

#### Kansas Adjutant General miscellaneous correspondence

Section 1, Pages 1 - 30

Correspondence to and from the Adjutant General's Office in Topeka, Kansas. Included are several requests for military records of service, especially relating to the Spanish-American War, and several bills for a variety of services, including repairs following a fire in an armory, enlisting and examining soldiers, meals, and lodging.

Creator: Kansas. Adjutant General's Office

Date: 1899

Callnumber: Adjutant General's Office, Miscellaneous correspondence, January 1895-December 1902, Folders

7-8

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 227401

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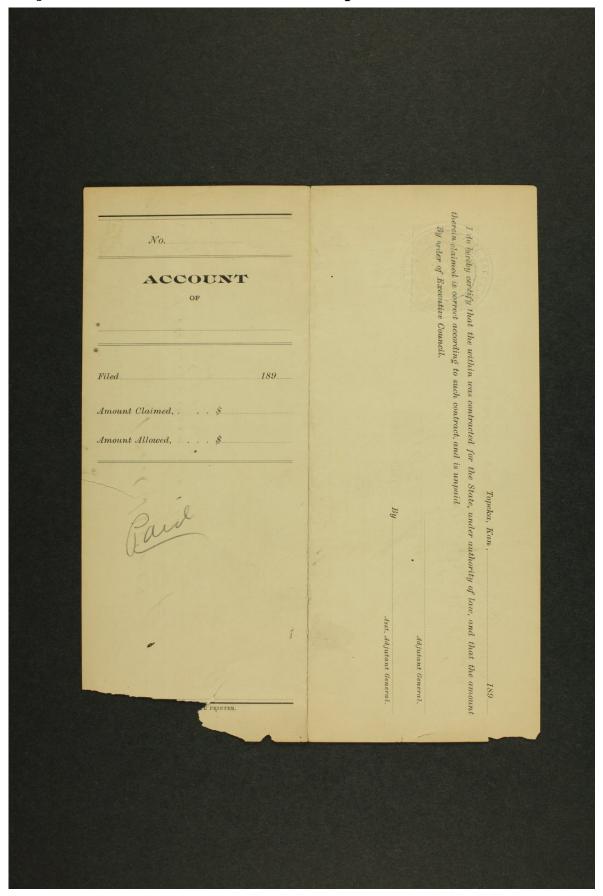
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# KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

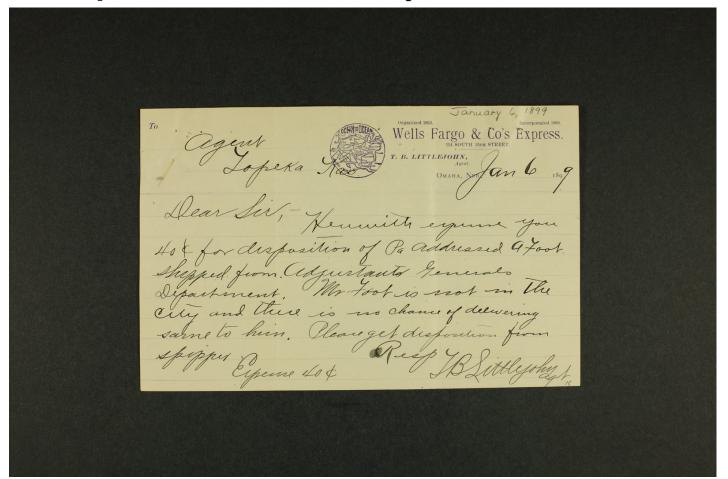


The State of Ikansas,
June 1 To ballance dur for Meale Junushed for reduced at 4/7,00
State of Kansas, Shawnee County, ss.  I do solemnly swear that the above bill is just, correct, and remains due and unpaid; that the amount claimed
Subscribed and sworn to before me, this day of James A. D. 1899  Aleo. N. Holmes  Appropriation for









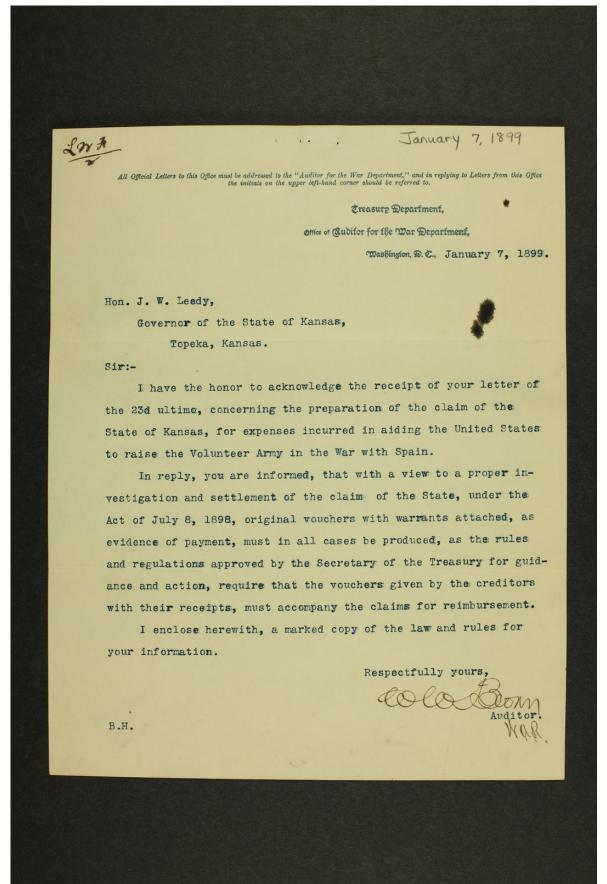


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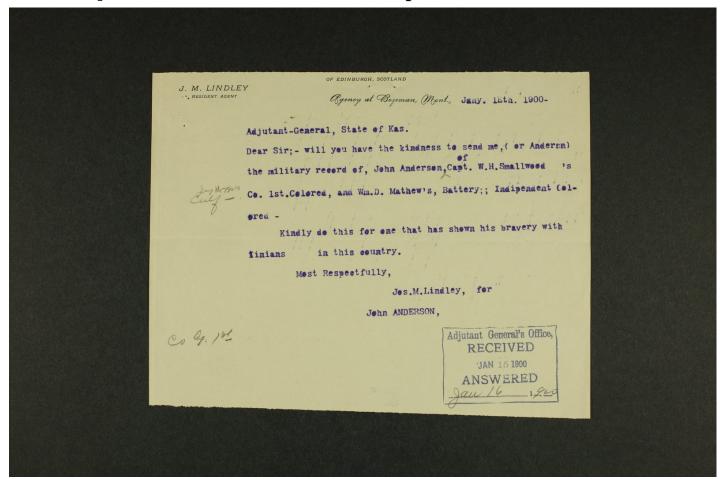


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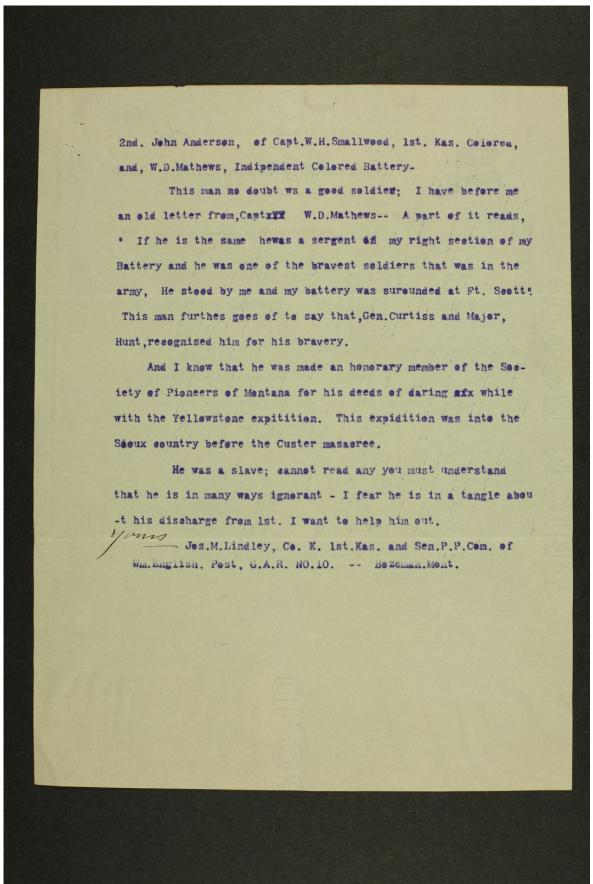




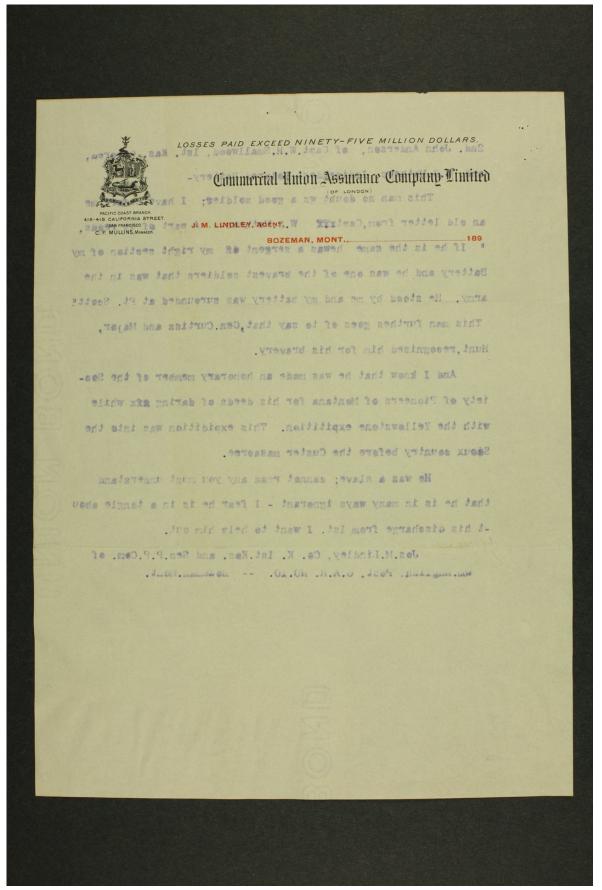




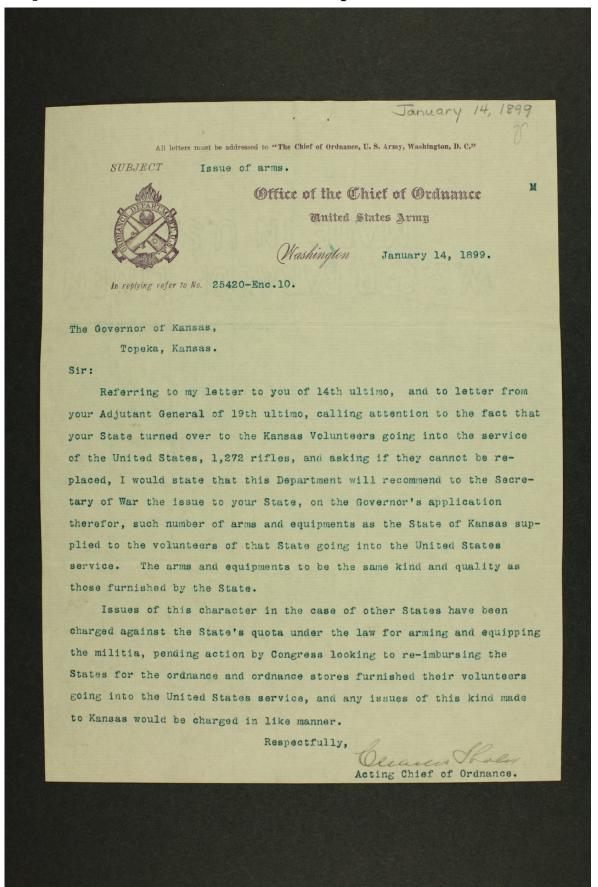




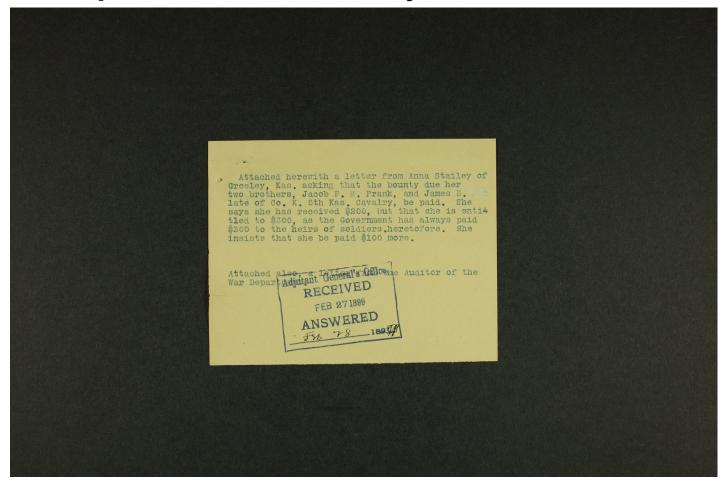




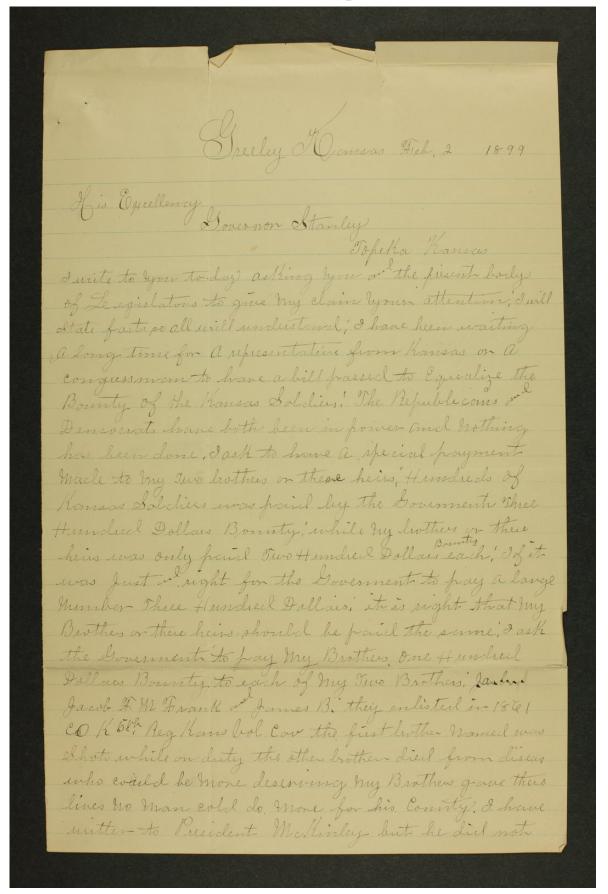














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and get this payment allowed in the proper
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J. B. Willson, Financial and Investment Agent. February 8, 1899

MARION, KANSAS, Feb. 8, 1899.

H. Allen, Adjutant General,

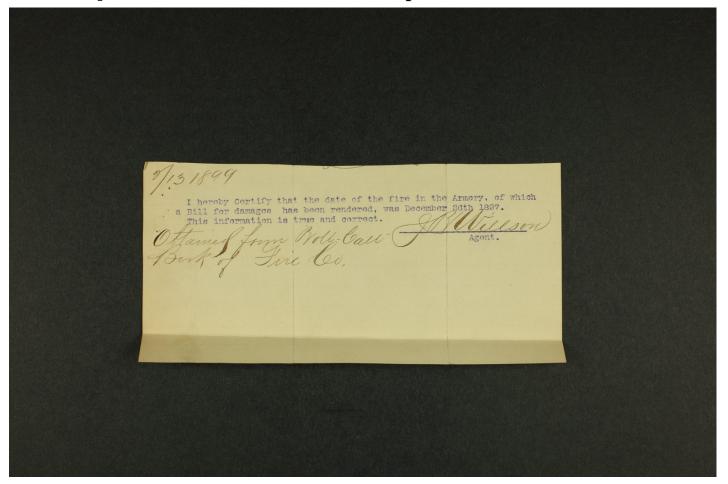
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir:- I am in receipt of yours of the 7th, enclosing bill for damages by fire. I can not give you the exact date of this fire, but I might be able to hunt it up, which I can do if it This fire was caused by a large stove is absolutely necessary. being set up about 12 feet from the wall and near the corner of the The Captain of the company, as I have been informed, sent one of the boys to build a fire in the stove, and it seems that he made a very heavy fire, filling the stove with coal, and went off and left It was soon after discovered that that corner of the room was The Hose Cart Company had to be called out to extinguish in flames. My claim is for damages sustained to the room, which the company was using for an armory. It will cost more than this amount to put the room in condition again. I return you the account. You may append this letter as explanatory.

Yours truly,

Dictated.

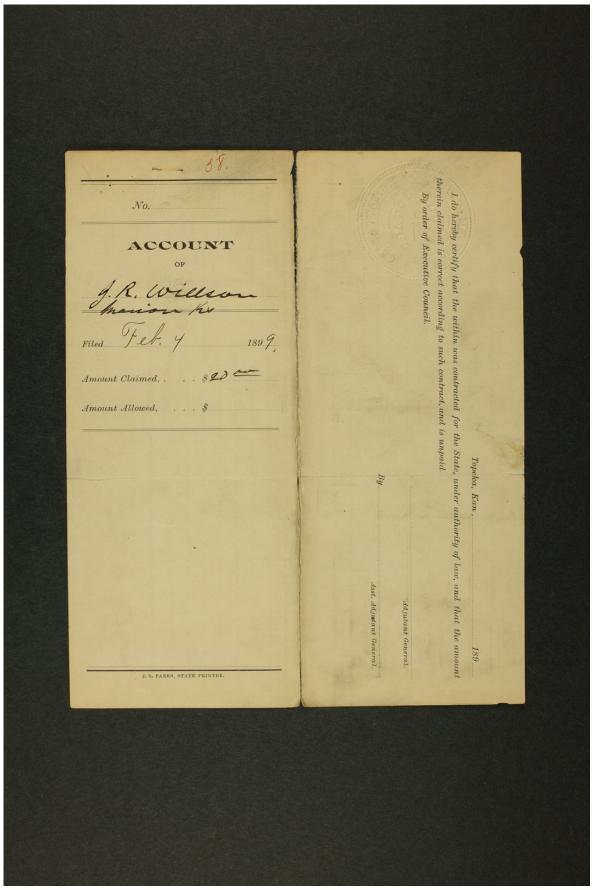






The State of Thansas, To J. Willson agt D	r.
The State of Thansas, To A. Willson agt D  Damages caused by fire in  aumory 200	0
State of Kansas, Shawnee County, ss.  I do solemnly swear that the above bill is just, correct, and remains due and unpaid; that the amount claim therein is actually due according to law.  (SIGN HERE.)  Subscribed and sworn to before me, this A day of File, A D. 1899  The Adamy Online  Molary Online	
Appropriation for	

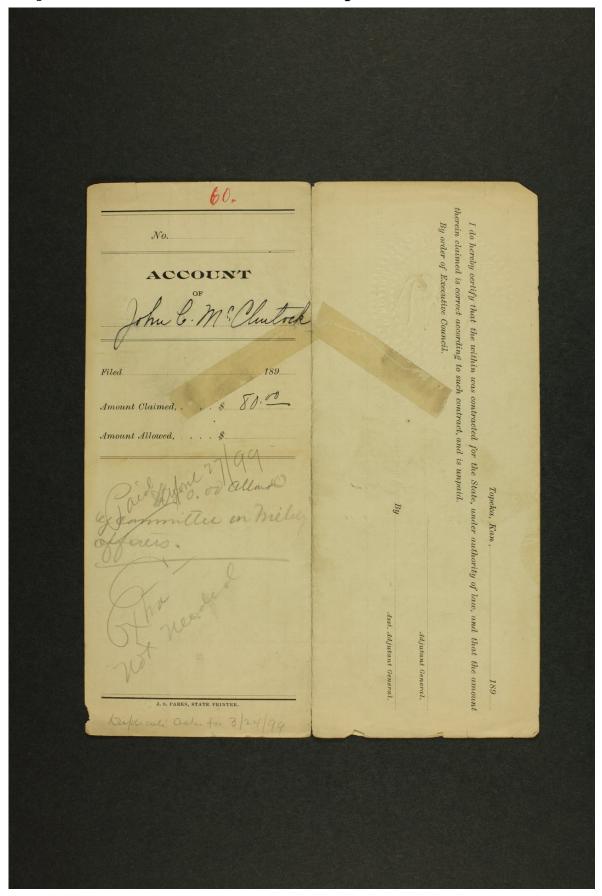




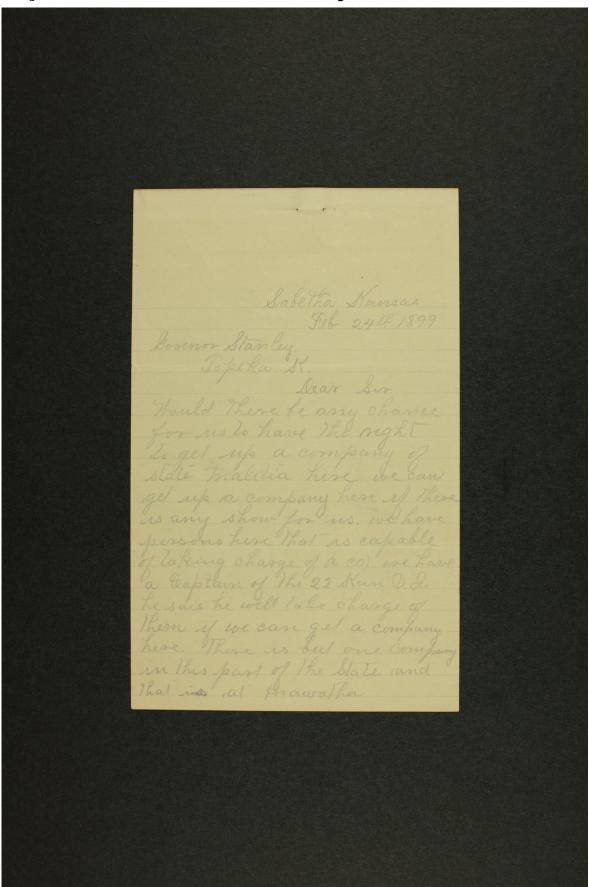


February 17, 1899	
The State of Thansas, To John C. M. Chutock M.D., Dr.	
May 16-1898 To Services on the Examining Board of Largeons examined Regimental Officers (Lungeons) for the 20th 224-234 Stigts Nais a Vol-Infit under orders of Lict of War and commissione of Loor Light (8) days at 10 - 980.00	
State of Ikansas, Shawnee County, ss.  I do solemnly swear that the above bill is just, expect, and remains due and unpaig: that the argount claimed therein is actually due according to law.  (SIGN HERE.)  Aug of Flowney 1. D. 1899  Aust Audily of Lest Audily o	
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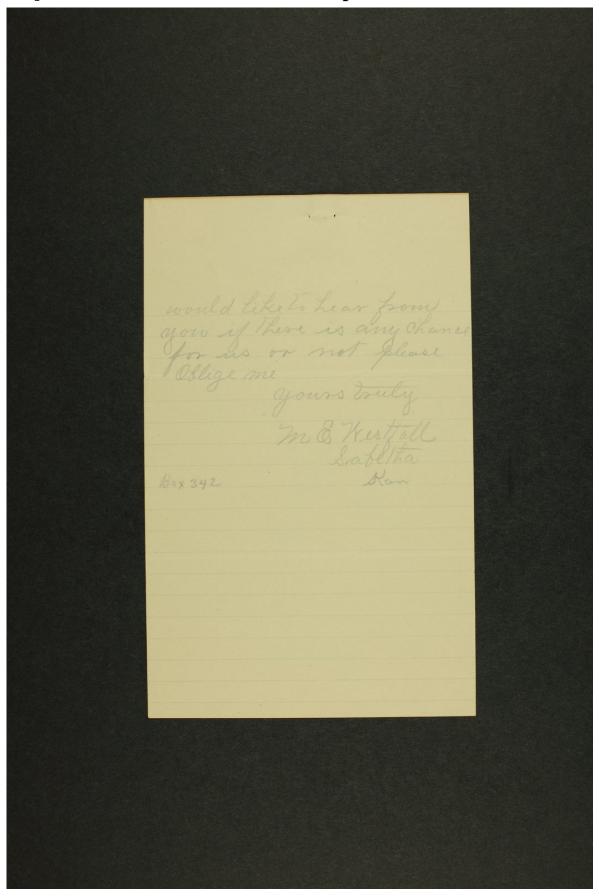




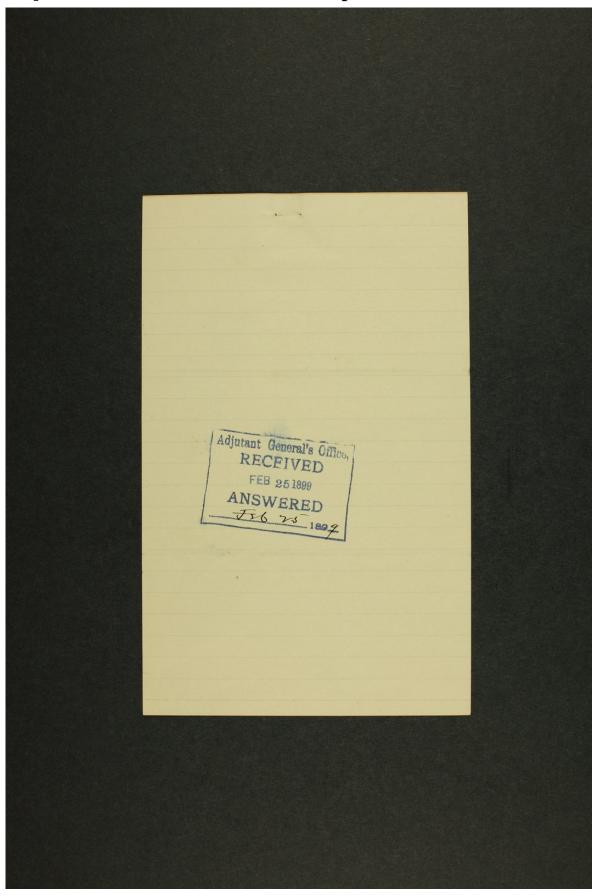














#### Kansas Adjutant General miscellaneous correspondence

February 28, 1899

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,

Washington, D. C.

February 28th, 1899.

The Honorable

The Secretary of War.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 23rd of January ultimo, requesting my legal opinion upon the following statement of facts as given in your letter:

At the commencement of the war with Spain certain of the States turned over to the United States a part of the quartermaster and ordnance stores which were at that time in use by the militia organizations of said States. A part of the stores thus turned over had been more or less used and were consequently of somewhat less value than when new. The commanding officer of each volunteer organization was directed to convene a board of officers of his command to determine the value of said stores at the time they were turned over to the United States.

Certain of these states having requested the return of these stores in kind, I have the honor to request your opinion, first, whether this Department can legally issue to said States new stores for those turned over by them to the United States, and, second, whether this Department can legally allow said States credits for the stores turned over at the value determined by said board of officers, and issue new stores to said States to the extent of said credits.

Upon investigation of the matters involved in your request, I find that there are two questions which arise upon the facts presented by you.

The first is as to arms, ordnance stores, quartermaster's stores, and other equipments which belonged to the several States and which were turned over by the States for use by the troops in the volunteer army of the United States in the war with Spain,-the



#### Kansas Adjutant General miscellaneous correspondence

inquiry being whether such stores, etc., should be returned in kind or paid for by the Government.

The second is as to what course shall be pursued by the Government in regard to arms, ordnance stores, quartermaster's stores, and camp equipage, the property of the United States, in use by the militia in the States when the war with Spain commenced, and which were carried into the service and used by the troops of the States when accepted as a part of the volunteer army of the United States.

The first question is readily answered. The ordnance and other stores belonging to the several States, which were taken or accepted by the United States for use in the war, should be treated in like manner as such stores procured from any other When the Government accepted them, it incurred the obligation to pay the price agreed upon, or, in the absence of an agreement as to price, to pay whatever they were worth. there appears to be no great difficulty in arriving at the amount for which the Government is liable. As stated, the value of the stores were, in some instances, made by boards of appraisers. If the valuations made by these boards were acceptable to both parties, the Government ought to pay the amounts thus ascertained; but if, on the other hand, the boards and their work were the mere ex parte action of the Government, to which the States did not assent, then the Government assumed the liability of paying whatever the stores furnished were worth, to be arrived at in some feasible manner.

It is impossible to see how stores of the character described, belonging to the States, furnished to the Government, can be returned in kind, for, as stated, these stores had been more or less used, and it would be exceedingly difficult to arrive



#### Kansas Adjutant General miscellaneous correspondence

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at any satisfactory basis for returning proper; of like character and quality.

As to the other question: As I understand it, the question concerns stores which were in the possession of the States and which had been furnished by the United States to the militia of the States under the provisions of the Act of February 12, 1887, (24 Stat. L., 401), which is in these words:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section sixteen hundred and sixty-one of the Revised Statutes be, and the same is hereby, amended and re-enacted so as to read as follows:

"Section 1. That the sum of four hundred thousand dollars is hereby annually appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of providing arms, ordnance stores, quartermaster's stores, and camp equipage for issue to the militia.

Sec. 2. That said appropriation bill shall be apportioned among the several States and Territories under the direction of the Secretary of War, according to the number of Senators and Representatives to which each State respectively is entitled in the Engress of the United States, and to the Territories and District of Columbia such proportion and under such regulations as the President may prescribe: Provided, however, That no State shall be entitled to the benefits of the appropriation apportioned to it unless, the number of its regularly enlisted, organized, and uniformed active militia shall be at least one hundred men for each Senator and Representative to which such State is entitled in the Congress of the United States. And the amount of said appropriation which is thus determined not to be available shall be covered back into the Treasury.

Sec. 3. That the purchase or manufacture of arms, ordnance stores, quartermaster's stores, and camp equipage
for the militia under the provisions of this act shall be
made under the direction of the Socretary of War, as such
arms, ordnance and quartermaster's stores and camp equipage
are now manufactured or otherwise provided for the use of
the Regular Army, and they shall be receipted for and shall
remain the property of the United States, and be annually
accounted for by the governors of the States and Territories
for which purpose the Secretary of War shall prescribe and
supply the necessary blanks and make such regulations as he
may deem necessary to protect the interest of the United
States.



#### Kansas Adjutant General miscellaneous correspondence

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Sec. 4. That all arms, equipments, ordnance stores, or tents which may become unserviceable or unsuitable shall be examined by a board of officers of the militia, and its report shall be forwarded to (by) the Governor of the State or Territory direct to the Secretary of War, who shall direct what disposition, by sale or otherwise, shall be made of them; and, if sold, the proceeds of such sale shall be covered into the Treasury of the United States."

The States did not own these stores, but, by the express terms of the act, they remained and were the property of the United States. It was undoubtedly the purpose of Congress in enacting the above legislation to authorize the general government to provide arms, ordnance stores, quartermaster's stores, and camp equipage for the militia of the several States, with a view of having an organized force, with equipments, ready in case of emergency. arose when the war with Spain was declared, and, although the militia as such was not called into active service, the several States furnished quotas of troops which were mustered in as a part of what was called the volunteer army of the United States, and the arms, ordnance stores, etc., which were already in possession of the States under the provisions of the above act, were used in equipping There is most certainly no law and providing for the said troops. under which the United States can pay the States for arms, ordnance stores, etc., furnished by virtue of the foregoing law, because, as before stated, these stores were the property of the United States and did not belong to the States at all; and when the soldiers in the army of the United States were using these stores, they were using



#### Kansas Adjutant General miscellaneous correspondence

(5)

property of which the Government was the sole owner.

The only question, then, is as to whether the Government is either empowered or required to issue to the several States, stores in kind to replace such of these arms, ordnance stores, etc., as were exhausted, consumed, or impaired by use in the war with Spain, or, in case the Government cannot return such stores in kind, are the States entitled to credit by the Government for the value of such stores?

I do not hesitate to advise that the Government has no authority to supply stores of this character to be issued to the militia of the States from the general appropriations for the War Department, the power being derived from the act above quoted. If any part of the appropriation made by the said act remains, or if there are arms, ordnance stores, quartermaster's stores, and equipage on hand, purchased under authority of the same, and the appropriation made thereby, I do not doubt the right of the Government to re-furnish the several States from this source. But in the absence of this appropriation, or of arms, ordnance stores, etc., purchased with it, I do not find any lawful authority by which such stores can be again supplied to the militia of the several States.

Approved:
JOHN W. GRIGGS,
Attorney-General.

Very respectfully, JAS. E. BOYD, Assistant Attorney-General.



