

Military Order of the Loyal Legion financial and membership reports

Section 22, Pages 631 - 660

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.

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and are admired by the civilized world, did not care to have placed upon his tomb the fact that he was a poet or a great man, but the mere inscription that he had fought at Marathon.

Shortly after the battle of Marathon, seventy thousand Greeks engaged the Persian army. They fought all day, and how many do you suppose the Greeks lost out of their seventy thousand? From the manner in which the Greeks boasted of that battle, which turned the Persian army back into Asia, one would suppose that the Greeks must have lost twenty-five thousand men, but they did not lose that number, nor five thousand, nor one thousand. They lost one hundred and fifty-six men, showing that the celebrated battle of Platea was one of the safest places that a person was ever in. It was safer than to be a brakes-man on the Hannibal and St. Joe railroad, or to be the editor of a Kansas City newspaper. It was safer to go into the battle of Platea than to go into a saloon at Dodge City and refuse to take a drink with the first man that asked you. It was infinitely safer than to call a man in the state of Arkansas a liar, and yet for two thousand years, poets and orators have dwelt in raptures upon Marathon and Platea, two battles in which eighty thousand Greeks, as the Greeks themselves admit, were engaged, which force lost a less number of men than many regiments have singly lost, during the late war.

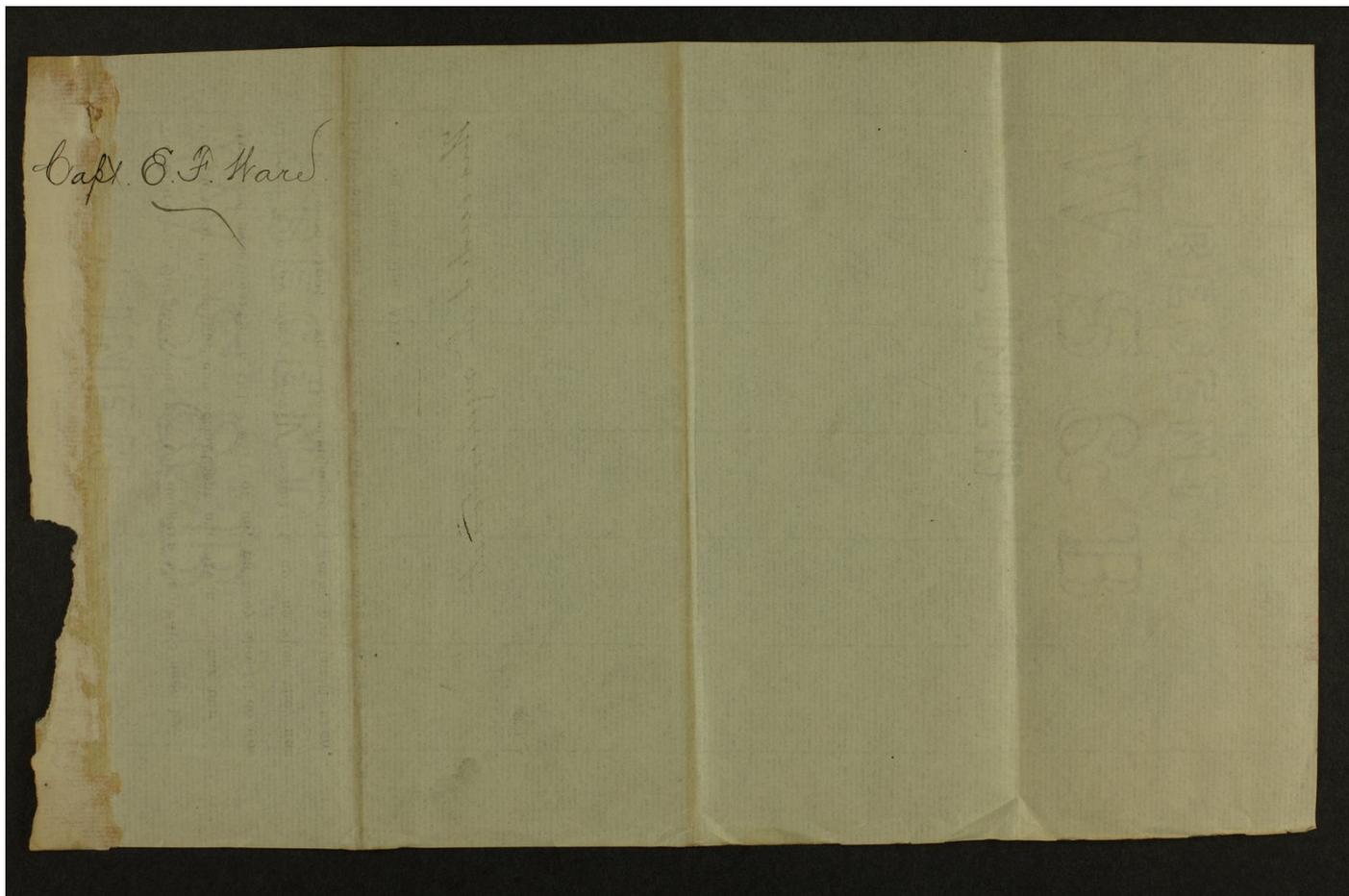
To day the battles of Marathon and Platea would not be considered so dangerous as then, and the fact that our worthy host, General McCook, who has fought greater battles than either, may not be heard of in history two thousand years from now, will be due to the falsehood and irony of history, and the increased valor of the times.

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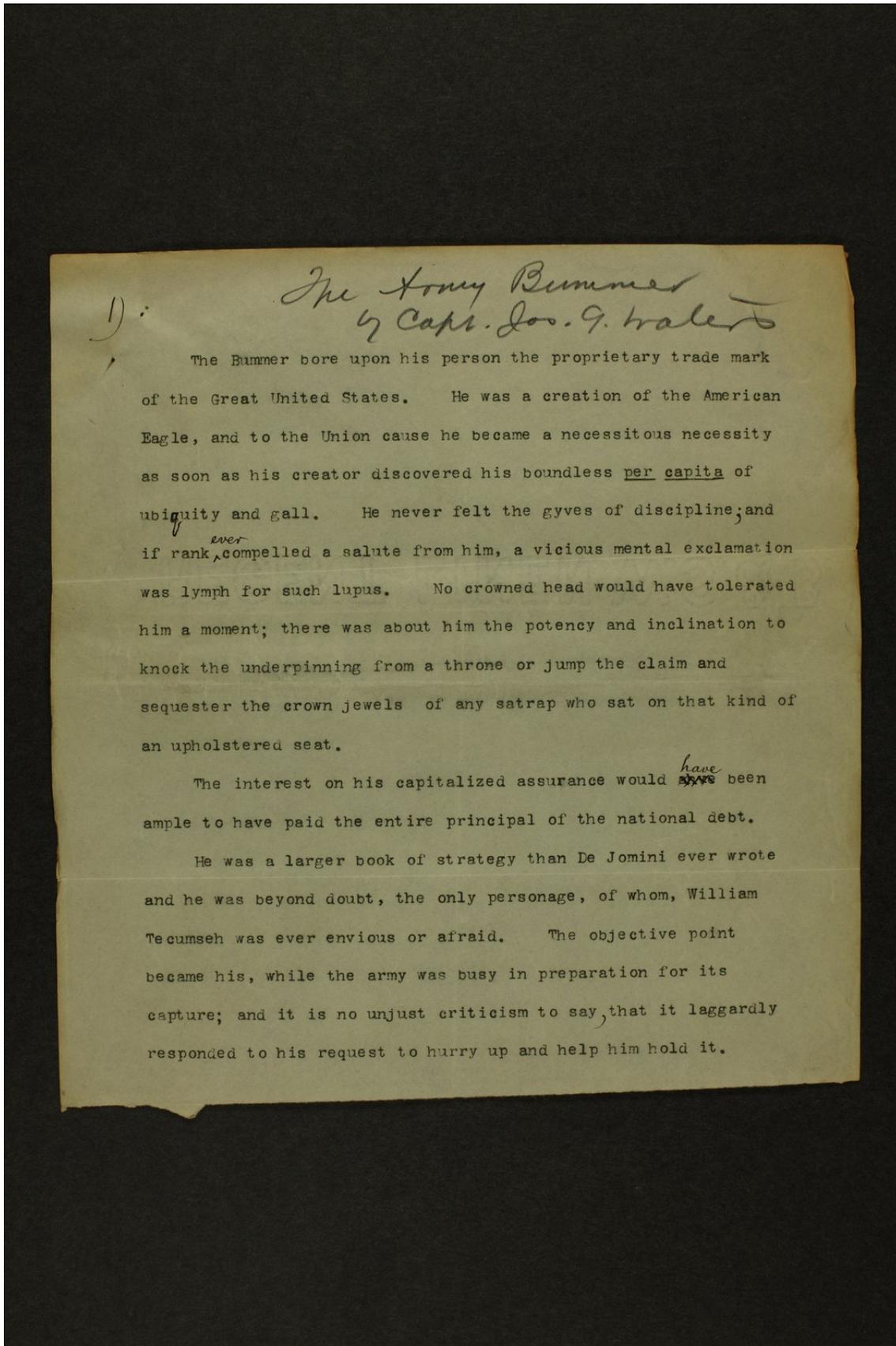
Therefore we, who have seen greater dangers than were seen by
Miltiades or Pausanias, can compliment ourselves and ask our
wives and sweethearts to think well of us, as they should do now,
although I do not know they will be able to do so when they see
us in the morning, when the champagne is gone, but until then,
in the customary language of the toast, "Our Wives and Sweethearts
. God Bless Them All.

This exceeded the regular toasts

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The Army Bummer
by Capt. Jos. G. Walter

The Bummer bore upon his person the proprietary trade mark of the Great United States. He was a creation of the American Eagle, and to the Union cause he became a necessitous necessity as soon as his creator discovered his boundless per capita of ubiquity and gall. He never felt the gyves of discipline; and if rank, ^{ever} compelled a salute from him, a vicious mental exclamation was lymph for such lupus. No crowned head would have tolerated him a moment; there was about him the potency and inclination to knock the underpinning from a throne or jump the claim and sequester the crown jewels of any satrap who sat on that kind of an upholstered seat.

The interest on his capitalized assurance would ~~have~~ ^{have} been ample to have paid the entire principal of the national debt.

He was a larger book of strategy than De Jomini ever wrote and he was beyond doubt, the only personage, of whom, William Tecumseh was ever envious or afraid. The objective point became his, while the army was busy in preparation for its capture; and it is no unjust criticism to say, that it laggardly responded to his request to hurry up and help him hold it.

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Had he been a Crusader, the Holy City would have been his meat; and his descendants would bear to-day a lion rampant or a razor back rampant on their ennobled escutcheons. If the genus homo, of whom I am permitted to speak, could have been projected into the Russian campaign of Napoleon, as Mark Twain did the Yank into the times and court of King Arthur, instead of Death on horseback pursuing the French Army home on foot, the return from that God forsaken country would have been a summer picnic; the carpenter work of pianos and Brattleboro organs, would have toasted their shins at night, and far into the next Autumn, the road from the Kremlin to Champs Élysee would have been littered with chicken feathers and ham rind.

When the government and the great liberty loving ~~people~~ and loyal people behind it were in agony over the outcome, while the National gloom was as though the ~~empty~~ ^{empty} bottles of the night had been upturned into the vortex of chaos, he heard the roosters crow for morning and gave them back bone and faith.

When they waited in dumb despondency for the dread Sphinx to answer, whether the government, of the people, by the people,

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and for the people, should be wiped from the face of the earth,--
as some day a Kansas Cyclone will the 16 story bulidings of
Chicago, -- he punctured the Confederacy and knew it was an
apple of the Dead Sea. He wired Sherman to come on and not be
afraid, as there was nothing but a handful of Georgia Malish, of
odd sizes and last years vintage and three proclamations of
brag~~g~~ intervening between him and the sea.

He was a wise man in his day and army corps, ~~and he was~~
~~wise~~! He always hunted up a Baptist settlement for a convenient
place to ford a river.

He was all things to ^{all}women. Notwithstanding he had a
family at home, he wooed the southern maiden, while a number of
loving letters from his wife remained secure in his pocket: he
told her the story old as time and sweet as mortality; one which
pulses with the same warmth and rythm beneath a midnight sun
or Labrador sky as it does amid ^{all}the opulence of noon's eternal
flowers. He asseverated to her, that it was under a dire
compulsion he dared not name, he took service in the Union Army;
and scorning the proffers of high command in both the army and

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navy, he sought the humblest position he could find; that although Grant was his uncle, he had not the heart to sanction his course; he prophesied a victory for the southern cause, and hinted at reclamation from the northern purse for all the south had suffered or borne or lost.

He declaimed, that upon the conclusion of the vulgar and unconstitutional rapine and pillage of the northern horde, he intended to return and invest his entire ~~private~~ fortune in that very vicinity; and then "he poured into the porches" of her ears, "the leperous distilment", beside which, Claude Melnotte's harangue to the trusting Pauline, was as Contractors' ^{mess pork} sow belly to Hesperian fruit; and all the while, his eyes wandered the landscape o'er, alert to discover the lair of heir looms, or the abode of butter milk and sausage.

He was a statistician who used up the resources of the country in compiling ^{the} ~~his~~ returns.

As a financier, he inflated the volume of Confederate currency, by an over issue, which for letter press, was complimentary to the Philadelphia foundry that got it up, and much of

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which, our British brethern hold, and hope for the United States some day to assume and pay.

As the deeps of air envelope the earth, protecting it from stellar shot and hot, whizzing, rotten ^{planetary} camp kettles, so harm comes not to any mortal, as the tenuous nebula around the comet's head and hundred miles of tail, so he surrounded the army and pervaded the country; a pillar of cloud by day; ~~and~~ a pillar of fire by night; while the great sinuous, crawling army, bisected the Confederacy in a frolic and tore it in two with a joke. It was the first great march ~~of~~ the Salvation Army ever made.

The bumper's conscience was but an annex to his appetite. He was the very inspiration and genius of hunger. Reason, reputation and risk were hand maidens that waited on stomach; and anotomically, he was an octopus of abdomen, whose tentacles reached every hen roost and pig sty.

His teeth were sand papered and edged for nubbins, pain killer, goose liver, red hair oil and ^{Corn} ~~gone~~ pone.

Par excellence, the American Knight; whose lance was always in poise for the unwary hog, and who victoriously wrested the

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trophies in his joust and tourney with ^{the more} phlegmatic mitton.

He may have been unshorn, hungry and dirty, but when it came to loyalty to the Union cause, he was a vestal virgin; and when it came to disguising his purpose by the use of chin music he was Mephistophelian.

Alas and Ah me! We gave backward to at last linger on a dream.

We invoke the past and only a spectre stalks across the memory to-night. The unreal flesh has taken on the invisible livery that mantles a soul in Paradise. He rides his flea bit mule no more. His canteen lies corroded and empty. His gastric juice has taken vacation and he assimilates his victuals no longer.

The great nerve that touched the brain of an army's intelligence and activity has been snapped in twain. Where he may be I cannot tell. Full well I know, his valor threads the shining meshes of the flag; there is an echo of him in the mighty woods, as the birds sing songs of peace in its depths; wherever the hill tops glow, it tinges the glory of his deeds; each



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hearth stone is a shrine that like another Memnon, gives back
an answering strain when ~~around the~~ ^{by the} ~~lighted fire,~~ ^{around the} ~~when~~ ^{it is} touched by
the story of his unselfish devotion. There is laughter of
stream to his memory and a psalm of ocean that anthems his
praise.

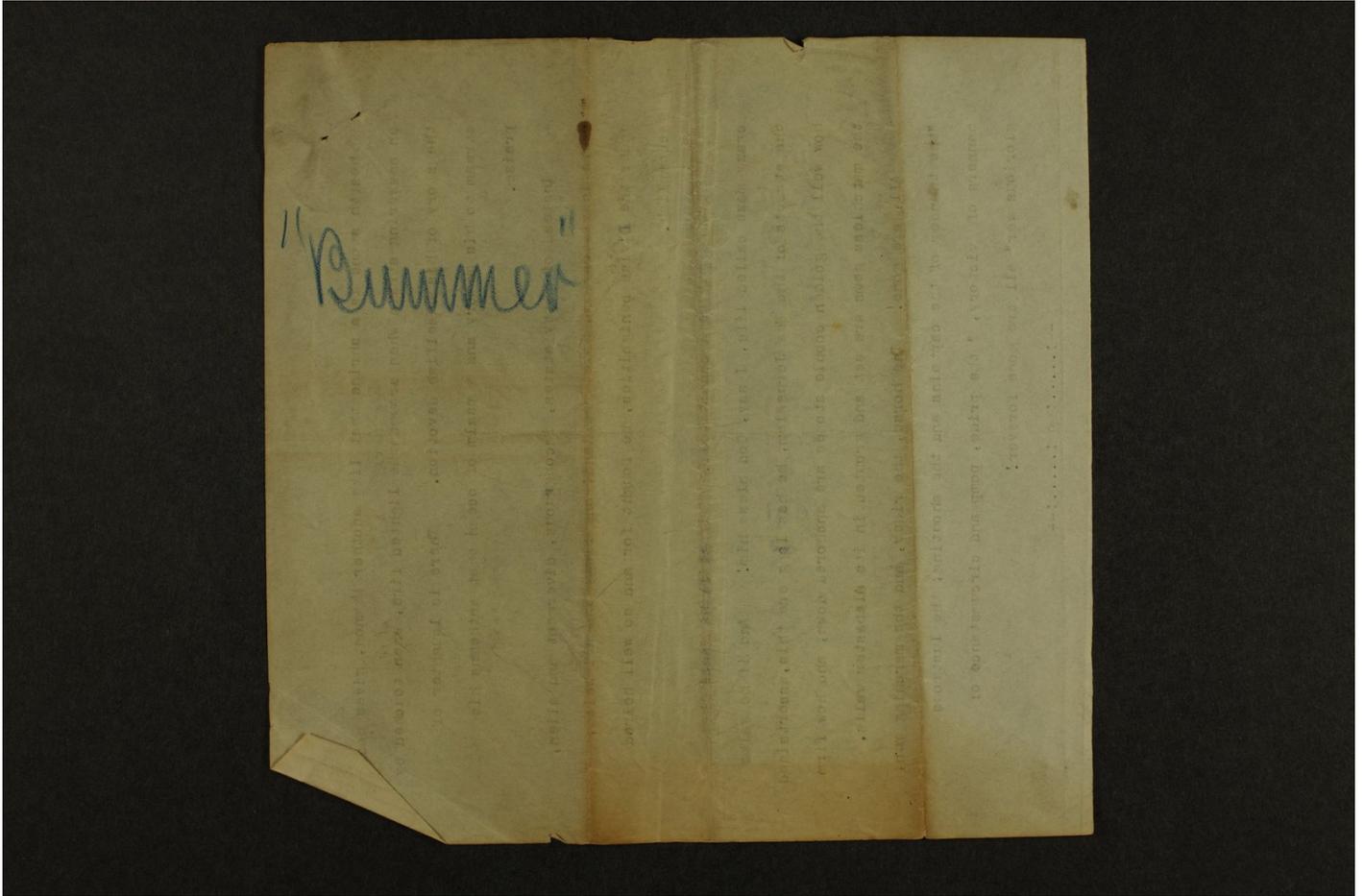
Instead of petty states, incongruous, divergent and alien,
there is victory and home; one land; one flag; and all which,
under the Divine benignities, he fought for and so well helped
accomplish.

Where he may be I cannot tell. If still he dance the
crazy maze called life, I say, God bless him! And if he walk
the streets of the New Jerusalem, he has long ere this, ascertained
how well the golden cobble stones are anchored down, and how firm
the matchless gems are set and grouted in its alabaster walls,

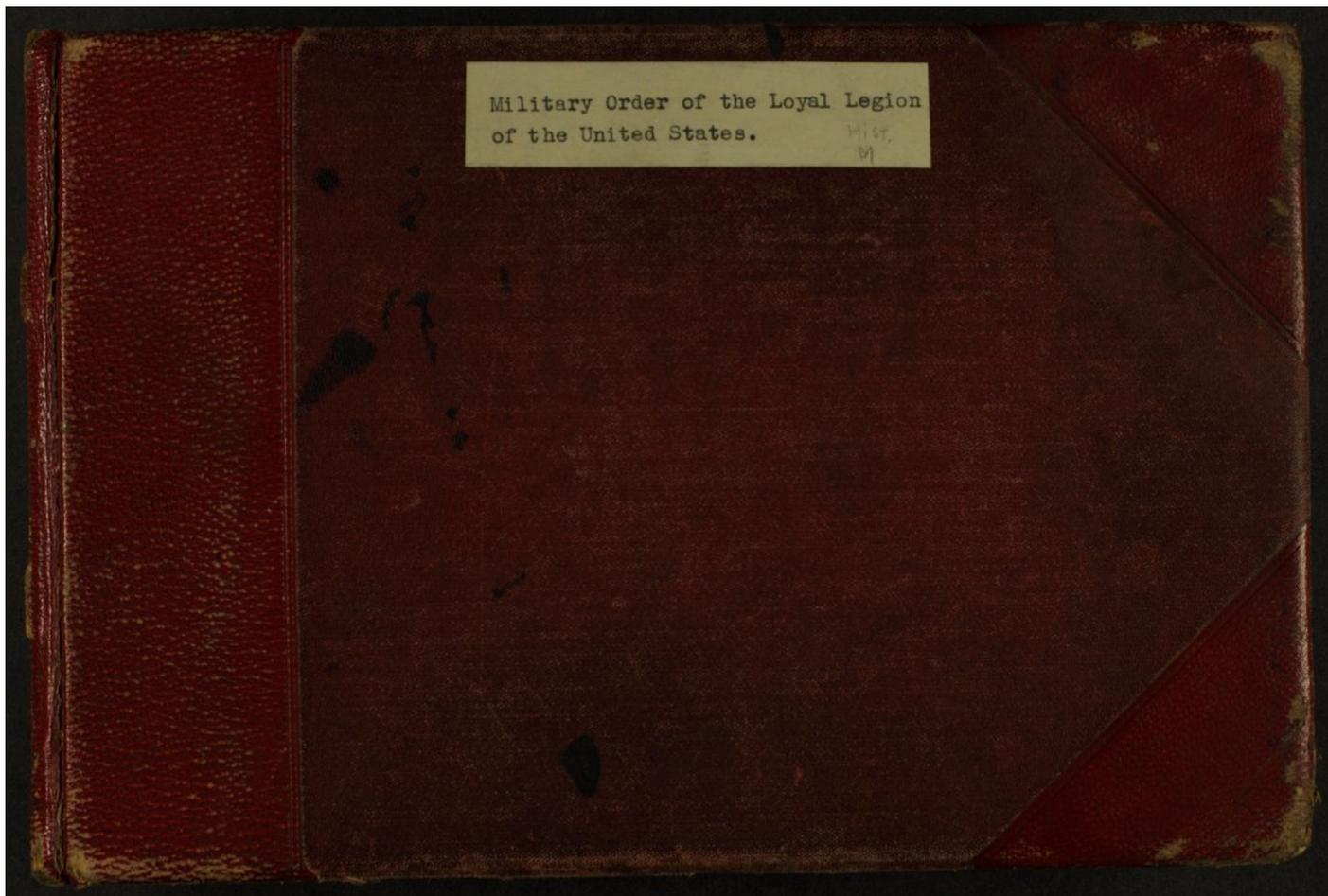
All, are gone! The horse, the rider, and the marching men;
"the thunder of the captains and the shouting"; the lustrous
banners of victory, "the pride, pomp and circumstance of
glorious war" all, are gone forever!

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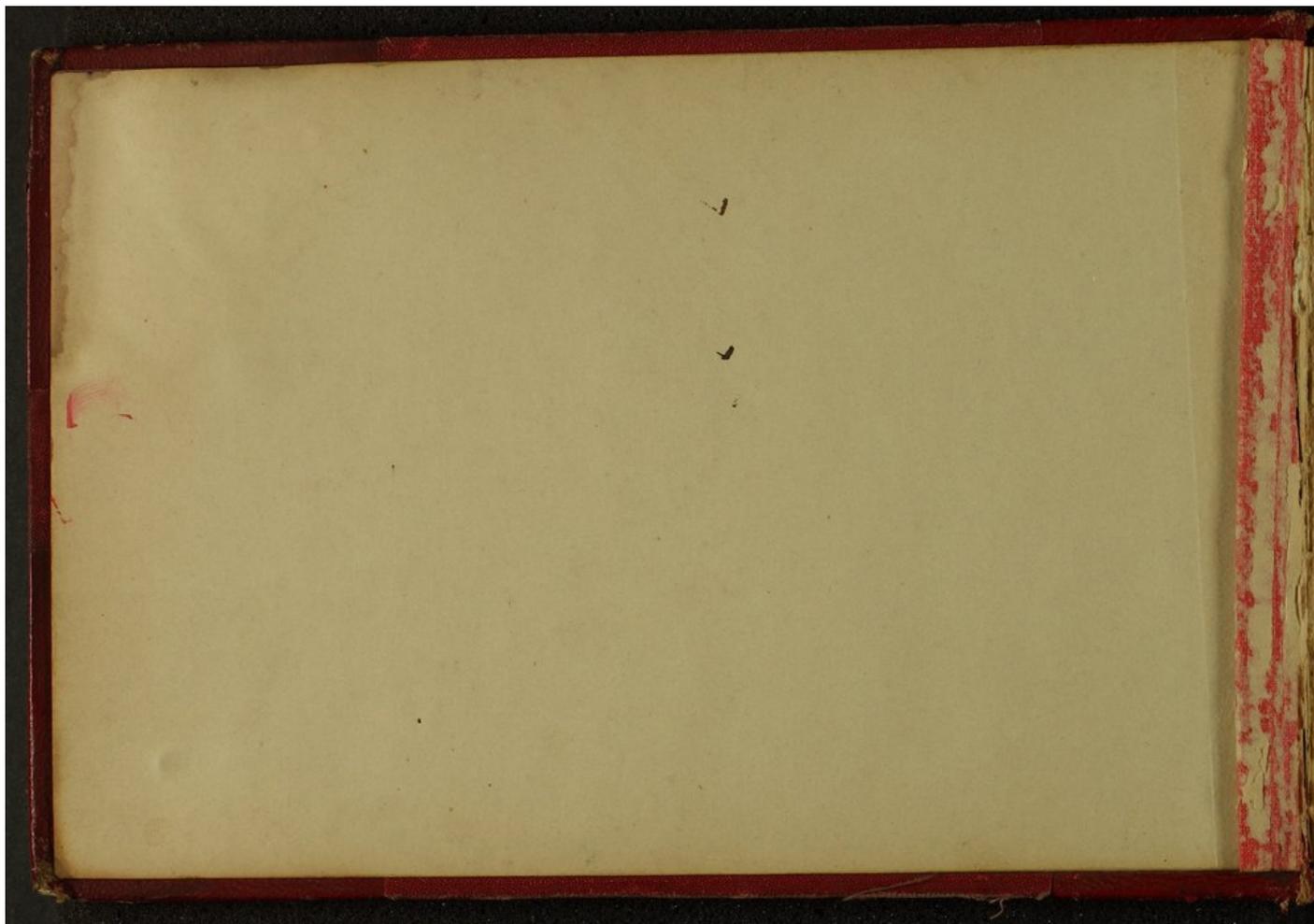
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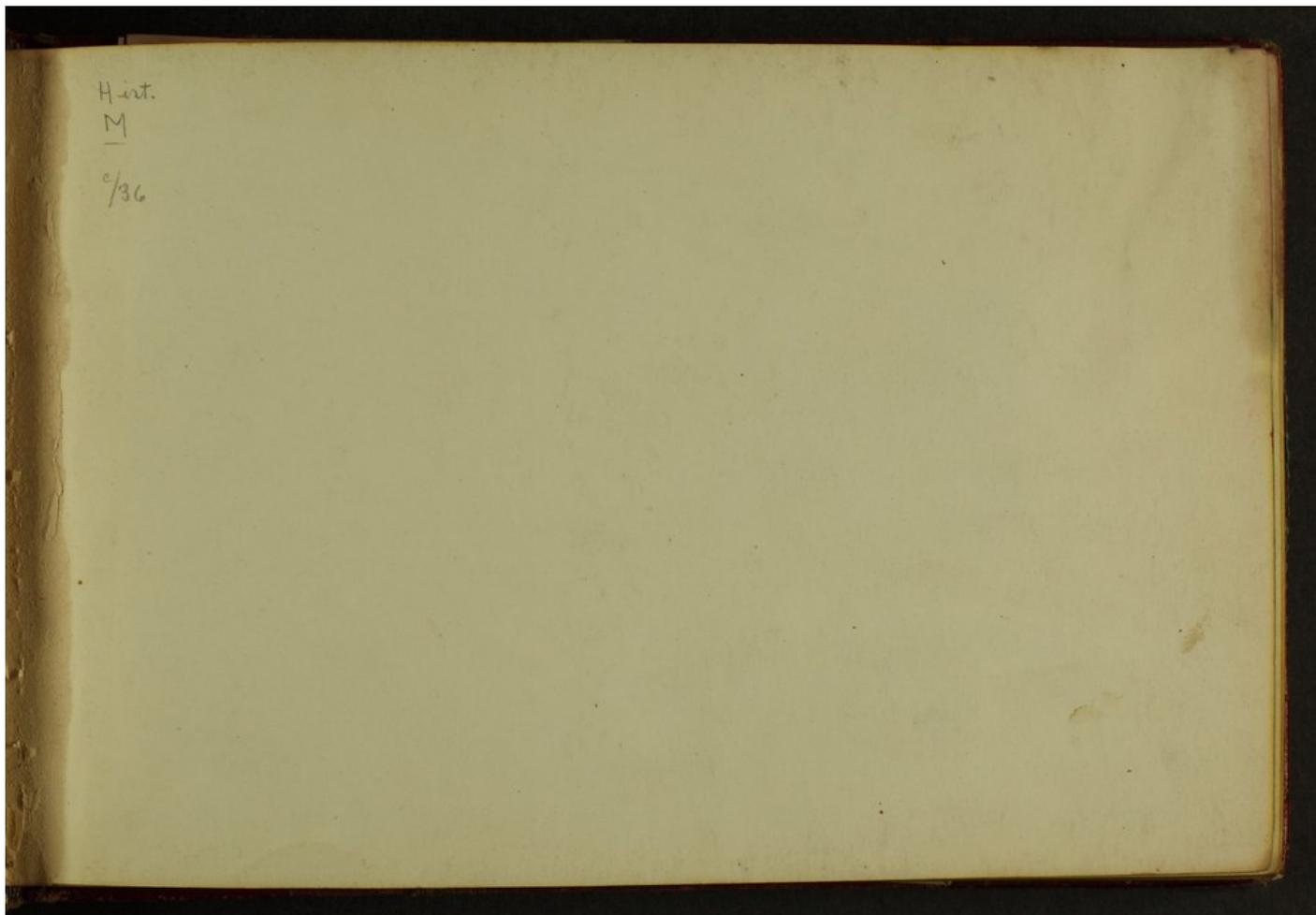
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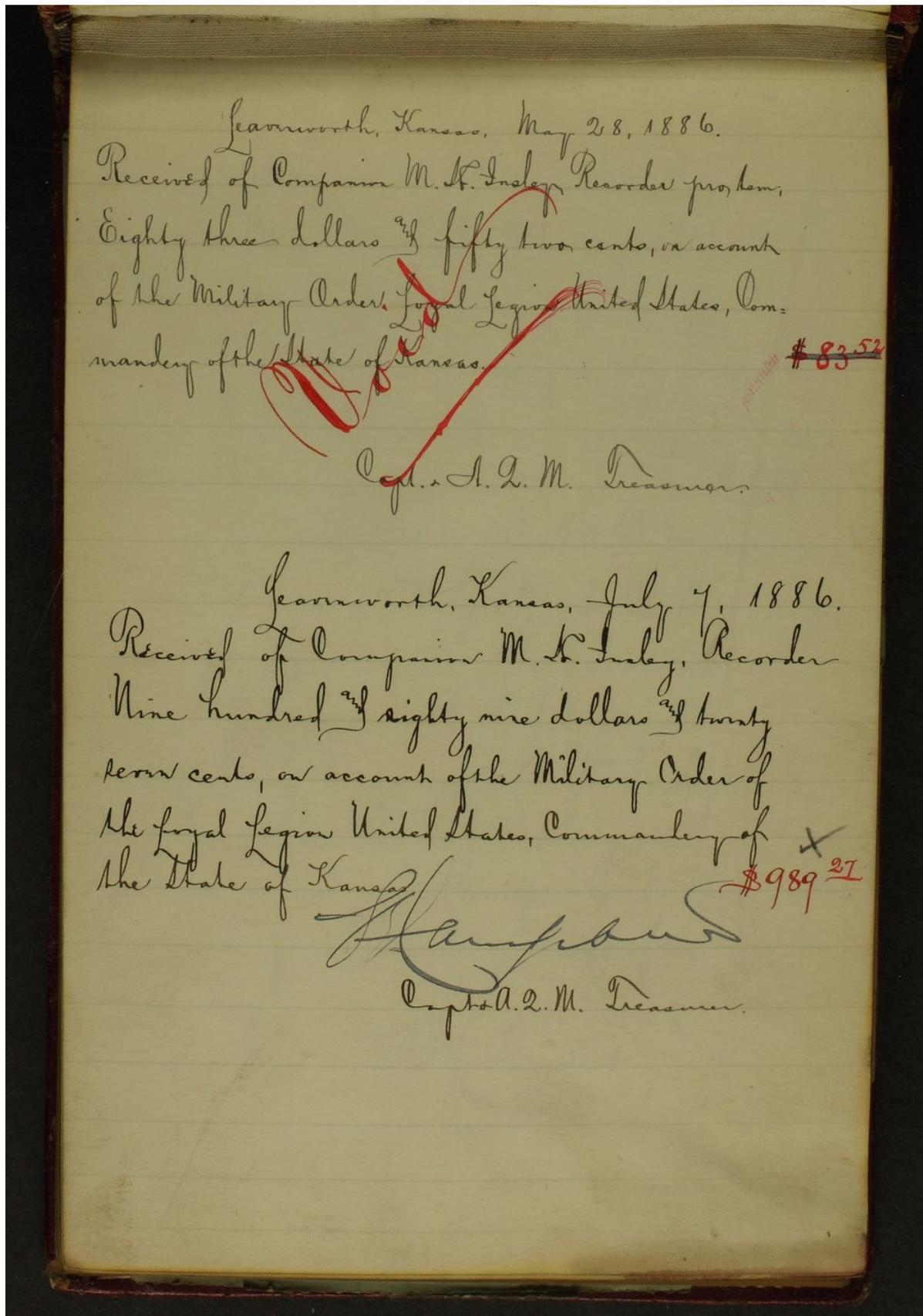
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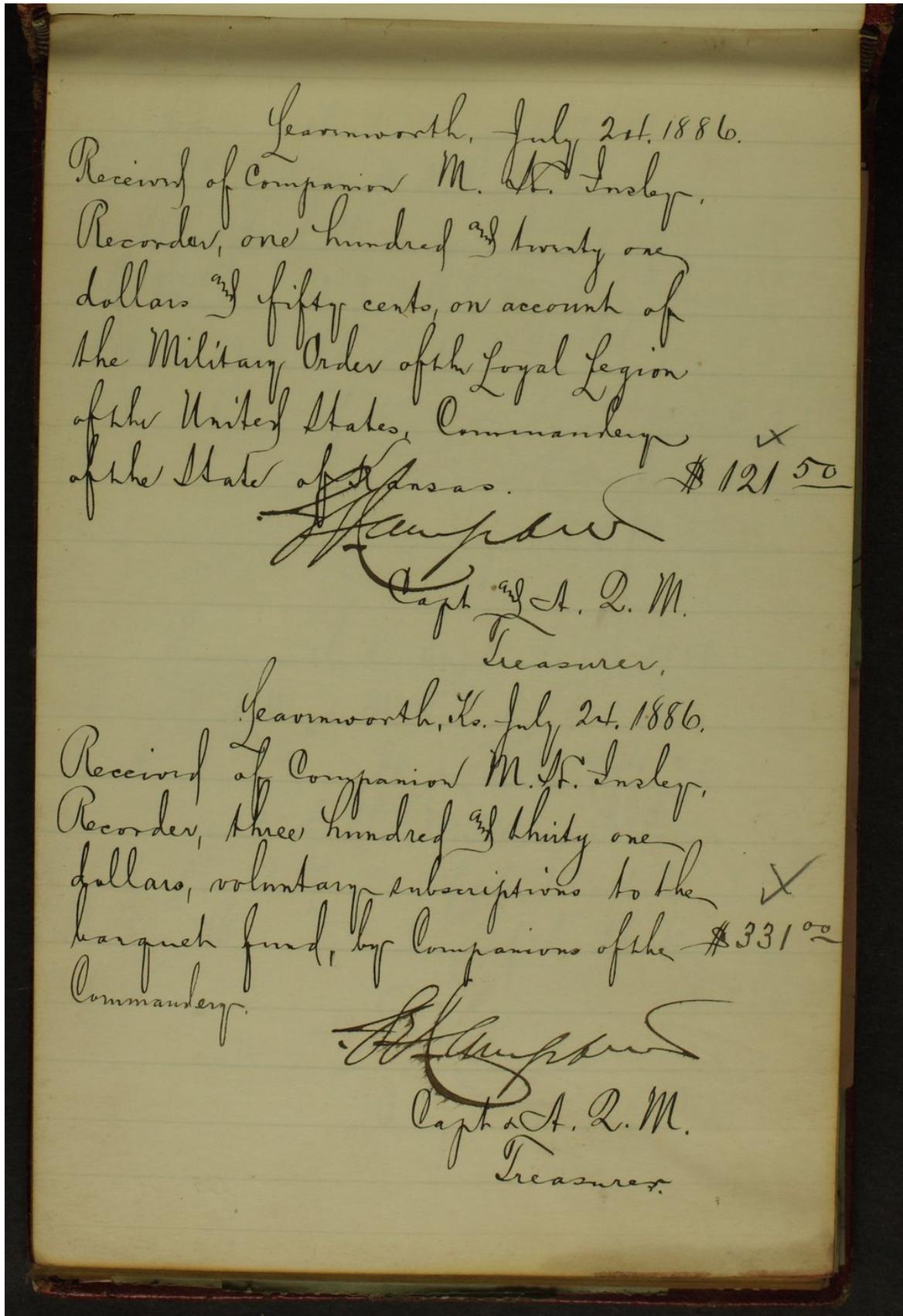
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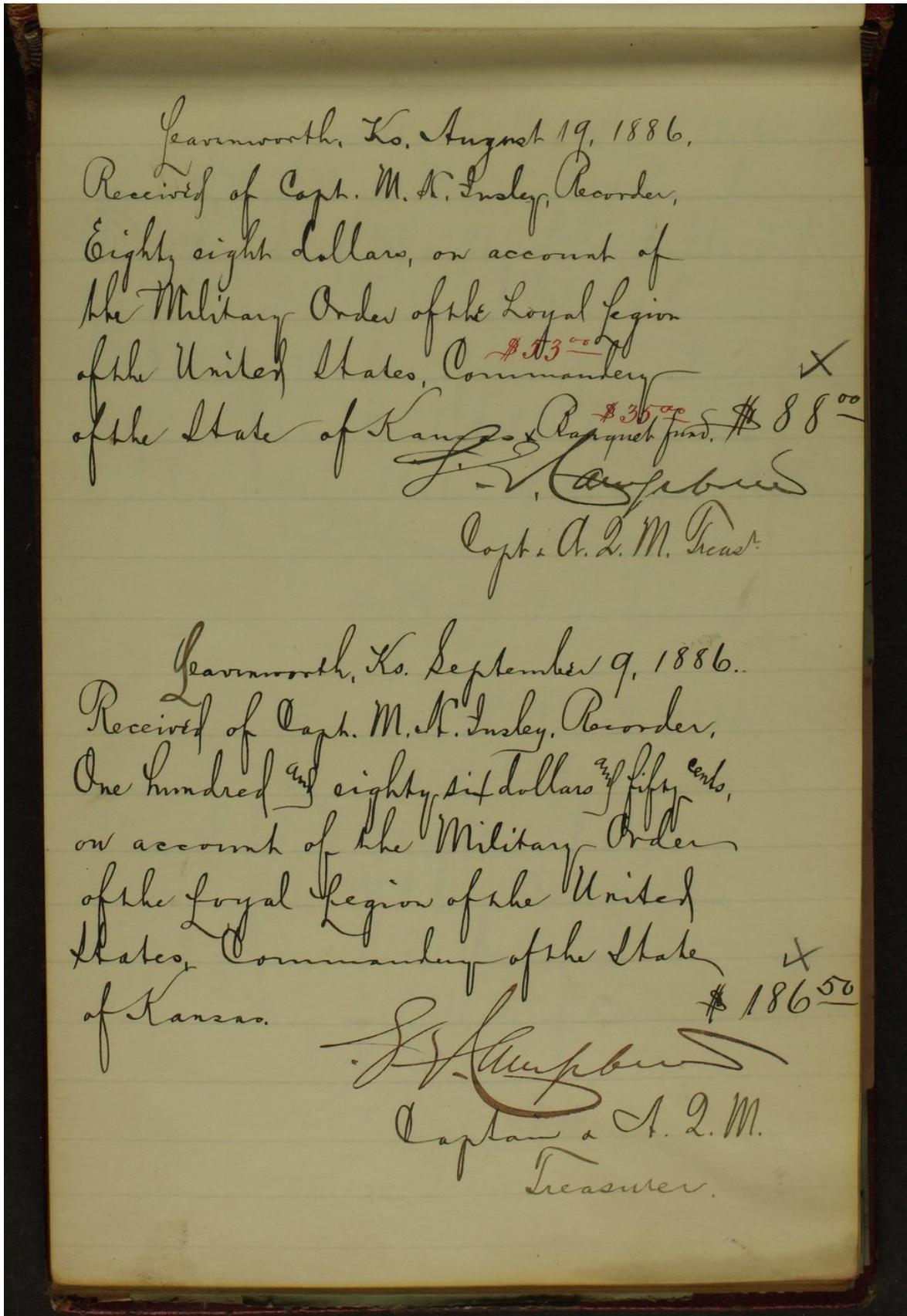
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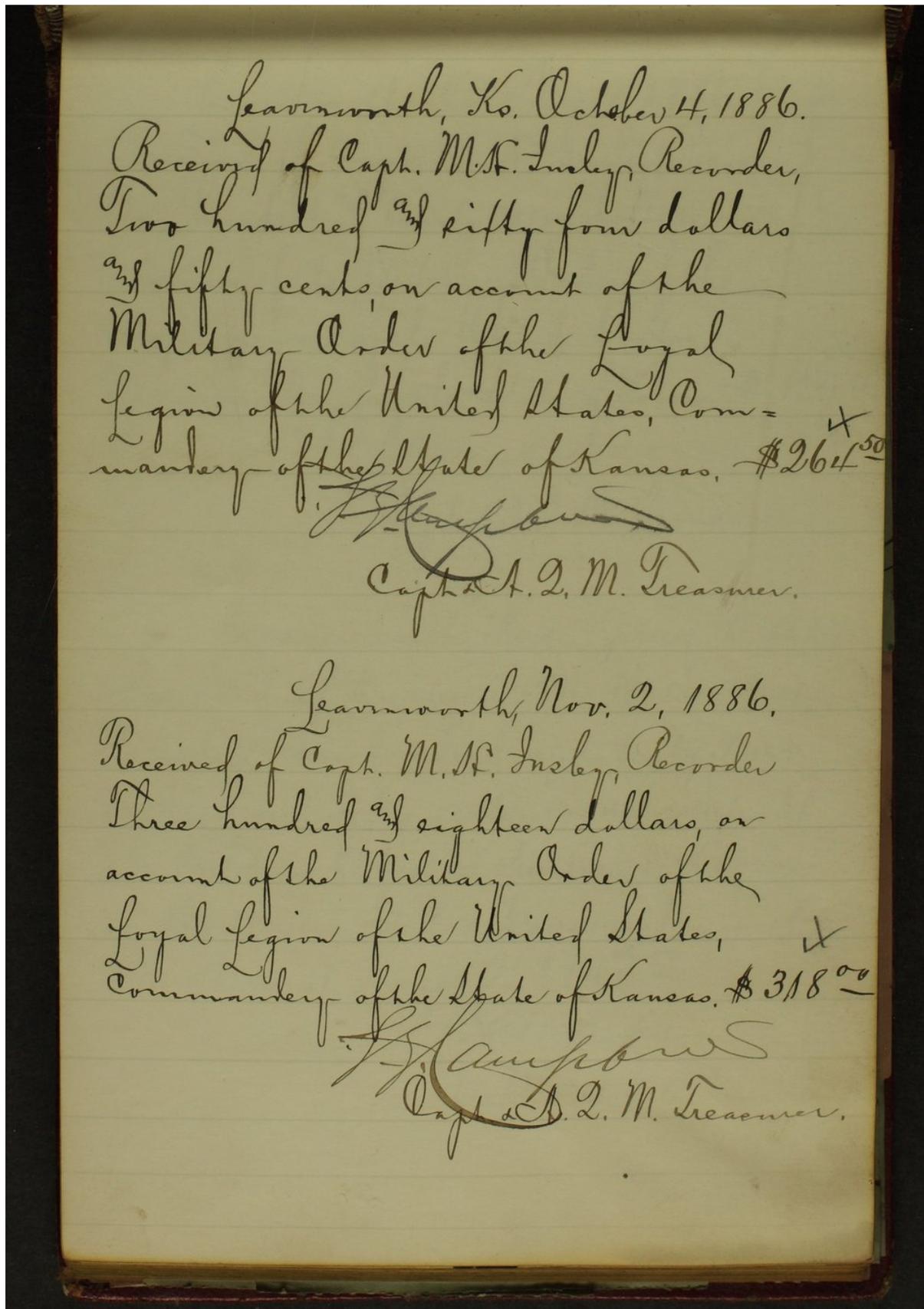
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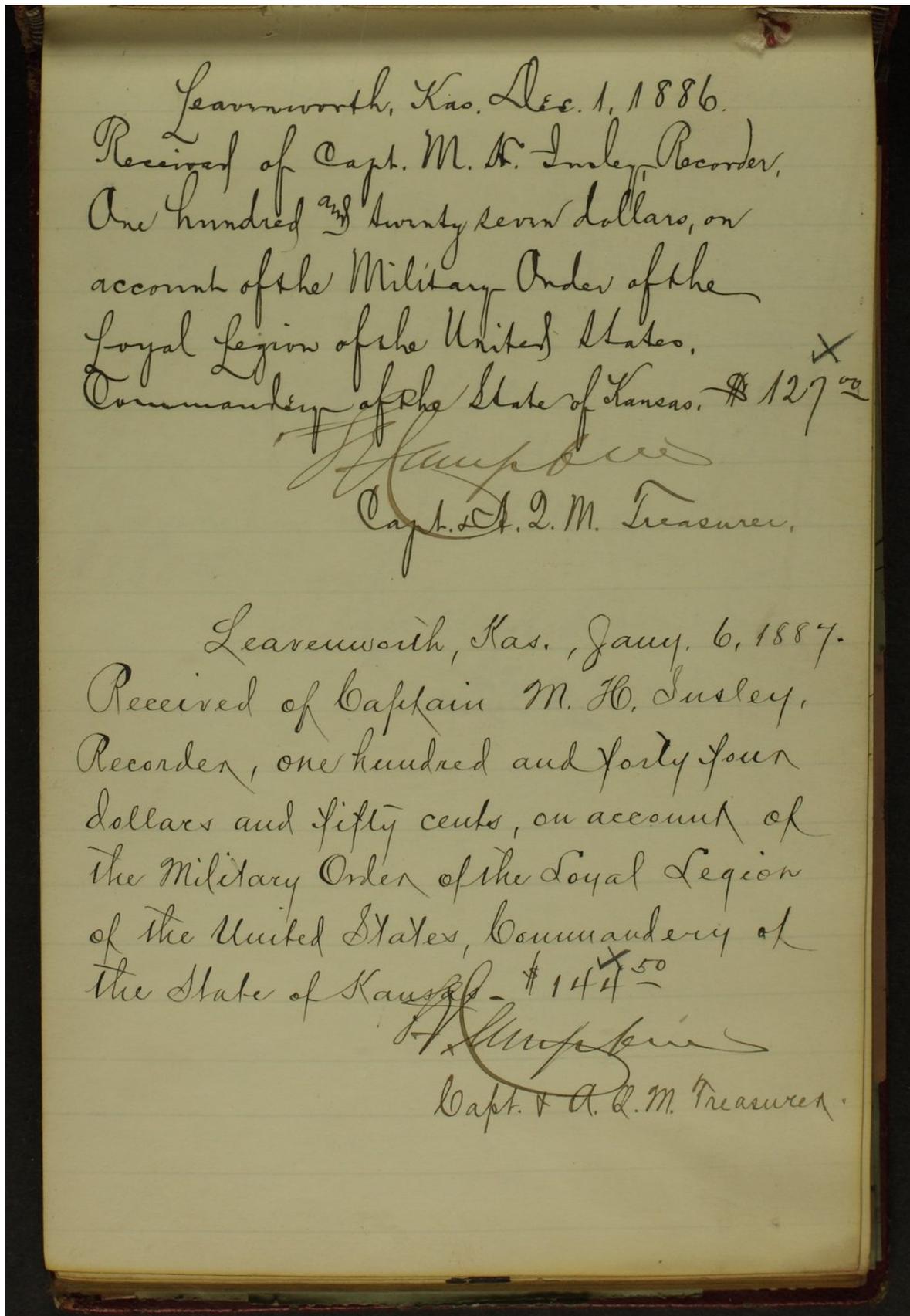
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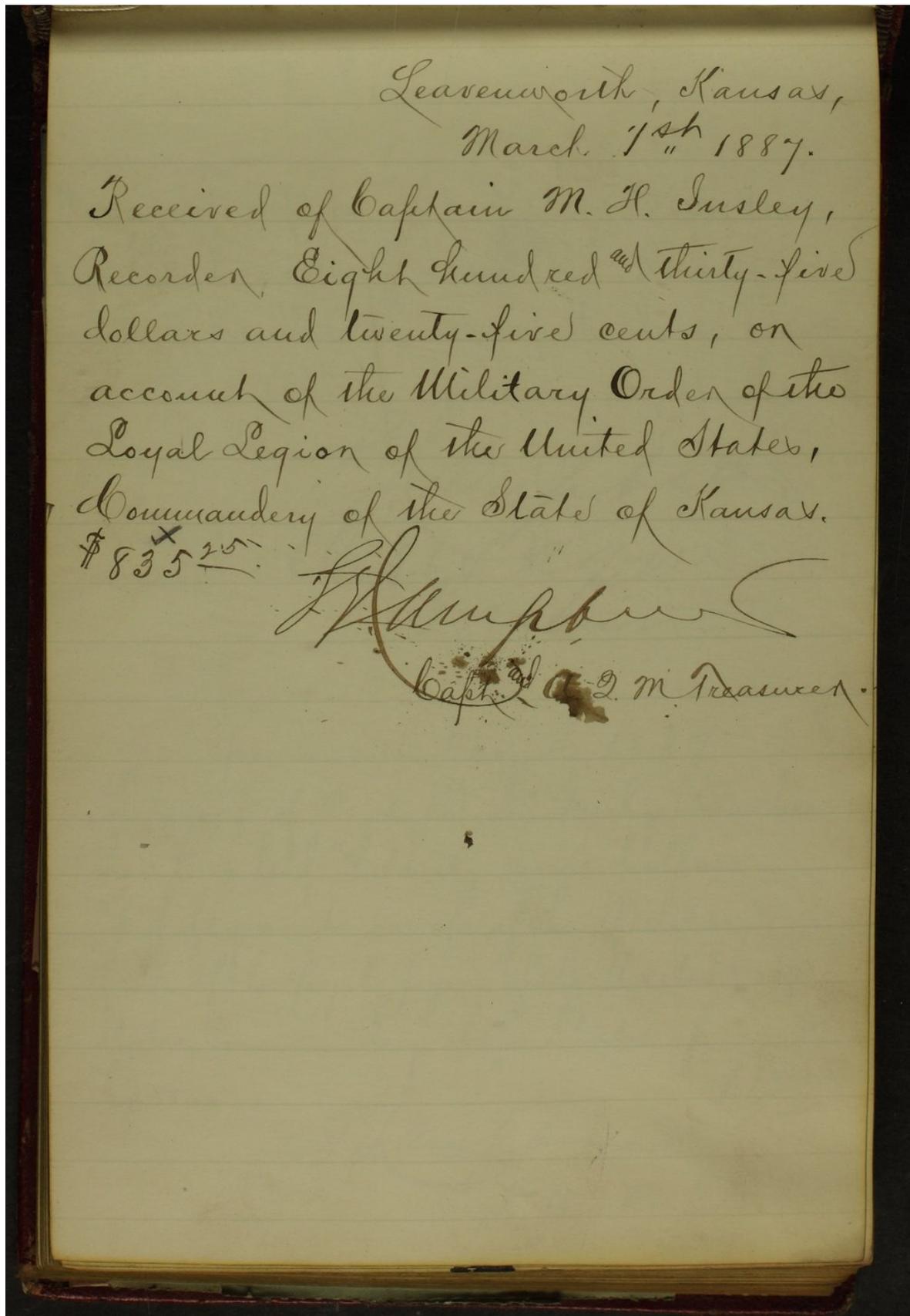
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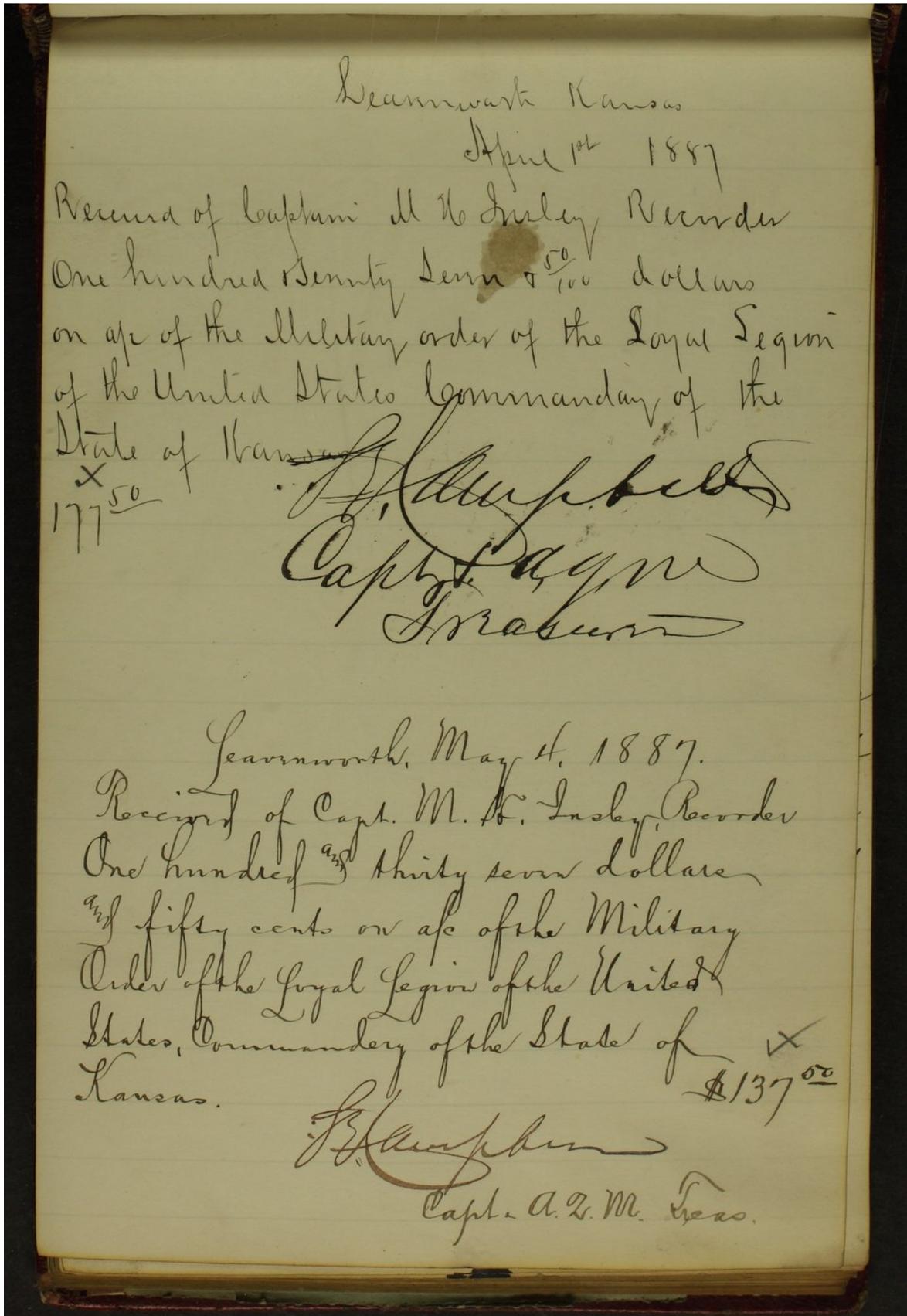
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Leavenworth Kansas

April 1st 1887

Received of Capt. M. H. Insley Recorder
One hundred Seventy Seven & ⁵⁰/₁₀₀ dollars
on acc of the Military order of the Loyal Legion
of the United States Commandery of the
State of Kansas

177⁵⁰

A. Q. M. Tress
Capt. A. Q. M. Tress

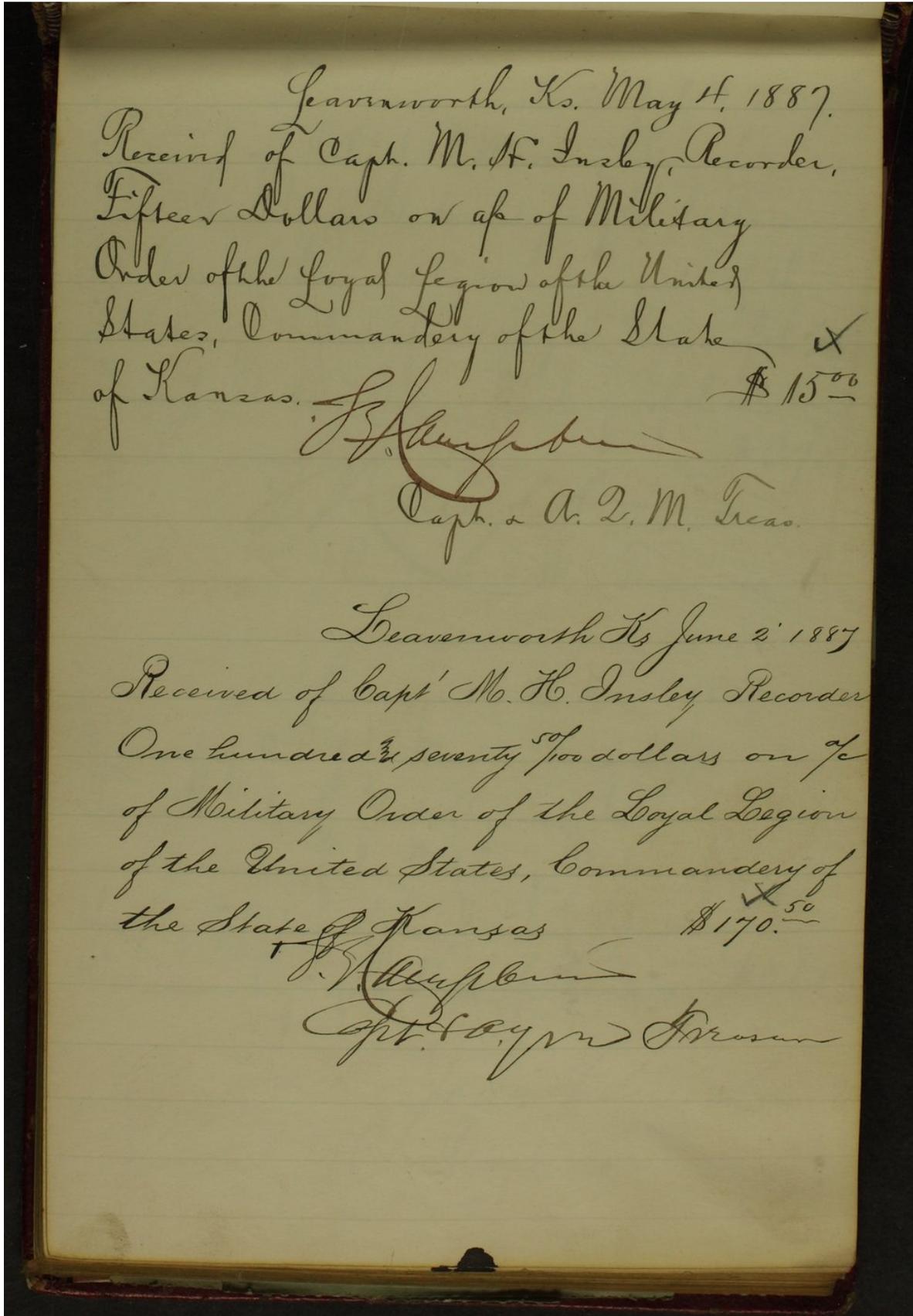
Leavenworth, May 4, 1887.

Received of Capt. M. H. Insley Recorder
One hundred ³³/₁₀₀ thirty seven dollars
& ⁵⁰/₁₀₀ fifty cents on acc of the Military
Order of the Loyal Legion of the United
States, Commandery of the State of
Kansas.

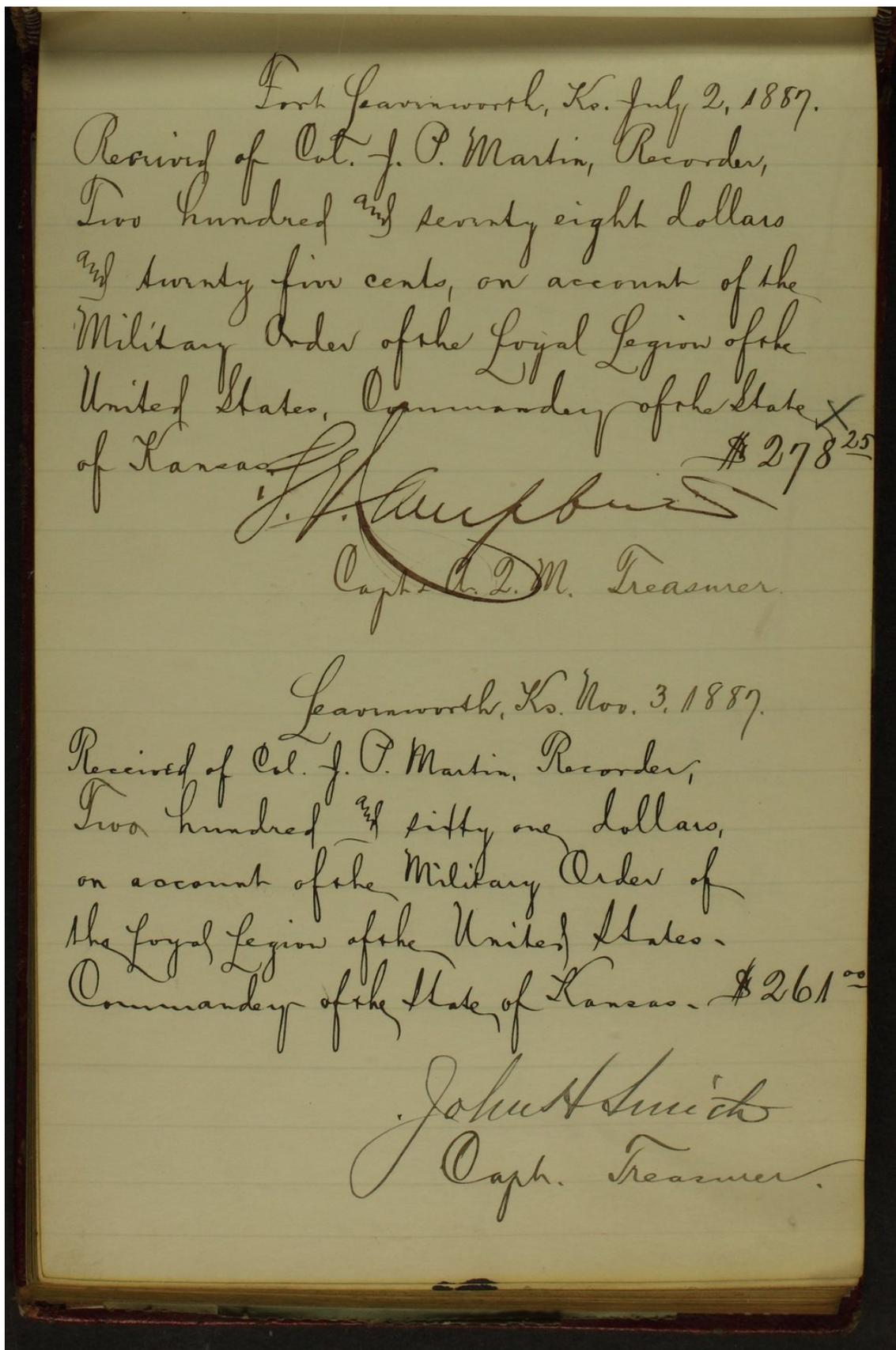
\$137⁰⁰

A. Q. M. Tress
Capt. A. Q. M. Tress.

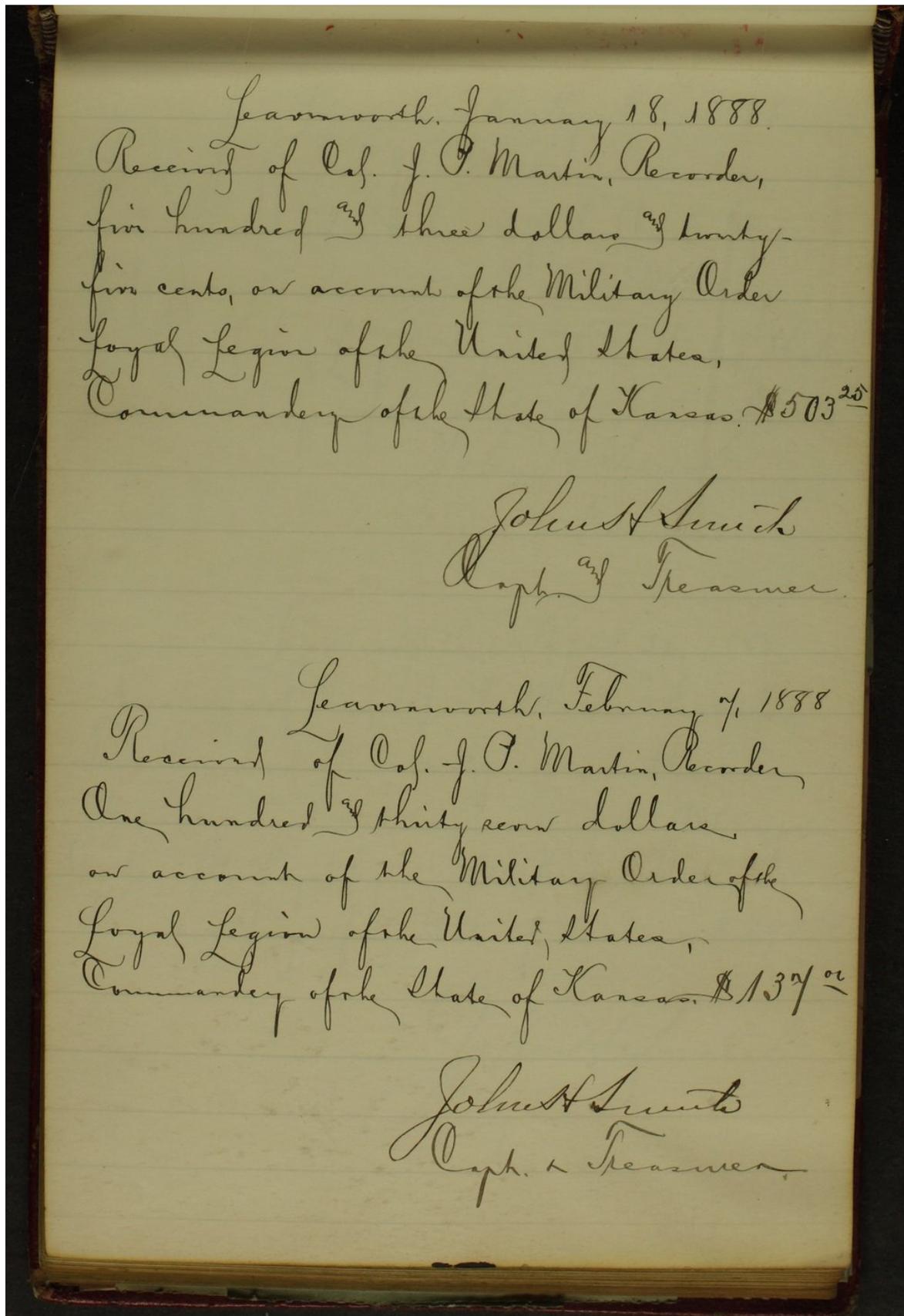
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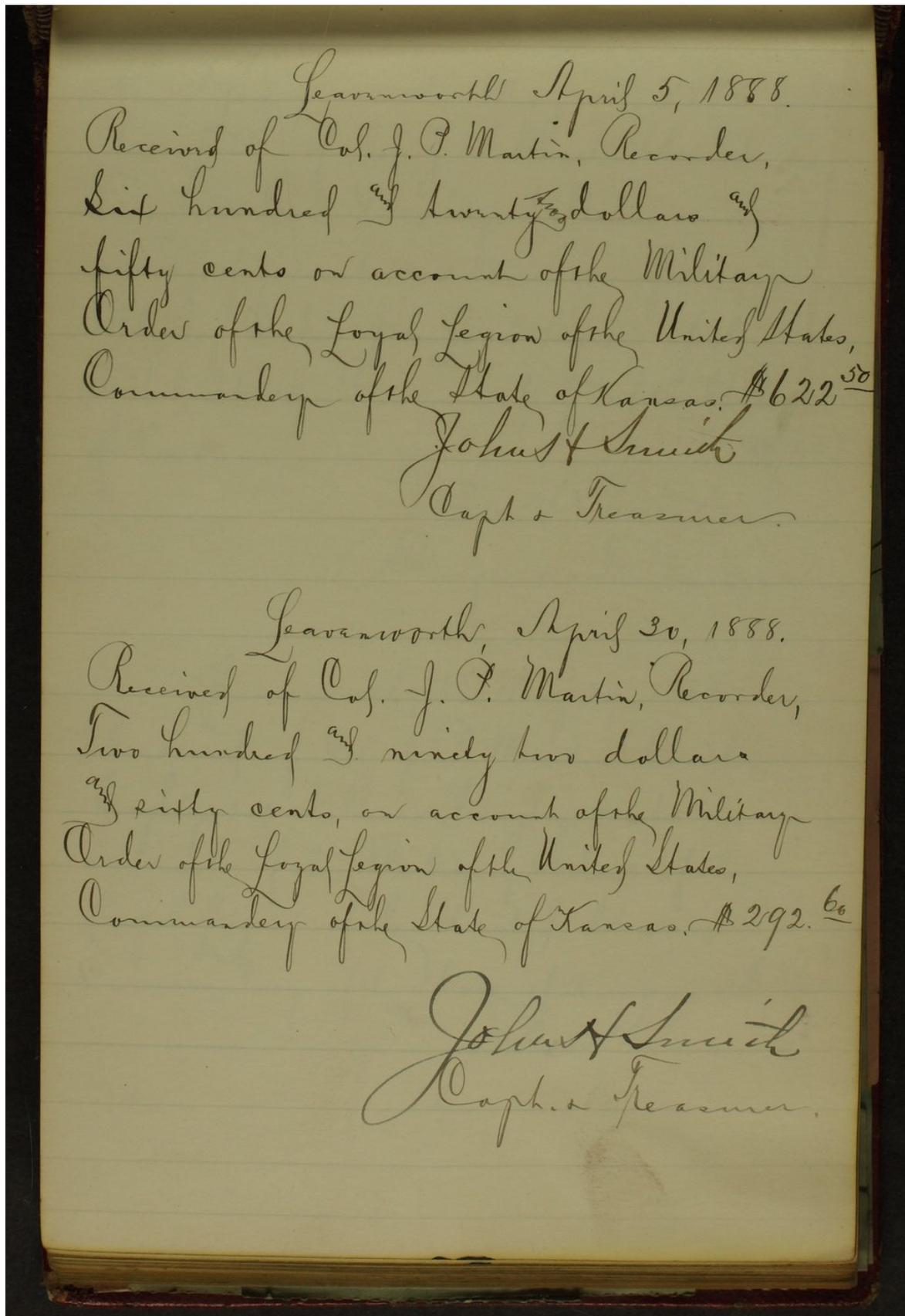
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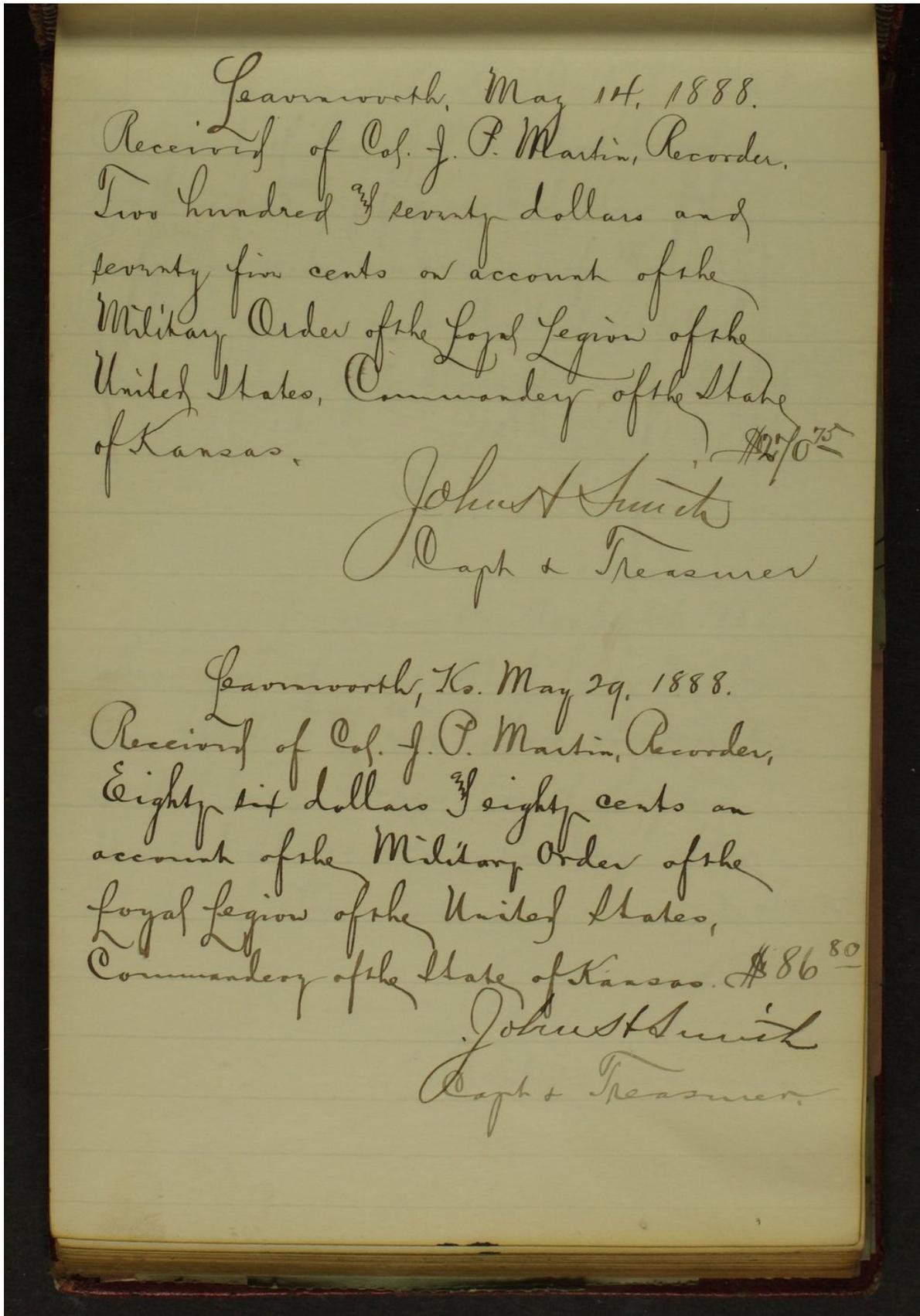
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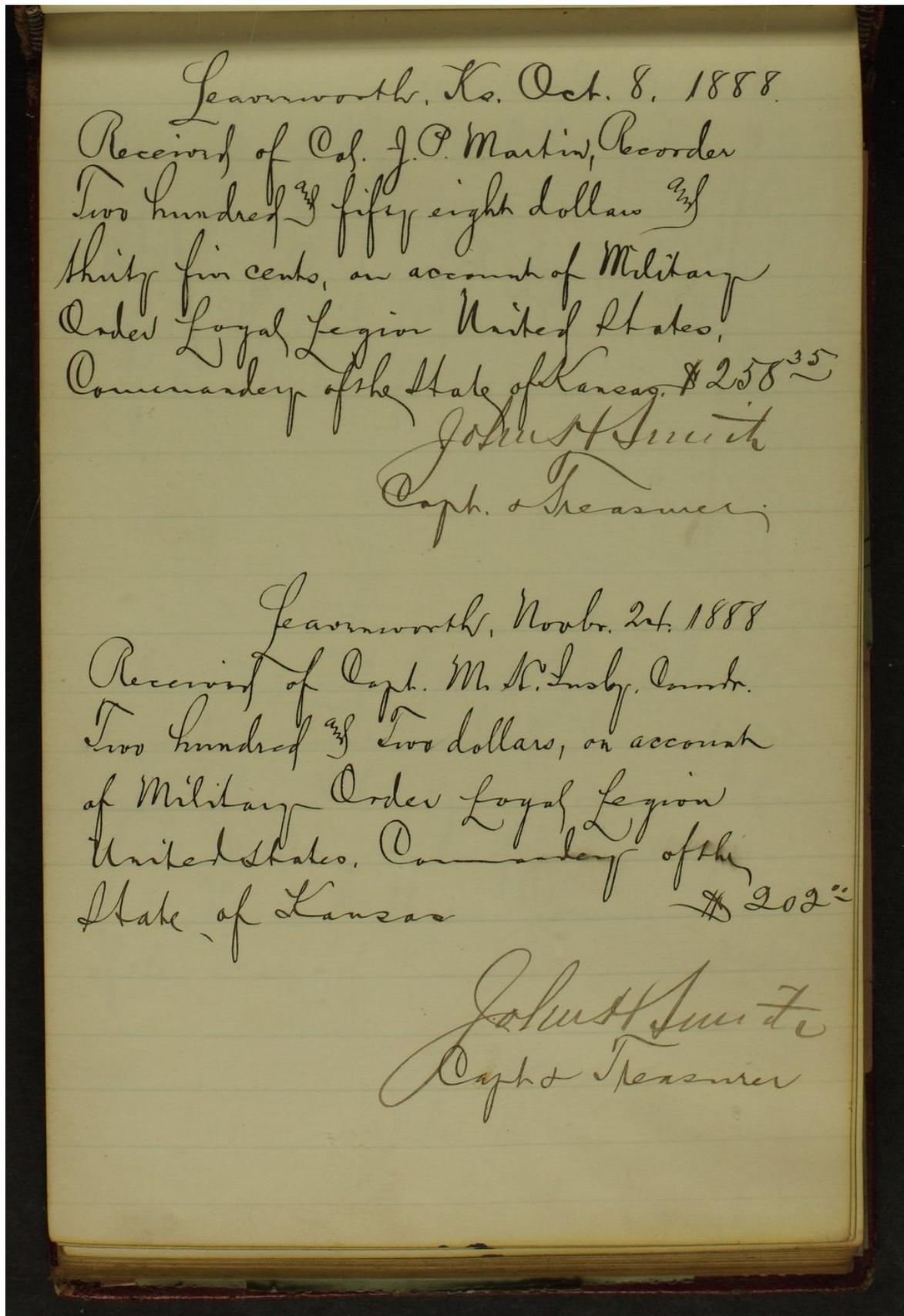
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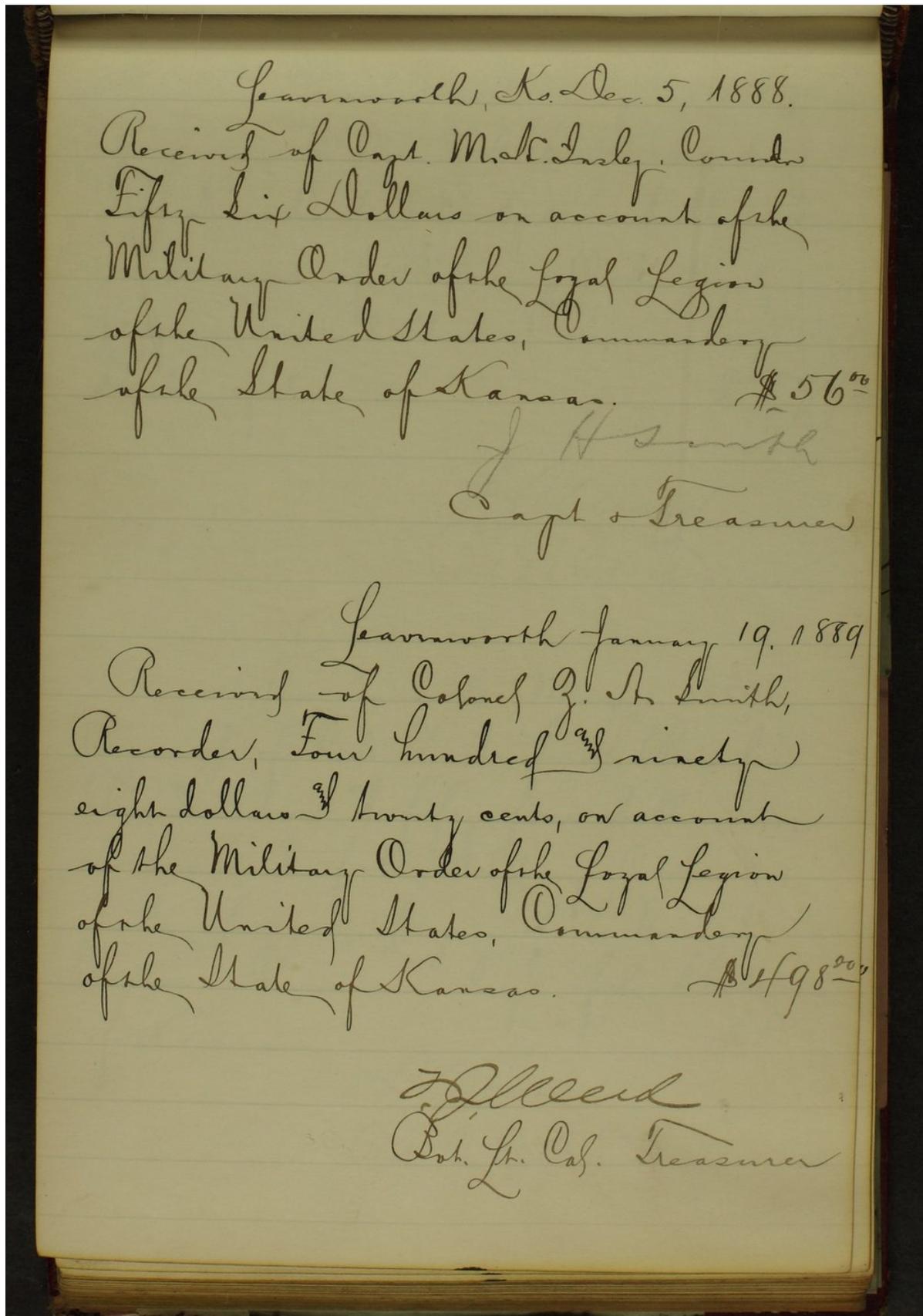
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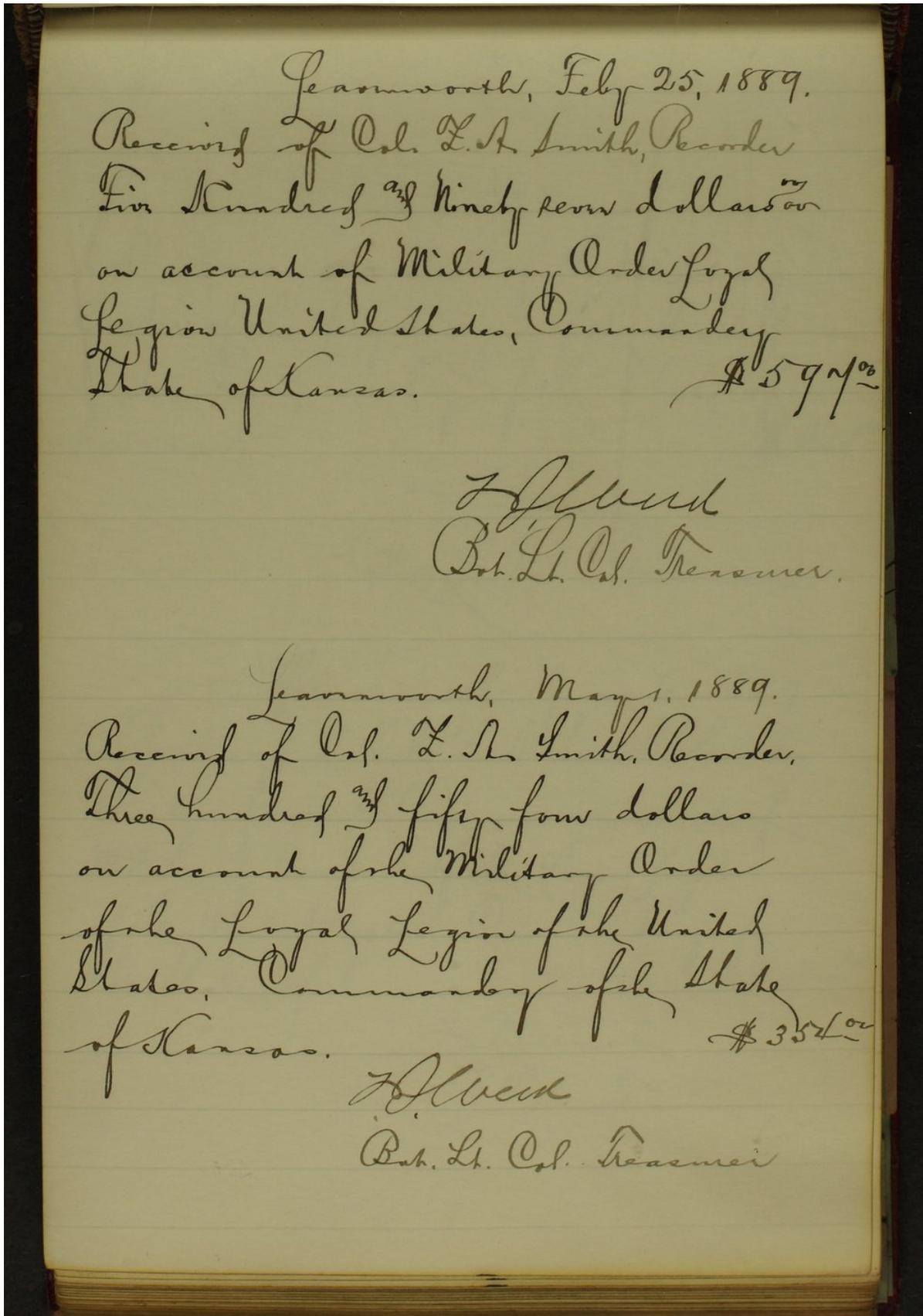
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