

Kansas Memory



Dwight H. and Luther H. Platt correspondence

Section 5, Pages 121 - 150

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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to them of Jesus and his love
and asked all of the children
who would promise to ask Jesus
to help them love him, to raise
their hands.

Several did so, and may we
not hope, ^{that} they will by his help
love him and serve him the
rest of their lives, and then
spend an eternity of love with
Jesus.

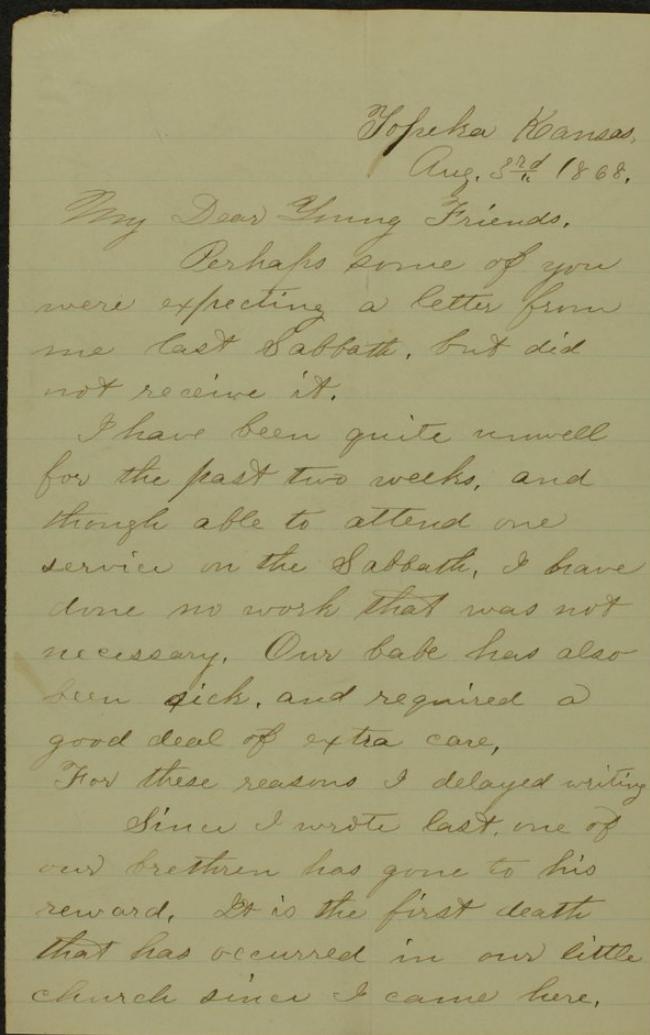
Your Missionary,
L. H. Platt,

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Topeka Kansas,
Aug. 3rd 1868,

My Dear Young Friends.

Perhaps some of you
were expecting a letter from
me last Sabbath, but did
not receive it.

I have been quite unwell
for the past two weeks, and
though able to attend one
service on the Sabbath, I have
done no work that was not
necessary. Our babe has also
been sick, and required a
good deal of extra care.

For these reasons I delayed writing.
Since I wrote last, one of
our brethren has gone to his
reward. It is the first death
that has occurred in our little
church since I came here.

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Elijah Wright united with our ^{church} last fall. His health was not good at that time, and it gradually grew worse. For several months before he died he was mostly confined to the house; some of the time suffering great pain. About three weeks before he died, he was attacked with paralysis of his limbs, which made him perfectly helpless. He said that Jesus was with him in his sickness, helping him to bear the pain. That if Jesus was willing he should be glad to die and be free from his pain, but was willing to trust it all to Jesus, ^{and} willing to bear all that he saw fit to send until he called him.

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home. He was always cheerful, and made his arrangements to die, as calmly as though he were going on a pleasant journey. The day he died he told his wife not to grieve for him, as he was going to be with Jesus, and a short time after, he leaned back in the arms of one who was supporting him, and without a groan or a struggle breathed his last, and fell asleep in Jesus. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

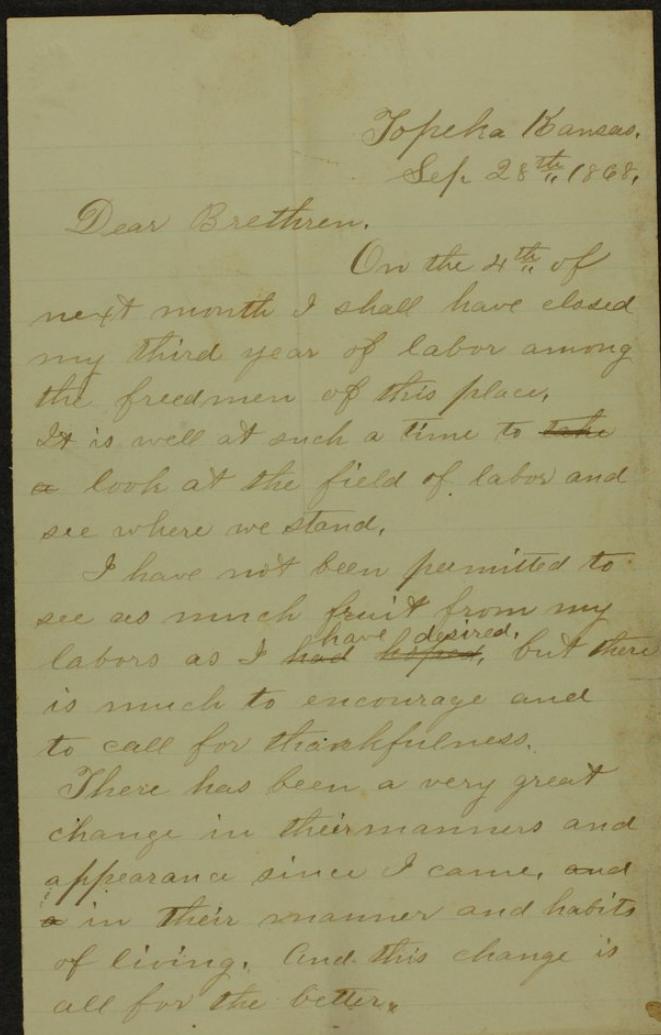
Your Missionary
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Educationally there has been a most wonderful improvement. In this State our laws require that in the public schools they shall have equal advantages with the whites. I have tried as far as possible to secure the fair execution of this law, and to induce as many as possible to attend; visiting the schools often, and encouraging them, but have not thought it best to have any school for children aside from the public school, except the Sabbath school, which is as good a school as there is in the city. ~~This~~ Every winter we have had a night school for adults. Nearly or quite two thirds of the adults can now read, and many can write and have studied arithmetic and geography. One has entered the preparatory department of Lincoln college.

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a second applied but owing to
the standard ^{of scholarship} being raised could not
quite pass examination.
A third, a young man of good
mind and earnest piety is
expecting to enter in a few weeks,
and study for the ministry.
Religiously we have been blessed
with one precious season of revival,
and two other seasons of interest
in one of which two or three
expressed a hope in Christ.
Among them are some specimens
of deep and earnest piety, and
consecration to God. Though the
~~majority~~ ^{of the} professing Christians
are very much inclined to a
fugal and emotional religion,
which does not affect their daily
life. Some of those who are the
the noisiest in their meetings
are the wickedest men and
women among them, and the

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very worst men that I have ever met among them were ministers. Though I am happy to say that they are not all such. Superstition and prejudice are almost universal and are remarkably strong among them. The different colored churches, or the different parties in the same church are almost constantly quarreling. So much so that an intelligent and educated ^{colored} man who is trying to elevate them as a ~~young~~ but who is an infidel says "You can get them to do nothing but quarrel about their religion." I am very sorry to say that there is too much truth in this testimony. Superstition and prejudice are rapidly disappearing especially among the young, and I think the efforts we have made to have christians of different names unite in labor for Christ, are bearing some fruit.

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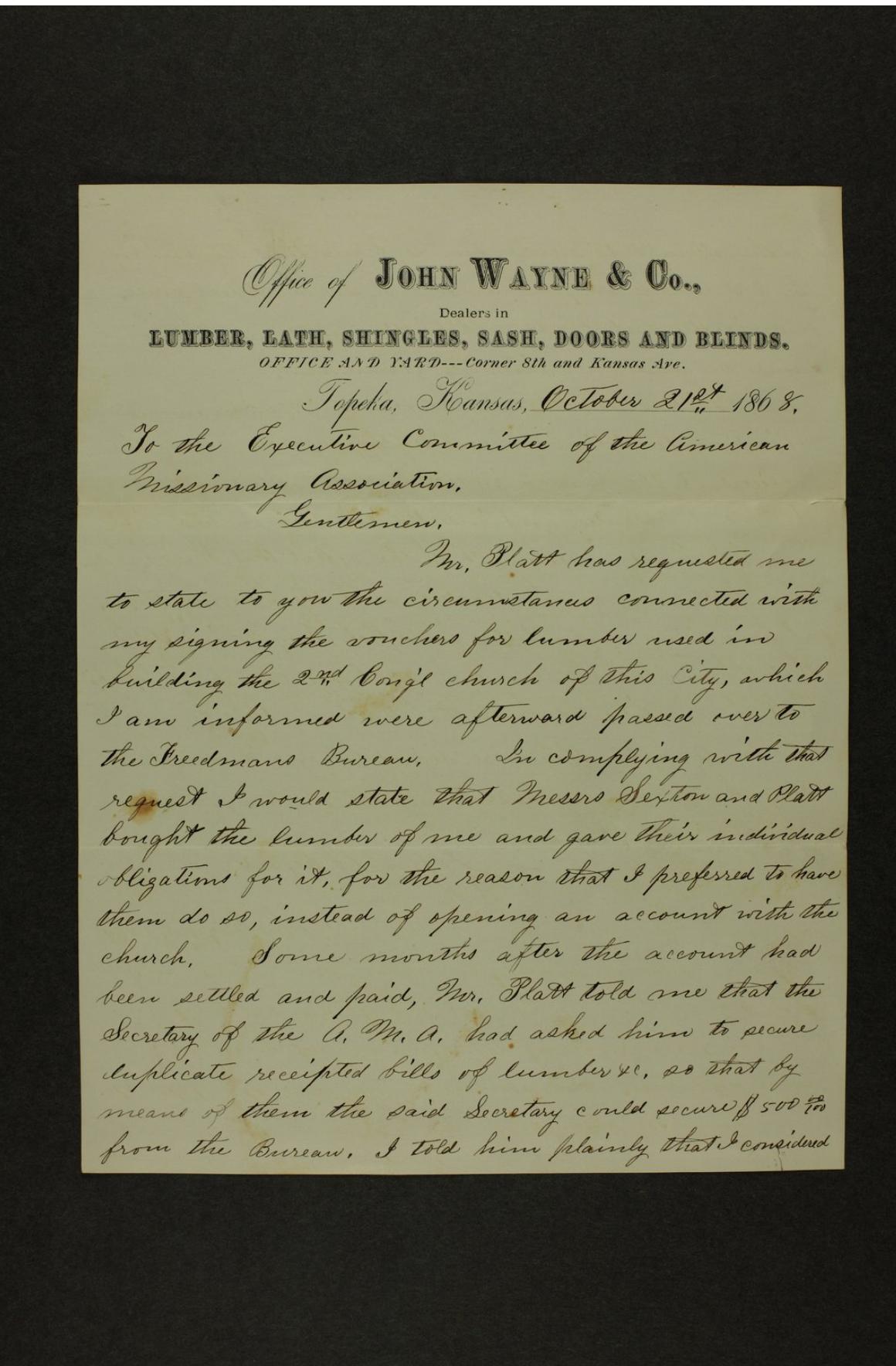
I am learning more and more
of the adoful effects of Slavery.
^{upon their character.}
The work of elevating the freedmen
is a work which I realize to be
more important and necessary
the longer I labor among them;
the future of this nation depends upon it;
This education must be religious
as well as intellectual. It cannot
be done in a day or a year and
requires earnest persevering self
labor. and in my judgments
cannot safely be trusted to the
colored churches and minister
now among them.

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the attempt to secure funds from the Bureau on
the 2nd church on pretense that it was a school house,
a swindle, and I was not willing that my name
should be used in swindling government.

Mr. Platt stated that he so viewed it, but saw no
objection to stating the case truthfully, and letting the
officers of the Bureau judge for themselves.

To this I assented, and inserted in the vouchers with
my own hand, a statement to the effect that Messrs. Lyon
and Platt were church trustees, and then signed them.
I have since seen a letter from Col. Seely which stated
that the words "Trustees of the 2nd Cong'l church of Topeka"
had been obliterated from the vouchers. This change
was made after they were signed by me and without
my knowledge or consent, and this change I consider
a forgery.

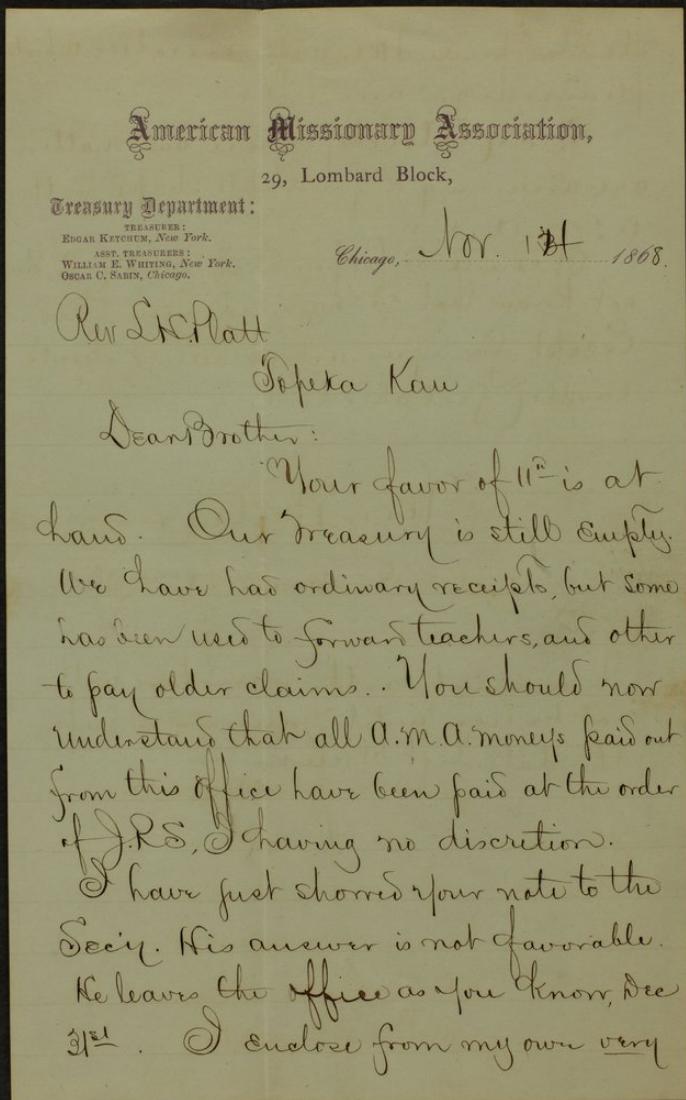
John Wayne.
of the firm of
John Wayne & Co-

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Slender purse \$100 with vouchers which
please sign and return.

Soc'y Strieby is here and matters
are assuming a favorable shape for the
a.m.a.

Of course I prefer that Soc'y S. do
not know that I have advanced this.
Except for your urgent need, I should
hardly feel able to do so.

Very truly yours
Oscar O. Gabbin

Inasmuch as the vouchers will
not be used until January, I prefer
the date left blank —

O.O.G.

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(Copy)

Topeka Kansas,
Nov. 19th, 1868;

Bro. Sabin,

Your favor of
the 14th is received. I thank
you very much for your
kindness in sending the money
which you did. It is a great
favor to me.

When I wrote you ^{last} I did not
suppose that Mr. Shepherd
had any thing whatever to do
with the office, as I had the
impression that his resignation
took effect at the time of the
annual meeting.

Had I supposed that funds
had to come through him, I
should not have applied to the
Chicago office at all, as I
know him so well that if

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there were ten thousand dollars in the treasury, I do not think he would pay me a cent if he could help it.

I enclose the receipts. I have dated them, but when you send another remittance you can return them (as you have done once or twice before,) and have the whole amount included in one receipt, or you can return them with blanks dated to suit.

I shall not again ask Mr. Slidell to pay my last quarter's salary. It has been twice refused. I shall not ask again. If he chooses to send it he can do so. If not he can take the consequences.

Very truly Yours,
L. H. Platt.

O. C. Sabin Esq.
29 Lombard Block Chicago Ills.

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If Mr. Shippard chooses to send the balance of my last quarters salary he can do so, and if he chooses to withhold it he can do so, I do not intend to ask him for it again.

Very truly yours,
L. H. Platt,

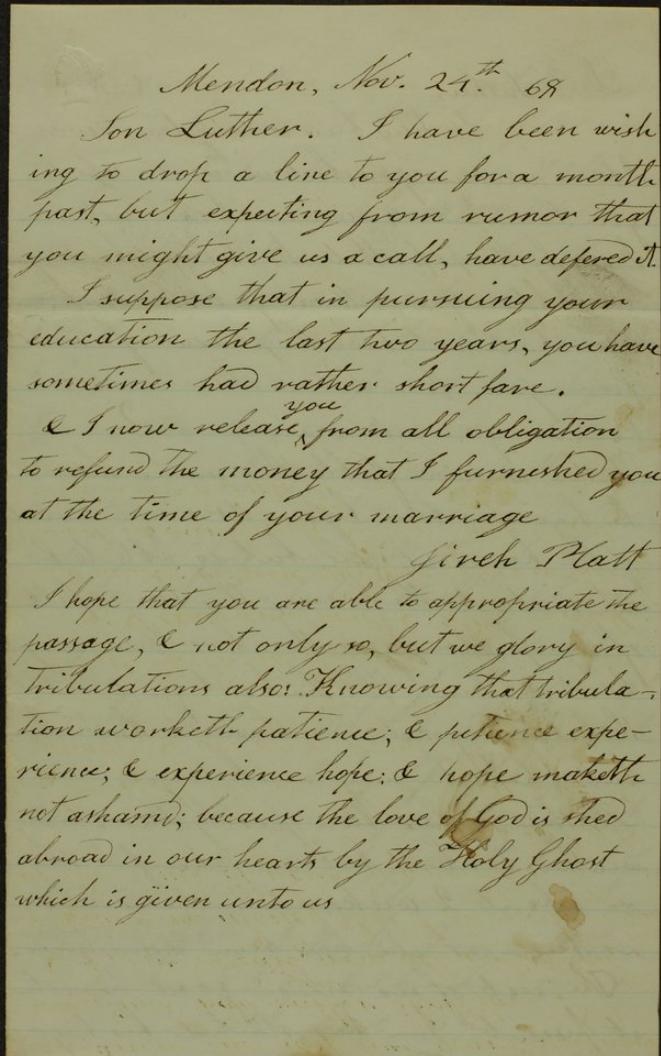
P. C. Sabin Esq.,
28 Lombard Block
Chicago Ills.

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Dwight Platt

I hope that you are able to appropriate the passage, & not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: Knowing that tribulation worketh patience; & patience experience; & experience hope; & hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us

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Dear Luther,

It has been a long time since I have written you, but we were expecting you to stop in & see us, so I did not write. I see by the paper that Mr. Thresher has resign'd, so I suppose you will not go to New York, & we shall not have the pleasure of a visit from you. How did matters work, & how are you getting along now?

Father is more feeble this winter than he has ever been before, does not go out of the house at all, but is able to be up & about the house. This long spell of damp, cloudy weather has been very hard on him. We think it quite likely that he may not live through the winter, but I hope he may much longer.

Mother too has been poorly this stormy weather, has had but one cheerful day in about 2 weeks, still she is not as bad as she has been sometimes.

The rest of us are in good health at present. Jim has started his hogs

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to the station this evening, gets \$6,40
gross, pork seems to be rather flat now,
he has 39 which will average over 300 lbs.
he thinks, he wanted to get \$100, but did not.
The County G.G. Convention met here this
month & we had a very interesting time.
I think it was the most practical convention
I have attended, & I hope will do much good.
Cousin John Ray came on from Nebraska
bringing his daughter Fannie with him.
She had been very sick & was troubled with
cataleptic fits, & is still, though her
health is somewhat better than when she
first came on. Fannie is quite a nice
girl of 16, sings & plays pretty well, & looks
like the ^{old} Father's side of the house, but
her voice is something like Lucy's.
Lucy's health is quite poor now, I think
she has not recovered from the shock of
the drowning of her child, & has been
very terrible I think, Fannie stops
with Mrs. McElroy, but has been over &
made a little visit.

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Mr Ray is in the lumber business, buys his lumber at Chicago, Ben Baldwin has been quite sick this fall with typhoid fever, but is now able to be around again. He is doing pretty well now Ray says. There is not much news, Mrs Weld is very sick, George Baldwin has a son. Cousin George's family are all well now.

We heard today that Coach is coming on with his family to make us a visit I do not know whether to look for him or not, Am. intends to go to New York to spend Christmas & New Years at home. The children are all well & able to make a great deal of racket. Baby Mary was baptised this month, she is 8 months old looks very much as Henry did, creeps & has 2 teeth.

Write soon & tell us all about yourself & family. With much love to all,

Yours Sister

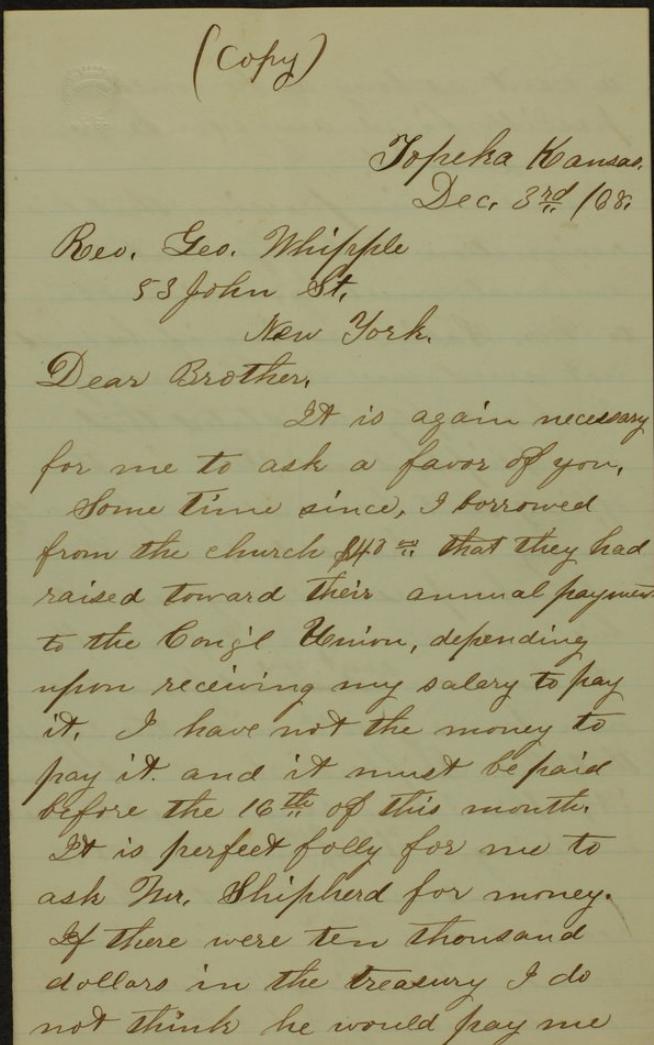
Elizabeth R. Cattell

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a cent as long as he could possibly find any excuse for not doing it.
I had the impression that his resignation took effect at the annual meeting, and wrote to Mr. Sabine asking if he could not send me some money.
In his reply he stated that Mr. Shiphard was still in the office; that he could only pay out money on his order; and that when he presented my request his answer was not favorable.
He however ~~sent me~~ advanced from his own purse \$100⁰⁰ with the request that Mr. Shiphard should not know it. This I have been obliged to use in living. This ~~\$100~~ and the \$88⁴³ you sent is all that I have received for ~~our~~ services since June. There is still due on the quarter ending Sep. 30th \$60⁰⁰.

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I shall not again ask Mrs. Shipher for it. If you will send it, it will be a great favor to me.
If you cannot I shall have to go to the bank and pay the enormous interest which our western banks charge; as the money must be paid. Will you not send it?
I have been looking for a reply to my last letter to you, for the past two ~~or~~ three weeks, but it has not been received,
I would again ask your early attention to that letter.

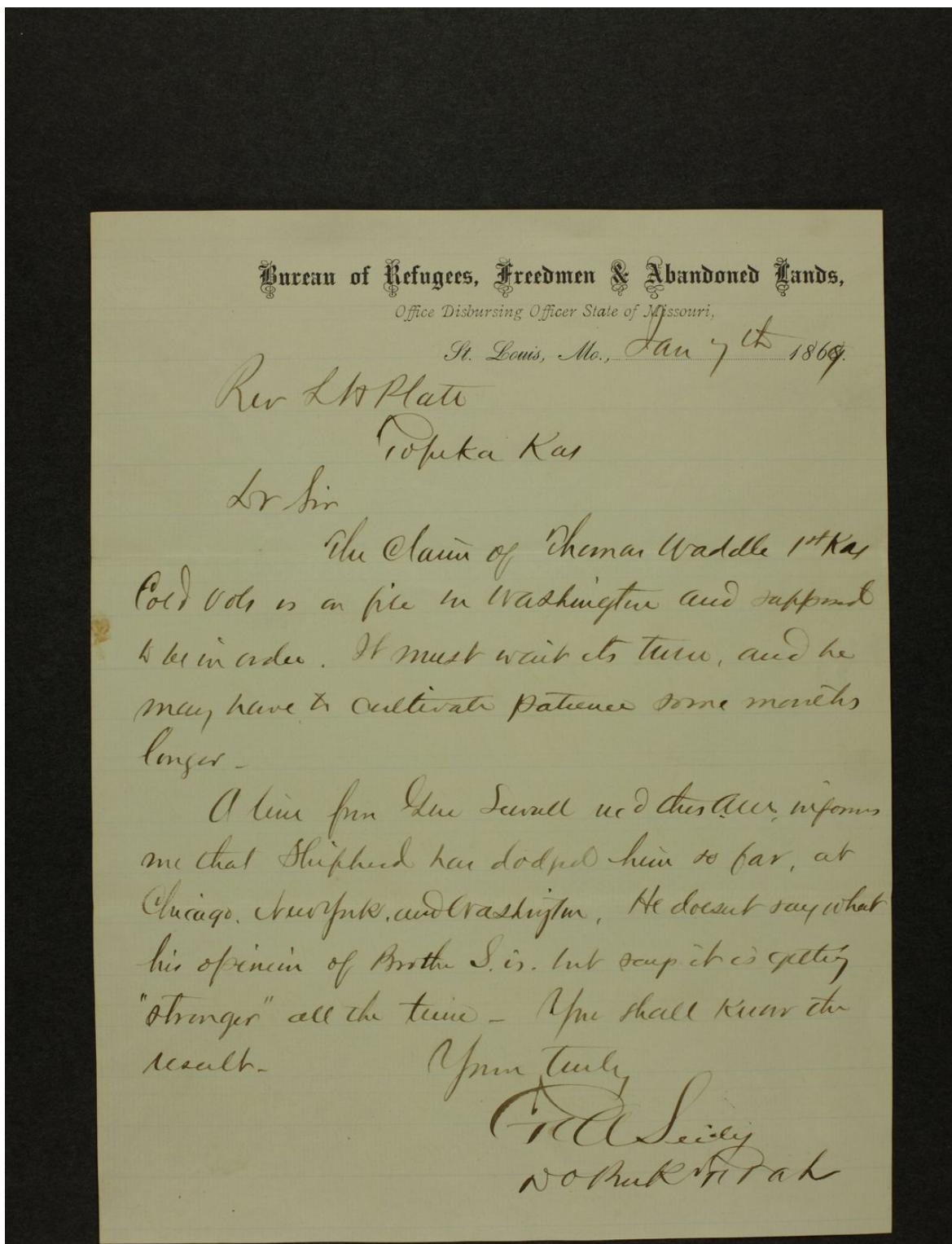
Fraternally Yours
L. H. Platt.

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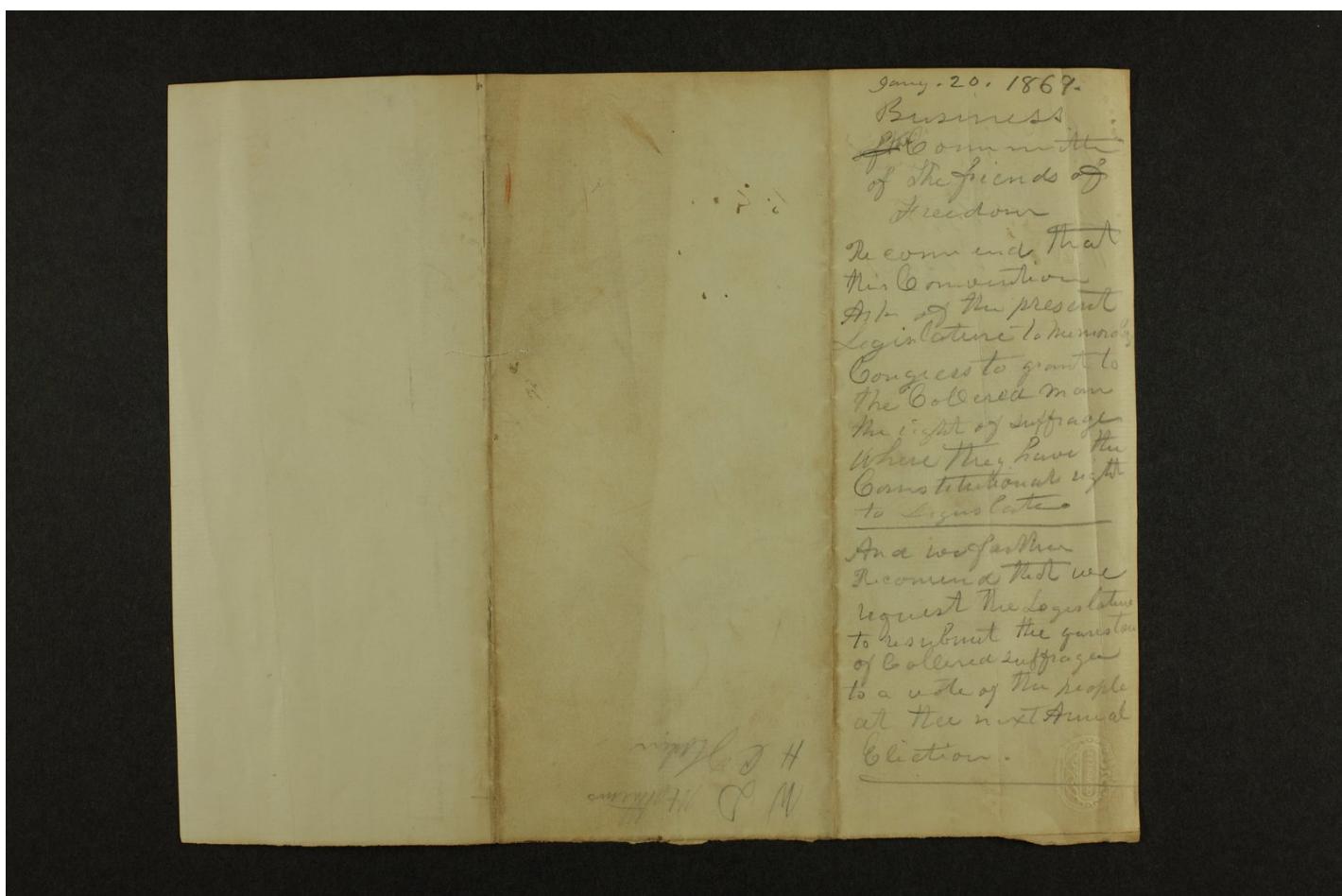


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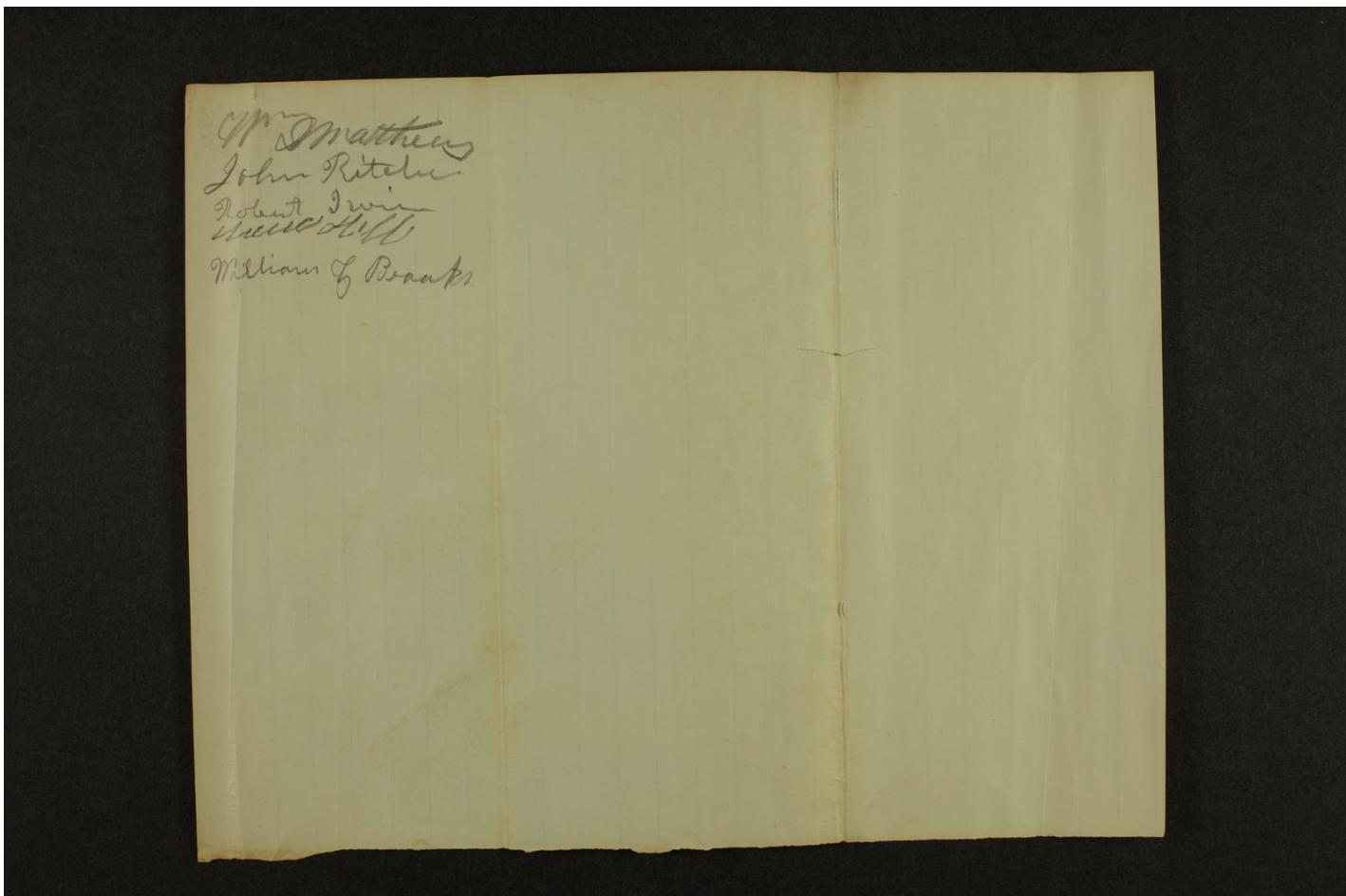


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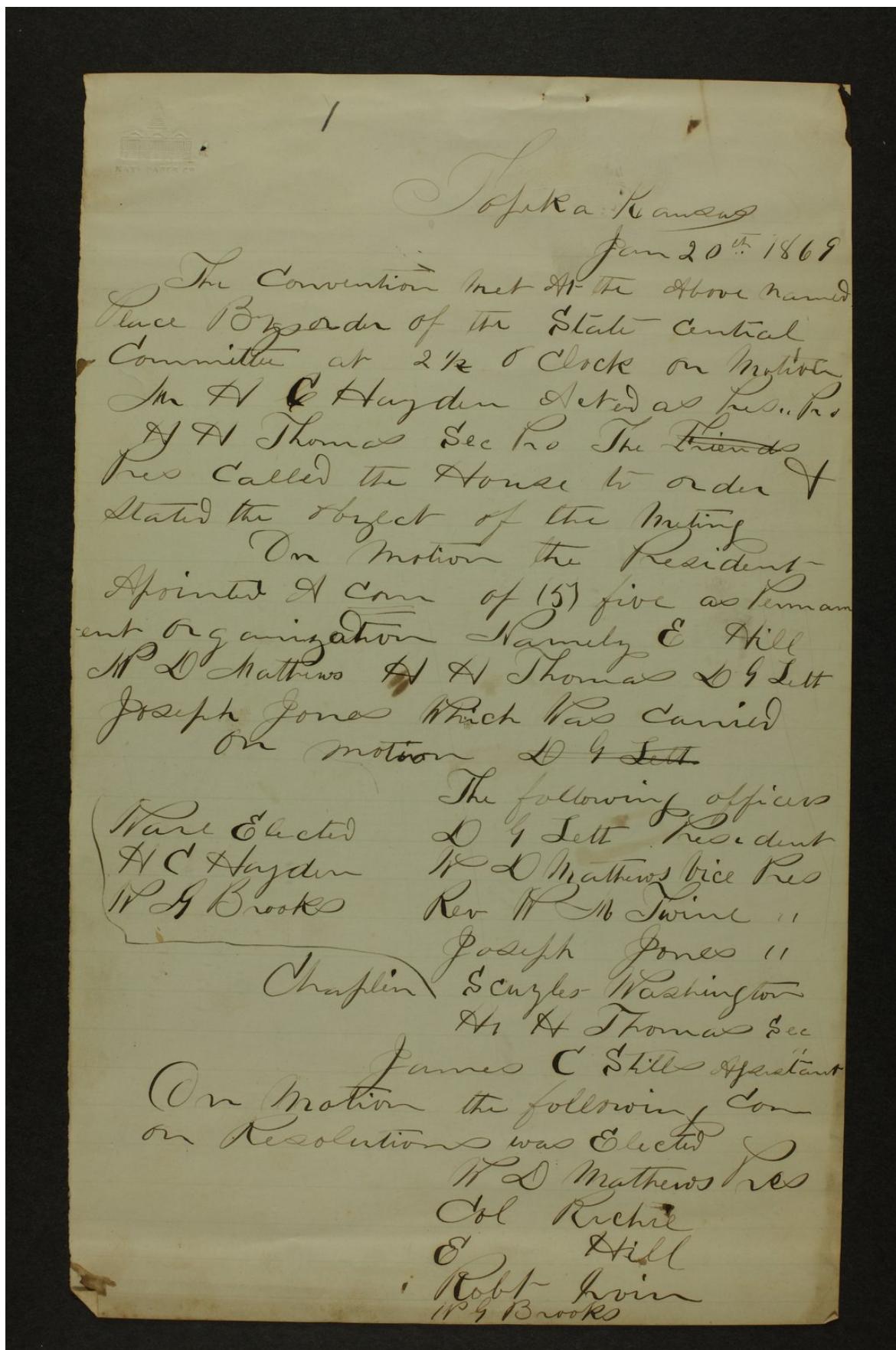


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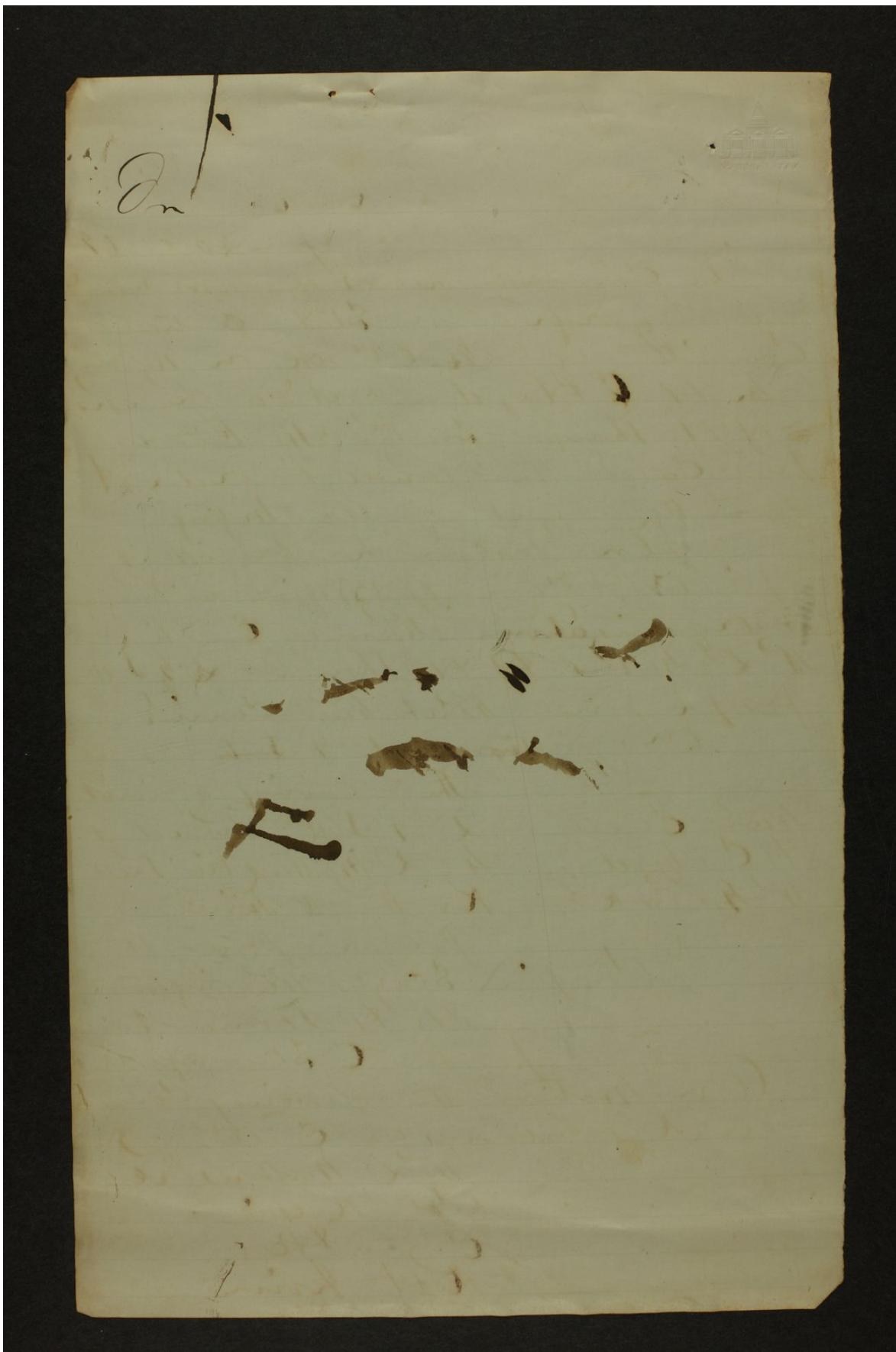


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On Motion of W D Matthews
At finance Coln was duly Elected
vis Scugles Washington
Jno Williams
Robert Irvin
Geo J Thomas
A Walker
Chas Martin

On Motion of the Report of
the Com on Business
Was Received
On Motion the House ^{Cionvention}
Adjourned until 7 P.M.

The Com met Pursuant
to adjournment 7 o'clock
Prayer offered By Chaplain
On motion the minutes
were read & Adopted
Remarks from W D Matthews
Wm Brooks
Mr Wellington
Col Richil
Scugles Washington
Rev Platt
Mr Caldwell
H H Shantz

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The Convention met at 7 o'clock
in Evans' residence in the Chair
Prayer offered by Claylin an motion
Wimbs read by Dr. C. and adopted an
motion the Committee on Business
reported a Resolution to that this
Convention recommend the Legislature
of the State of Kansas to immediately Congress
to grant to the colored man the right of
suffrage where they have the right to
to legislate a considerable discussion
ensued Speeches were made by
W D Matthews Dr. Milton R. Mr. Platt
Mr. Calmell S. Washington W G Brooks
Dr. Louis H H Thomas D G Lott
President of Convention after which
the question was called for and passed
an motion & Committee of 3 were appointed
to draft Resolution to present to Legislature
which are as follows ^{H. G. L. F. L. W. D. M.}
Rev Mr. Platt an motion & Collection was
taken to defray expenses the sum of \$1000
were raised an motion Dr. Grinn was made
Treasurer an motion the Committee adjourned
to meet at 9 o'clock 21 Dec