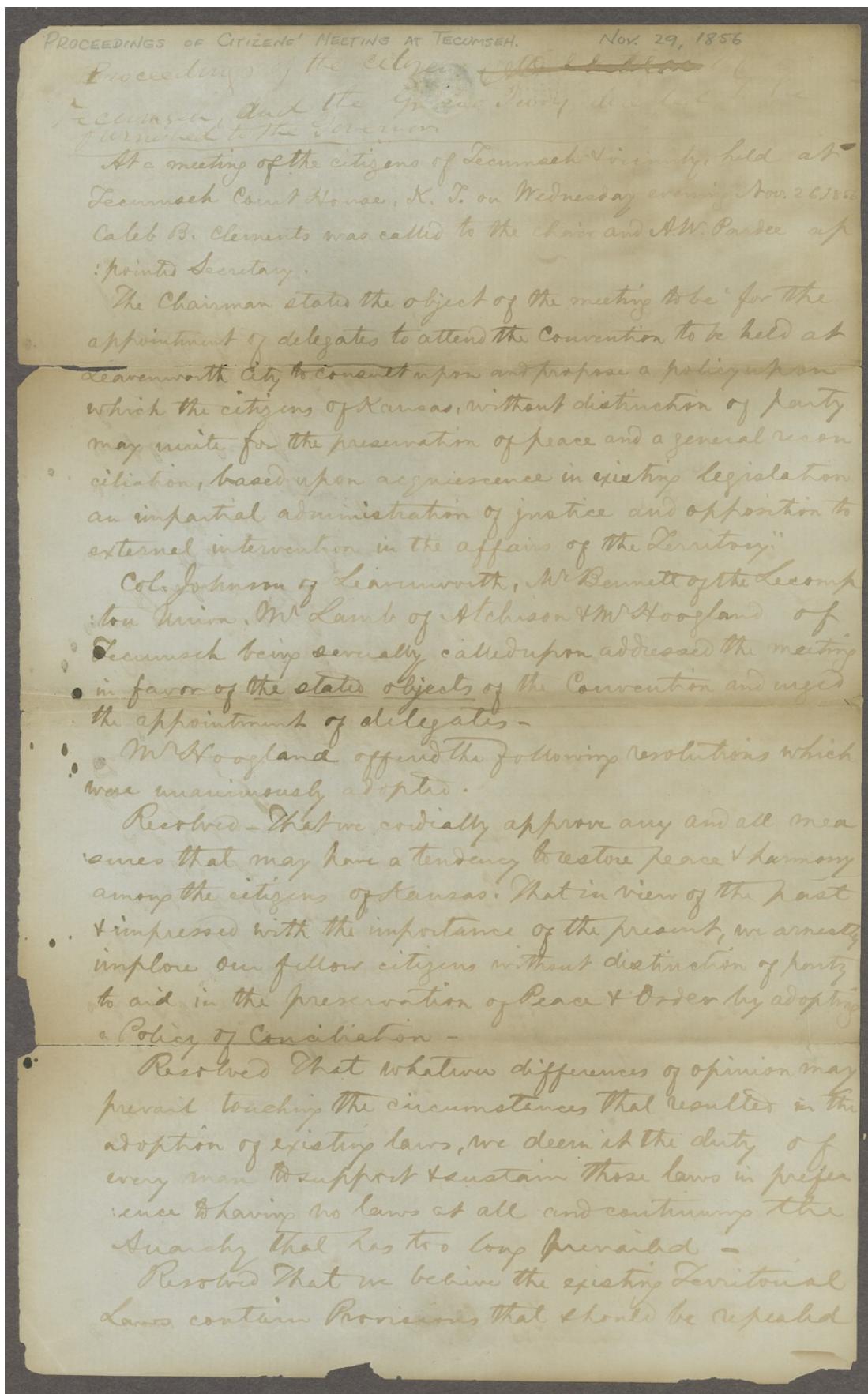


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and we have confidence that the Legislature, at the next Session will, with a spirit of justice and moderation correct oppressive legislation.

Resolved, That we have confidence in the patriotic desire & ability of Governor Geary to faithfully administer the Laws and protect and enforce the rights of all the citizens of Kansas; and we cordially approve the policy that he has adopted and which, thus far, has been attended with the happiest results towards the restoration of law and order equality and justice -

The meeting then appointed as delegates to the Leavenworth Convention B. Castellan, A. W. Pardoe, Judge Yager, W. A. M. Vaughan, John Dolman, Henry Carnichael L. H. Arthur E. Hoogland, George Osborn, Bennett A. Murphy, W. W. Martin Judge Elmore &

Ordered that the Secretary furnish copies of the proceedings of this meeting to the Leavenworth Lawrence & Lecompton newspapers with a request to publish the same - As permed.
A. W. Pardoe C. B. Clements,
Secretary Chairman

U. S. District Court
Second Judicial District
Leavenworth, Kansas, Nov. 29, 1856.

Resolved that,

We the undersigned Grand Jury for the Second Judicial District, do heartily approve the foregoing resolutions and recommend them to the citizens of Kansas Territory -

J. F. Fox, Foreman - Paris, Linn Co. K. T.
Joe M. Bernard St. Bernard Franklin Co.

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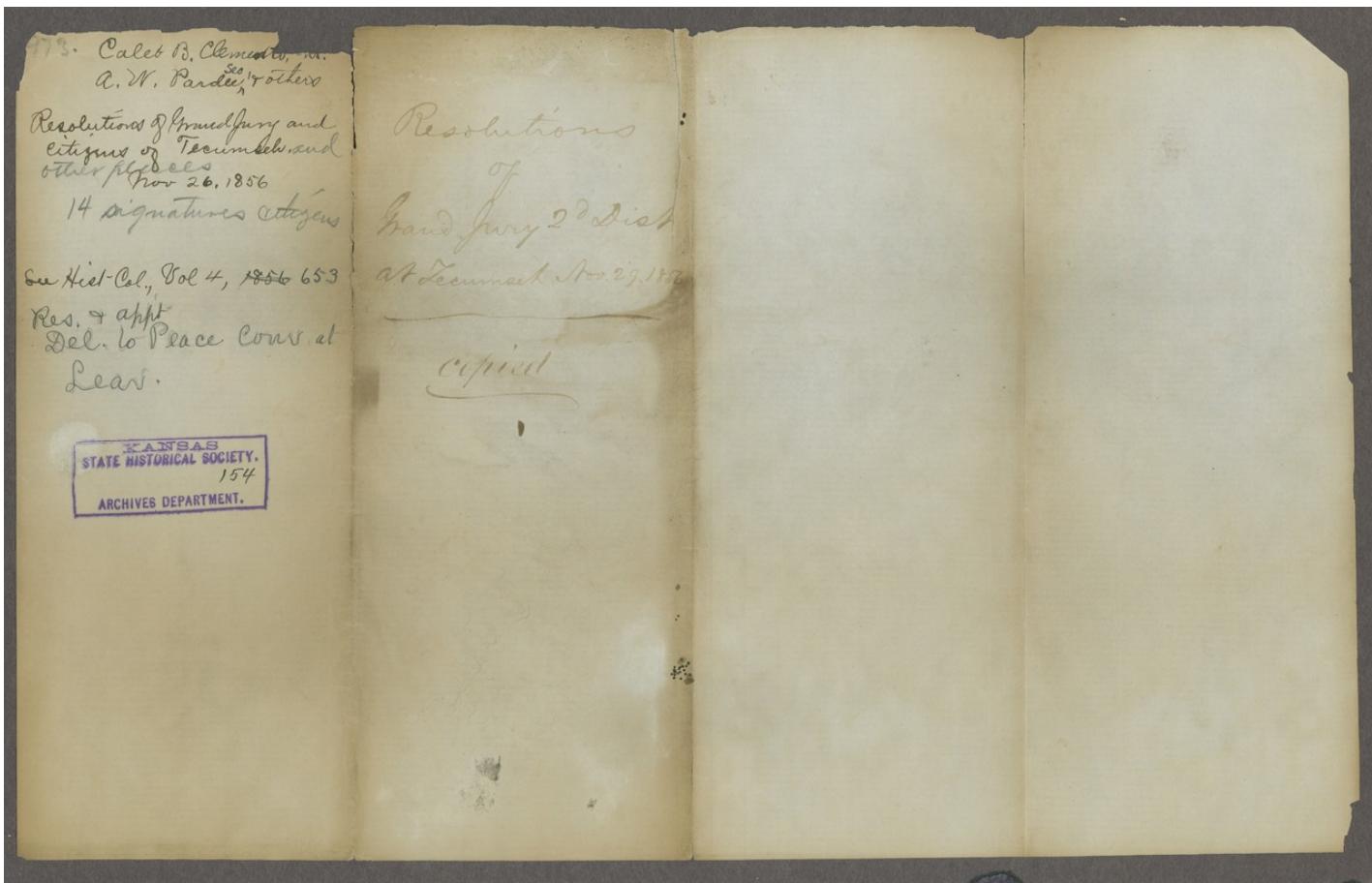
| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Sam'l D. Boon | Paola, Linn Co. |
| James M. Heren | Linn Co. |
| C. B. Wingfield | Pawnee Bourbon Co. |
| Jesse Davis | Linn Co. |
| M. P. McDaniel | Linn Co. |
| Sam'l T. Graham | Linn Co. |
| Ranson E. Elliott | Linn Co. |
| Phineas Glover | Linn Co. |
| B. F. Hill | Fort Scott, Bourbon Co. |
| J. A. Arbuckle | Linn Co. |
| F. E. Means | Linn Co. |
| W. M. Sutton | Linn Co. |
| T. M. Cook | Fort Scott - |
| Henry W. Martin; Clerk | Decatur, Shawnee Co. |
| The proceedings of the Grand Jury upon the above resolutions were ordered published & presented to the Governor - | |

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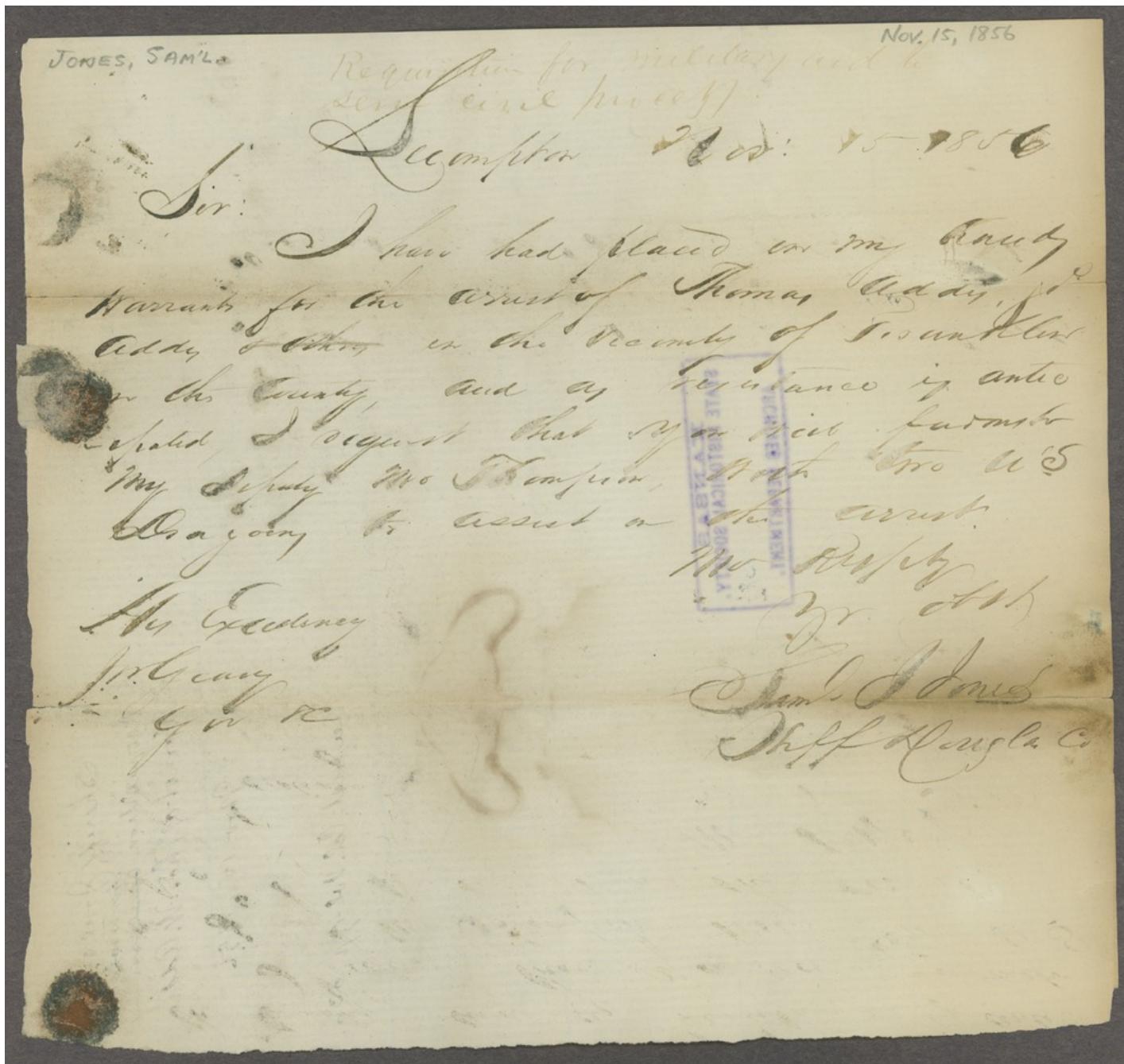


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Requisition of
Sheriff Jones
for 2 U.S. soldiers
for the arrest
of Thos. W. Addis
with Govt.

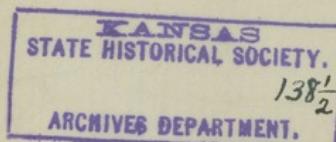
Requisition on
Capt. Wallace

For Estimates -
Nov. 15, 1856.

Sheriff Jones to
Requisition ~~concerning~~
arrest of Thos. W. Addis

Nov. 15, 1856

See Hist. Col. Vol 4, p. 636.



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DONALSON, ISRAEL B.

Leavenworth Ks Novem 29th 1856

To his excellency Govt of Kansas Territory 2
Sir

In explanation of my application on you
for troops to aid me in making arrests of certain
persons their names bearing date to day I will
state that there are some twenty five or more
persons to be arrested many of them live more
than one hundred miles from this place
consequently it will take about eight or ten
days to bring the prisoners here filing return
of my Deputy ^{James M. Gandy} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~examiner~~ for particularz
as to the probable time it will take so that the
troops may be the necessary stationz for the task
very respectfully

I B. Donalson to S. Collier



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I. B. Donaldson to
Gov Geary for troops & reasons why.
Nov 24, 1856

Nov 25, 1856
From Marshall
At Copeland
Ind. Conf.
Filed Nov 26, 1856

See Hist-Col, Vol 4, pg 644 for
Gov Geary's reply

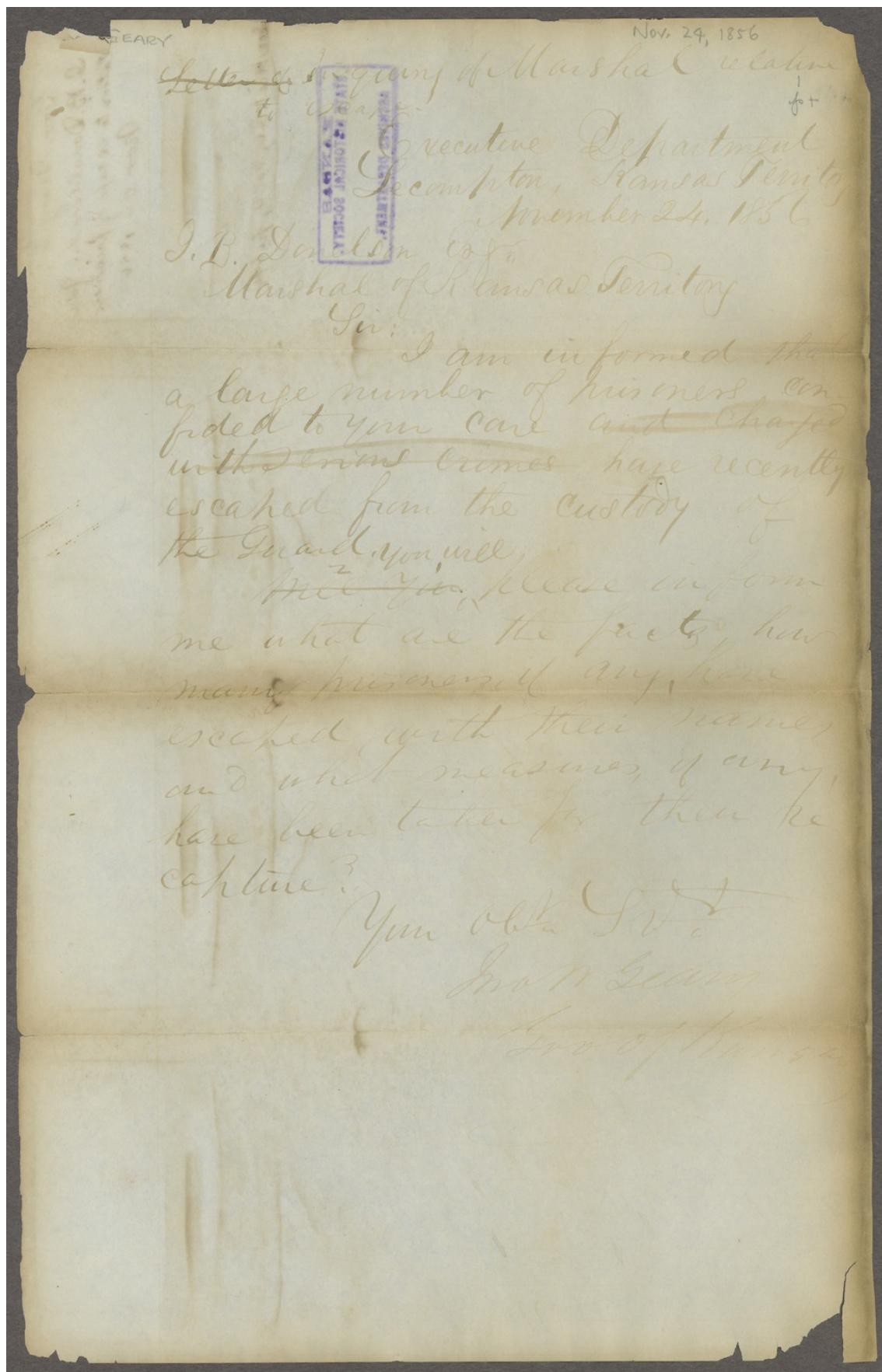


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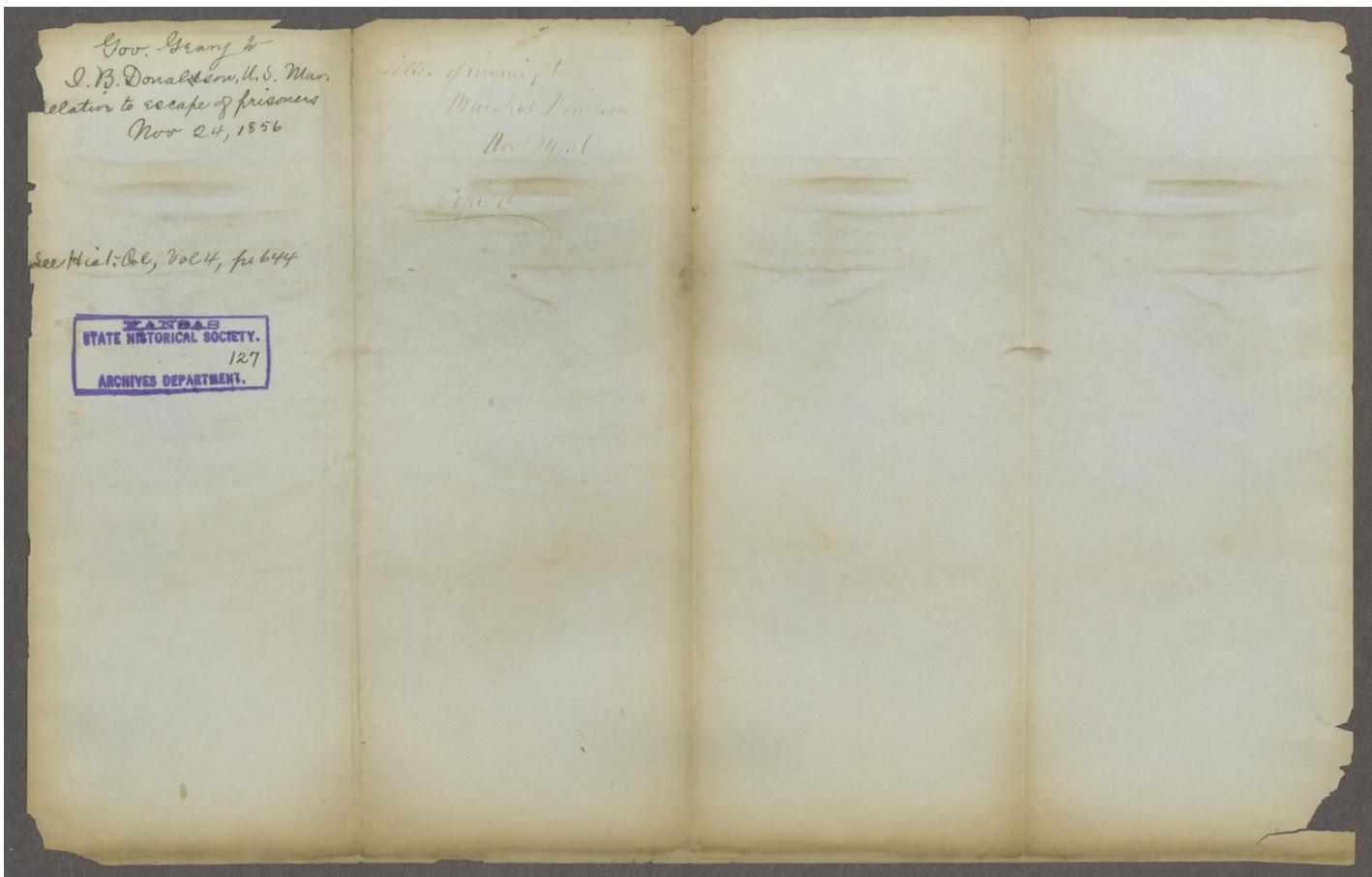


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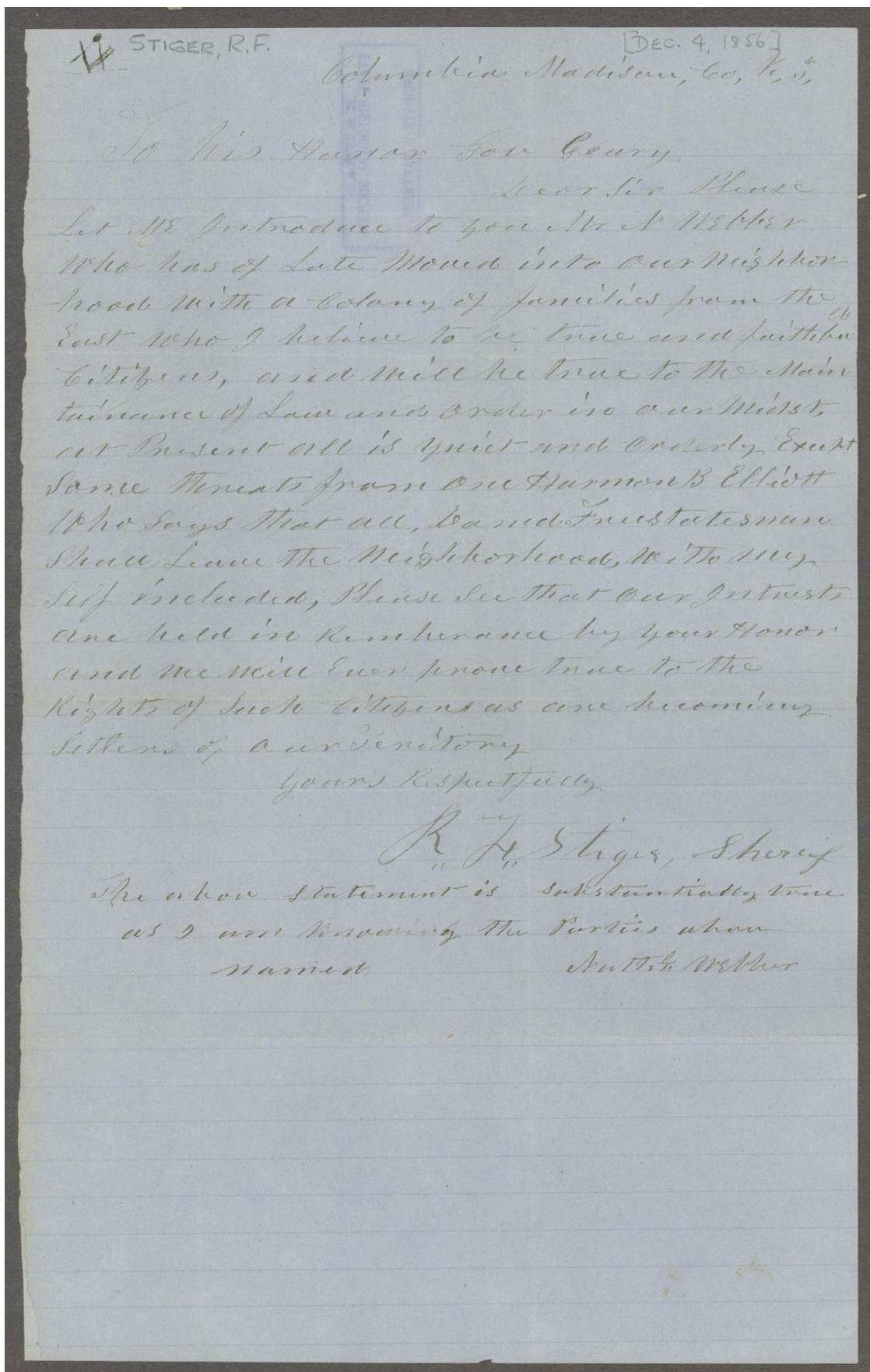


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R. F. Stiger, Sheriff
N. Webber of
Madison Co.
Complaint against H. B. Elliott
Dec 4, 1856

Columbia, Madison Co.,
Letters from
R. F. Stiger, Sheriff
N. Webber
of Madison Co.
complaining
against H. B. Elliott
Dec 4. 1856

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upon which the
Govt wrote a can-
tionary letter

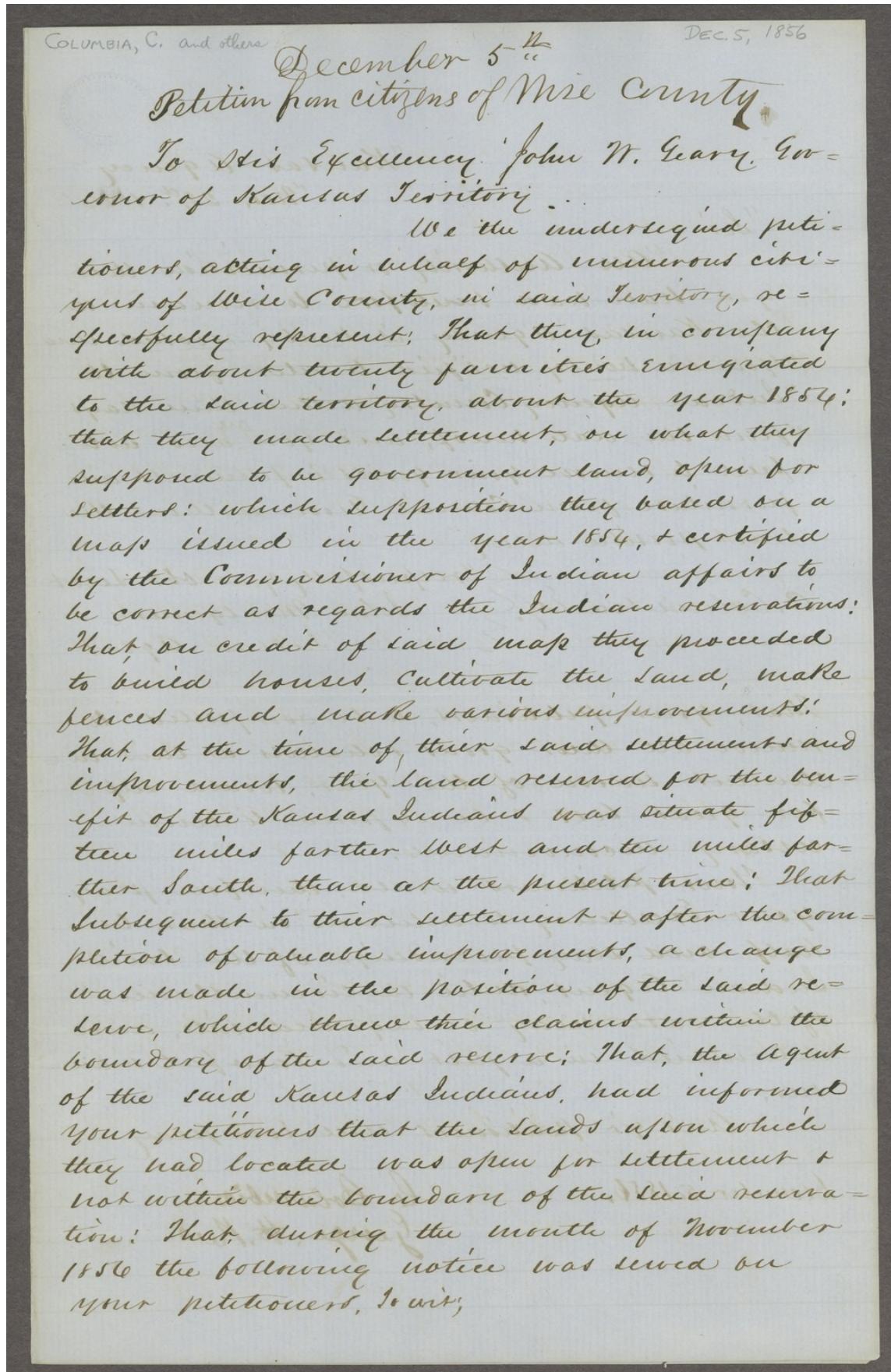
[Columbia, near Kansas]
Emporia.

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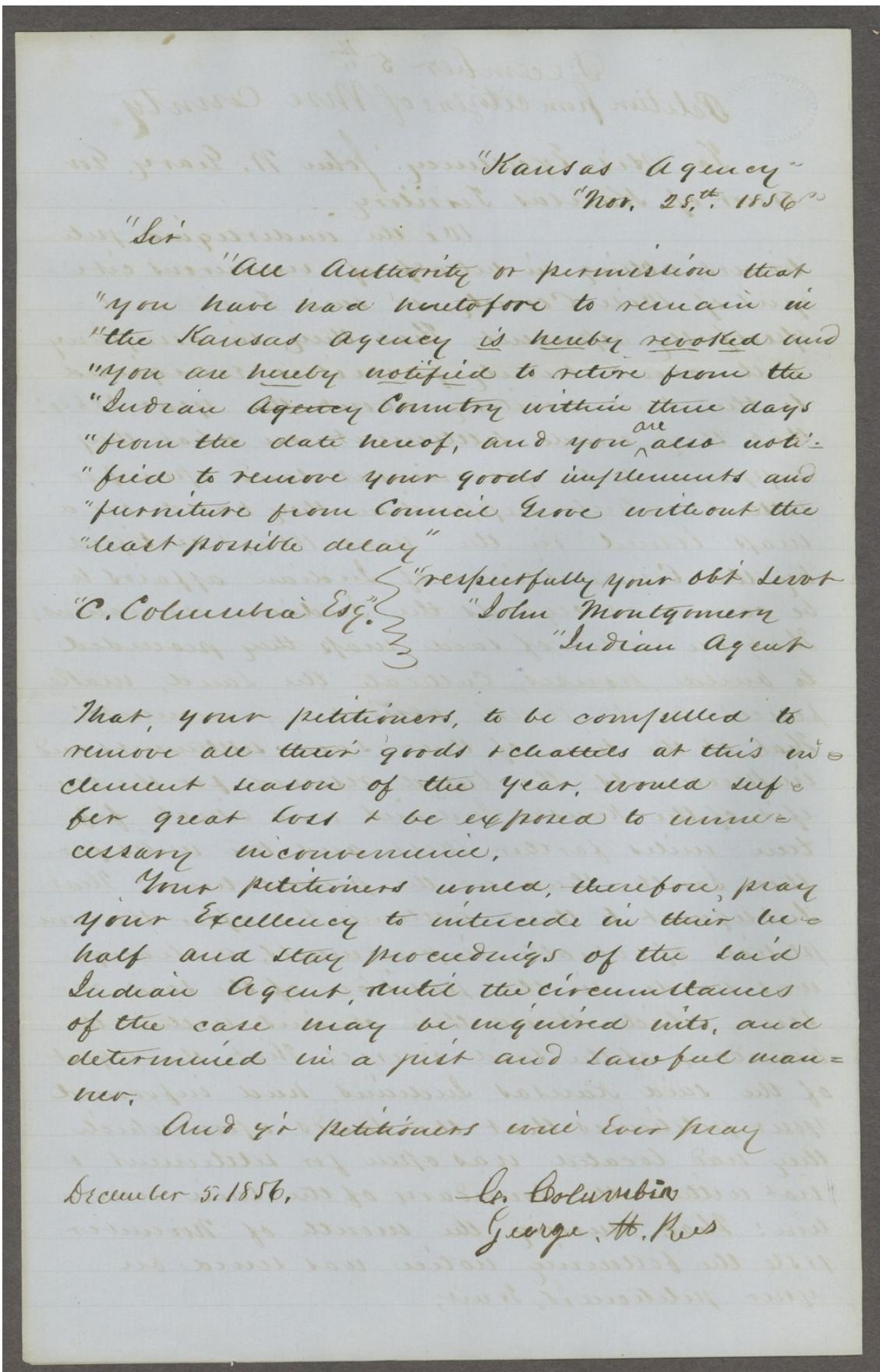


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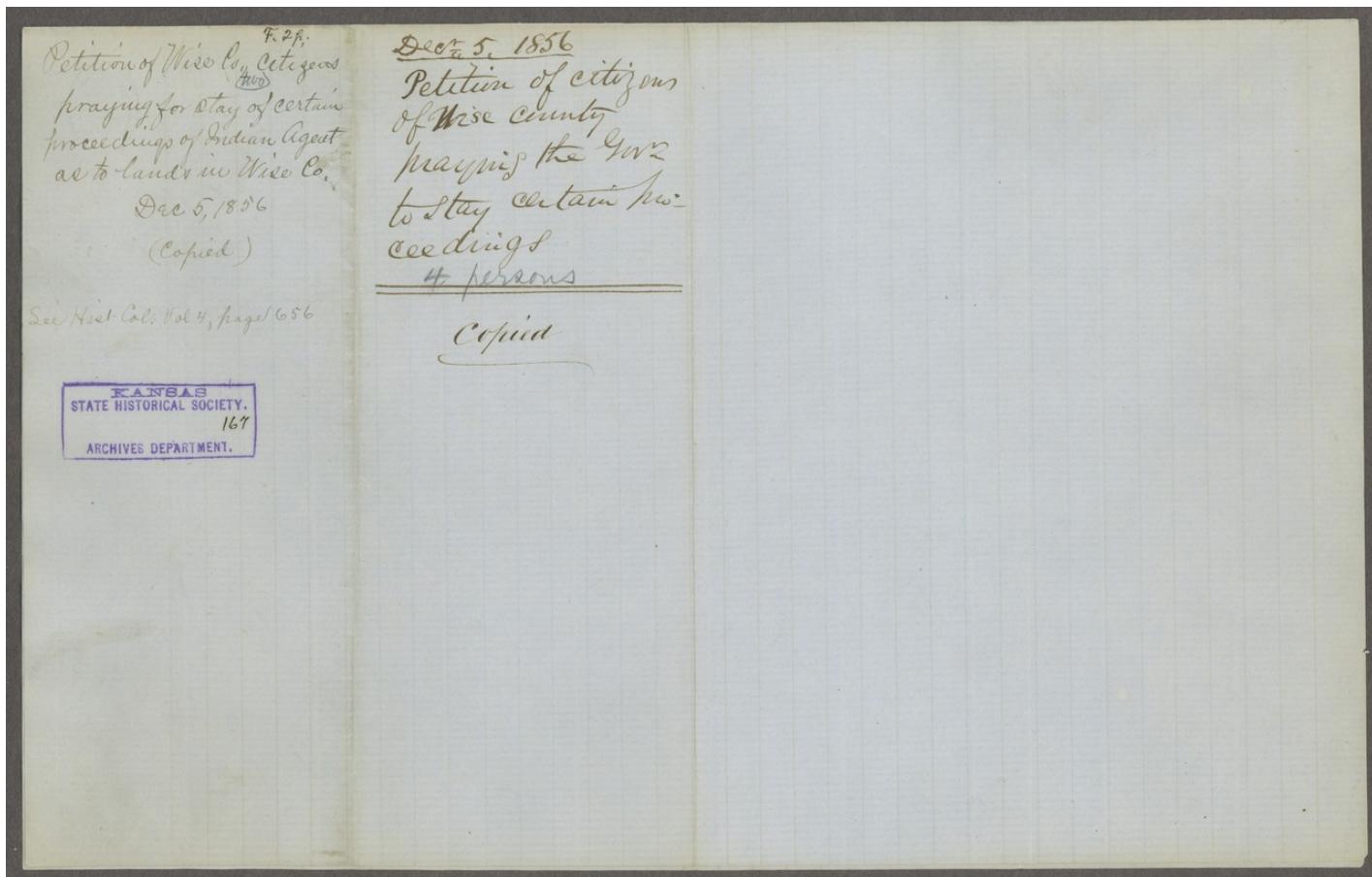


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FULLER, P.
MOORE, W^m

[1856?]

I, P Fuller of Centropolis K T
do date that I am requested by the Citizens
of the 4th District in Douglas Co
to call on the Governor for assistance
the actual settlers having information
an yesterday morning by Shawnee
Indians that there was some 6 to 7
six to seven hundred armed men
marching from Arkansas Creek west
The settlers then sent out J P Moore
Silas H Moore Augustus Shiers William
Dowd Chapman Mayfield & Mr Timous
to inquire into the facts of the case
They returned early in the evening
& state that they saw armed Bozels
out of men on Turkey Creek some
ten miles from the settlement
The above men are all actual settlers
to matters up the 4th Dist K T

P Fuller

William Moore

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