

Kansas Memory



Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

Section 19, Pages 541 - 570

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

Callnumber: Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt Coll. #473, Box 1 & 2

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Kansas Memory



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HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

Our business at present is fair to middling, being just about an average between good and moderate. Wish we had something for you to both profitable to yourself and but wishes are not horses. Before horses are worth something. Perhaps you might get an invitation as Bush did to stump your part of the country in behalf of the grand old party which the Republicans have generally stood by no matter how bad it may have gone back on them. If such a job presents itself please make Newton one of your first stopping places. Poor Mr. Keevey is having rather bad luck in his efforts to provide things honest in the sight of all men. he took about three orders and then .. sick this was at ~~at~~ own, afterwards he .. the train and proceeded homeward where he was resting up at last accounted. I have some more tell so please answer this letter soon and give me a chance) Your Friend W. E. Miles

[Reno Center, Pa.]

Kansas Memory

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
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Kansas City Mo. July 2 1886

Dear Friend Dwight-

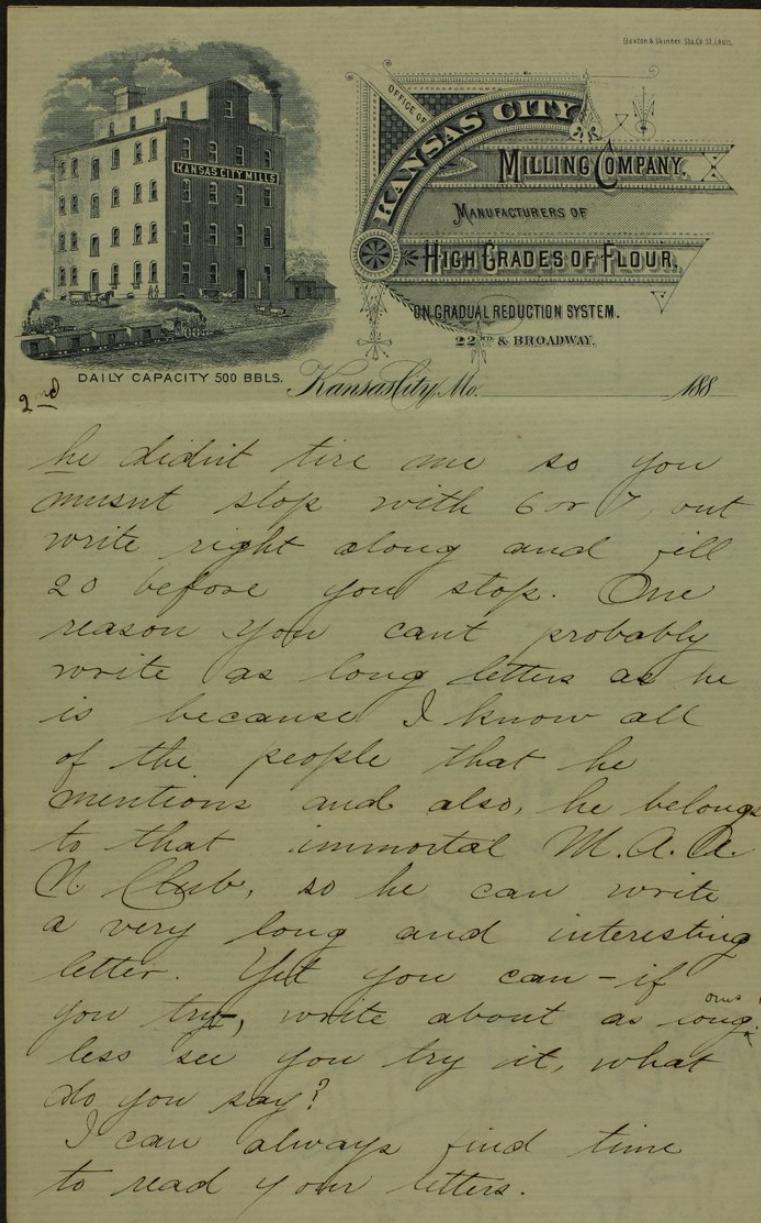
Your good letter arrived in due course of time, and was very much appreciated. I am glad you have something to do during the summer even if you are not at work. I refer to your missionary work. What is it? Don't be afraid that you will tire me with long letters, because that is impossible. One of the boys at home always writes long letters and I am very glad to receive them. The last one was 14 pages long, on note paper

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence



He didn't tire me so you
mustn't stop with 6 or 7, but
write right along and fill
20 before you stop. One
reason you can't probably
write as long letters as he
is because I know all
of the people that he
mentions and also, he belongs
to that immortal M.R.C.
Co Club, so he can write
a very long and interesting
letter. Yet you can - if
you try, write about as long
less see you try it, what
do you say?

I can always find time
to read your letters.

Kansas Memory

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



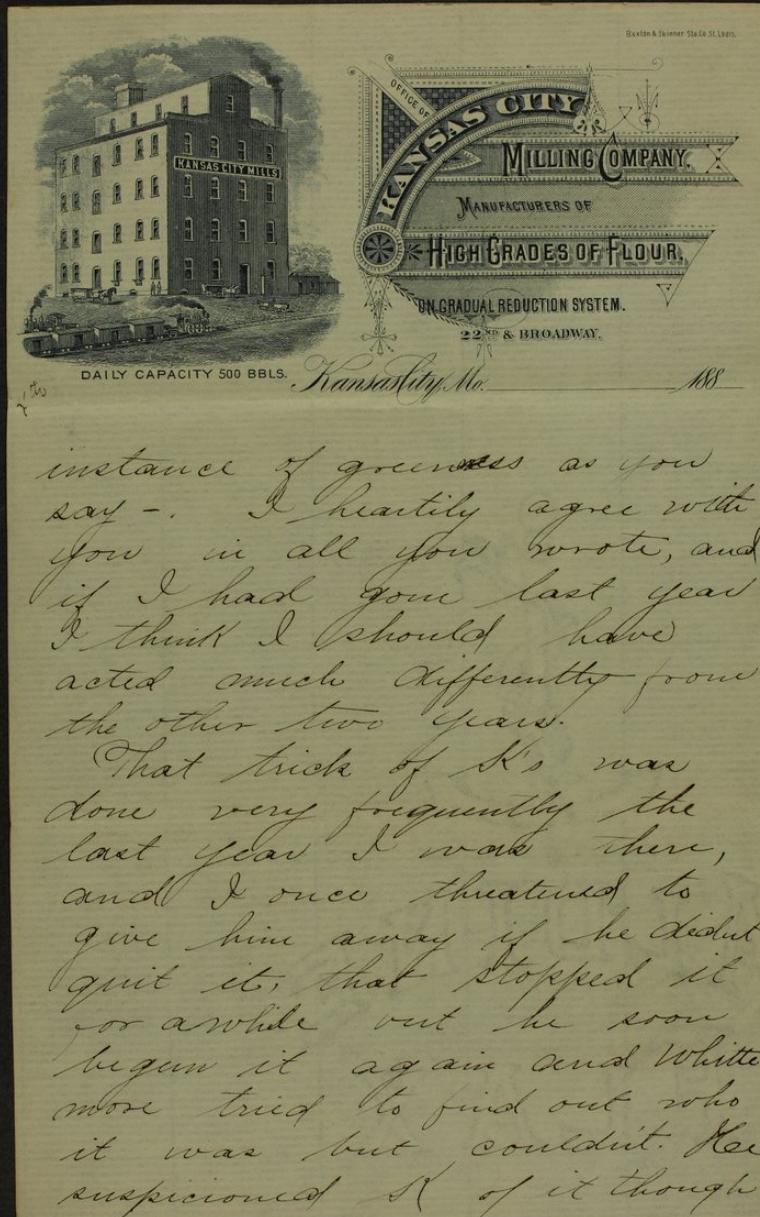
I never knew what you left for, until I read your letter. I didn't know that any writing of the kind was ever done in or around the college. I should think that a boy that had any manhood about him wouldn't ever do such a thing. Yet perhaps I may have done something that other people would consider as bad as that. The only scrape I was ever in while at College that I am really sorry for, was stealing chickens the first year I was there — another

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence



instance of ~~greeces~~ as you say -. I heartily agree with you in all you wrote, and if I had you last year I think I should have acted much differently from the other two years.

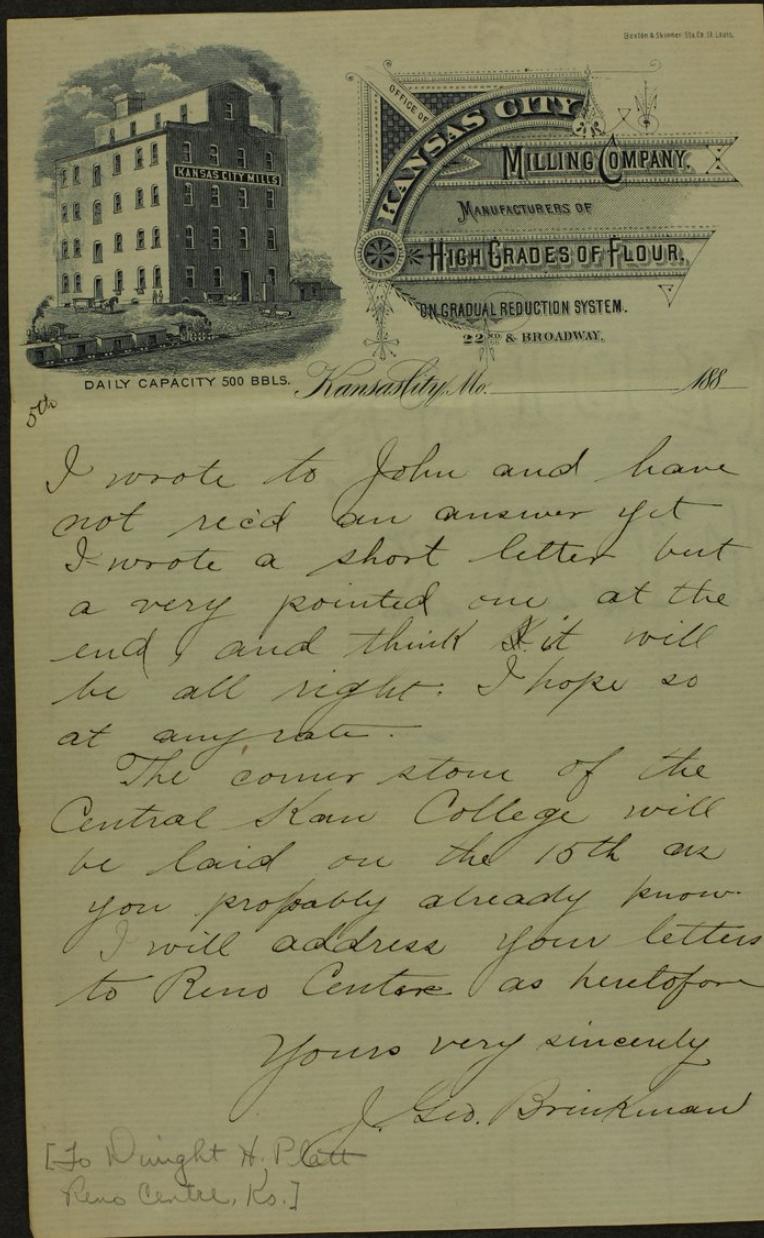
That trick of H's was done very frequently the last year I was there, and I once threatened to give him away if he didn't quit it, that stopped it for awhile but he soon began it again and Whittemore tried to find out who it was but couldn't. He suspected H of it though

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

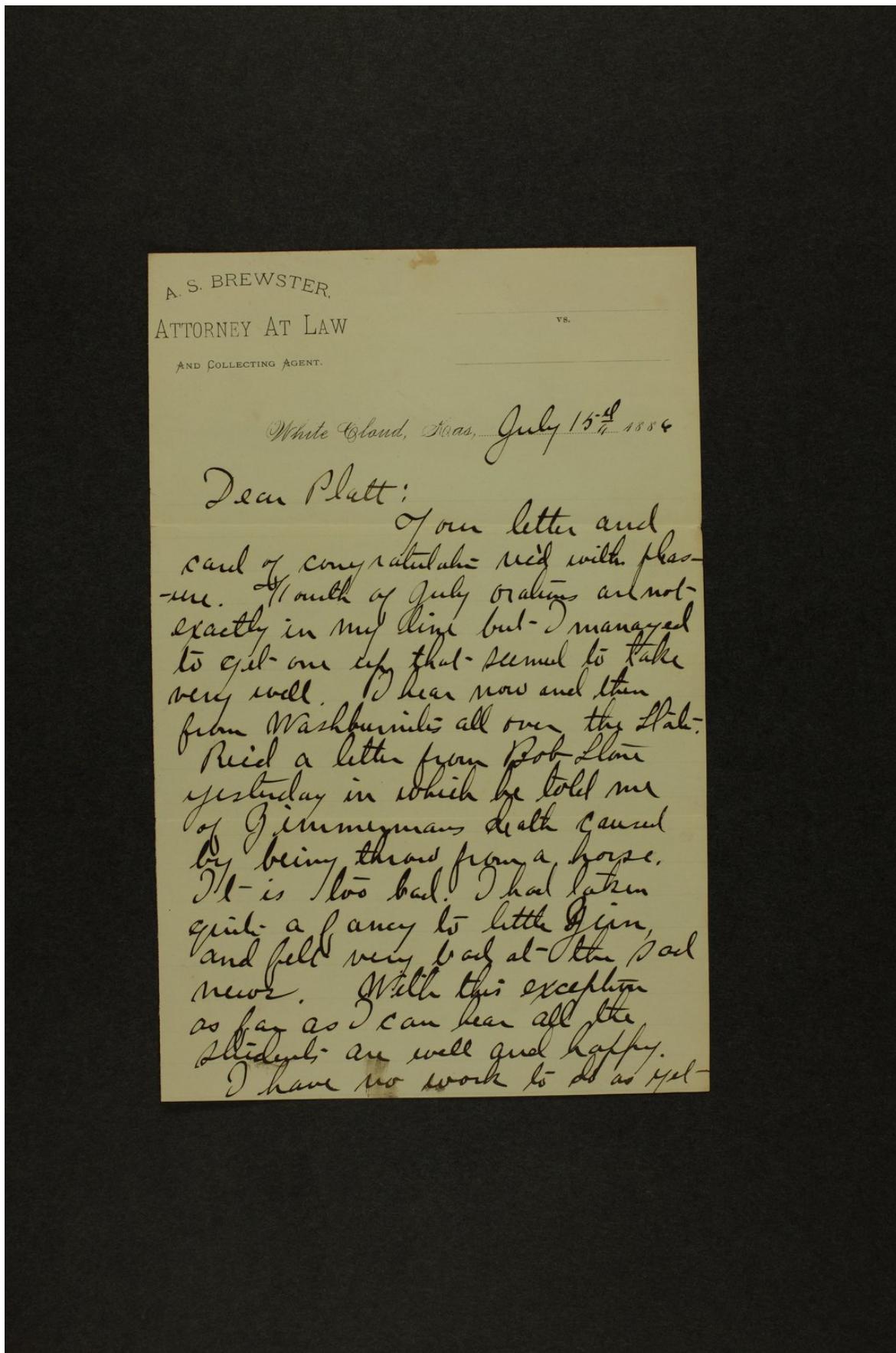


Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

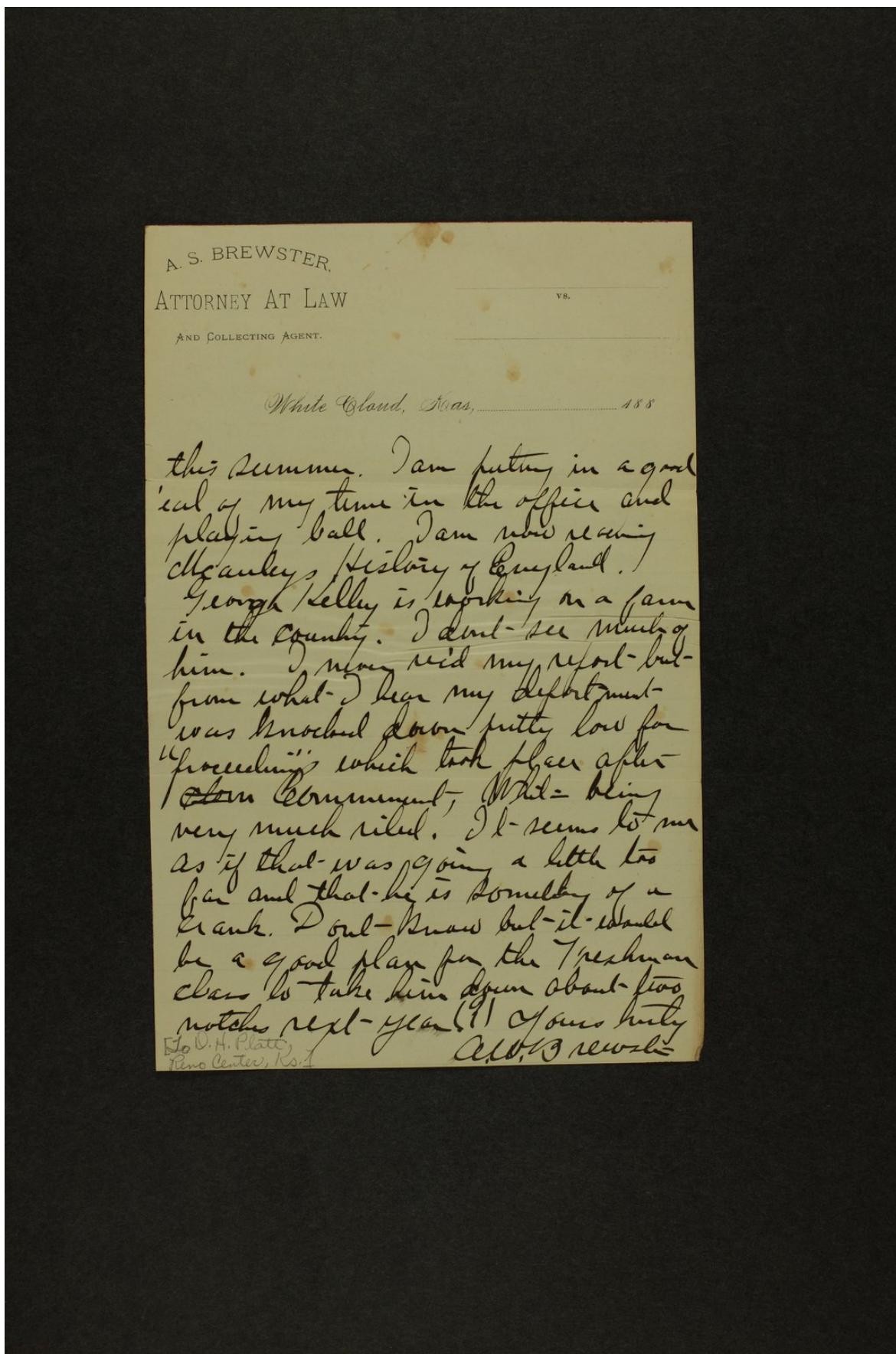


Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

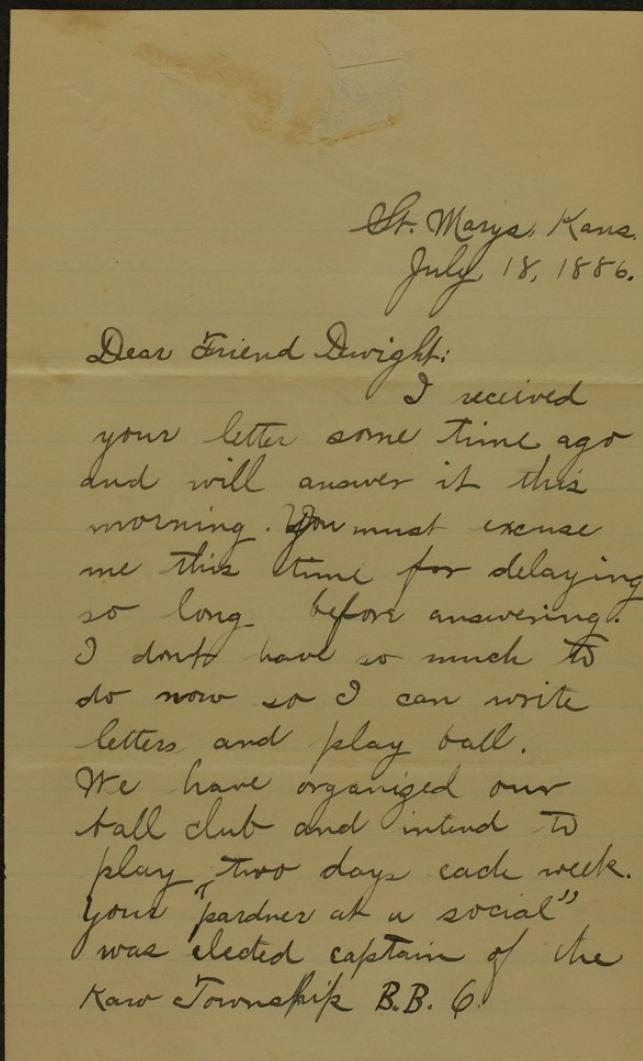


Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence



Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

Our ball players are like the White Cloud players, excepting they are a great deal worse. We are in great need of a pitcher as you may judge when I tell you that I have to do the most of the pitching. We expect to play some match games soon but also expect to get beaten. The St. Marys Club are going to play the Hackney's ~~to-day~~ (from Topeka) in St. Mary today. Al Chamberlain is getting his rep' up in this country for his good playing. He is the best player in the country. He pitches. I got a letter from Best this week. He said he had been at work. He said Prof. Cragin done him dirt by

giving him Botany. I told Prof. Whittenbor very politely to take the key to it. It is awful the chintz b' on the uphol about all of us was killed by the weather. West tell me whether to come back or not. Our course but if it a couple of weeks will be pretty up. I suppose heard of the Arthur Zimmerman the paper m' riding a colt

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

use like
players,
a great
re in great
as you
tell you
the most
expect to
games soon
yet beaten.
but are
Hackney's
) in St Mo^y
berlain is
k in this
good playing.
layer in
pitches.
on Bed
he had
said Prof.
dirt by
giving him only 76 in
Botany. I got a letter from
Prof. Whittimore asking me
very politely to send him
the key to my room.
It is awful dry here and
the chintz bugs are working
on the upland corn some.
about all of the wheat
was killed by the cold
weather. Westbrook did not
tell me whether he intended
to come back in the fall
or not. Our corn crop is looking
nice but if it keeps dry for
a couple of weeks more it
will be pretty well dried
up. I suppose you have
heard of the sad death of
Arthur Zimmerman. I saw in
the paper that he was
riding a colt and it

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

fall on him and killed him.
Zimmerman was a good fellow,
and was liked by all of the
Washburn students. I have
seen Miss Thayer the Daily's
Aaron Wiers and Miss Crawford
since I came home. They are
all having a nice time.
Miss Crawford will be here
in a couple of weeks.
Speak for me if you see
any of the Washburn folks.
Wishing to hear from you
frequently, I remain,

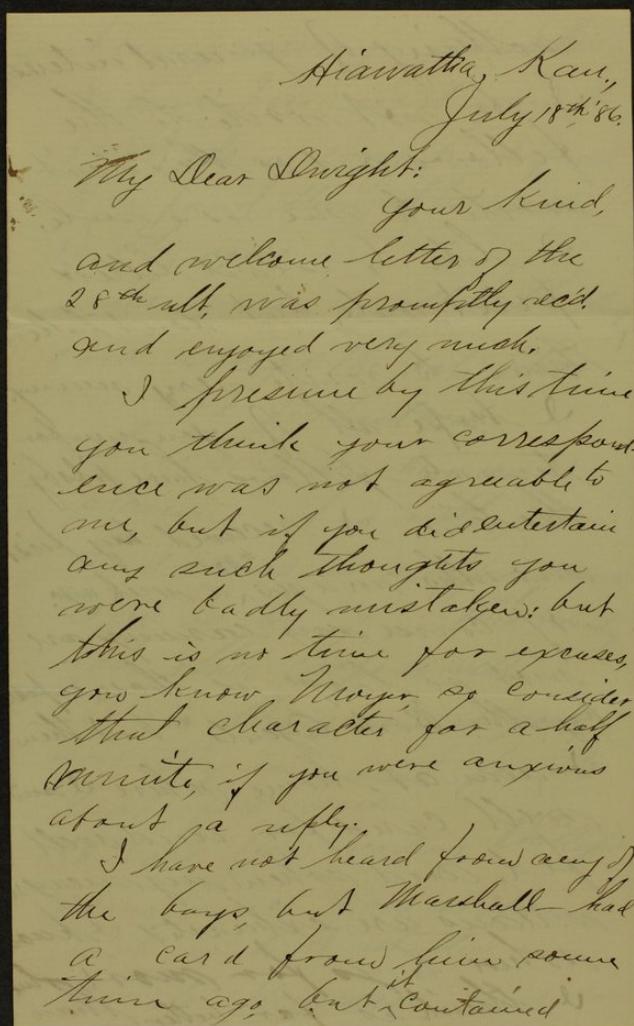
Your Friend and Glassmate
Lewis H. Greenwood

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence



Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

nothing of general interest.
I do not write to the
fellows, and so they don't
write to me, as a rule.
I like to read letters
first-rate, but don't take
time to write very many.
I hope all of your num-
berous fellows have fished
this time. I received my first
month's wages, ^{\$20.00} a week ago.
Of course my earnings are
not so large as those expected
by the Book Agent," but then
I am at home where I am
well cared for and well
fed, and when my meager
means are exhausted I know
where to go for more, which
I think is far better than

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

several interests
it to the
they don't
as a rule,
and letters
& don't take
very many.
you unfor-
tunately have probably
arrived by first
mail ^{\$20.00} a week ago.
carrying on
as those expected
us," but then
where I am
and well
now you may
have heard I have
so more, of which Grant's Memoirs, and our
better than

being away from home.
I have been working on the
farm, doing every kind of work
to be found there at this season
of the year.
The grain is all in the stack
bars, except the oats which
were not fit last week.
It is very dry here as I
presume it is with you
and cows is suffering much.
"Corn is king" in this country,
yet other crops do well.
Oats this year are good,
something unusual for the
last few years.
I have been reading Phillips
some since I am at home;
last week I started on
Grant's Memoirs, and our

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

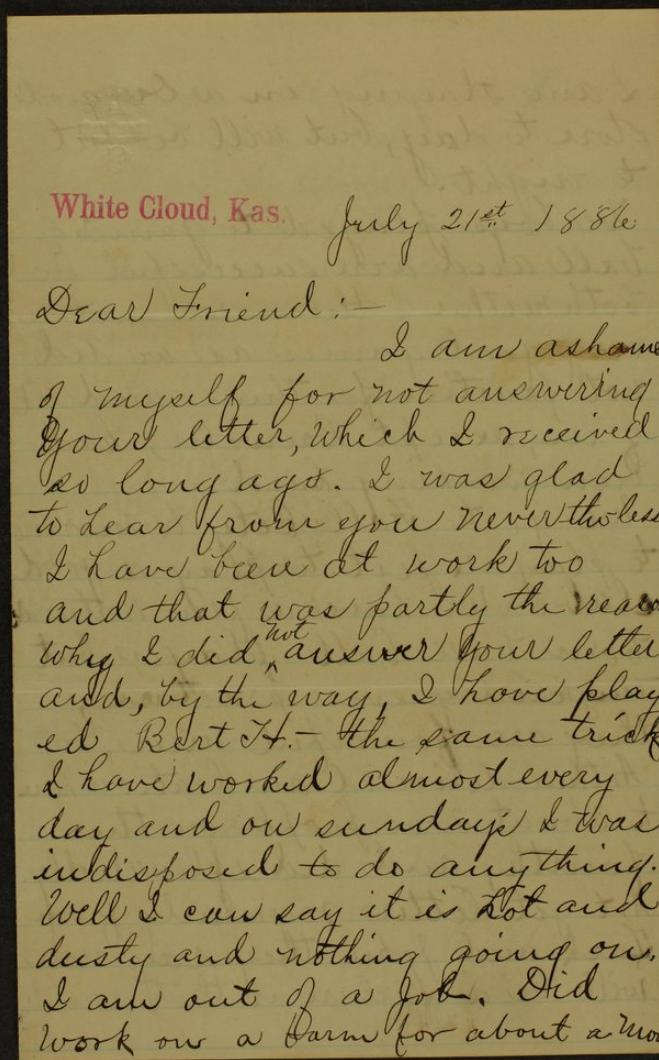
very much interested in
them. Was very much suspicious
in his ability as an author.
Have read the most of Vol. I.
I think it is an excellent
work for anyone to read.
Well, over 1/3 of the vacation is
past, and soon we will be
back again at our accu-
stomed places.
For my part I will
be glad. We must do
better work this year than
ever before. I hope you
will have prepared a
rousing speech for the
opening meeting of the Society.
The weather is hot.
Hoping to hear from you again
during vacation, I remain your
[To Dwight H. Platt]
friend and Classmate
Sam'l P. Woyer

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence



White Cloud, Kas. July 21st 1886

Dear Friend:

I am ashamed of myself for not answering your letter, which I received so long ago. I was glad to hear from you nevertheless. I have been at work too and that was partly the reason why I did ^{not} answer your letter and, by the way, I have played Bert H. - the same trick & have worked almost every day and on sundays & was indisposed to do anything. Well I can say it is hot and dusty and nothing going on. I am out of a job. Did work on a farm for about a mo-

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

I am staying in a day goods store to day, but will be out to night.

We boys played to games of ball and were successful in both, neither of them we not very good games as we did not practice for them and all of us, except Brewster, had been working hard.

We go to Fall City to morrow to play expect to play a good club. We have a few natural born base ball players but they hardly ever practice, they are powerful men, too. Arthur delivered an oration here to about 3000 people on the fourth, and did splendidly. Art get letters regularly from Tuck and John they say corn will be a failure in that country.

It wil
dorit g.

I am not pos
I will go bac
as times are
I am afraid
enough to do
Suppose you
Arthur expect
Maude former
some of atte
Maude is fai
keeps in goo
time.

I would
to hear from
if I should
now prompt
Guess this is
Your

To D. H. Platt
Reno Center, Ks.

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

a day goods
ll be put
games of
useful in
we not
as we did
in and all
ter, had
y to morrow some of attending.
say a good Maude is failing slowly but
few natural keeps in good spirits all the
day but time.
actions,
men, too, to hear from you again and
oration here if I should & would be
more prompt in answering.
splendidly.
early from
I say com
that country,

It will be here if we
don't get rain soon.
I am not positive as to whether
I will go back to Washburn
as times are so very hard and
I am afraid I will not make
enough to do much good.
Suppose you intend to go?
Arthur expects to go.
Maude Forncrooks brother talks
of attending.
say a good Maude is failing slowly but
few natural keeps in good spirits all the
day but time.
I would like very much
to hear from you again and
on the
Geo. B. Kelley

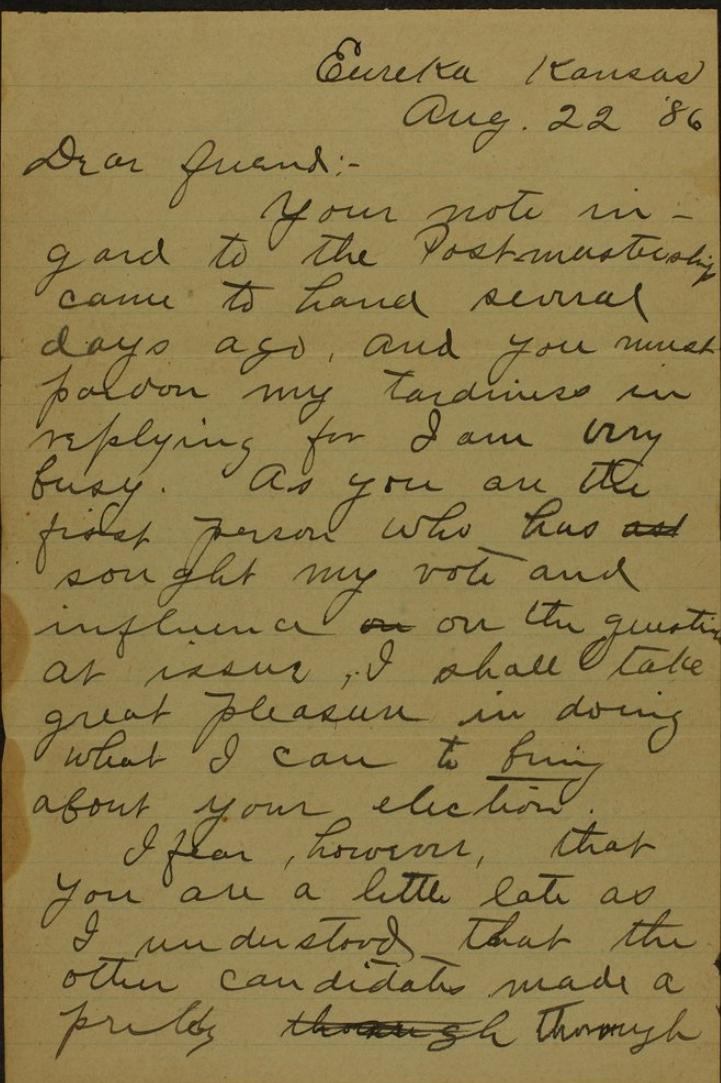
[To D. H. Platt
Reno Center, Ks]

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence



Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

Canvass for school
sch closed. But brace up
or will give them a
a round any way.

Am working hard
every day, putting up hay
I am begining to want
to go back pretty badly
Working on the farm
has gone back on me and
can hardly put up with it.

I understand Bert Yt.
is not going back. I have
not seen him lately, so can
not vouch for the truth
of the assertion. I expect
to go back, if nothing
happens to the contrary.
That's all for this time.

Your friend,
John.

[L. D. W. Platt
Reno Center, Ks.]

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

Kansas State Library, Topeka, Kansas.
Nov. 20 - 1886.

Dear Folks at Home,

I wrote ~~to~~ a letter home immediately after my return from Ottawa, but instead of mailing it I mislaid it. In consequence of which I presume you are beginning to be anxious why I don't write. This past week has been a very busy week with me. Besides carrying on my regular work I have been attending Y. W. C. A. meetings every evening, and also making an almost ~~per~~ fruitless endeavor to ~~elucidate~~ elucidate a few thoughts on the question for size debate. The question is Resolved that in politic independence promotes better government than partisanship. I am the ~~the~~ ~~for~~ second ~~the~~ speaker on the affirmative.

The Y. W. C. A. meetings this week have been especially interesting. During the

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

work six boys have come
out among them Beck,
Huntington. The change in
him is wonderful.
Last night one of our youngest
but brightest students made
a stand. His circumstances
are rather peculiar and trying.
~~This~~ His mother is a widow, and
~~lives~~ living near the college,
she is a very intelligent
woman, but is strongly
inclined toward infidelity.
Myers is her only son, and she
has reason to be proud of his
mental attainments for he
stands at a long ways in
advance of any other member
of his class. His memory
has almost become proverbial
in the college.
Last night he rose in the
meeting, & said he wanted
to be a Christian, he tried to
say more, but broke
down completely.

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

What struggles and trials she
will necessarily meet with
will be hard for the most
of us to imagine.
I never saw Bert Huntington
so jolly and good natured
before in my life.
Last night, he was telling
us he had tackled one of
the fellows, he said he
talked to him the best he knew
how, but that wanted somebody
more experienced to talk with
the same fellow. He said
that one of the other boys
had tried to draw him
into argument. He said, he
told him he would n't
argue with him because
he would surely get
downed. But that if the
other fellow ever got into
such a condition as he (Bert)
was in, all the argument
in the world could n't
knock his belief in religion.

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

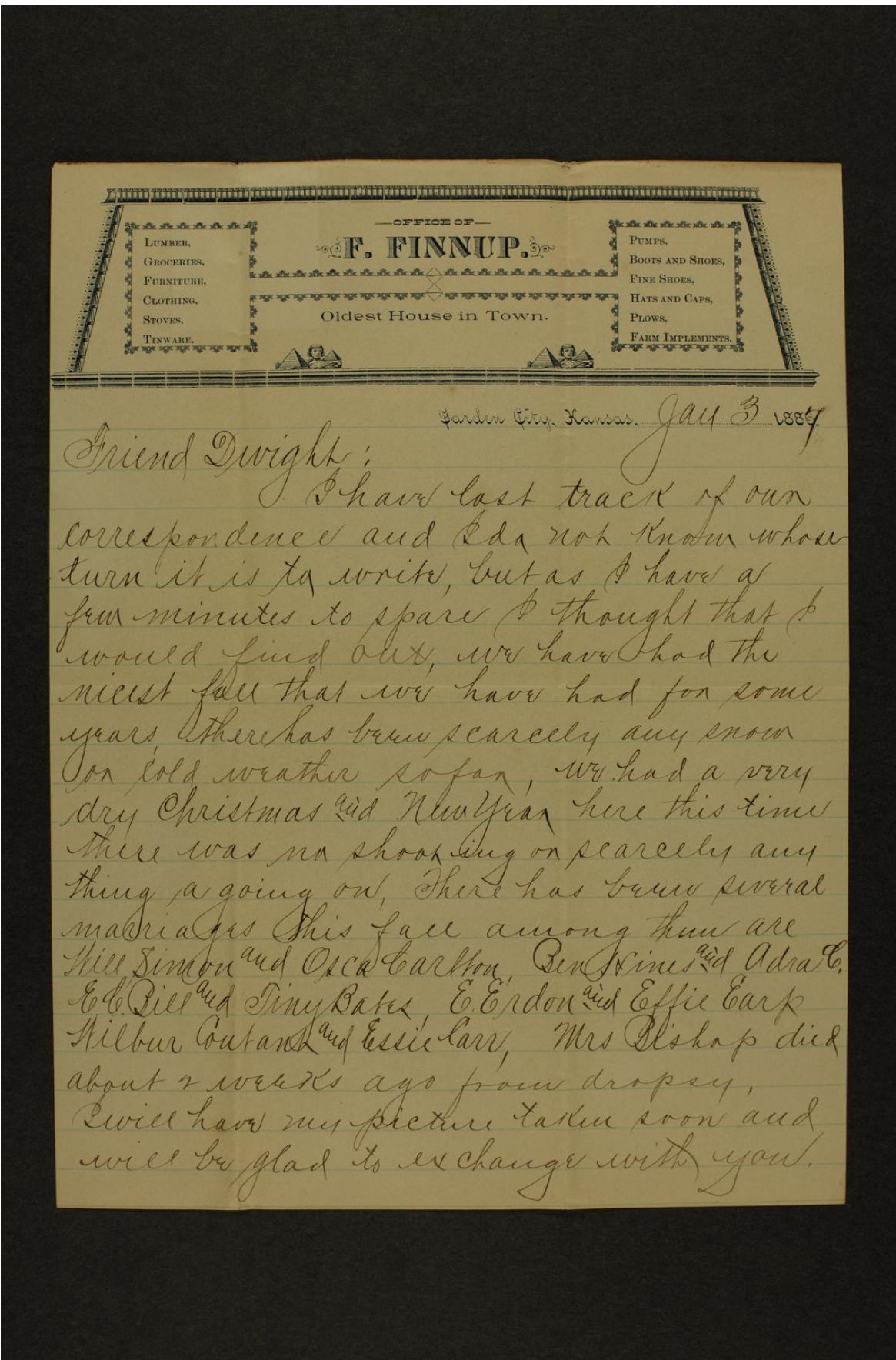
out of him. I don't believe
that I shall go to
Manhattan Thanksgiving,
Hoping to hear from you
before long I am,
Yours Son
Dwight H. Platt,

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence



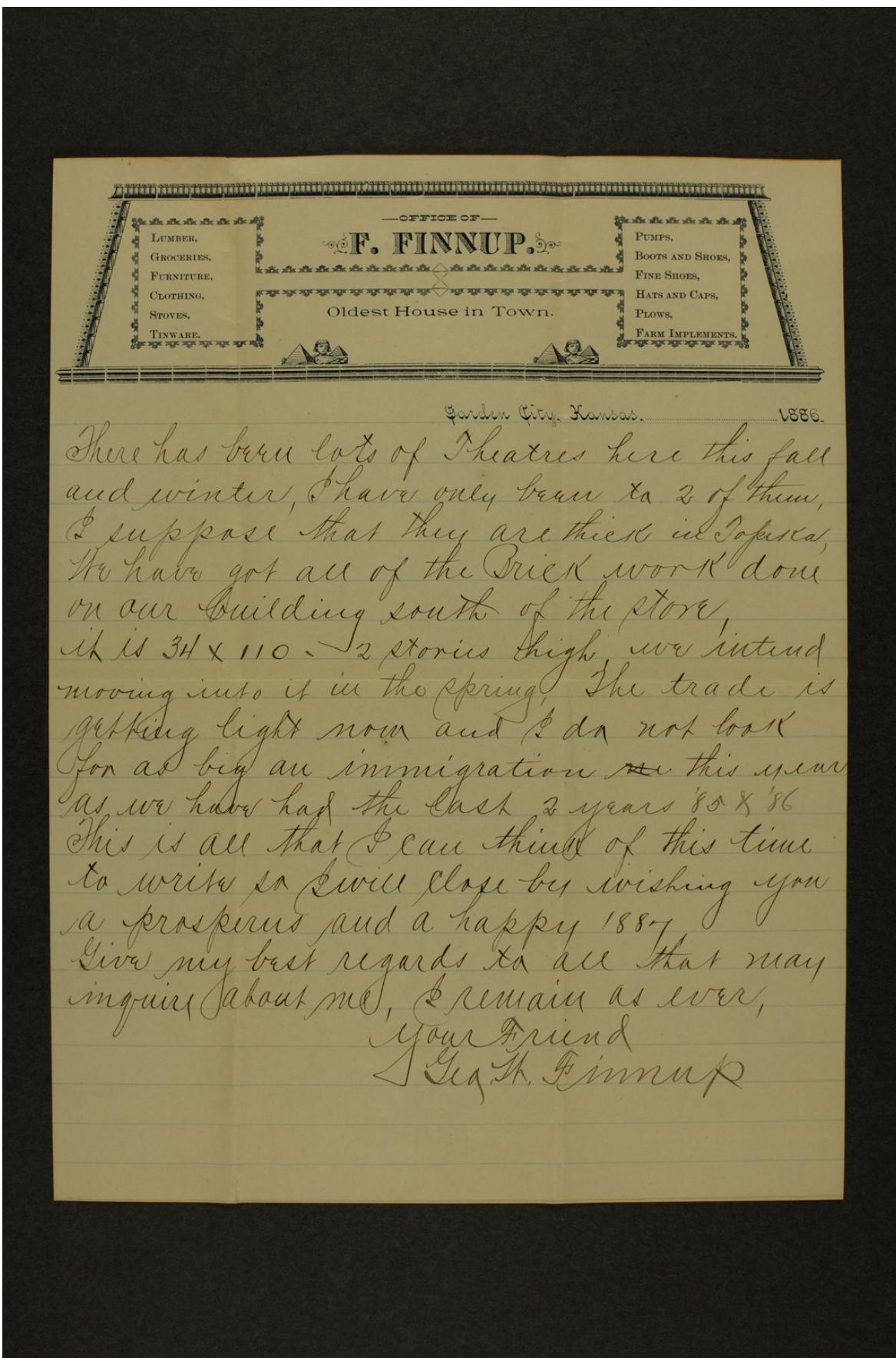
Garden City, Kansas. Jan 3 1887
Friend Dwight:
I have lost track of our correspondence and I do not know whose turn it is to write, but as I have a few minutes to spare I thought that I would find out, we have had the nicest fall that we have had for some years. There has been scarcely any snow. Our cold weather so far, we had a very dry Christmas and New Year here this time. There was no shooting or scarcely any thing a going on. There has been several marriages this fall among them are Bill Simon and Oscar Carlton, Ben Kimes and Adra C., E.C. Dill and Tiny Bates, E. Erdon and Effie Earp, Milburn Coutant and Jessie Larr, Mrs Bishop died about 2 weeks ago from dropsy, I will have my picture taken soon and will be glad to exchange with you.

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

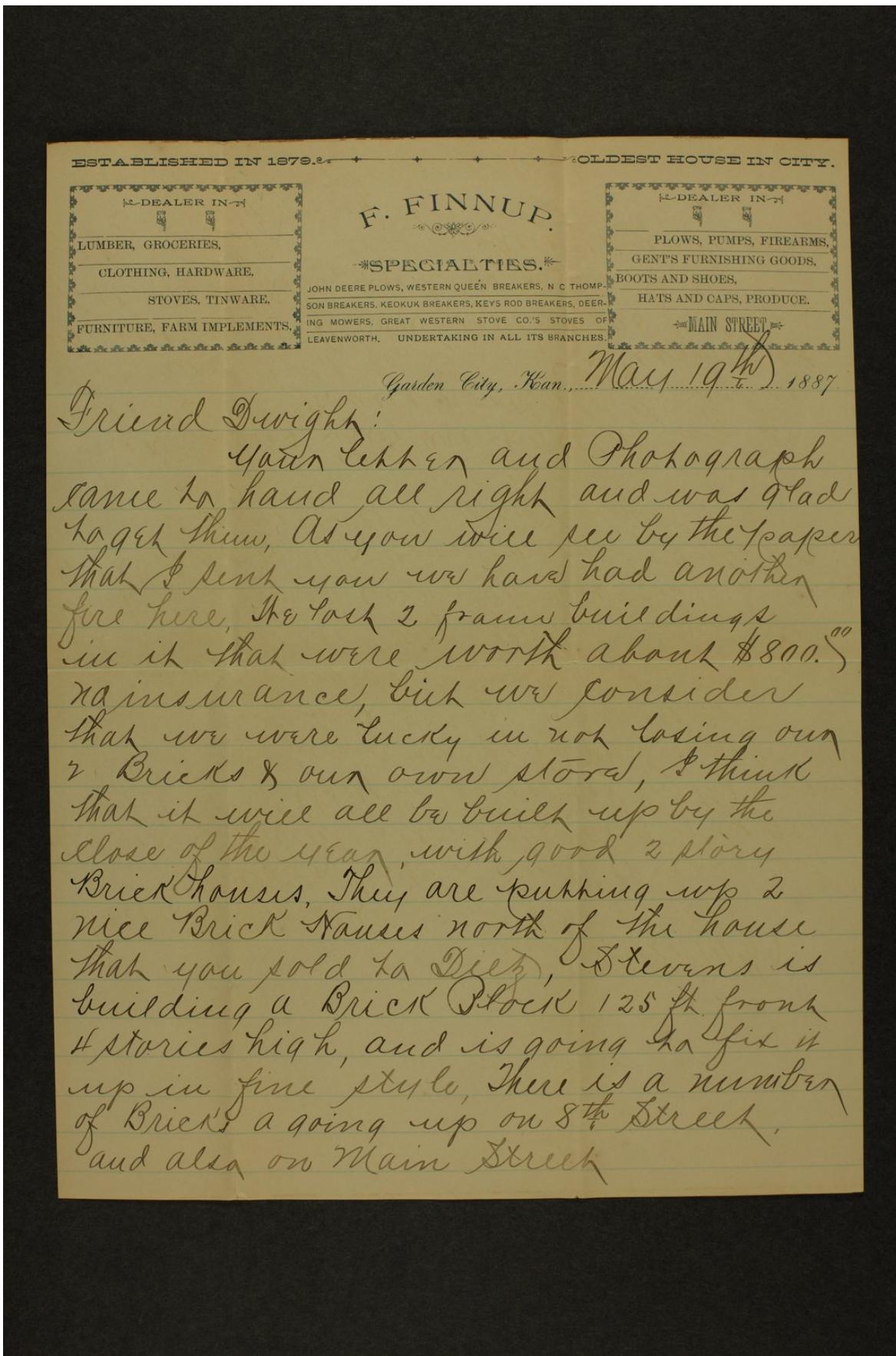


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KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

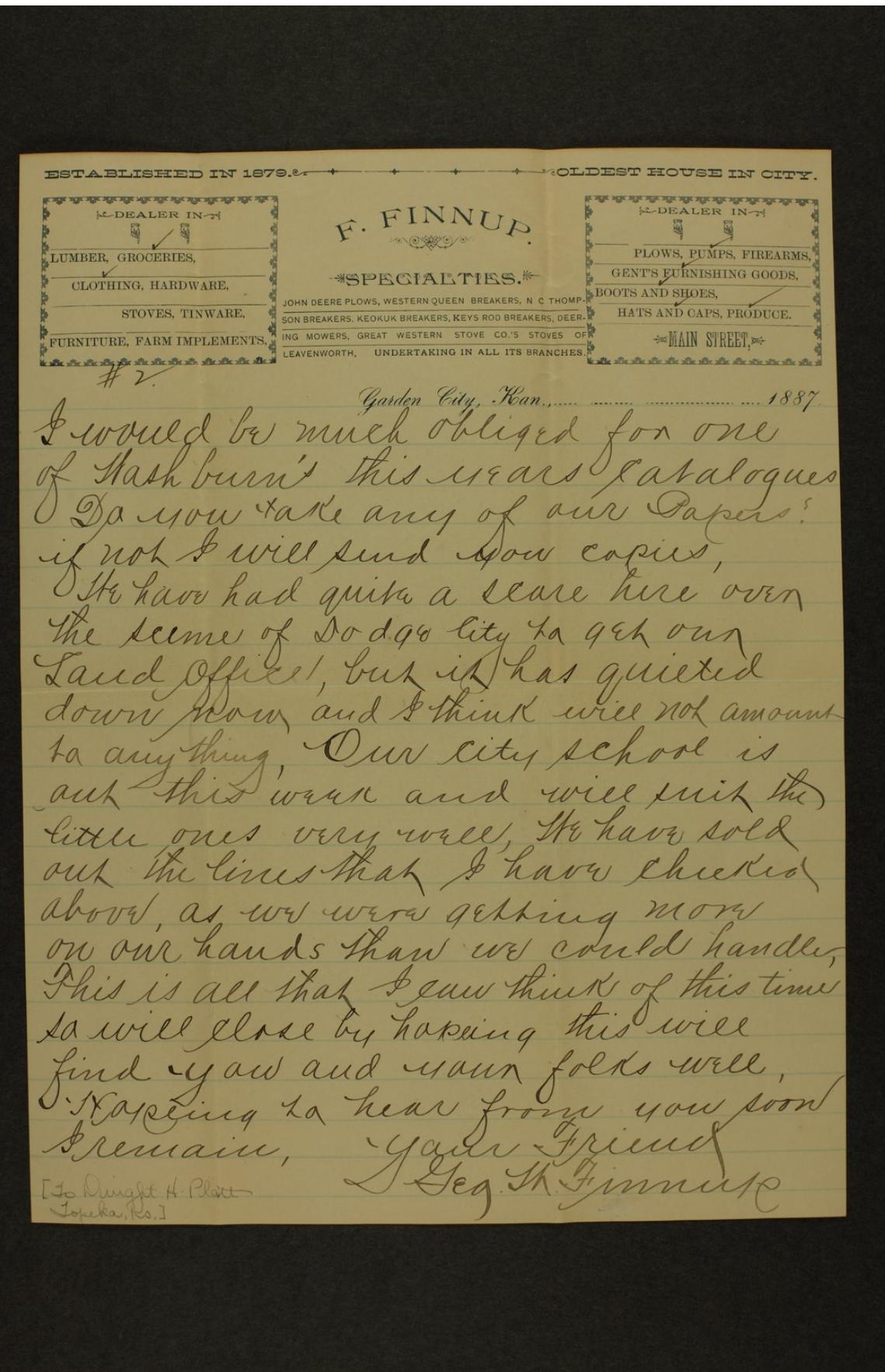


Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence



Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

