

Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports

Section 20, Pages 571 - 600

These documents are annual financial reports and monthly membership reports from the Kansas Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion. Also included are receipts, membership materials, and speeches. The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) was organized in 1865 following the death of Abraham Lincoln and the conclusion of the Civil War. It was a fraternal organization primarily composed of veterans and hereditary members to memorialize the events of the Civil War.

Date: 1886-1915

Callnumber: Military Order of the Loyal Legion Kansas Commandery History Coll. #618, Box 6

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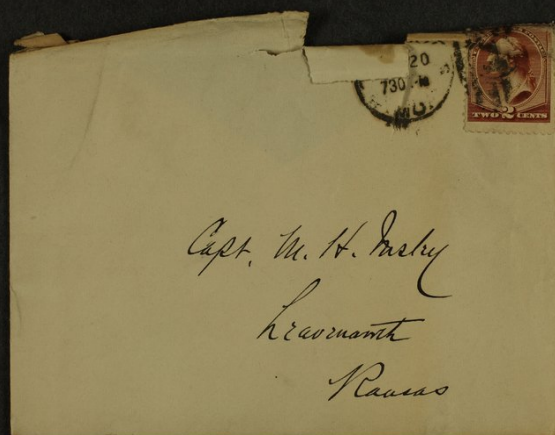
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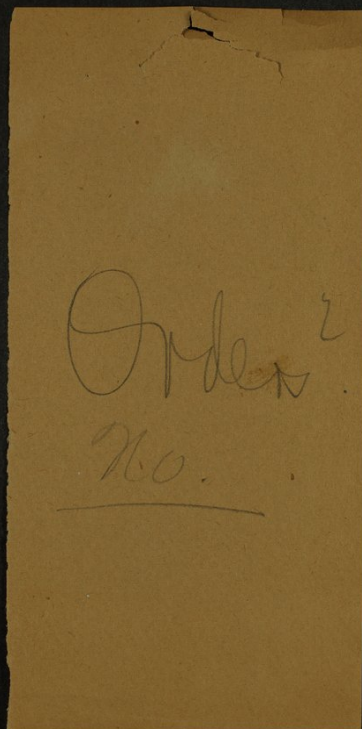
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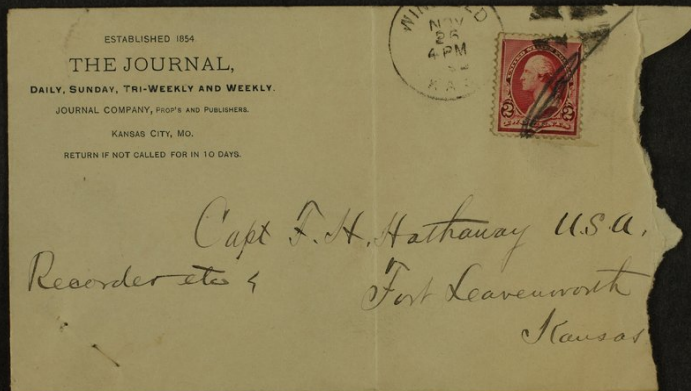
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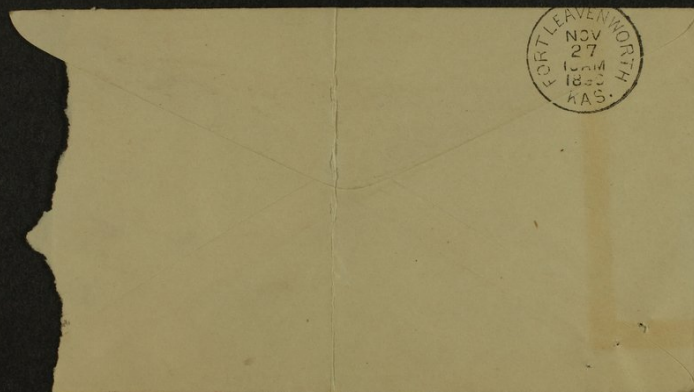
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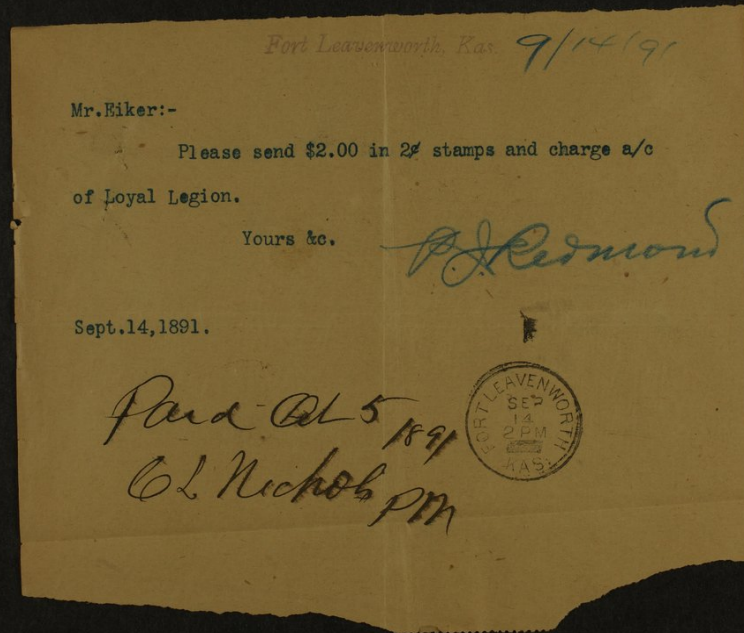
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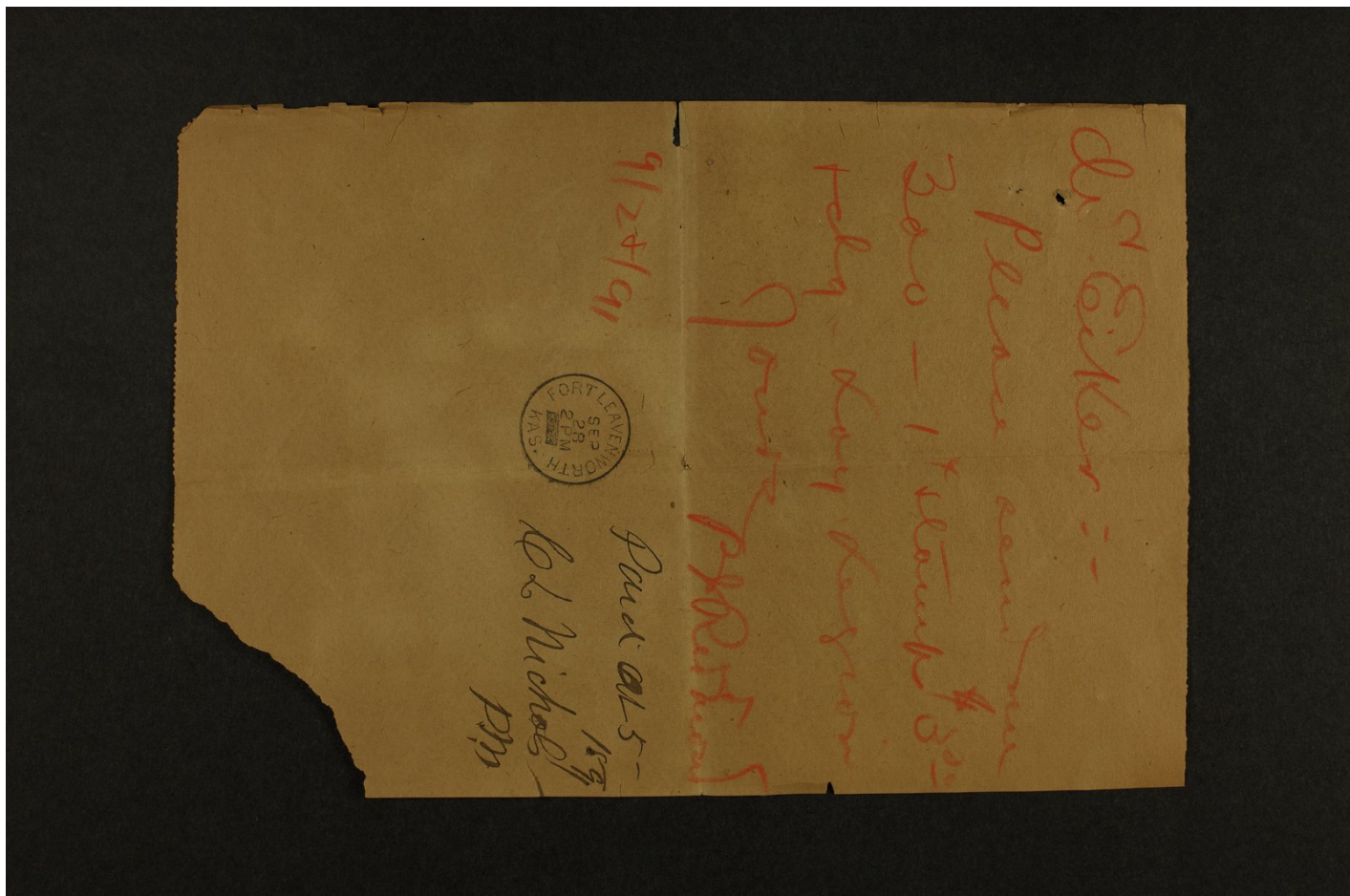
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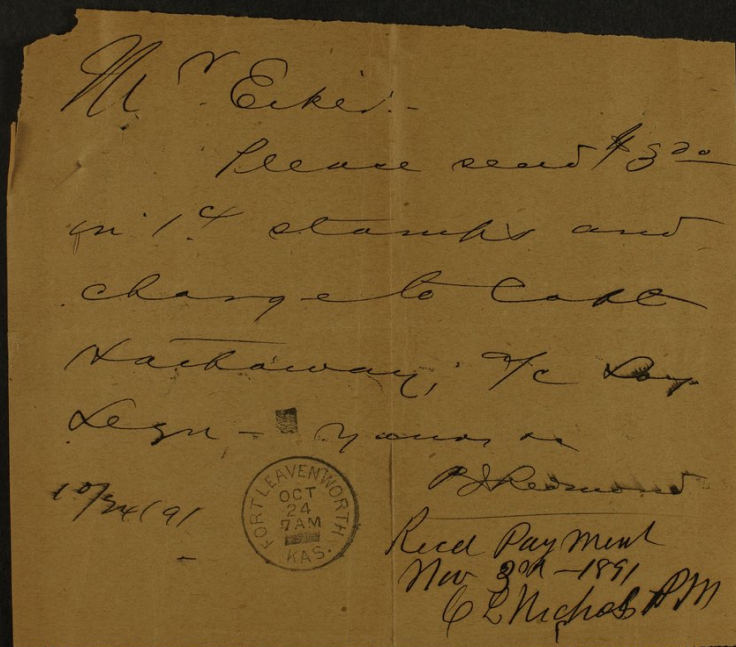
Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports




Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports



Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports



Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports



 1891

Mr Tucker -
 Please send
 100 - 1st stamps 1.00
 50 - 2nd do 1.00
 2.00
 M. Roy Legn.
 Recd Payment
 O B Nichols PM
 Nov 3rd 1891
 1767a

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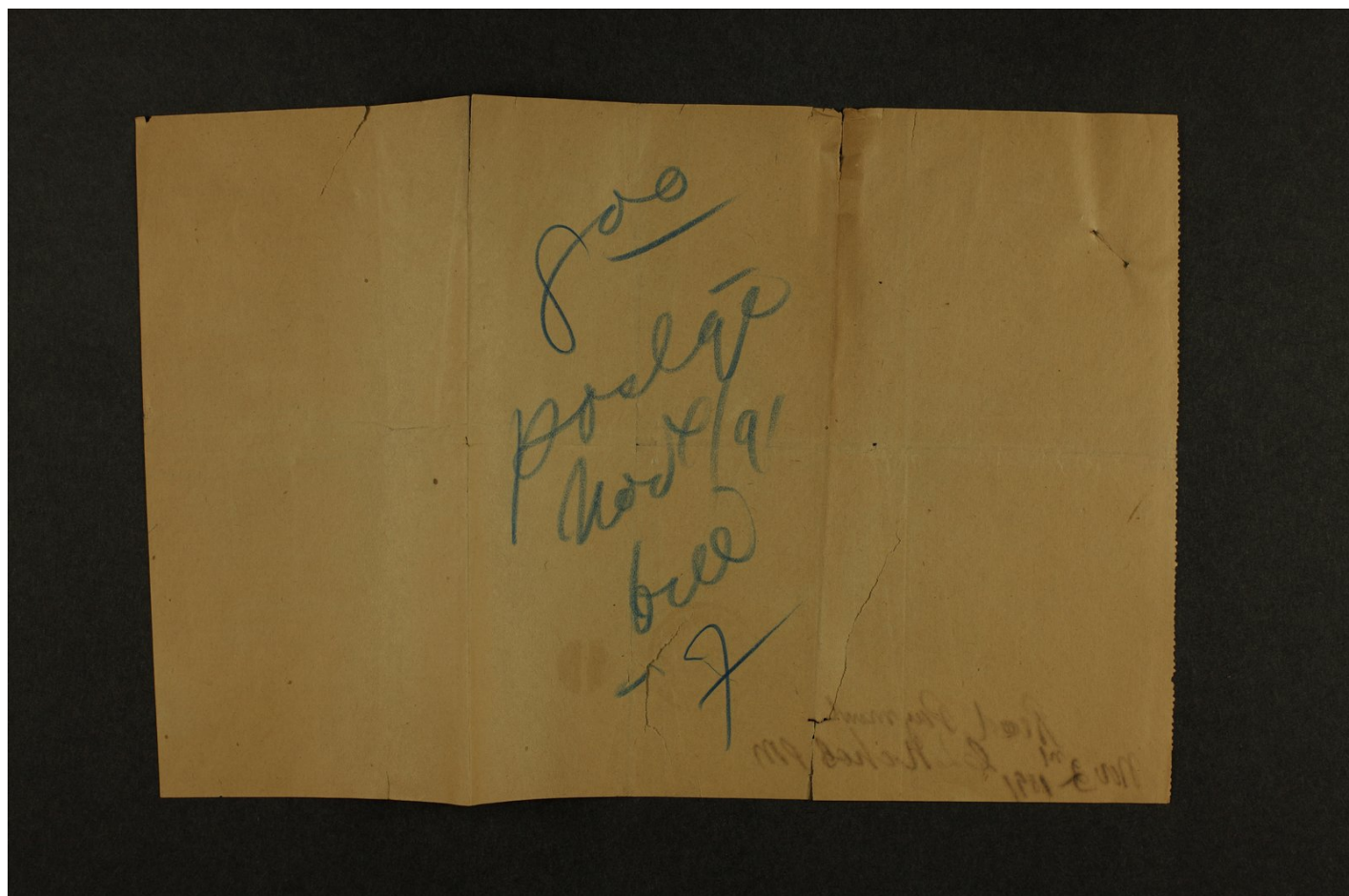
W. S. Riker - Please let
 me know how to
 (yr. C. S. R. S.) -
 \$1 - 14 no. 10
 \$2 - 2 no. 10
 R. S. R. S. -
 H. R. R. S.

CAPT. F. H. RATHBURN, Q. M.
 Received
 OCT 30 1891

OCT 30 1891
 H. R. R. S.

Recd Payment
 Nov 2nd 1891
 H. R. R. S.

Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports



Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports

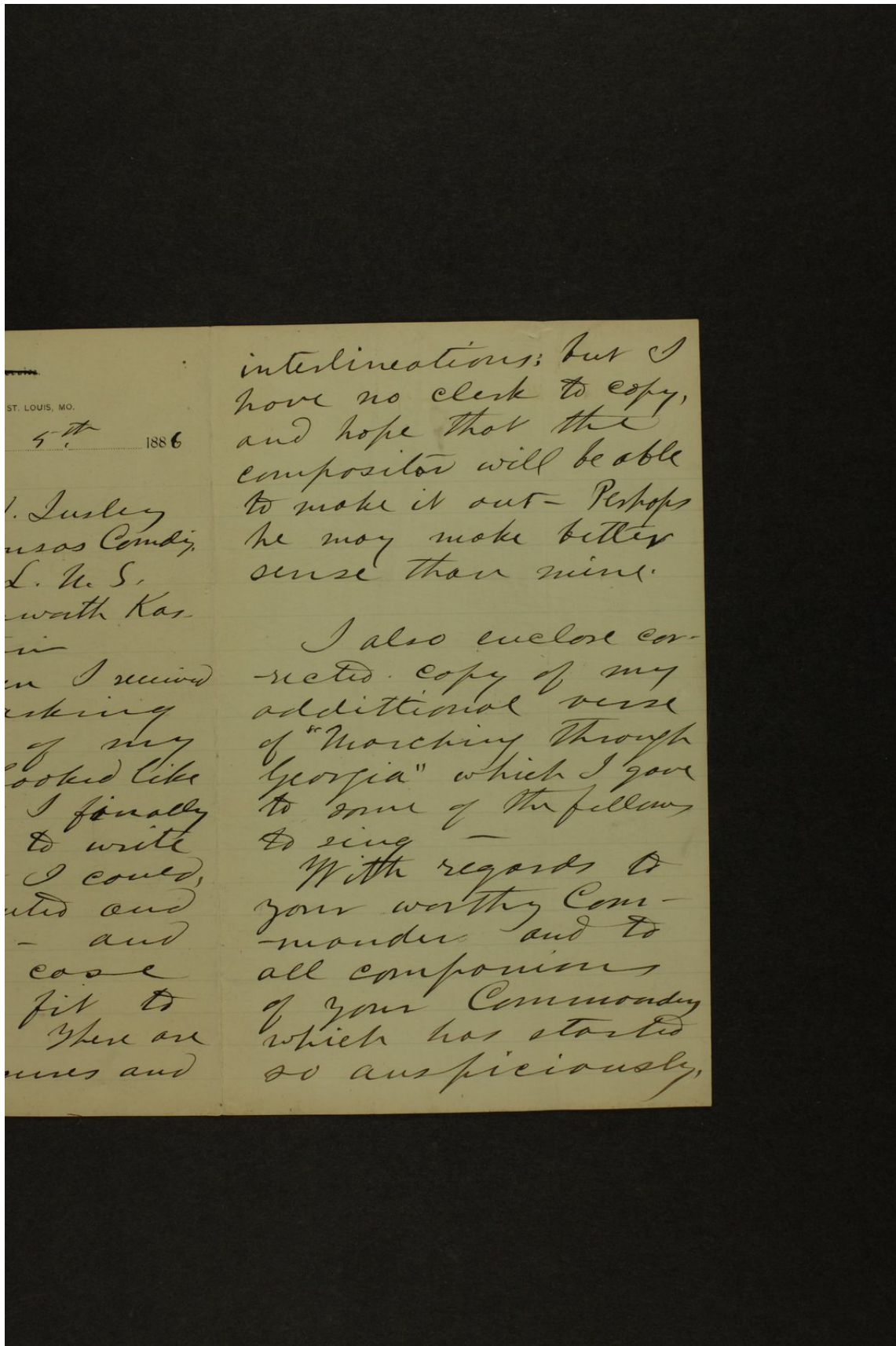
~~2840 Oliver St. - ST. LOUIS, MO.~~
2840 Oliver St. ST. LOUIS, MO.
July 5th 1886

Captain M. H. Lusley
Recorder Kansas Comd.
M. O. L. L. U. S.
Leavenworth Kan.

Dear Captain

When I received
your letter asking
for a copy of my
speech it looked like
a joke; but I finally
concluded to write
up, as best I could,
^{what} I wanted and
tried to say - and
send it, in case
you think fit to
print - There are
many erasures and

Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports

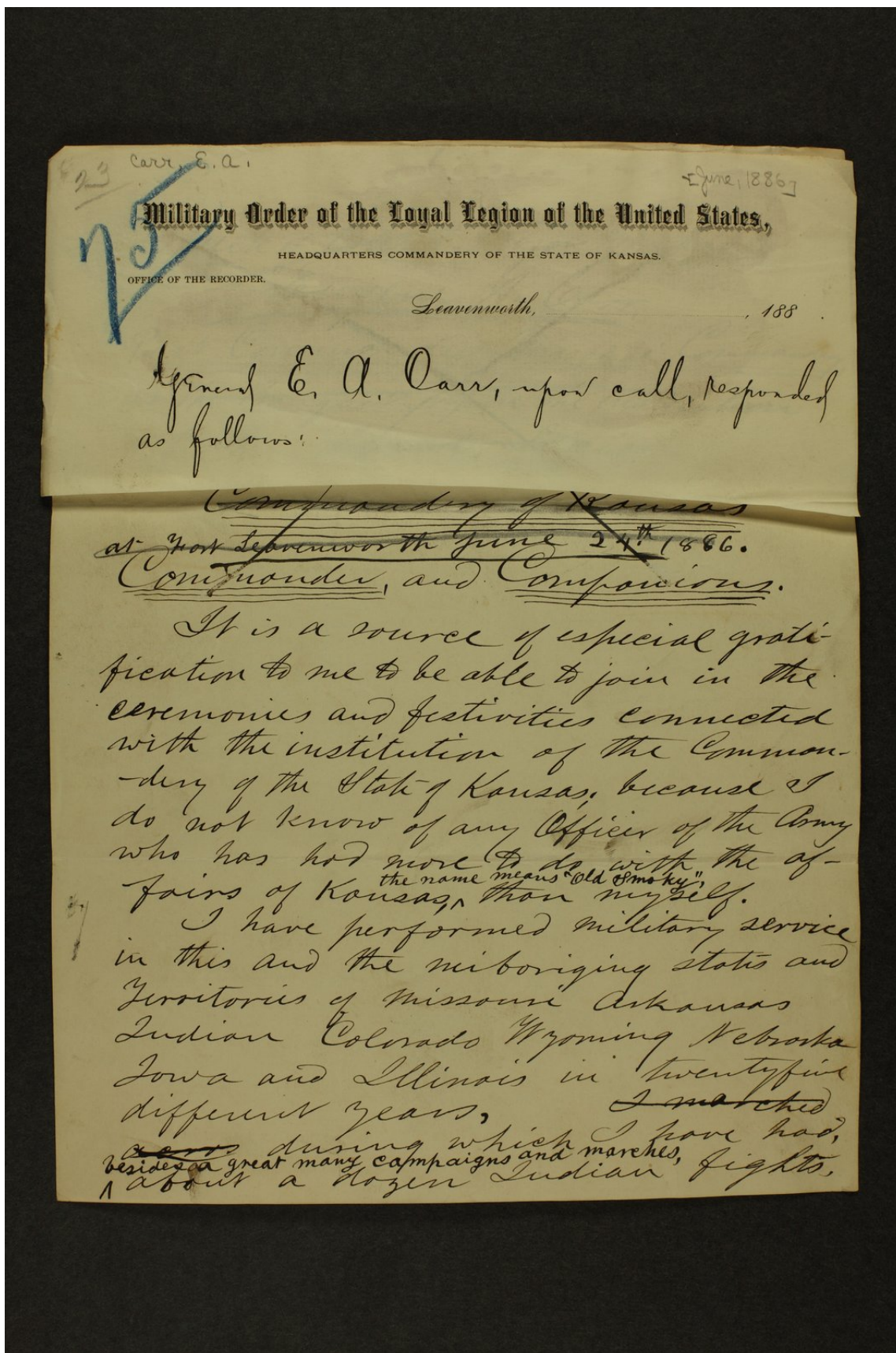




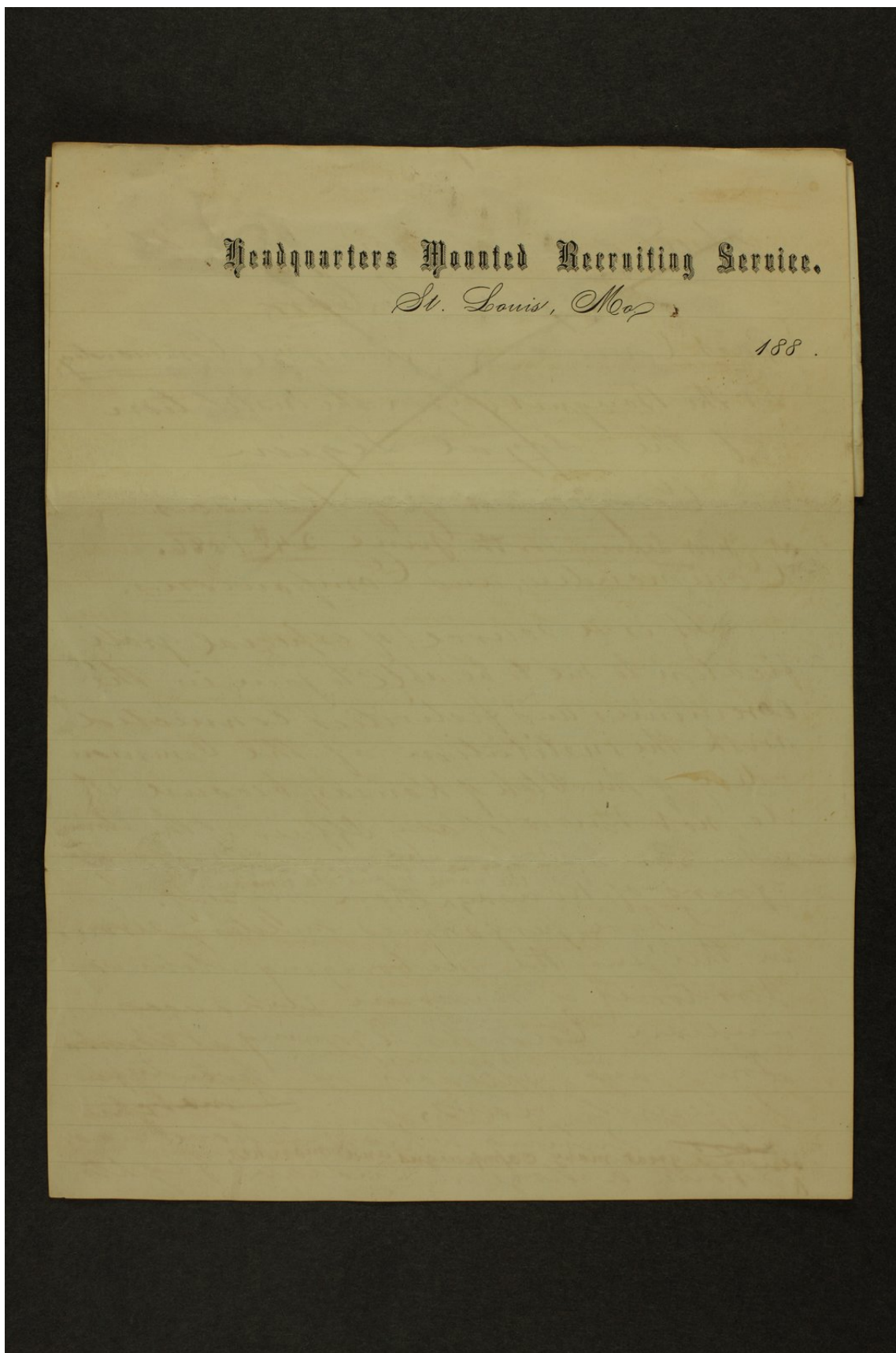
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*I am Companion
Yours fraternally
E. A. Carr
P.S. Please send me 10 or 12 copies.*

Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports



Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports



Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports

^{eight} ² ^{of which were on the soil of} ^{Es 20 miles}
~~from~~ ^{of which were on the soil of} ^{Es 20 miles}
 Kansas. I marched across
 the State of Missouri to this Post
 in June 1852; and encamped on
 3rd mile creek at about the present
 centre of Leavenworth City, there
 not being a house in sight except
 the Government farm house. I
 was on the plains that summer and the next, at Fort Scott
 from 55 to 58 I was engaged
 in trying to keep peace between
 the opposing factions, Free State
 and Pro Slavery, and was, during
 the summer of '57, ^{detailed} with that great
 statesman and true patriot
 Governor Robert J. Walker, and
 thus knew a great deal of the ins
 and outs of what was, if not the
 original cause, the exciting irrita-
 tive which brought on the war,
 of which these Commanderies are
 resulting incidents.
 The repeal of the Missouri Compromise
 made the Territories, and particularly
 this one, debatable ground between
 slavery and freedom. When
 Kansas was opened, both sides made

- by who started in June 1854.
 position of the 3rd Infantry in 1854.
 Leavenworth Co.

Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports

3

desperate efforts to establish their institutions.

It was a fair and smiling region; of beautiful prairie, interspersed with timbered streams, giving exactly the proper proportion of timbered land, and just enough water.

It was easy of access; ~~but the southerners~~ but the southerners had the advantage, from the adjacency of Arkansas and Missouri, and ^{from} controlling the lower course of the river. However, northern energy and pluck made things more than even, by making roads across Iowa, coming in to the North East corner of Kansas, and thence, with their ^{farming implements and} Sharps' Rifles, permeating the Territory as far south as Ossawatimille. (applause)

I well remember crossing what was called "Jim Lane's Road, (applause)" when coming in from the plains in with old Sumner, (applause) in '55.

I heard a good deal of Old John Brown, (applause) in those years; but never saw him, and never ^{addicted} thought I would become ~~addicted~~ to joining on all occasions in the chorus "His soul is marching on" ("great applause")

You must understand that we then leaned to the pro slavery side. The

Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports

4

Regular Army must always be on the side of Established Government; so in fact must the Volunteer Army. We pride ourselves on being the "Loyal Legionners". We pledge ourselves against Rebellion in any shape, and to be ready, whenever asked to do or take anything required by the rules and customs of our order.

(suitable response by the companions.)

Pierce ~~was~~ was President when the Territory was opened: he ~~there had been~~ ^{appointed three} ~~two or more~~ ^{Reeder, Shannon, and} ~~governors~~ ^{Leary}; a brave and decided man, *(applause)* who ~~while making a speech had been shot at~~ ^{was assaulted} and his private Secretary ~~killed by his~~ ^{shot at by a negro} ~~side~~ ^{slaving} man. Shannon was Governor when I first marched from here to Leecompton under Uncle John Sedgwick. *(applause)* I was with ~~him~~ Sedgwick, a great deal during that season and the incidents which surge up to my memory would take all night & more, to tell; but I will forbear. *(cries of "go on")*

The "Free State" people had organized a government by electing Officers and a Legislature. That Legislature had, by a mistaken policy, been dispersed and some of the Officers were under guard in camp near Leecompton. I

Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports

5

remember Governor Robinson, ^{Ditzler} and Judge Smith. (applause.) Of course they were martyrs to the cause, and their confinement and the arrest of others, ~~intensified feeling, and~~ resulted in very exciting incidents: among others ~~the shooting of Sheriff Jones, the attack on Franklyn, the burning of Titus' house, and the appearance of the Free State force to demand the two prisoners held at Decompton. for an~~ ^{before} attack of I was present at the last two, and very likely some of you Kansas Companions were at all, as well as many more.

(I must here claim credit to the Army for its coolness and forbearance on innumerable occasions, when excitement or rashness would have resulted in bloodshed. I recall but one instance when troops came into collision with settlers. That was of my own company. But fortunately I was not with it. I was a ^{then} Lieutenant.

~~Titus~~ Titus' house was burned one Sunday morning within two miles of camp. We heard cannonading and turned out: (we had been up all the night before guarding Decompton, and had just got to sleep.) Major Sedgwick marched towards town, passing in sight of the burning building and of the Free State men surrounding it. He sent

Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports

me in ~~for~~ ^{to tell} Governor Shannon that he was ready to defend the town, but would not fire on the people unless the Governor was present and gave the order. A few days later, after we had been reenforced by more troops, and Lt. Col. P. St. George Cooke was in command, the Free State men 1400 strong ~~went~~ ^{to Seecompton} came ~~to demand the two prisoners~~ ^{to demand the two prisoners} ~~we~~ ^{we} had, I believe about 800 men with a Battery. There would have been a fight, but the Seecompton people held a mock trial, no witnesses appeared, the prisoners were released, and the Free State men took them off in triumph.

~~Thus~~ Let me say to the young Officers present; The people always expect to find the regular army firm and resolute; but cool deliberate and judicious. Ready to accept unjust reproach, ~~and~~ (Lord how we have been and are, abused by different parties at different times.) But trusting to the final judgment of the great body of honest and intelligent Citizens.

When James Buchanan became President, he appointed Robert J. Walker Governor of Kansas. He was a native of Pennsylvania, had been Senator from Mississippi, Minister to Great Britain, and Secretary of the Treasury. He soon saw that war would be the result of forcing slavery upon Kansas. (Applause.) But ~~the~~ ^{the} majority of the voters were Free State men, and he used ~~the~~ the doctrine of Popular Sovereignty.

Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports

Commonly called Squatter Sovereignty. How often have I heard the changes rung on the chime "The people of a Territory should decide upon their own institutions subject only to the Constitution of the United States." ~~It is a most fallacious doctrine, because, why should the few settlers now in a Territory, say Alaska, determine the future of a region which belongs to the whole people. But it was plausible, and served to avert civil war at that time.~~ Mr. Walker however could ~~not~~ ^{never} convince the Missippians that he had acted for the best and Buchanan, under the influence of Gwin, Floyd and others, turned his back on him. But he had the satisfaction of having done his duty to his country, and lived to do still more service, by his wise counsels, and by upholding our credit abroad during the darkest days of the war.

I do not know but it would have been better if the war had come then. Buchanan was President, but the south was not ready. ~~We~~ ~~was~~ all however dreaded civil war, I used to hope and pray that the inevitable conflict would not come in my time. ~~but~~ I have lived to believe that war is, not only not an unmixed evil, but a

-tabulating, clearing in Alaska; and was incidentally by Calhoun for the purpose of...

Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports

8

positive good. I would never take the responsibility of bringing on a war, and would do anything in my power to prevent it; because it is no doubt terrible, and no one knows how it will ~~result~~ turn out. But if ^{you} look at the results of the late war, ^{and most other wars,} you find, notwithstanding its admitted evils, an increase in material prosperity, in intelligence, energy, and manliness, in the breed of children, and even in morality! which compensates for all.

And then for enjoyment! Men women and children entered into it heart and soul, and what can equal the pleasure, ^{for a man,} of risking life, & hoping for fame, in ^{upholding} a cause he deems just. And now, all, on both sides, except of course those who can not get over the loss of relatives, are proud and happy that they and theirs had a hand in the war.

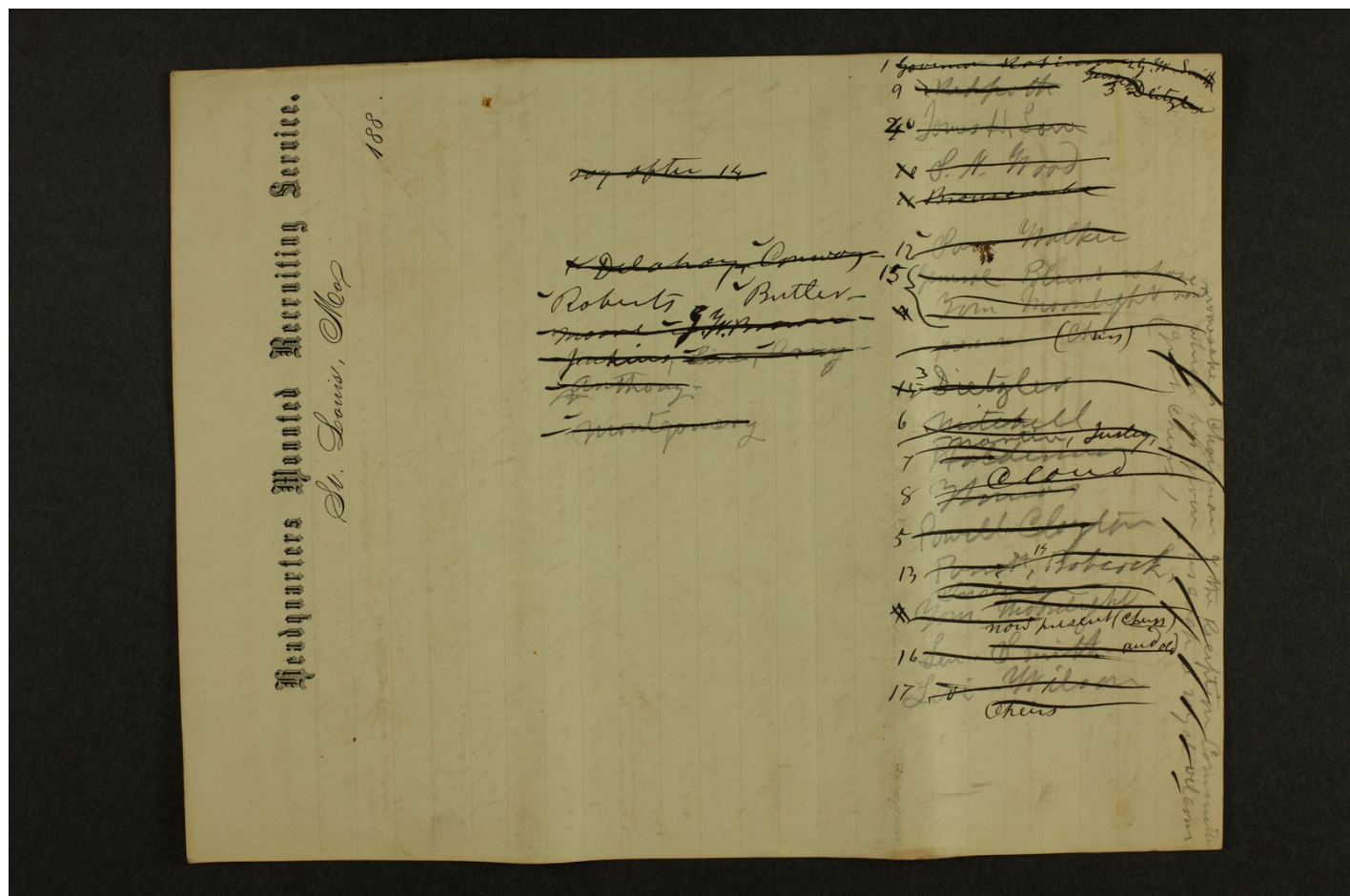
And for Kansas; why should she not be proud of her share, both in its inception and in its operations? of her stalwart men who came with their lives in their hands to make it a Free State and of those who went into the war to make this Union a fact and an entirety.

~~John Brown's spirit is in my memory and his~~
~~son in law - Governor Robinson - Judge~~
~~Smith - George W. Deitzler - James H. Lane -~~
~~Parrott - Babcock - Delahay - Conway - Roberts~~

A few names rise to my memory -
Old John Brown his six stalwart sons and
son in law - Governor Robinson - Judge
Smith - George W. Deitzler - James H. Lane -
Parrott - Babcock - Delahay - Conway - Roberts



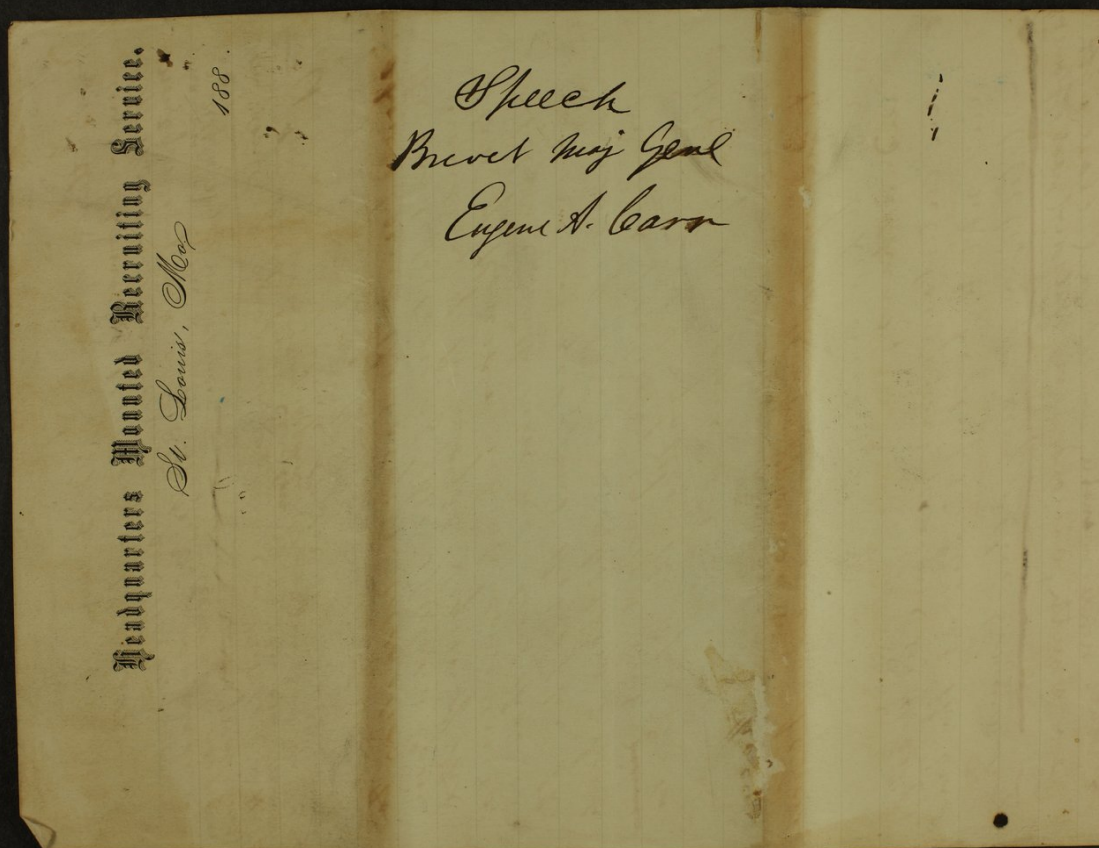
Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports



Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports

9
- Butler - Moore - G. W. Brown - Jenkins -
Lines - Army - Anthony - Redpath -
G. N. Wood - Branscombe - Sam Walker, (cheers)
Montgomery - General Blunt, whose namesake is
Chairman of the reception Committee which has given
us such a royal welcome. ~~But the list of names is too long to write~~ (great cheers)
~~But the list of names is too long to write~~
Tom moonlight, now present (applause) - Mitchell - Hal-
derman - Cloud - Powell Clayton, (great applause) - Martin
Ansley, your worthy Recorder, (cheers) - But the list
And now I think ^{both ways,} in the nature of
poetic justice, that the State of Missouri
should send the largest delegation to
the institution of this splendid Com-
mandery of the Loyal Legion of the
State of Kansas, which commences,
I believe, with more members than any
yet organized, and that, after the
horrors of Lawrence & others, which
may be partially ignored, but ~~never~~
cannot be forgotten, the representa-
tives of Missouri are received in
Kansas with open hearts and hands
to enjoy with ^{Representatives of the Commanderies} ~~Illinois and of Nebraska~~
^{and all the} and Ohio, and ^{the} District of Columbia,
and others,
an entertainment unique in itself,
and not to be duplicated at the in-
stitution of any other Commandery.
~~And now I think in the nature of poetic justice, that the State of Missouri should send the largest delegation to the institution of this splendid Commandery of the Loyal Legion of the State of Kansas, which commences, I believe, with more members than any yet organized, and that, after the horrors of Lawrence & others, which may be partially ignored, but cannot be forgotten, the representatives of Missouri are received in Kansas with open hearts and hands to enjoy with Representatives of the Commanderies Illinois and of Nebraska and all the and Ohio, and the District of Columbia, and others, an entertainment unique in itself, and not to be duplicated at the institution of any other Commandery.~~
I would be infinitely and I will close with
Dear Smith, and all dear friends (great applause)

Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports

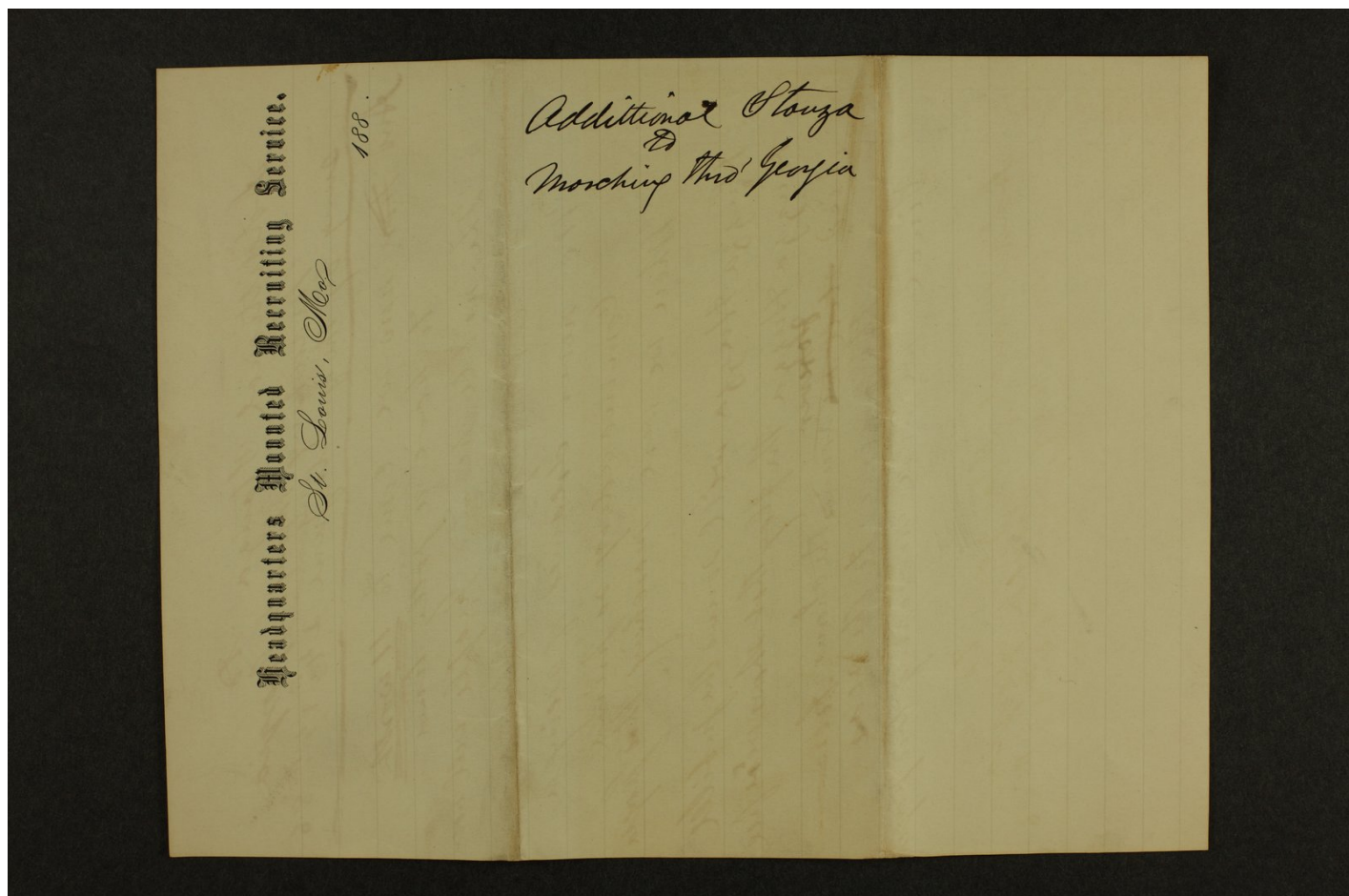


Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports

Additional Stouza ~~to~~
Marching ^{at Spaworth} through Georgia
sung by the guests June 24th & 25th '86

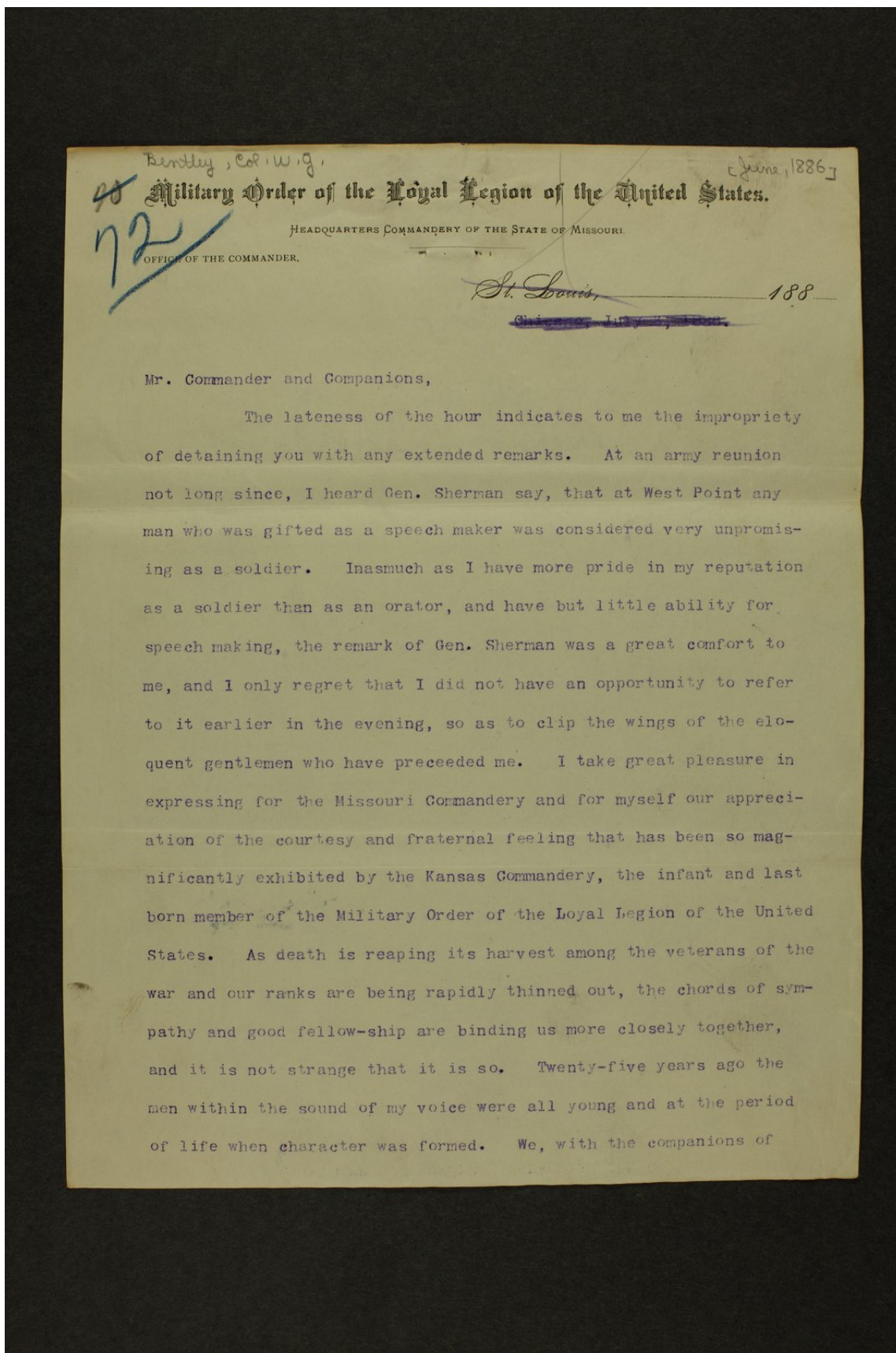
And ~~for~~ now we come to Ilworth
to have a jolly time
The noble hearted people will not
let us spend a dime
We never dreamed of seeing a
Commandery so prime
When we were marching thro Georgia
Huzza Huzza will sound the jubill
Huzza Huzza the flag that shows we are free
And ~~still we~~ ^{forever} rounds the chaus from
the prairies to the seas
Since we were marching thro Georgia

Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports





Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports



Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports

Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI.

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER.

St. Louis, _____ 188_____

2

the war, were forged in a fiery furnace. We were in the war not from choice or for amusement but because our country's flag was threatened by treason and we felt it was our duty to be there. We were thrilled by the patriotism that did not hesitate to sacrifice even life itself. The husband and father placed himself upon the altar of his country, and the cost of the sacrifice can only be estimated by the martyrs whose blood stained the gory battle field while they were bedecked with the crown of victory. It gave to the survivors a stalwart character which as a class will never be duplicated in this generation.

Dear Companions, as I mingle with you and the memories of the war are revived, tears come unbidden to my eyes and my heart beats faster in my bosom. The royal reception and this fraternal greeting, makes this a pleasant place to be. Thank God that in this ^{atmosphere} ~~times~~ a man need have no fear of wounding any ones feelings when he calls a rebel a rebel or mentions the grand old star spangled banner ~~on~~ the flag under which he marched to victory. We are soldiers yet although we have laid aside ^{the} uniform most of us, and we are called upon with hearts as true to hold up the flag and defend the honor of our country, and as the needle is ever true to its pole, so may we remain true to our country in 1886 as in 1861.

I should not be true to myself if I did not mention my