

George Luther Stearns correspondence

Section 5, Pages 121 - 150

This correspondence is between George Luther Stearns and several prominent abolitionists, including Colonel James Montgomery, George W. Collamore, Mary A. Brown, and John Brown, Jr. Included is a circular from the Office of the Kansas Relief Committee, of which Stearns was chairman, seeking clothing and other goods. Stearns received letters from individuals, wholesalers, retailers, and charitable organizations relating to the donation of various articles, goods, and money. It is also discussed how these donations, especially clothing, would benefit the 2nd and 3rd Regiments. A letter from Eleanor S. Deane includes a poem entitled, "To the Little Boys and Girls of Kansas."

Date: 1861-1862

Callnumber: George L. and Mary E. Stearns Coll. #507, Box 1 Folders 3-5

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 225865

Item Identifier: 225865

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KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

George Luther Stearns correspondence

Wood Jan 6

Feb 27, 1861

Inventory of Articles sent from West- Lebanon N. H. for the Sufferers in Kansas.

6 Yds Cotton Sheetting 8 c	.48
5 " Flannel 12	.60
9 Pairs Shoes + 2 of Rubbers .50 each	4.50
1 Quilt .75	.75
2 Ladies Dresses 1.00	2.00
2 Skirts 67	1.34
1 Calico Dress 1.00	1.00
1 de Laine Dress .50	.50
4 Pairs Flannel Drawers .50	2.00
1 Flannel Undershirt .50	.50
11 Shirts (Cotton) .50	5.50
4 " with Bosoms 1.50	6.00
1 Sheet + 4 Pairs Pillow cases - all 1.00	1.00
1 Bed Spread .50	.50
18 1/2 yds Calico (two pieces) 8 c	.68
4 Spencer + a Cape 1.00	1.00
1 Sack + 1 Apron 25 (both)	.25
1 Hood + a Wampum 25 each	.50
6 Pairs Men's Fisting 25	1.50
6 " Stockings 25	2.00
13 " Mittens + Gloves 25	.75
5 Plush Caps 1.00 (+ 2 without charge)	5.00
Amount carried forward	<u>\$35.85</u>

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Amount brought over		\$ 37.85
3 Pairs of Pants (Cotton) 50		1.50
3 " " " Woolen 2.00 (for all)		2.00
3 More Pairs " " 2.00 "		2.00
1 Over coat - nearly new 9.00		9.00
1 " " very good 5.00		5.00
3 Drap Coats 4.50 the whole		4.50
1 Spencer 50 2 Coats 1.00 each		2.50
6 Summer Vests 25		1.50
4 Winter " 50		2.00
3 Woollen Shawls (old) 1.00 all		1.00
2 Bed Quilts 1.00		2.00
1 Comforter 1.00 1 wearing Quilt - 50		1.50
Amount		\$ 72.85
Besides various Packages of Garden Seeds. -		3.00
2 pairs Cotton Hose 2/-		.67
Prized Lot		1/6
		\$ 76.68

Purple Cupid

Please acknowledge the receipt of this
Box sent Feb 26th 1861.
Direct to Samuel Wood, 2d
West. Lebanon,
N. H.

Ret. acknd - *[initials]*
Feb 27, 1861

George Luther Stearns correspondence

Samuel Wood 2nd
West Lebanon, N.H.
Dec. 1st 1861.

1 Box Goods

Valued at 76.68

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Page 80.

Hopkins, H.D.

Vermont & Boston Telegraph Company

BETWEEN

**BOSTON, MONTREAL & OGDENSBURGH.
ALSO, SPRINGFIELD AND ST. JOHNSBURY;**

AND INTERMEDIATE PLACES. WITH CONNECTIONS TO ALL PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON WHICH MESSAGES ARE RECEIVED BY THIS CO. FOR TRANSMISSION

The public are notified, that in order to guard against mistakes in the transmission of messages, every message of importance ought to be repeated, by being sent back from the station at which it is to be received to the station from which it is originally sent. Half the usual price for transmission will be charged for repeating the message. This company will not be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery of unrepeatable messages, from whatever cause they may arise; nor will it be responsible for damages arising from mistakes or delays of a repeated message, beyond an amount exceeding one hundred times the amount paid for sending the message; nor will it be responsible for delays arising from interruptions in the working of its Telegraphs, nor for any mistake or omission of any other Company over whose lines the message is to be sent to reach its place of destination. All messages will hereafter be received by this Company for transmission, subject to the above conditions.

G. W. GATES, Sup't.

JOS. LATHROP, Pres't.

Office---31 State Street.

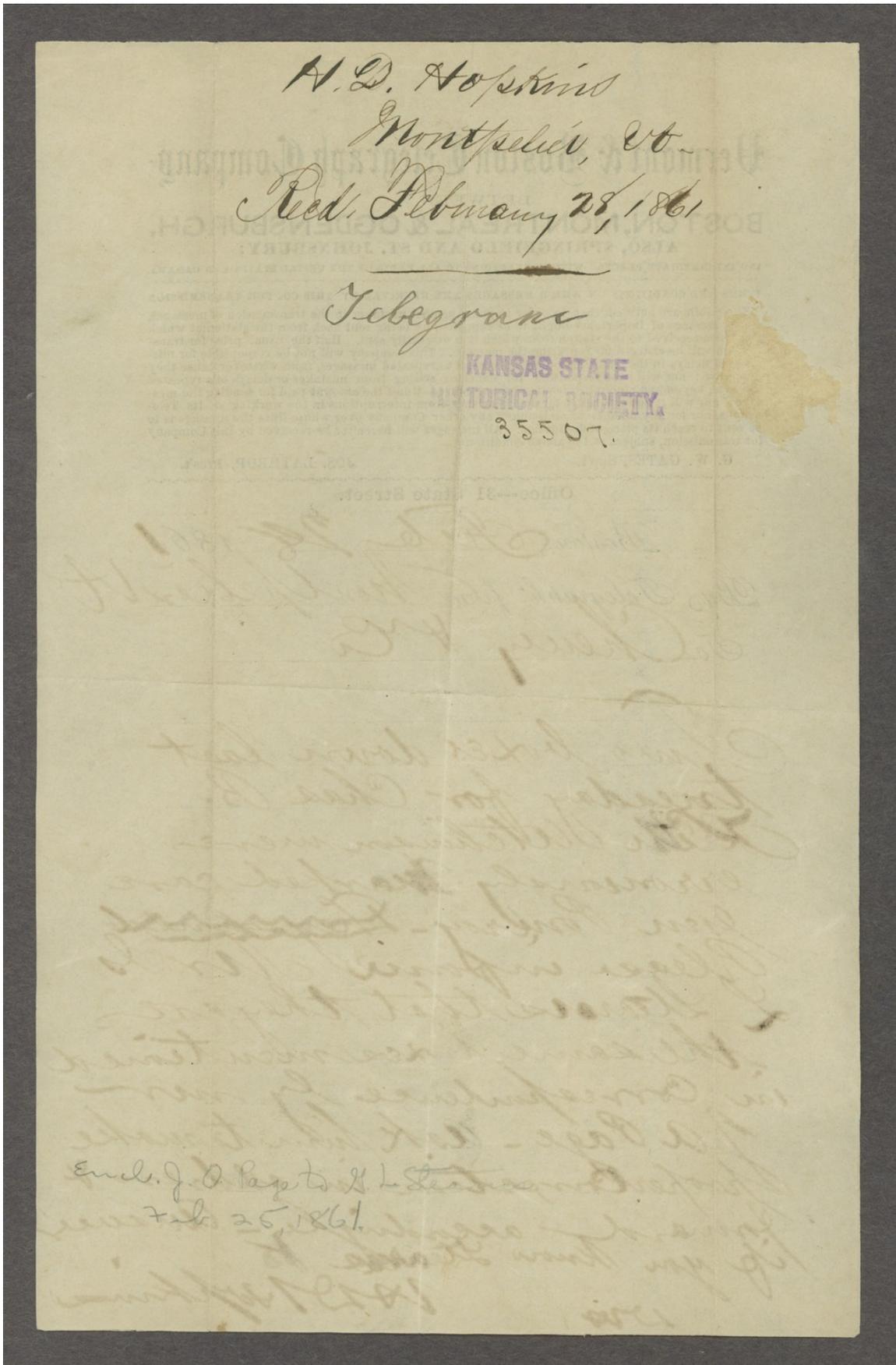
Boston, Feb 28 1861

By Telegraph from Montpelier VT
To Cheney & Co

Two boxes down last
Tuesday for Chas B.
Ketchum Atchinson were
erroneously marked care
Gen Pondroy - ~~Springfield~~
Please inform Mr L
Stearns that they are
the same boxes mentioned
in correspondence by Mr
J A Page - Ask him to make
proper correction in address &
forward accordingly - Answer
if you know Stearns
W.D. Hopkins



George Luther Stearns correspondence



A. D. Hopkins
Montpelier, Vt.
Recd. February 28, 1861

Telegram

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Encl. J. O. Page to G. L. Stearns
Feb. 25, 1861.



Curran, Ruth P.

KANSAS STATE
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Mr Geo L Stearns
Sir

Enclosed with this please
find

3 pr Shirts
1 " Pillow Cases
2 " Chemise
2 " Drawers
1 " Shirts
2 " Stockings
1 Apron
1 Dress

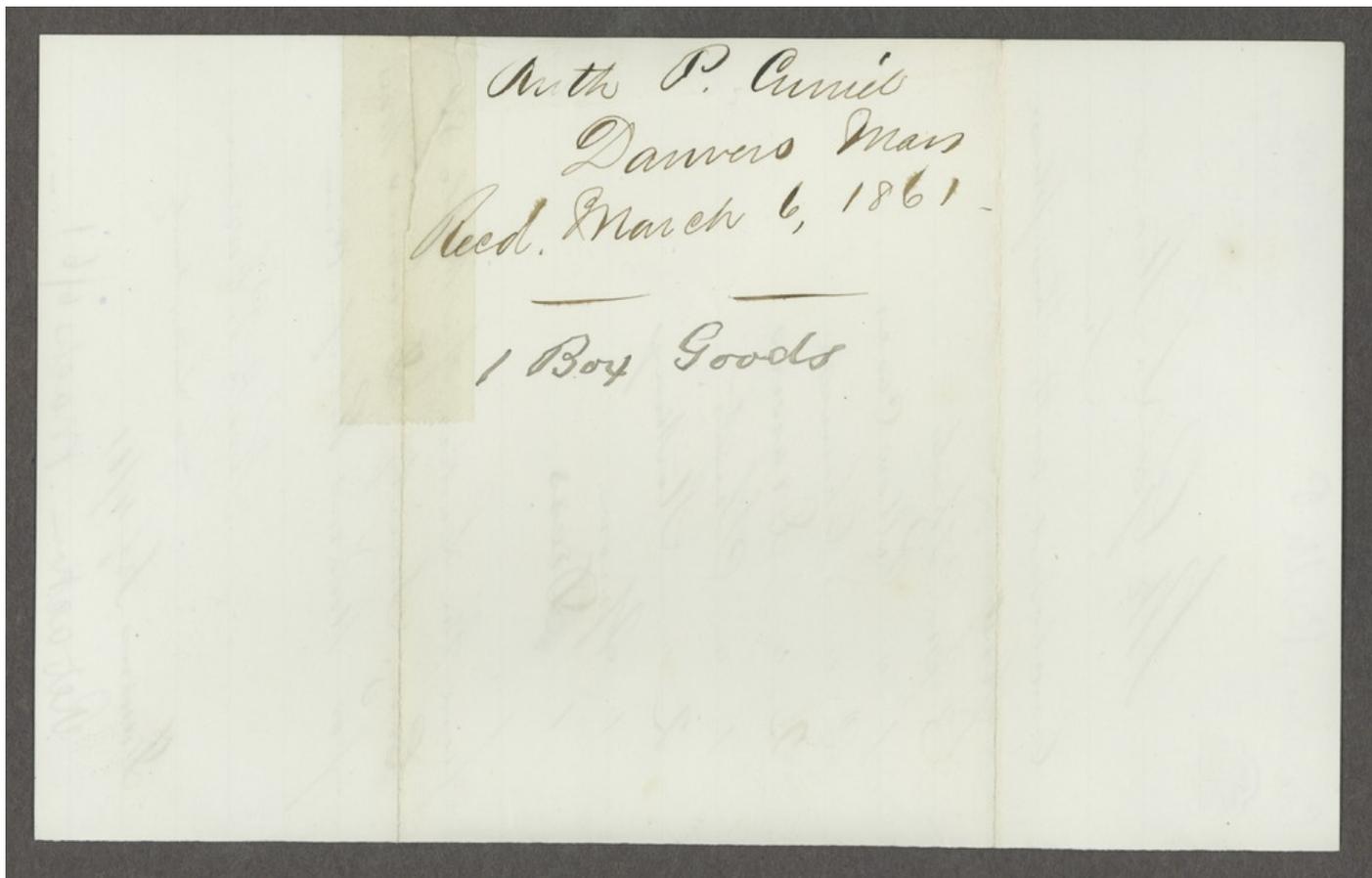
from the Ladies of Maple St
Cong. Society Danvers Mass
for Kansas Relief Com

Ruth P. Curran
for Ladies Society

Danvers Feb 4/61

Retacked March 6/61 -

George Luther Stearns correspondence





Bruce, J. E.

KANSAS STATE
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Mar. 8. 1861

Mr Geo. L. Stearns

D. D. S. S.

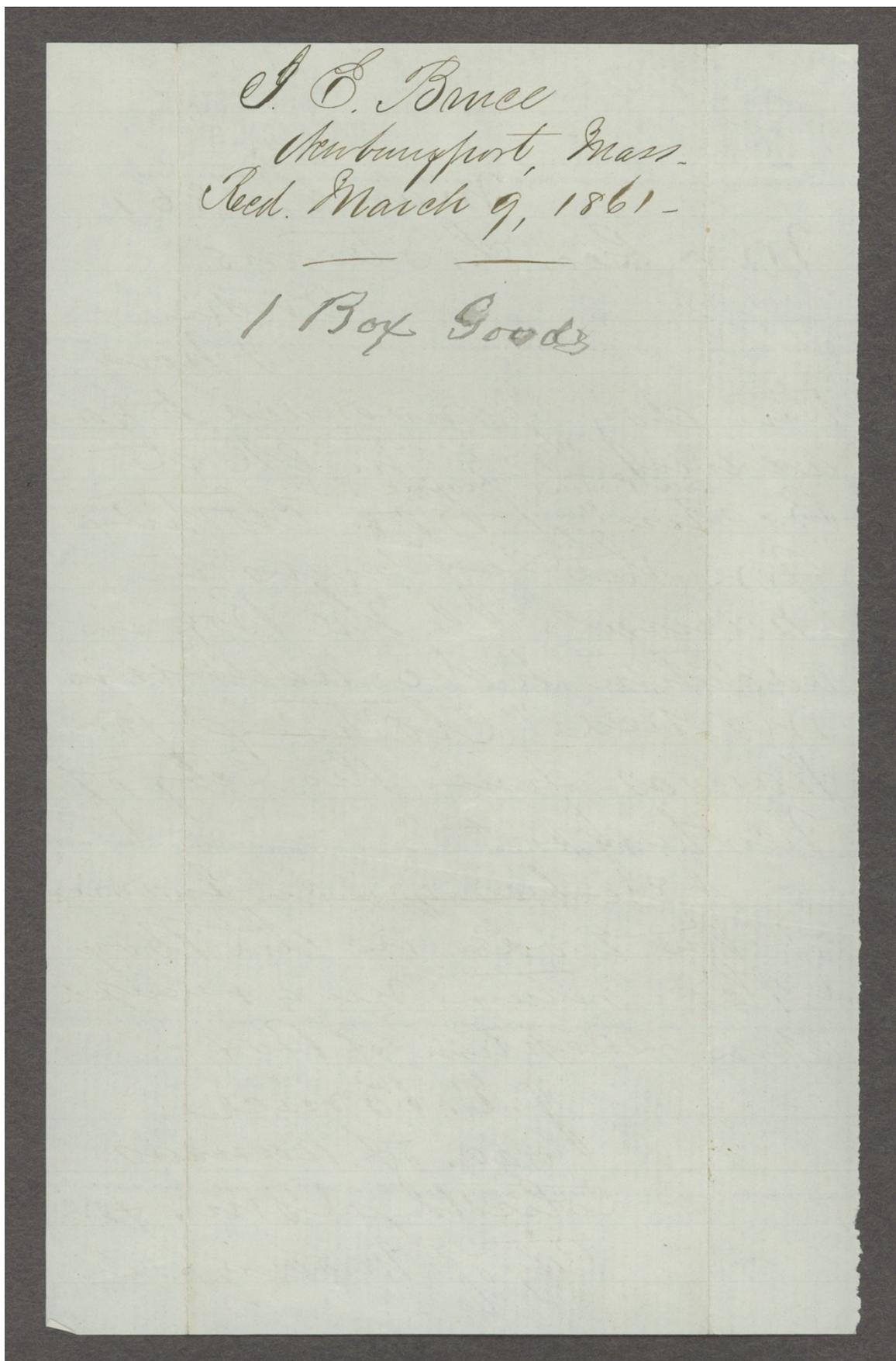
I have

this day forwarded to your
address "129 Milk St
via Boston & Maine R.R.
Boston" a Box Clothing
for the sufferers in
Kansas. The Box in
addition to the address is
marked "Clothing for
Kansas from the City of
Newburyport"

I enclose you an Invoice
of the goods in the Box
Please return me a receipt
upon reception of Box -

J. E. Bruce
Sec. of Kansas
Soliciting Com. for
City of Newburyport

George Luther Stearns correspondence





George Luther Stearns correspondence

Montgomery, Ja.
[Stearns.]

KANSAS STATE
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Lawrence, Kansas, March 4th 1861.
Geo. L. Stearns Esq.;

Dear Sir;

Your several favors dated Feb. 12th & Feb. 14th are all received I left Mound City on Monday last (March 4th) and arrived here on Tuesday evening, by Stage. I leave, this morning, for the South.

Mr. Collamore is absent. No one knows where he is. He was expected back on the evening of the 5th but has not returned yet. It is impossible for me to wait any longer. My affairs, at home, are pressing me sorely. I received a letter a few days ~~ago~~ ~~previous~~ ~~and~~ to Feb. 12th requesting me to call on Mr. Collamore, which ~~letter~~ ^{request} I promptly obeyed, and met with a disappointment like the present.

W. R. Anthony is not at home. ~~and~~ In his absence, I have drawn you through Betts & Co. through Thompson of this city. I have paid Mrs. Stewart Twenty five Dollars. I found ⁱⁿ ~~her~~ ~~want~~ ^{of almost} everything.

I paid them Ten Dollars, and will pay Buchanan Ten. They are Stewart's assistants here.

I do not know of any case of actual death from starvation but the suffering is great enough God knows, and the supplies now too great.

Truly Yours

James Montgomery

George Luther Stearns correspondence

James Montgomery ¹⁰
Laurence Ks.
March 8, 1861



Austin, Wm P.

KANSAS STATE
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Account of W. P.

March 11 1861

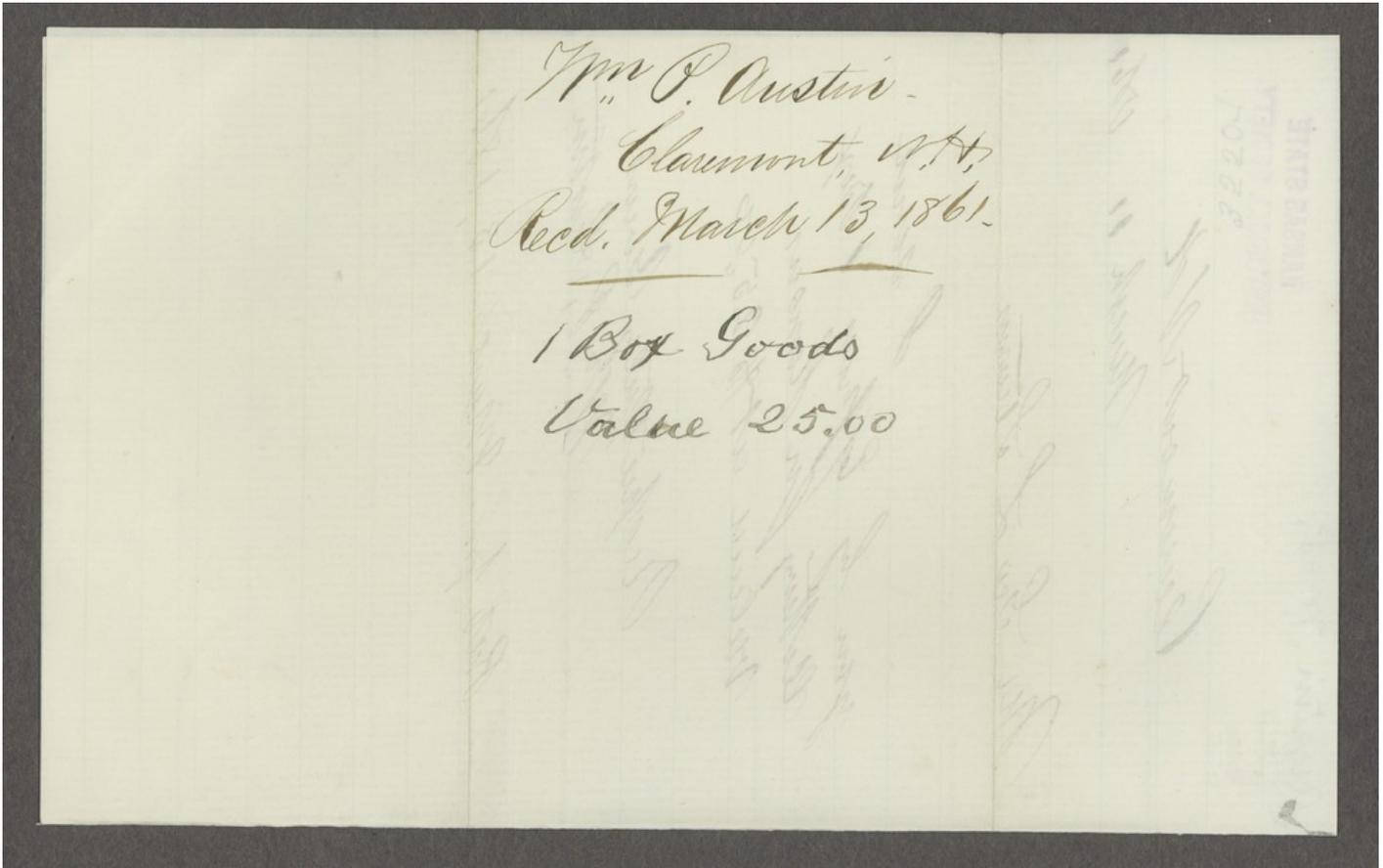
Mr Geo L Stearns

I send
you by Express a box
clothing for Kansas
valued at \$25.00

Respectfully Yours
Wm P. Austin

Ret. for March 13, 1861.

George Luther Stearns correspondence



George Luther Stearns correspondence

them here, while I was quite as positive in the opinion that we could. We have one that we ^{have} kept over three years; and we have at least a dozen that we have kept from six months to a year. We have not had one killed or taken from us yet, in this part of the country, and we have been tried, quite as severely, as we are likely ~~ever~~ to be again.

Kansas is truly a free state, and ever shall be. A fugitive can ~~travel~~ travel as safely here, as in Southern Kansas, as he can in Canada.

An Old Free Dorky was kidnapped, a few weeks since, by a party of Missouri Militia but he need not have been had he kept his arms in condition for use. He had two guns, and the man with whom he lived, two more, and yet not one of the four guns could be fired for want of caps. The party was perfectly cowardly, and a single shot would have dispersed them. But, suppose they ever succeed in capturing one occasionally; they will find him a dangerous missionary among their plans in the South, and he will, generally, return, bringing company with him.

The Senatorial Question is running high here, now, and the Candidates are going through a regular sweat.

It is, however, much to be regretted that any of them, in their jealousy of Pomeroy, should misrepresent the condition of the country, and, yet, this is what I fear some of them have done.

I have just received a letter from Mr. Smalley, informing me that a lady whose name he is not at liberty to mention, has placed in your hands \$25 for my use. I fully appreciate the delicacy of this compliment, and yet, I shall not rest easy until I have discovered "the secret".

Mr. Da-Dee, of Lawrence, has a "Negative" from which he is printing pictures, that I think are better representations of my ~~face~~ ^{features} than any that I have ever seen before. As soon as I can get one, I beg her to accept it. They were not finished when I left Lawrence. Mrs. ^{Da-Dee} ~~Da-Dee~~,
J. L. Montgomery

George Luther Stearns correspondence

James Montgomery¹¹
Normal City, Mo.
March 11, 1861



Russell, Mrs. H. B.

KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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Salem, March 22, 1861.

Mr. Stearns,

Sir,

Some Salem ladies have filled two boxes, one trunk, & two casks with clothing for the destitute in Kansas. They have directed it to Rev. John S. Brown, of Lawrence, to be distributed by him. The storm may prevent the goods from reaching you to day, but you will receive them very soon, I think. Will you direct your agent to advise Mr. Brown of their arrival at Leavenworth, as soon as possible, as Mrs. Brown writes that they need more clothing, having distributed almost the last garments they received

George Luther Stearns correspondence

from Buffalo; & many persons
were suffering, at the time she
wrote.

Please let me know if these
boxes do not reach you in a few
days. Perhaps we ought not to
depend on you to mark them,
but we thought you could do
it better than any one here.

Respectfully,
H. B. Russell.

Direct,
care of Rev. John L. Russell.

George Luther Stearns correspondence

A. B. Russell
Salem Mass.
Recd. March 23, 1861.

2 Boxes }
1 Trunk } Clothing
2 Cases }



Bailey, Sophia W. KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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March 1861,

Hopkinton K. Mo.

Dear Sir The Ladies of
Hopkinton have prepared
a barrel of clothing for the
Institute of Kansas.

The articles are as follows
4 quilts - 4 comfortable
2 boys spencers 2 thin ditto
15 boys caps - Childrens hose
5 prs feeting, boys paper
4 pairs hose, box spice
Black linen thread
4 lb. white thread
1 quilted skirt
2 prs thick shoes
110 yds print for a dress
15 yds ditto - dress coats

George Luther Stearns correspondence

10. Shaving Hotten yarn,
sack and 3 shirts
4 chickens aprons,
1, worsted cap / night dress
Garden seeds / night cap
1 dress, other articles,
A bonnet & hood
2 delaine shirts - 1 sack
1 dickey - white spencer,
1 shirt - 1 pr calf skin shoes

Value of the articles \$20
Yours,
Sophia W. Bailey
Recd acknowledged
Mch. 25, 1861.

Bill No.

91

George Luther Stearns correspondence

Sophia W. Bayley
Hopkinton, N.H.
Recd. March 25, 1861

Miscellaneous

Articles

1 Dickey

George Luther Stearns correspondence

Reed, A. L.

Lamar, Kansas March 25, 1861

Mr. Stearns

Dear Sir

You will pardon intension
And please inform me in behalf of Mrs.
Stewart where J. E. is and when he is
to return - we have heard nothing from
him for nearly a month. And his wife is
nearly crazed She has been depending
upon remittances from you for a living and
must suffer unless you send her more money
the fifty dollars you sent her the applied
towards Provisions & Rent which she was owing
And since that time she has been living on tick
he now is indebted to me some \$250.00 and
his family in his absence are solely dependent
on me for every thing they have, and I must
have relief - It is generally believed here
that he has been killed tho I am making
great effort to keep such fears from Mrs S

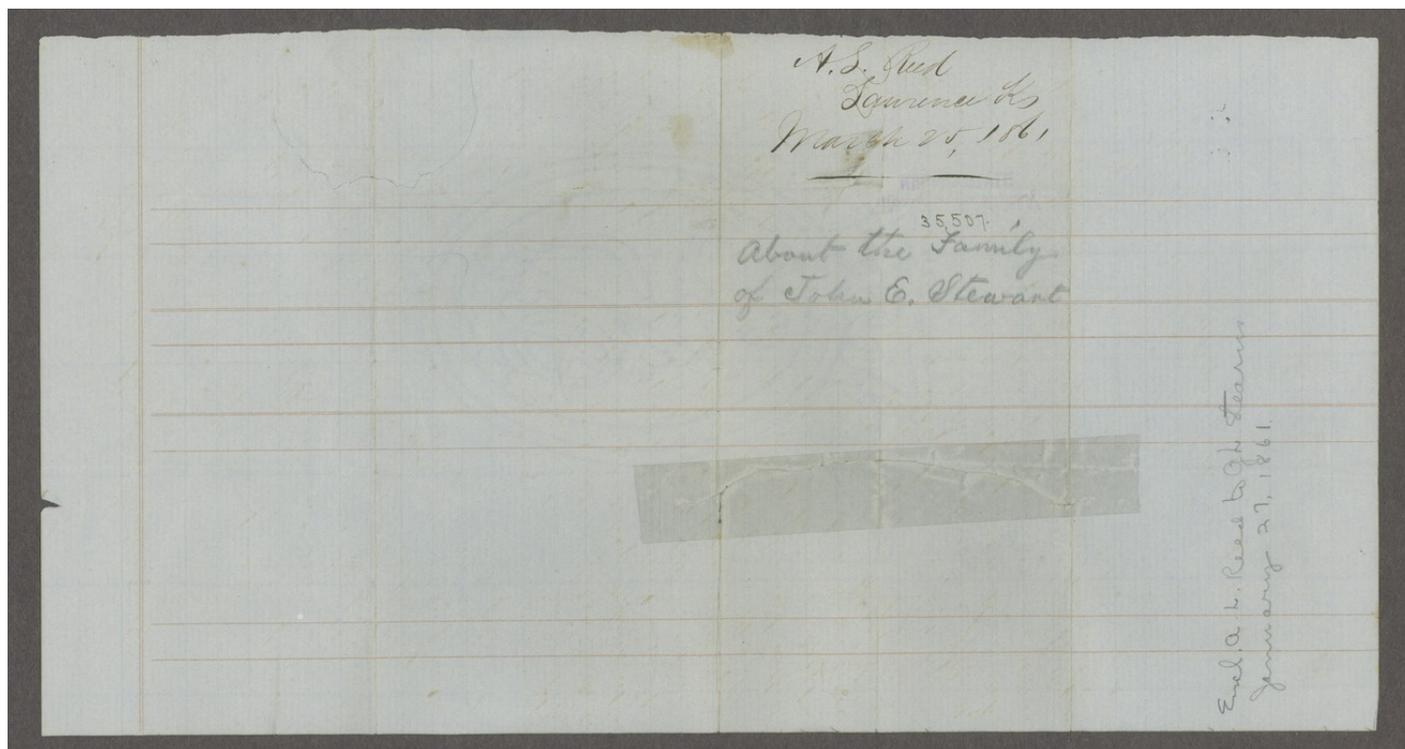
Write to me or Mrs Mary Stewart without
a moments delay And permit her a draft
for what you can Payable as before to her order
I have to borrow Money to morrow to pay her
Rent. She is sick - confined to her bed one
of her Boy Babies has lately been join up by
her Doctor to die - But the Lord will a diffulty
and is now getting better Making still three sick
in the family. And if you ever see a man
you think cant be moved with sympathy
let him once look in upon that doated
family of our Mutual friends J. E. - and
he knows nothing of their condition.

Sincerely - Wm & Dear

Respectfully

A L Reed

George Luther Stearns correspondence



George Luther Stearns correspondence

John O. Cleveland
Lowell Mass.
Recd. March 28, 1861 -
Lowell, 27th. '61.
Clothing & Groceries
George L. Stearns Esq. 129 Milk St.
Dear Sir,
Some two or three weeks
since, my wife sent a Box of
Clothing by Sargent's Express to
the office of the Merchants Ex-
press directed to my personal
friend, Gen. Porroroy of Atchison
Kansas & marked "Kansas
-Relief" Sargent's Express of
this City took it down gratis,
and my wife was sadly disappointed.
To learn from them, that the American
Expr. Co. had annulled their offer
to transport gratis from Boston to
Kansas, and when I was in Boston
last week Tues. I tried, but in vain,
to find some free transportation.
On my getting home, I

George Luther Stearns correspondence

was handed the enclosure
slip, cut from a Boston Paper

Starving Condition of the People of Kansas.—Will the people of Kansas be allowed to starve? This is a question of no slight import just now. Starving Ireland, and more recently the victims of the Syrian massacres have been generously cared for and now shall forty thousand of our fellow citizens be left to perish with hunger? It is stated that \$200,000. is needed to meet pressing demands. Boots, shoes and clothing may be sent to George L. Stearns, 129 Milk Street, Boston, and money to Dr. Thomas H. Webb,

We accordingly request
you to take charge of, &
forward the same as soon
as possible—gratis, if
you can (and, at any rate, as eco-
nomically as possible.

It is a well packed box of
clothing, some groceries, such
as hard bread. My wife is
anxious to have it reach Gen.
P. unopened & uninjured—
I enclose a stamped envelope, that
you may inform my wife when
she you have sent it, & on
what terms, & she will immediately

George Luther Stearns correspondence

advise Gen. Pomeroy of its transmission

I am respectfully yours,
John P. Cleaveland.

N.B. Below is a formal order, as my
name is on the Box, for its delivery
to yourself.



Cleveland, John P.

KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

35507.

Powell, Sat. Ev. 30 Mch. '61.

Bro: J. Stearns Esq.

Sir, I am in receipt of yours of 29th inst.

In reply, I would say, that 'tis impossible that any of goods of any sort can be more emphatically and unconditionally intended to be "for general distribution" than the one collected and forwarded by my wife, for "Kansas Relief".

The only reason for putting on Gen. Pomeroy's name, was that we knew him well, and also knew that he was regarded as one of the most, if not the



most reliable Abmoner of
Charities in the Territory (State)
of Kansas -

My wife, on learning that
the Boy has started, will im-
-mediately write Sen. Pomeroy
and advise him of the same,
informing him that the contents
are designed entirely for
general and indiscriminate
distribution, as to persons,
localities, & the like.

I cannot, therefore, con-
-ceive a case which more
fully comes within your des-
-cription of "fright-free" than
the one in question.

I am respectfully yours,

V. S. Cleveland

P.S. If the Marking needs
alteration to adapt it to

George Luther Stearns correspondence

"freight free" merchandise, please
make such alteration at dis-
cretion. You will find on one
of the sides a Card with my name
on it - can't read what else; I know not,
as I never read it. Please re-
move or retain the Card as
you judge best.