

## Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

Section 16, Pages 451 - 480

This is correspondence of Luther H. Platt and Dwight Henry Platt, missionary son and grandson of Jireh Platt, an abolitionist from Mendon, Illinois. Luther Platt's papers include letters from his wife Nettie, correspondence with religious groups, and correspondence with military officials in the South after the Civil War particularly regarding individuals still being held as slaves. The papers of Dwight Henry Platt include letters to his parents (Luther and Nettie) while he was at Washburn College in Topeka, Kansas, in the early 1880s; letters from friends; and correspondence from other individuals for business and professional purposes. Dwight served as pastor for the Congregational church in northwest Kansas, centered in Goodland.

Date: 1863-1896

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## Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

fever, had it on and off for  
six weeks before you came.  
I have not felt as well since I  
had the mumps last winter  
as I used to do. I often think  
of Sister in that noisy City, I did  
not know but that you had  
arranged to be in a more  
quiet part of the City before the  
operation was performed, until  
you wrote us of the South Cars,  
noise &c. If I were a few years  
younger, and had a little  
more strength than I have  
had lately, I would gladly  
ask you to bring Sister here to  
spend some weeks with us  
as soon as she was able to be  
brought, and enjoy the quiet  
we have here. But we  
have so much to do on the  
farm, and in a few days  
we shall all be driven with

our harvest -  
had his men  
help him be-  
so as to make  
for it was also  
last year to get  
help, for love  
I have been  
ever since  
the farm  
wife, and farm  
little too much  
room as like  
the summer  
cooking, and  
so hard. For  
what is about  
meals a day,  
to wash about  
week, our me-  
Then I have  
many meals  
miled away

## Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

d off for  
a time.  
the time I  
last winter  
often think  
in City, I did  
you had  
a man  
before the  
turned, until  
Street Card.  
a few years  
a little  
can I have  
uld gladly  
to here to  
with us  
able to be  
y the quiet  
But we  
on the  
few days  
driven with

our harvest work, and Mr. P.  
had his men engaged to  
help him before you came,  
so as to make sure of them  
for it was almost impossible  
last year to get any body to  
help, for love or money.  
I have been overworked  
ever since we moved on  
the farm. The work of a Minister  
wife, and farm as together, is a  
little too much for an ordinary  
woman like myself. During  
the summer months my  
cooking, and sewing are  
so hard. For weeks we have  
what is about equal to five  
meals a day, and I have  
to wash about three times a  
week, our men sweat so.  
Then I have to put up a good  
many meals to be sent three  
miles away, and this is so.

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much more work than it  
would be to have it eaten  
at home. In cold weather  
I can stand it to work hard  
so much better than when  
it is hot. It is simply out of  
the question to hire a good  
girl for a few weeks, a month,  
as such girls are all taken  
up by those who keep help  
all the time, and can pay  
top top prices for help. We  
are glad to have Jerry with us  
glad that we can do this much  
for you - wish we could do  
more, but don't see how we  
can as we are situated -  
Are glad that you feel so safe  
to have him with us. Many  
times a day I think what would  
Jerry do stuck up in the City.  
On your return from Chicago  
we shall expect you to spend  
some days in resting with  
us - before you go on your journey  
The excitement connected with  
your visit and Ben. Enock's was  
a little too much for Mrs. P.  
We write in love by you both Sarah  
not off

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Brighton Ill. July 1/13.  
Dear Uncle.  
You have  
missed the msg.  
Mamma is very  
sorry. She did not  
discover the mistake  
until it was too late  
to reach you.  
Shall she express it  
to Wabamsee, Eureka  
or Garden City?  
Papa had a good  
deal of fever all  
night. Feels a little  
better today. Grandma  
is still alive.  
We have missed you  
all so much. Uncle  
Edwards car is nearly  
ready to go.  
Love to all. Lucy.

## Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence



## Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

Topeka Mo. July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1883  
Dear Mr. Ken M. J. Moorhead  
not go to Garden City last Sat.  
bath & will not go, as you can  
return so soon. The 12<sup>th</sup> of Aug.  
I suppose, he will be at Crooked  
Creek. Hoping you & your fam.  
are getting along well  
Yours cordially  
Dwight H. Platt

## Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence



## Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

OFFICE OF  
\* N. \* M. \* CARTER, \*  
DEALER IN  
\* HARDWARE, \* STOVES, \* TINWARE, \*  
STAPLE AND FARGY GROCERIES.  
*Garden City, Kansas, July 9, 1883*

Dear Bro.

Yours received this A. M., it is the first time I have heard from you for over a week. But of course I will excuse you if you were so busy that you couldn't find time to write. Saturday evening as I was at the depot to post some letters, who should get off of the train but, Prof Craigie, the teacher of Natural history at Washburn College. Perhaps you remember him, he was one of the new professors a tall, slim, man, with short black chin-wiskers. I got permission from Mr. Carter to let me leave the store for the rest of day, and we started into the country on foot to make collections. The first thing that attracted his attention was the great variety of grasshoppers we have. He thought this was a fine

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country because he could find so many  
snakes, lizards, bugs ~~etc~~ etc here. The follow-  
ing is the list of specimens he gathered here,  
1 snake, 1 lizard, 1/2 doz fishes, 1/2 doz clams,  
1 tin can full of grasshoppers, 1 bottle of bugs,  
antelopes heads ~~antlers~~. 1 mud puppy, 1 turtle,  
1 field mouse, and various other things that could  
not tell what they were. He is a kind of a  
curious animal himself. With love to  
yourself + Uncle Hendo's folks.  
I remain

Your Bro,  
Dwight H. Platt

## Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

Garden City, Kans.  
July 16<sup>th</sup> 1883.

Dear Father

As soon as I saw Mr. Pince  
after receiving your letter concerning the  
organ I got him to haul it over to the  
house. Mr. Jordan not being at home  
I opened the front of the box and  
tried the organ. I did not try to remove  
it from the box. It seemed to be all  
right as far as could tell. I was down  
to the pasture yesterday and saw Pince,  
he is doing nicely and is as gentle  
as ever. It is the greatest wonder that  
our house did not burn up with  
me in it. It was Tuesday evening and  
I had returned from Mr. Morgan's and  
had gone to bed early and was sound

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...sleek when the fire broke out. When the Martin building was burning, I was <sup>until</sup> the laughter  
afterward <sup>to</sup> that the front of our house crowd brought  
was hot at the top of a stove, I slept I have been the last  
until seven o'clock in the morn every body since  
ing, when Mr. Knight came to the see how could  
window and woke me up and all the noise,  
said that breakfast was ready, I got oil barrels & the  
up and dressed and started for exploded & about  
breakfast without knowing that went and every  
any thing unusual had <sup>thought</sup> <sup>of</sup> child in town  
until I saw Mr. Morrison <sup>at</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>corner</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>street</sup> <sup>by</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>bridge</sup> <sup>across</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>ditch</sup> <sup>on</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>street</sup> <sup>that</sup> <sup>runs</sup> <sup>north</sup> <sup>four</sup> <sup>miles</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>us</sup>. The first thought that I had was that awakened, It  
we had had a cyclone. But on going <sup>so</sup> <sup>hot</sup> <sup>as</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>furnace</sup>  
around the corner I saw the streets were repose was not  
full of goods from the R. R. up to our <sup>least</sup>. I thought  
house. And looking where Hurst & Sons, <sup>wrote</sup> <sup>this</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>you</sup> <sup>for</sup>  
Latham & Hahid, McWater's & Martin's would make M  
Mrs. Ames & Martin's buildings were But I knew that  
saw nothing but a pile of smoking out through the

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ke out. When the ashed. Well I stood there and "gawked"  
burning. I was with the laughter and peep of the  
front of our house crowd brought me to my sense  
of a stove. I slept I have been the laughing stock of  
K in the more every body since that time. I don't  
t came to the see how could have slept though  
t me up and all the noise, for three kerosene  
was ready. I got oil barrels & three kegs of powder  
d started for exploded & about \$100 worth of cartridge  
knowing that went and every man, woman &  
I had the <sup>loose</sup> child in town was yelling with the  
Morrisons <sup>loose</sup> ~~stacked~~ utmost capacity of their lungs.  
e bridge across The noise was so great that people  
that runs north four miles in the country were  
that I had was that awakened. It must have been as  
at. But on going hot as a furnace. and yet my delightful  
w the streets were repose was not disturbed in the  
he R.R. up to our <sup>legst</sup>. I thought that I would not  
here Hurst & sold <sup>write</sup> this to you for I thought that it  
Water's & Hartin's would make Mother nervous.  
his buildings were But I knew that she would find it  
a pile of smoking out through the Irrigator for the

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speaks of it. Harvesting has commenced  
and farmers are very busy.  
ade is speeded. Hoping to hear  
that Mother will be able to leave  
Chicago before long. I remain  
Your Loving Son  
Dwight H. Platt.

[no envelope]

## Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

Garden City, Kans.  
July 22. 1883.

Dear Brother,

I promised to write and tell you the full particulars of the fire, but have been so busy that I could not get around to it. Mr. Carter is building and therefore it is necessary for him to be away during the most the day-time. For the past week I have had almost the entire charge of the store. About ten o'clock on the evening of the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. ~~At~~ as the residents of this village were retiring for the night, the dreaded cry of fire was given

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In a short time it was discovered that a lamp had exploded upstairs in the rear part of Hurst and Son's store and almost instantly the whole end of building was on fire. The occupants of the house, Albert Hurst, Annie McClure and Miss Dillon had barely time to escape by the back stairway being almost cut off. Miss Dillon succeeded in getting down that way, & while Mr Hurst and emerged from the house through a front window leading to the dining, from whence they descended by means of a ladder. It was but the work of a moment for the flames to reach over and commence devouring the shingles on the roof of Leatham and Hurst office. It was now seen that it would be necessary to stop the descent reached the rear east and west, & remained to be as much of the contents of possible. The women and soon Mr Hurst with groceries, dry stationery, drug goods and more. The fire continued with trees as they touched Leatham office, and before around Mrs. An store was seething flames Leatham's drug its highly inflammable material was a

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was discover it would be next to impossible  
and exploded to ~~stop~~ the demon until it  
part of reached the next street running  
ore and east and west, and nothing  
whole end of remained to be done but to save  
The occupants <sup>as much of</sup> the contents of each as was  
hurst, Annie possible. The work began at once  
Dillon had and soon Main Street was filled  
to escape with groceries, dry goods, millinery  
turnway being stationery, drugs, household  
ugh Miss. goods and wearing apparel  
getting down The fire continued on its mad  
to Hurst and career with tremendous rapidity  
house through it seemed <sup>as though</sup> ~~that~~ it had just  
ding <sup>to</sup> the touched Leatham and Stahl's  
met they office, and before you could turn  
bladder. It around Mrs. Amel millinery  
a moment store ~~was~~ was a mass of  
ch over and seething flames and soon  
the shingles Sle Waters drug house with  
ham and its highly inflammable ~~matter~~  
now seen that material was a victim.

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<sup>slept soundly</sup>  
<sup>in my life,</sup>  
<sup>not know a</sup>  
<sup>thing about</sup>  
<sup>the disaster</sup>  
<sup>until I arose</sup>  
<sup>the next morn-</sup>  
<sup>ing and stepping</sup>  
<sup>into the street,</sup>  
<sup>people 4-5 miles</sup>  
<sup>in the country</sup>  
<sup>were awake and</sup>  
<sup>and came to</sup>  
<sup>town to see</sup>  
<sup>what was the</sup>  
<sup>matter, but</sup>  
<sup>my repose</sup>  
<sup>was not</sup>  
<sup>disturbed in</sup>  
<sup>the least.</sup>

An attempt was made by means of a rope to tear down this building and if possible the one on the corner, but <sup>it was unsuccessful</sup> a few minutes the ~~last~~ fifth and last building was a heap of smouldering ashes. The noise and tumult was very great, not less than five hundred <sup>people</sup> were yelling with all their might, three Kerobene barrels & the same number of powder <sup>was</sup> exploded, and about about one hundred dollars worth of cartridges were set agoing by the heat, and above all the steady roar of the fire, and yet with all this noise right around my bed I never

[D. H. Platt]

## Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

Derry, N. H.  
Oct. 4. 1883.

Rev. Mr. Platts  
Dear Sir,

Our benevolent Society had the pleasure a few years ago of sending a box of articles to you -

We do not know how you are situated just now, but if it would be agreeable to you to have us, this winter, send some supplies again to you will you please inform us?

We are just beginning to organize work for the season, and thought it would be pleasant to know about you

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and your family, and if  
we could, help you -

Please write quite definitely  
in regard to your needs, if  
you think best. Very respectfully  
W. J. Anderson.

Address.

"Miss Mary D. Anderson.  
Derry.  
N. H."

(Secretary of Ladies Benevolent Society  
1st Cong Church -)

We should like to hear as soon  
as may be convenient.

## Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

Dwight H. Platt.  
Nov. 8. 1853

My dear Mrs. Platte.

Our ladies are engaged now in making shirts for your husband - to send to you by and by.

Now can you tell us about underclothing for yourself and niece I am not sure but they already have made a few pair of drawers - would chemises or night-dresses be acceptable - or are you supplied - they would like to know any hints about making them - or any wishes of yours would be gladly received - We are so sorry for your great trial. I suppose we cannot send the box for several weeks yet, perhaps a month, but I will write you about that.

I am in great haste, so

## Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

Please excuse this fearful writing.  
Let us hear from you  
Sincerely yrs.  
Mary J. Anderson.

[To Mrs. Platt  
Harden City, Mo.]

## Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

Derry, Dec. 25. 1883.  
Rev. Mr. Platt.  
Dear Sir,  
Enclosed please  
find William Anderson's Treasurer's  
check on Derry Bank payable to  
your order - for five dollars.  
The box was sent on Friday  
last, and we hope it will reach  
you safely, and its contents be  
acceptable. It has been a pleasure  
to the Ladies to prepare it.  
 Hoping to hear of the safe  
arrival of check, & box -  
Very respectfully yrs.  
Mary Anna Anderson.

Thanks for paper rec'd.

## Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

Washburn College, Topeka, Kans.  
Jan. 24 - 1854

Dear Mother

I have not heard from home directly, but once since I left there. I received a card from Father written from Newton, and I also received your letter. I am well; Uncle Events is holding a S.S. Institute down in the city this I have been so busy that I have been able to go down and see him. Am going down town some time today and will try and see him. I am very busy nowadays for I have to go the Cottages three times a day and carry coal during this cold weather. Our prize debate which I spoke about comes off next Friday. The contestants are Messrs Arthur McLeabe, Chas. Greencles, E. G. Buckland, J. E. Adams, W. T. Tyler, Wm. L. Benton, Chas. P. Donnell, and one other whose name I cannot at present call to memory. The judges of the debate are to be

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Gov. John A. Martin, Judge John Martin, and  
Judge Morton. We expect to a splendid meeting.  
I suppose that you are having plenty of snow  
and cold ~~weather~~ weather as well as we.  
I must close with love to all ~~your~~ I am.

Your Loving Son,  
Dwight H. Platt.

## Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

Barnesville N.J.

4 Feb. 1884

Rev. S. W. Platt

Dear Sir:

Having an overcoat & ladies coat to dispose of, we have obtained your address from the Home Mission Socy, and have the pleasure to send them to you, by express via A. T. & Santa Fe. R.R.

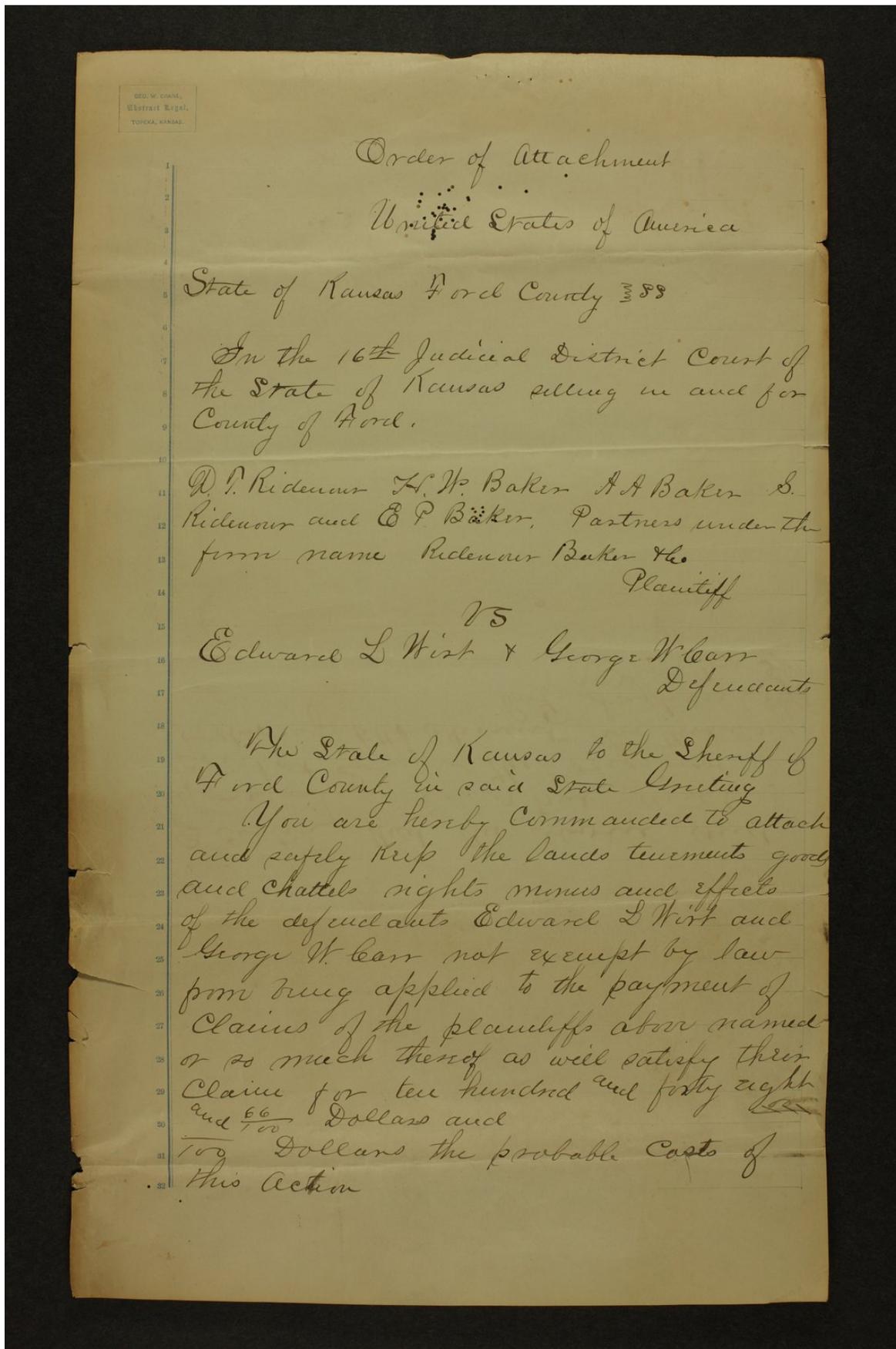
We also enclose \$10. for expenses & your use of the balance. Please inquire for the parcel in due time if you do not receive it.

If there is no lady in your family please forward the coat to some one who may need it.

With best wishes from Mrs. Roberts  
& myself  
Yours truly,  
Ed. Roberts



## Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence



Geo. W. Chase,  
District Judge,  
Topeka, Kansas.

### Order of Attachment

United States of America

State of Kansas Ford County 1883

In the 16th Judicial District Court of  
the State of Kansas sitting in and for  
County of Ford.

D. P. Rideauar L. W. Baker A. A. Baker S.  
Rideauar and C. P. Baker, Partners under the  
firm name Rideauar Baker & Co.  
Plaintiff

vs

Edward L. Wirt & George W. Carr  
Defendants

The State of Kansas to the Sheriff of  
Ford County in said State Greeting

You are hereby Commanded to attach  
and safely keep the lands tenements goods  
and Chattels rights minus and effects  
of the defendants Edward L. Wirt and  
George W. Carr not exempt by law  
from being applied to the payment of  
Claims of the plaintiffs above named  
or so much thereof as will satisfy their  
Claim for ten hundred and forty eight  
and  $\frac{67}{100}$  Dollars and  
109 Dollars the probable Costs of  
this Action

## Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

1 You will make due return of this  
2 order on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June  
3 A.D. 1884 with your proceedings  
4 enclosed thereon

5 Witness my hand and the  
6 seal of said Court affixed at my office  
7 in Dodge City this 29<sup>th</sup> day of May  
8 A.D. 1884

9 (Signed)

10 W. J. Pettitton Clerk  
11 By Vine DePree Deputy

12 I Certify that this above and  
13 foregoing is a true and  
14 correct copy of the original  
15 order of attachment in this case

16 P. F. Snyder Siff  
17 W. Myton Siff

## Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

Wabanssee "Kansas July 16-1884

Dear Father

I wrote you a card this a. m. but for fear that you would not get it in time to come down on the morning train I send this note. Ferry does not seem to be much better if any. If you can leave Mother I wish that you would come down to morrow morning. If you do bring down some homeopathic remedies. Nellie and Martha are also unwell.

In haste

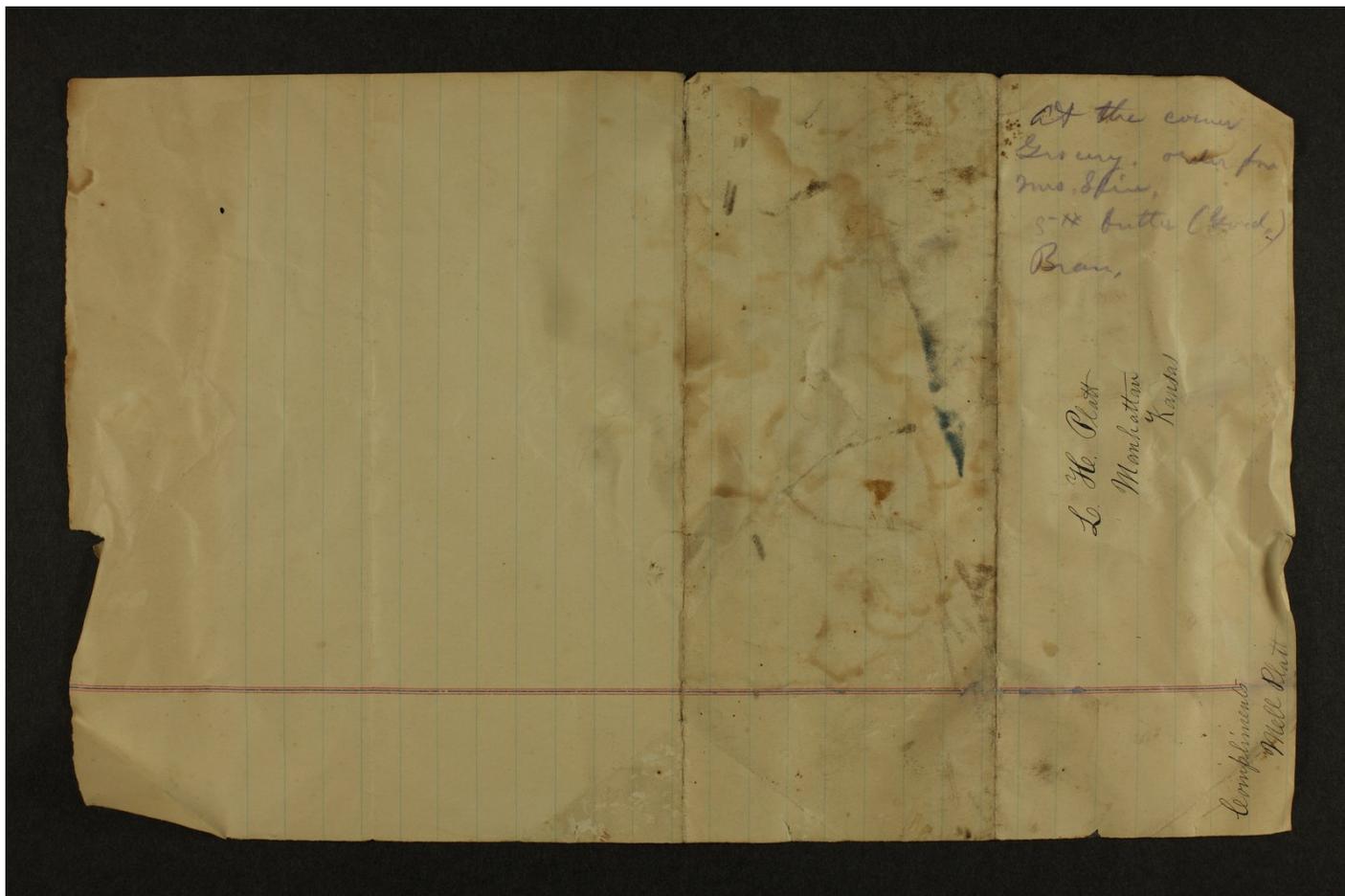
Your Loving Son

~~Dwight~~ Dwight H. Platt.

P.S. If you have time I wish that you bring me a pair of shoes. The ones I have are about gone up. Reserve the right to return if they <sup>do</sup> not fit. Same size you wear only higher in the instep.

D. H. P.

## Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence



## Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

1884  
Wilton Nov 6<sup>th</sup>.

Dear L. H. Platt, - Dear Sir, we send  
you a bbl. of various articles, of which  
you will find a list of in the bbl,  
hoping they may be acceptable,  
and <sup>that</sup> they may give you as much  
comfort in the use of them, as it has  
given us pleasure in preparing, is  
the desire of the Ladies, Benevolent-  
Association. We also send a check  
of \$7.50. The bbl was sent the 1<sup>st</sup>  
of November freight-prepaid to you.  
Please acknowledge receipt of bbl -  
Mrs Clarissa M. Betts, vice  
president of the American Home  
Missionary Society, Wilton,  
Fairfield County, Iowa