

Kansas Memory



James Blood correspondence

Section 4, Pages 91 - 120

James Blood was involved with the first party of New England Emigrant Aid Company settlers who arrived to Kansas in late July 1854. Blood was actively engaged from the beginning in the free-state movement. He served as treasurer of the Kansas State Central Committee, 1856-1857, as a member of the Topeka legislature, 1856, as the first mayor of Lawrence in 1857, as a member of the central territorial committee at the Republican Party's organizing convention in May 1859, as county treasurer in the early 1860s, and as a representative from Lawrence in the 1869 state legislature. He died in Lawrence on February 4, 1891. This folder of correspondence focuses on the years 1854 to 1861, with some letters discussing border problems with Missouri and the need for additional troops and artillery.

Date: 1854-1861

Callnumber: James Blood Coll. #281, Box 1 Folder 1

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Powell, W.H.,
Dinner is prepared for you
and I am prepared, etc.
941
W.M. Springfield Sept. 12. 1860

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 3d inst. directed to Bloomington,
reached me at this place on
the 9th. I waited a day at
B. for an answer to my let-
ter, but failing to hear from
you as soon as I expected,
I came down here, whence
your letter followed me.

I also rec'd, an hour since,
a letter from the Rev. Chas
Reynolds, dated at Quincy, the
9th; stating that he had suc-
cessfully in raising some \$600.
to \$700. in Chicago for the pur-
chase of Seed Wheat, but fail-
ing to find any in the market
at Quincy as he had hoped
to do, and being compelled to

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proced homeward immediate-
ly, he requests me to make
the purchases for him. This
I will do with pleasure, and
to the best of my ability.

It is particularly unfortunate
that it could not have been
done before, as a large
quantity of the last winter
wheat has been sold already
or been sown. I will, however,
go to Jacksonville by the first
train, where our State Fair
is in session, and where I
shall hope to ascertain the
whereabouts of some good
seed & make arrangements
for shipping it as Mr R.
directs immediately.

I may not be able to send
it all at the same time,
but will ship as fast as
I can find good seed.

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Mr R. directs me to ship to Atchison, but does not say whether by R. Road or by Water, but I conclude he means by R. Road, and I shall so send it.

If your people will make arrangements to send me Stock Hogs or cattle in exchange for Wheat or Corn, I will gladly act as their Agent in exchange = ing the same without any charge for my services & do the best I can for them. We have plenty of all kinds of things to eat, which can be purchased reasonably.

I will write you in a day or two again. Please show this line to Mr Reynolds and believe me

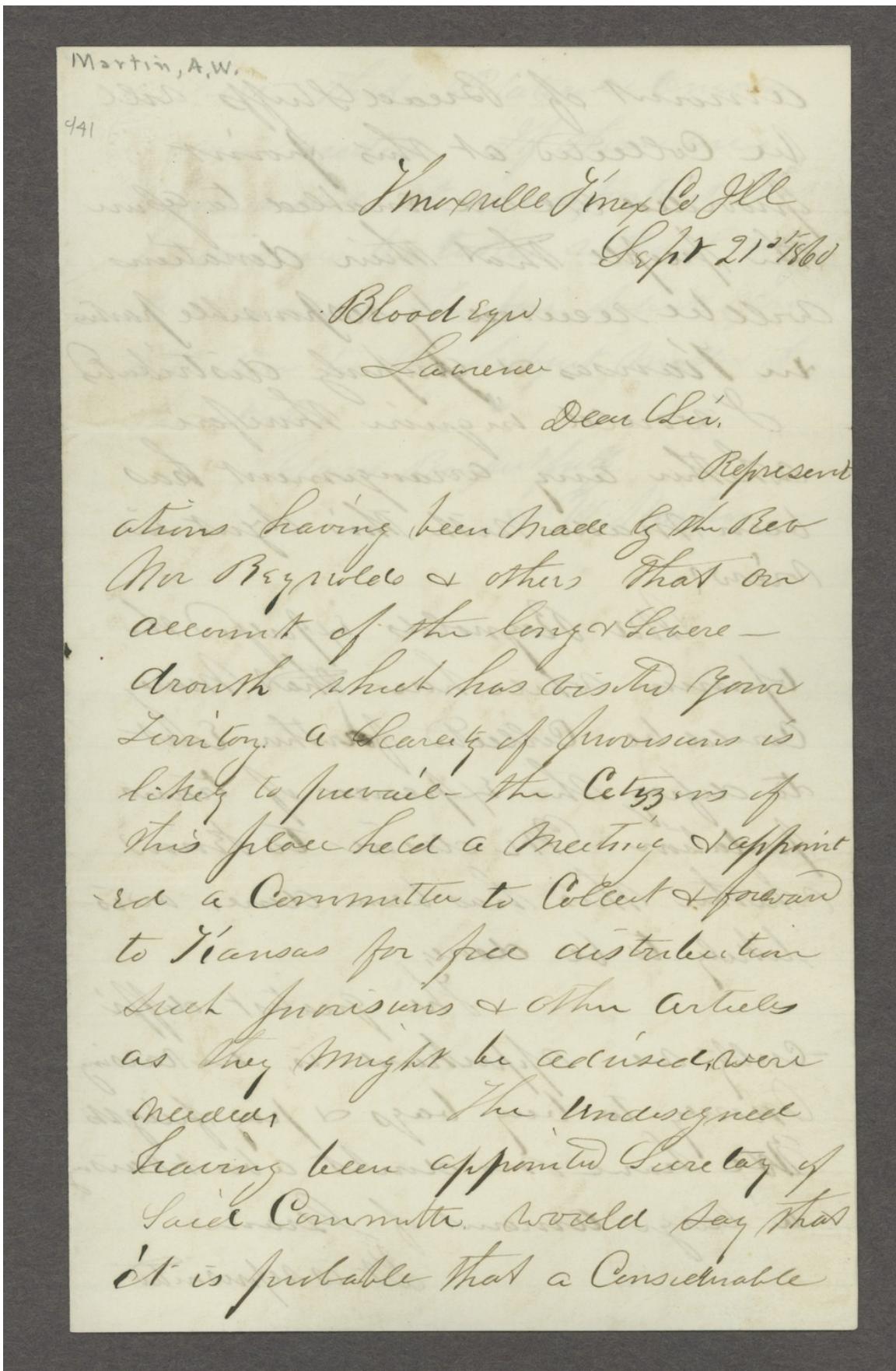
Yours, Yours hastily
Jas Blood Wm H. Powell
Lawrence K. T.

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Amount of Bread Stuffs will
be Collected at this point
provided we are enabled to assure
the people that their donations
will be received by responsible parties
in Kansas & properly distributed.
I would inquire therefore -
whether any arrangement has
been made with this object in
view?

Mr Reynolds expresses the
opinion which here that Money
could be Collected further East
to defray the expenses of trans-
portation. We desire to know
whether this has been done or is
likely to be done.

The greatest diffi-
culty we apprehend is in raising
Money to buy bags & pay freight.
We have no doubt about raising
a large amount of Grain
It is represented

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here that Potatoes & Onions
are needed. If these are
forwarded it is important that
measures be taken without delay.
We would therefore solicit your
attention to the subject matter of
this note.

Yours Respectfully
A. W. Martin

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Holiday, C.W.

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Bloomington Oct 27, 60

J. Blood Esq

Your favor

of the 22^d is recd.

We had hoped to have
fwdⁿ to Atchison before
this 2 car loads of Potatoes,
We have now at the Ware
house more than enough
to load 2 cars but from
the difficulty in procuring
sacks, we shall not be
able to get them off until
Tuesday next, We shall
mark them C.R. but
know of no parties to whom
to consign them in ~~your~~ ^{that} place, I will fwdⁿ you
the Bill of Lading, We should
have been glad to have

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able to prepay the freight,
but we have not rec^d enough
to pay for the sacks. We hope
collections will be made in
^{other places} money sufficient to defray
all expenses of transportation.
In reference to the loan you
speak of, I do not think
it could be effected here,
our people as you are probably
aware are just recovering
from the financial pressure
of the past 3 years, and
though we have but little
money, Providence has blessed
us with a bountiful crop
which, (from the feeling already
manifested) I doubt not
our people will gladly share
with their suffering brethren
in Kansas. We purpose

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receiving & storing all the
potatoes we can procure
to forward in the spring
for seed, also spring wheat
& oats. I hope the people
of Kansas will not regard
our assistance as a charity
but merely as a loan from
their more fortunate neighbors
which I am ~~sure~~ will be
cheerfully repaid should
we ever be in a like situation.
The people of Illinois will
not allow their brother
in Kansas to lack for Bread
& seed, but we will send
you of our abundance, which
we can do without injury to
ourselves. Yours truly
C. W. Volder

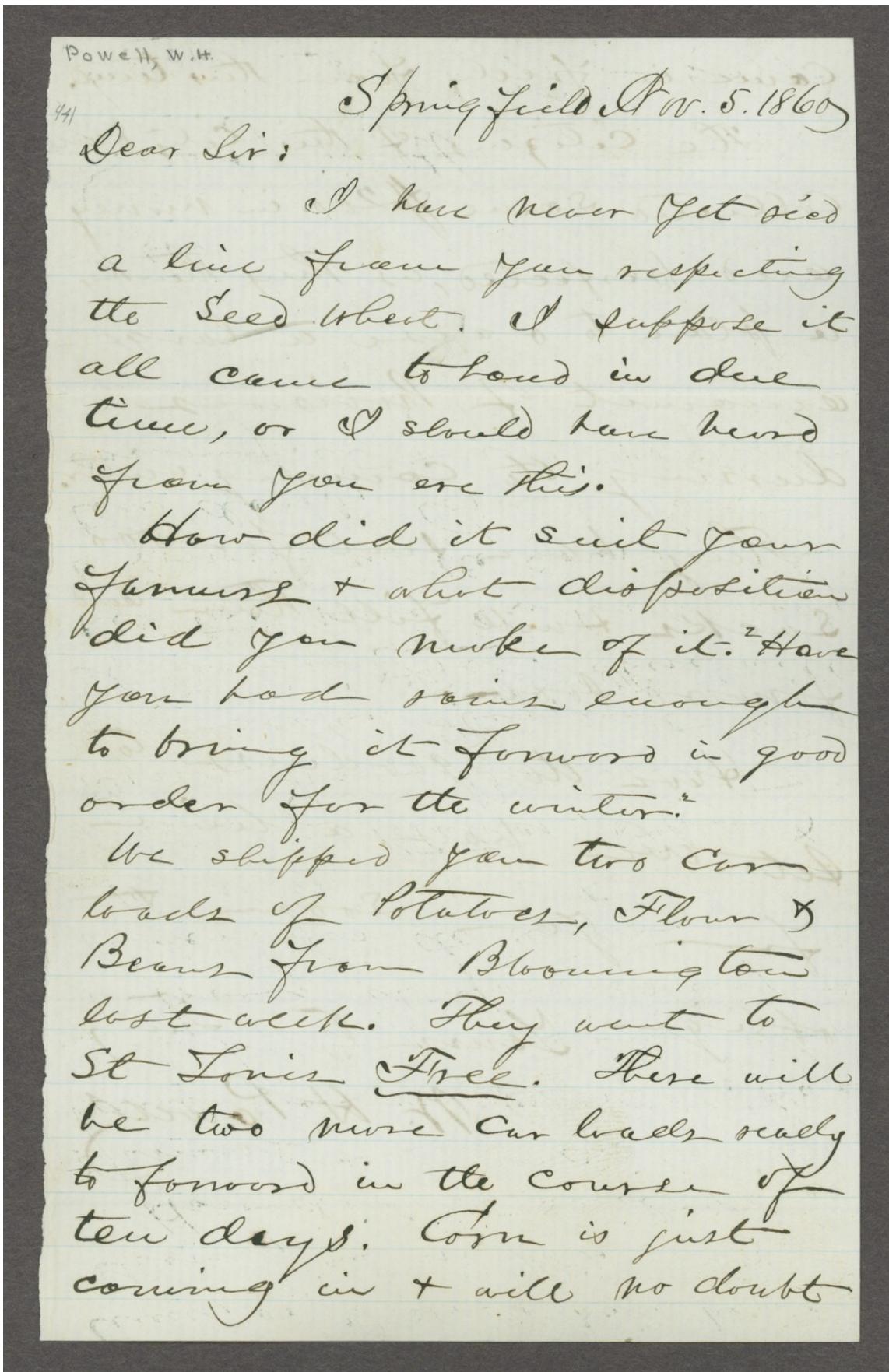
Should be glad to hear from you frequently

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Came in freely from this time.
The citizens of this city have
collected some \$200. in money
and perfected, as they think,
a plan to raise a large
amount of provisions
during the coming winter.

They have sent for 500
Sacks & will fill them and
forward soon.

Have the goodness to
let me have a line

You go soon &
oblig. Yours very truly

W. H. Powell

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Hurd, H.B.
Coll
BLOD

74.

Chicago March 27 1861

James Blood

Dear Sir,

Copy of 18th March

& Hutchinson & others of the 23rd
are at hand. I have taken
the liberty of sending them
directly to Mr. Hyatt.
with a letter from me in
which I request an answer
& also that he write to
me. I have also stated
that I had understood
that a meeting would be
made to get a committee
appointed by the Kansas
Legislature to investigate
the whole matter of the
National Guard Committee
& its agents. I wish you
would write to me that

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you well try and get such a Committee appointed. I think such an investigation would do justice to all concerned & show up all who have undertaken to do wrong. It would also furnish material for the history of the great State of Kansas as it will eventually be.

The statement that is made by the letter of Hobbins & others that Arney had put into the Committee hands any money to pay your claim is not true. Nor is it true that such a statement was admitted in N. York. Arney took out funds to be used according to directions given him. He was found to be using them care-

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try to instruct us & was
called & what he had left
in his hands was paid over
to the committee & put into
the general fund from which
it had been taken. Mr.
Gray had no right to impose
any such obligation on the
committee & the committee
never did take any such thing.
All the committee money was
expended for the people of
Kansas & can see no reason
why they should be called
upon to pay a debt that
was not incurred by them
unthorized when they have no
means with which to do it.
I do not understand that you
think there is any such obligation.
I understand you only to urge
upon the committee the duty
of calling the 1st & all to an

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court & if he has funds in
his hands belonging to the
Committee they should endeavor
to get it & have it applied
to pay you Whether your
claim has any binding force
on the Committee or not I have
no doubt you deserve all you
ask & both the Committee & the
people of Kansas & the dozens
of friends will feel glad to see
you paid & for one I would
spare no pains to have you
paid. If the High court will not
take any notice of our appeal
to him to settle & pay over
the balance that may be in
his hands & you will get
up a petition or request for
such an investigation as I
speak of the Committee will
join you in the application
to your legislature I cannot in
conscience not do the truth

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Powell, W.H.

Springfield, Illinois,
Apr 22. 1861-

Dear Sir:

Your favor was
duly rec'd as also your
letter written same time
last winter inclosing the
little balance due me
on the wheat purchase.

I was trying hard to
get our Legislature to make
your people a little ap-
portionation at the time your
letter came last winter, &
so neglected to answer it.

I shall be pleased to
learn how your wheat
crop comes out. Will
you do me the favor to
write me concerning it.

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How much are Potatoes
worth now in your Country?
I have saved 800 to 1000
bushels I would send up
by you to sell on tree, if
price enough could be had
for them, and the pay be
made sure. They are nearly
all fine long Pick Eyes
than which no better
Potatoes can be had. They
can be planted as late as
June & make a good crop.
Could you sell them on
6 months, about the pay
would be sure, and if so
for how much?

Please drop me a line
on the subject at your earliest
convenience.

Yours W. H. Powell

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Robinson C.
C.

Lawrence Aug. 24 1861

Genl. J. Blood

Dear Sir

Should it be necessary for the protection of Kansas to dislodge the force near you in Mo. I would suggest that you apply to Col. Montgomery, as he has authority to go where he pleases & is the ranking officer in Kansas. Lane, Weer & Johnson having no commissions & hence no power to order anything.

I am authorized to raise a regiment of Home Guards but none are yet mustered. Till they are I would not move the State Militia into Mo. unless an army officer should

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Command -

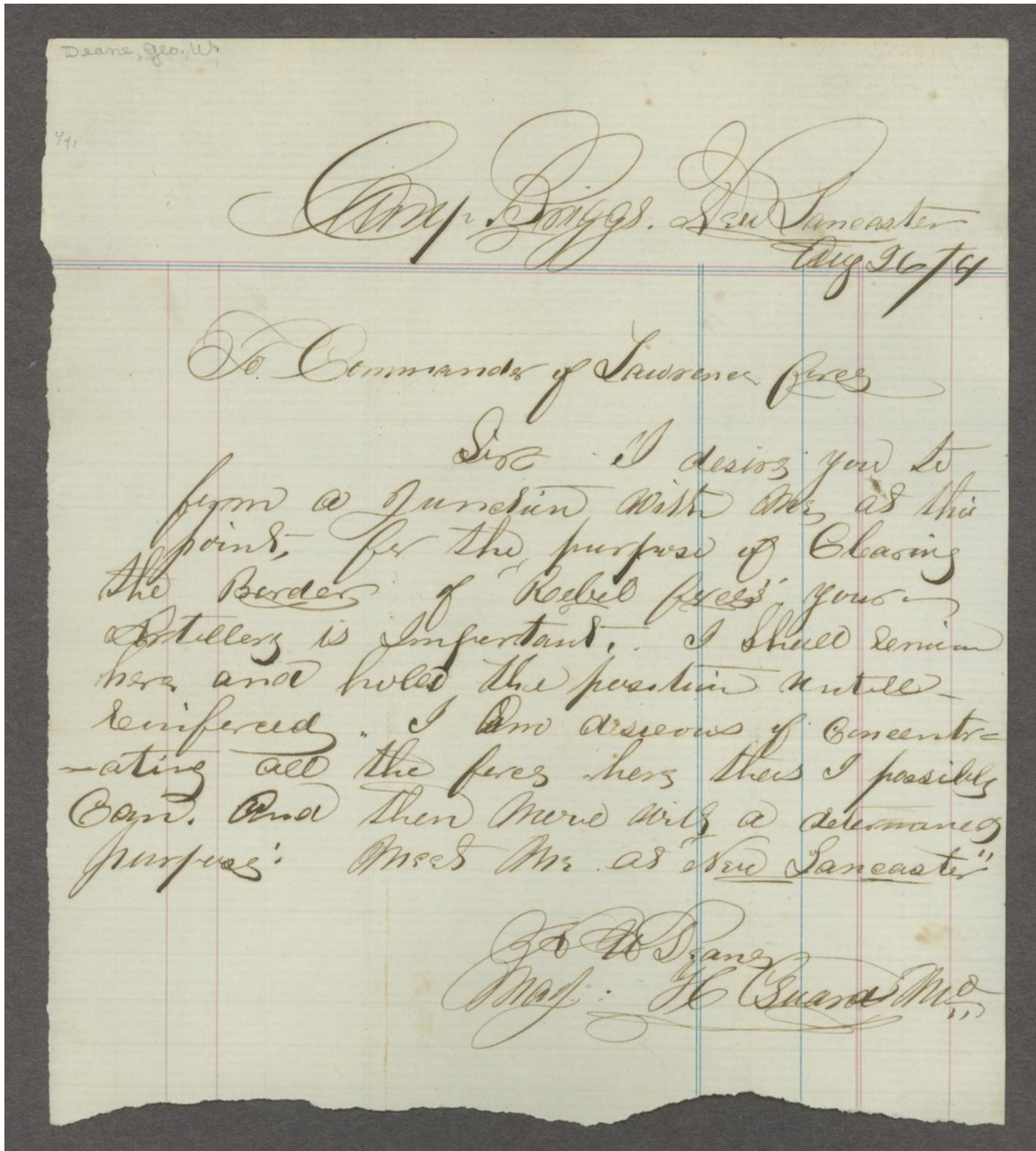
Very Respectfully
C. Robinson

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Robinson, C.

c

Lawrence Sept. 2 1861

Maj Genl J. Blood

Dear Sir

Please inform Capt.

Mag staff that since authority is received for two regiments of Home Guards at the expense of the U. S. I do not feel authorized to keep in the field any of the state militia until after the regiments shall have been filled & found insufficient to protect our citizens.

Respectfully

C. Robinson

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Reynolds, Charles

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Springfield Ills
Saturday morn

Dear Col.

I steal a moment
to inform you of my doings
up to this time.

Not meeting but 93 sacks
of the seed wheat, I thought it best
to hasten to this point & con-
-fer with W^r Powell.

I reached here, Thursday mid-night.
W^r P. was in Bloomington, but
to be home in Friday aft. train.

I put in the day in calling
upon W^r P's successor, & other
state officers - upon "honest"
old Abe & all the city clergy.

We arranged for a meeting
this morning at 10 o'clock.

W^r P. returned last
evening. I took tea with him,

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& learned that an entire car load was shipped, two days after the 93 sacks.

My mind is at ease, therefore, on that score. I must have passed in on the road, & the balance must be in Atchison before now.

We arranged for a visit together to Bloomington on Monday.

But at the meeting this morning it was urged that we both remain here for a Pub. meeting at the Court House on Monday night. The arrangements are made & Posters out.

On Monday, at mid-night, we go to Bloomington, & I expect that I must spend two or three days at that point.

It is now evident that this work must take time. I fear that I must be from home a month or more.

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Let me ask that you enquire a little into the welfare of my children & household.

It may be that they will need a little money before my return.

Having entered upon this work I wait to see it through; & if you can give me an idea of how many bushels of corn, potatoes & beans are necessary to put our county & Franklin through the winter, I will endeavour to come as near the mark as possible.

Let me hear, also, of the health of my children.

Direct to care of

Rev L. P. Coker,

who will know of my whereabouts from time to time, & will forward to me

Powell is a glorious good worker, & can & will aid us much.

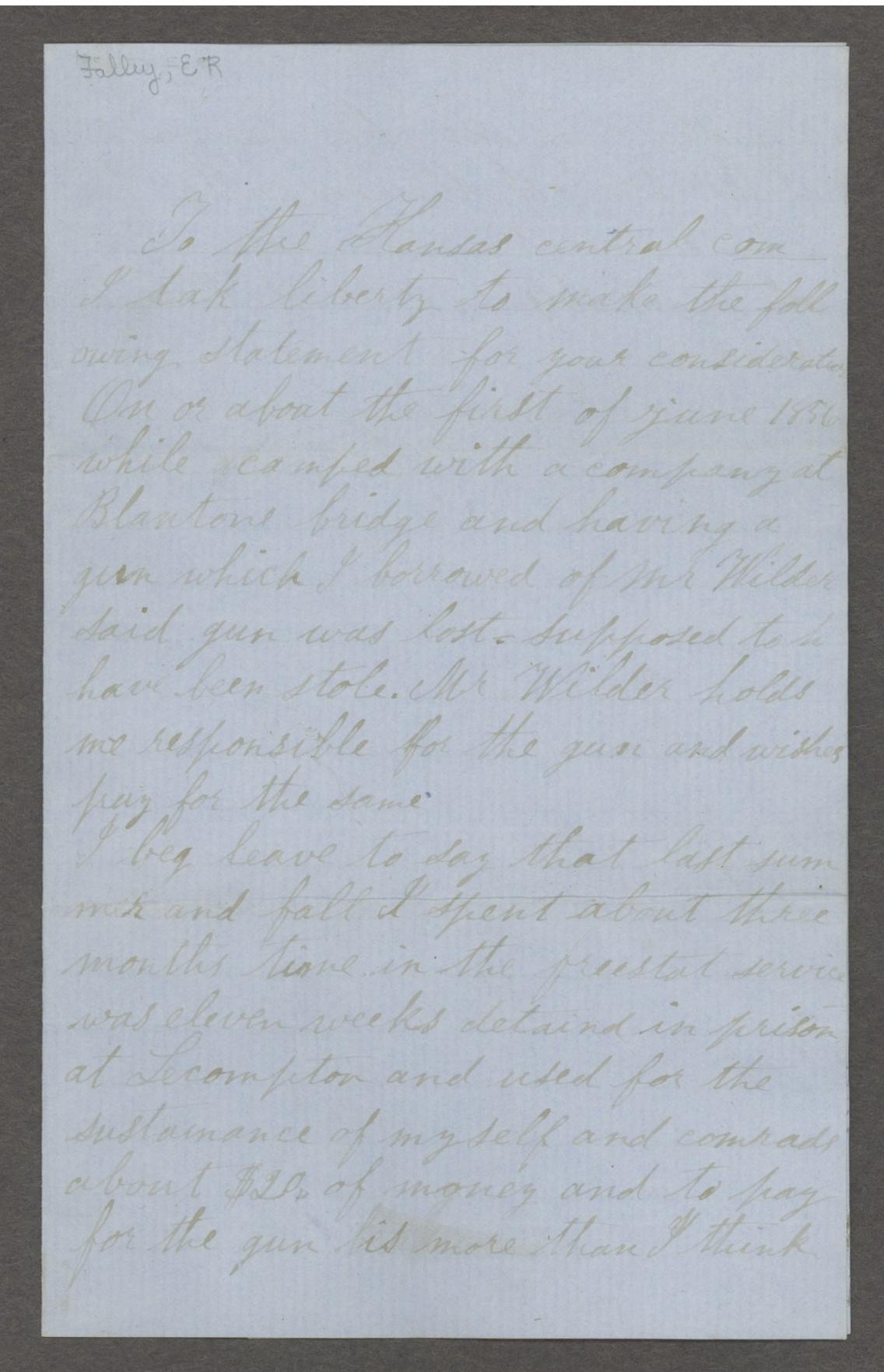
As ever your friend
(Chas Reynolds) C. R.

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my share of sacrifice demand
I therefore ask the committee take
into consideration the propriety of
~~\$~~ satisfying Mr Wilder so
said you

Respectfully yours
E R Talley

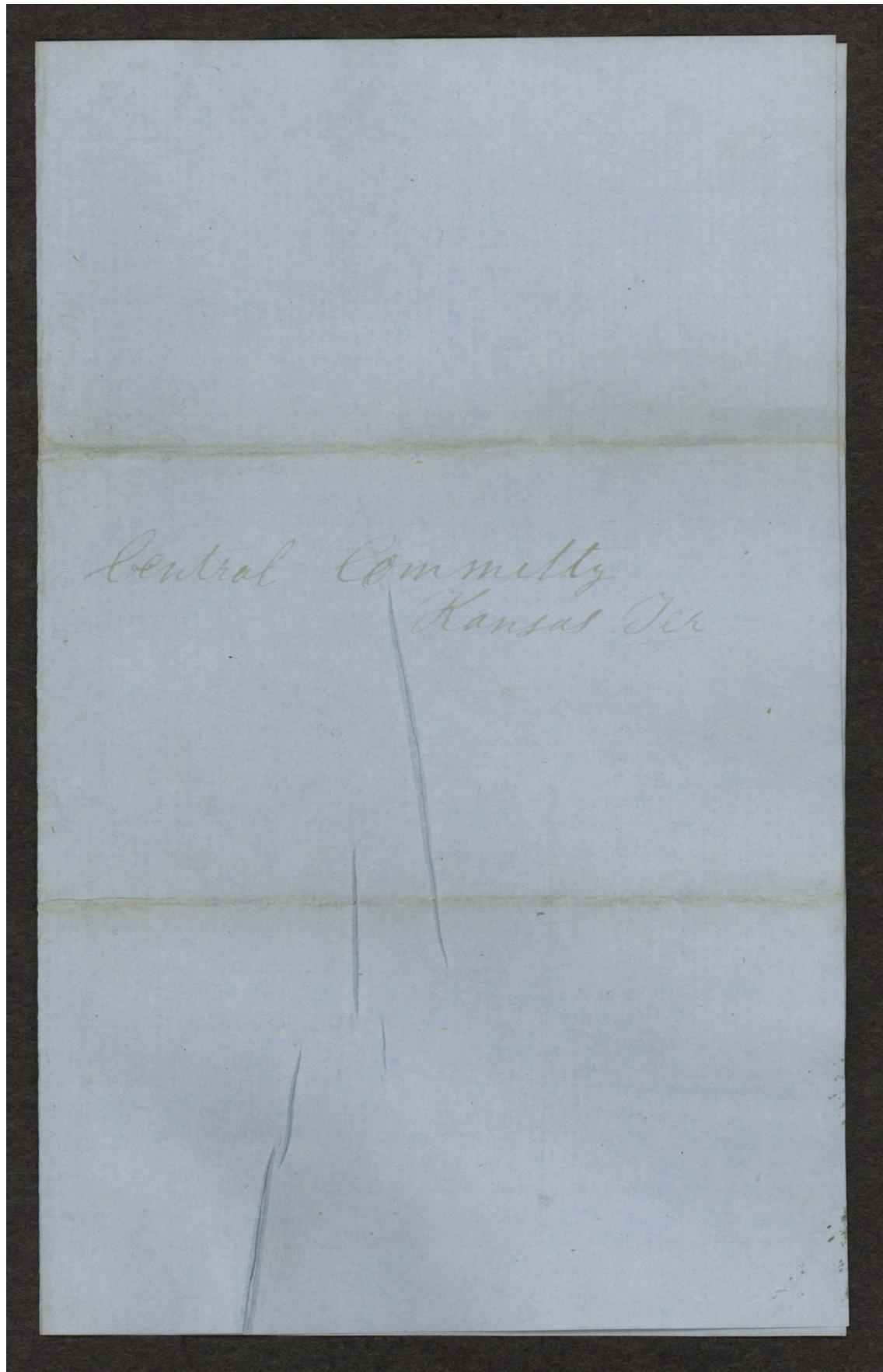
Lawrence Kansas Tex

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Shurtliff A.H.

To the Kansas Committee
Sen⁵

Will you have the kindness
to answer the following questions

1 Have the individuals sent
into the Territory by the Kansas
Aid Society for the last three
months been such as to add
much interest to the Free state
cause

2 Has the Kansas Aid Society
done any thing to relieve the
wants of the settlers of the Territory,
if so how much and in what
Manner?

3 What is your opinion of the
persons who have conducted
the trains sent into the Territory

4 How many settlers have left the
Territory this fall

5 What is the actual condition
of the people now in the Territory

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6 Is there a probability that
the people will be able to
pay for their Claims without
~~aid~~?

7 Would it be desirable to
have a large amount of
Clothing sent here this fall
and winter or would it be
better to send the Money?

8 Is there much sickness
among the settlers ~~from~~ arising
from a want of the Accessa-
ries of life - food & clothing

9 Is it best for the Free
State cause to send in more
settlers or to fully sustain those
that are now in the Territory

These questions are confidential
and your answers will be only taken
to the A. Y. State F. A. S. - and not made
public; unless the A. Y. State Committee
think proper to do so

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I hope you will also make such statements as you think proper to aid me in making out a true report of the condition of the people in this Territory to the officers of our State Society

Respectfully Yours S-
A. H. Shattoff Atg't. G. C. B.