James Barnes Whitaker correspondence

Section 93, Pages 2761 - 2790

This collection includes materials related to all aspects of James Barnes Whitaker's professional life, including his real estate business and his legal career, particularly for the pensioners he helped. He came to Tecumseh, Shawnee County in 1856 and worked there as a surveyor. In 1857, he moved to Topeka where he remained, serving as county sheriff, surveyor, and Topeka city engineer. He owned an abstract and real estate business in Topeka and was an attorney, representing numerous Civil War veterans in obtaining disability pensions, many of whom served in Kansas units. The collection consists of Whitaker's correspondence (arranged chronologically) and Whitaker's 1857 certificate of appointment as a U.S. Deputy Marshal.

Date: 1855-1909

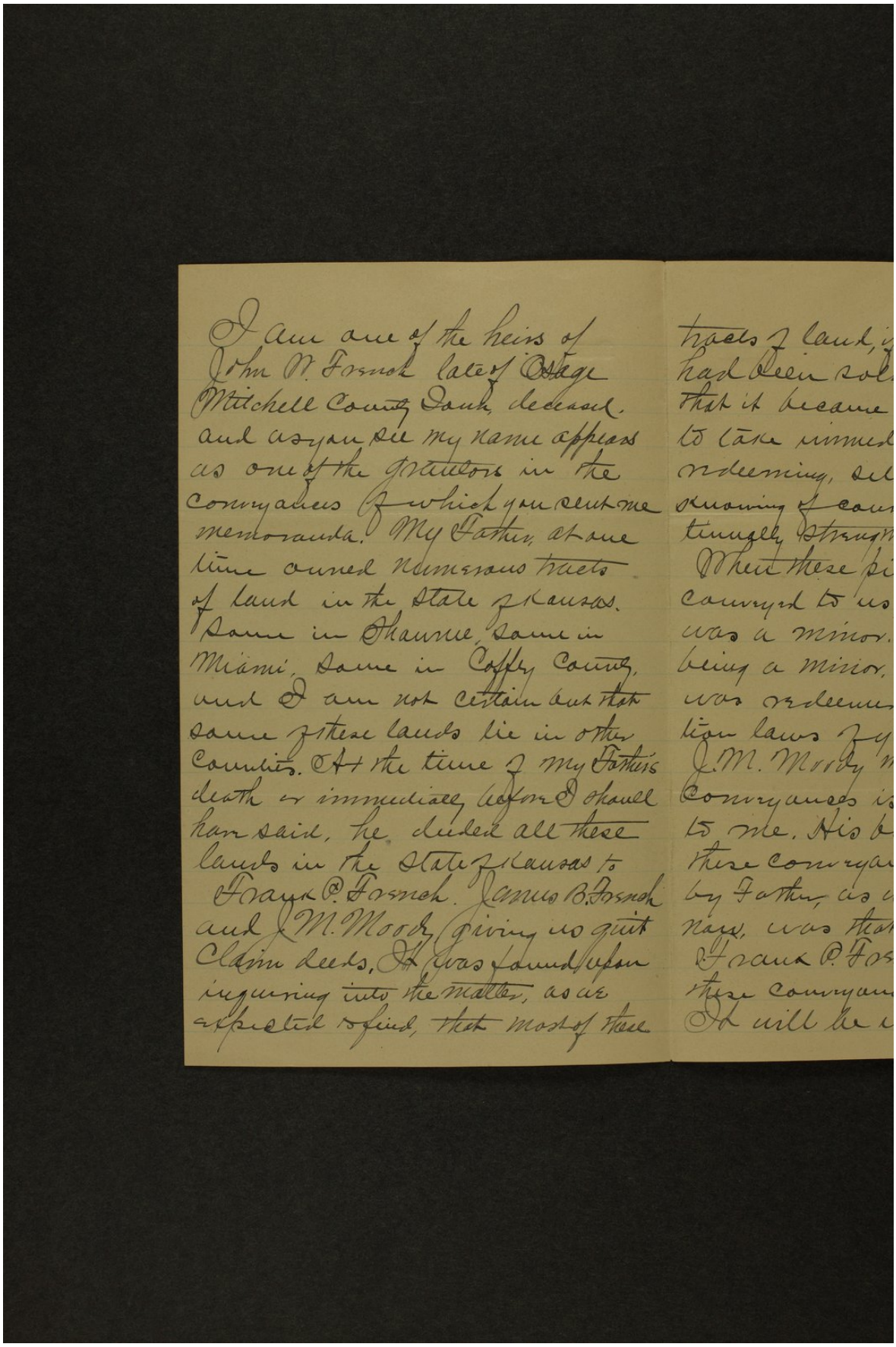
Callnumber: James Barnes Whitaker Coll. #540, Box 1 - 3

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 228667

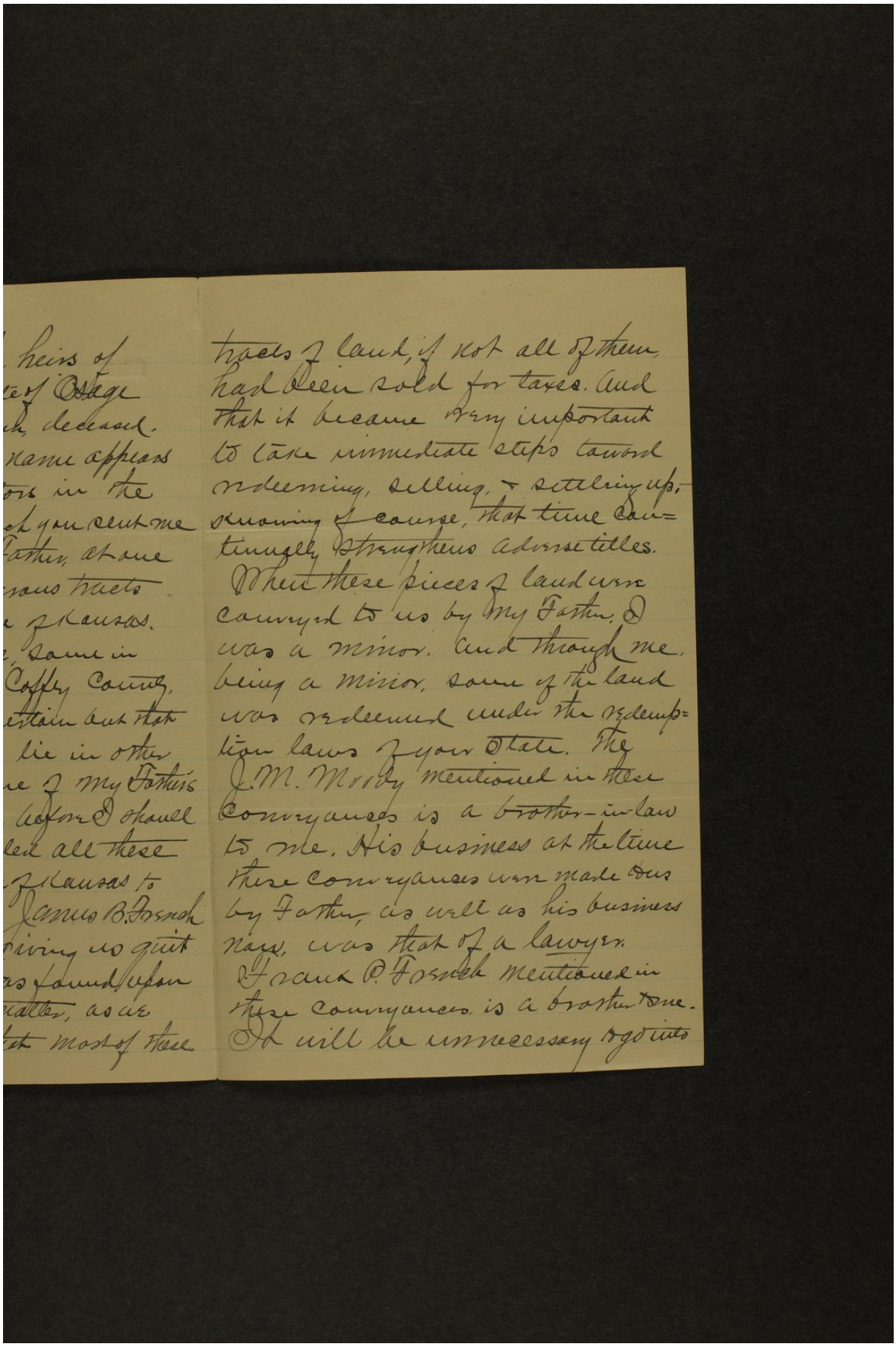
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www.kansasmemory.org/item/228667

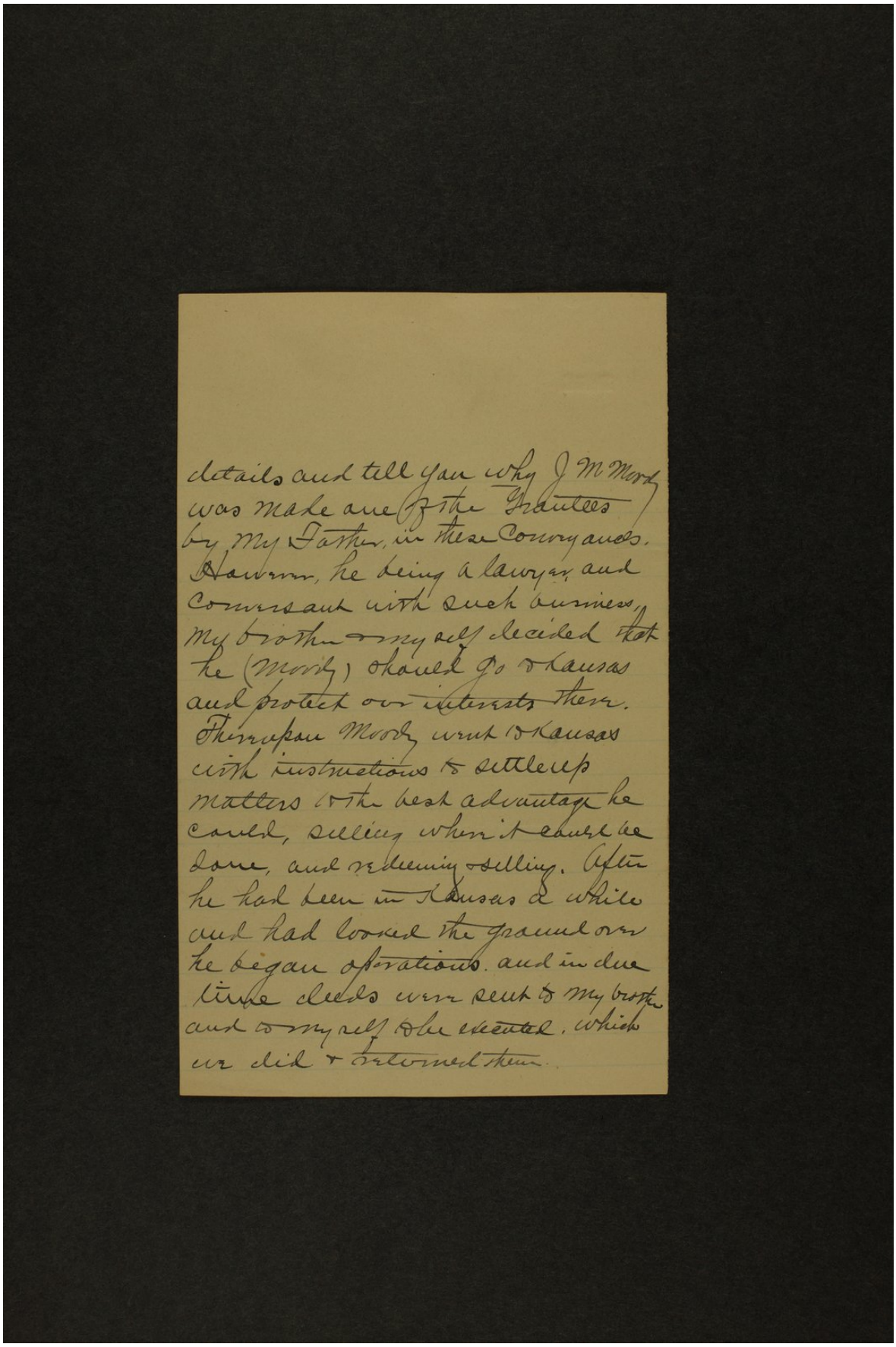
James Barnes Whitaker correspondence



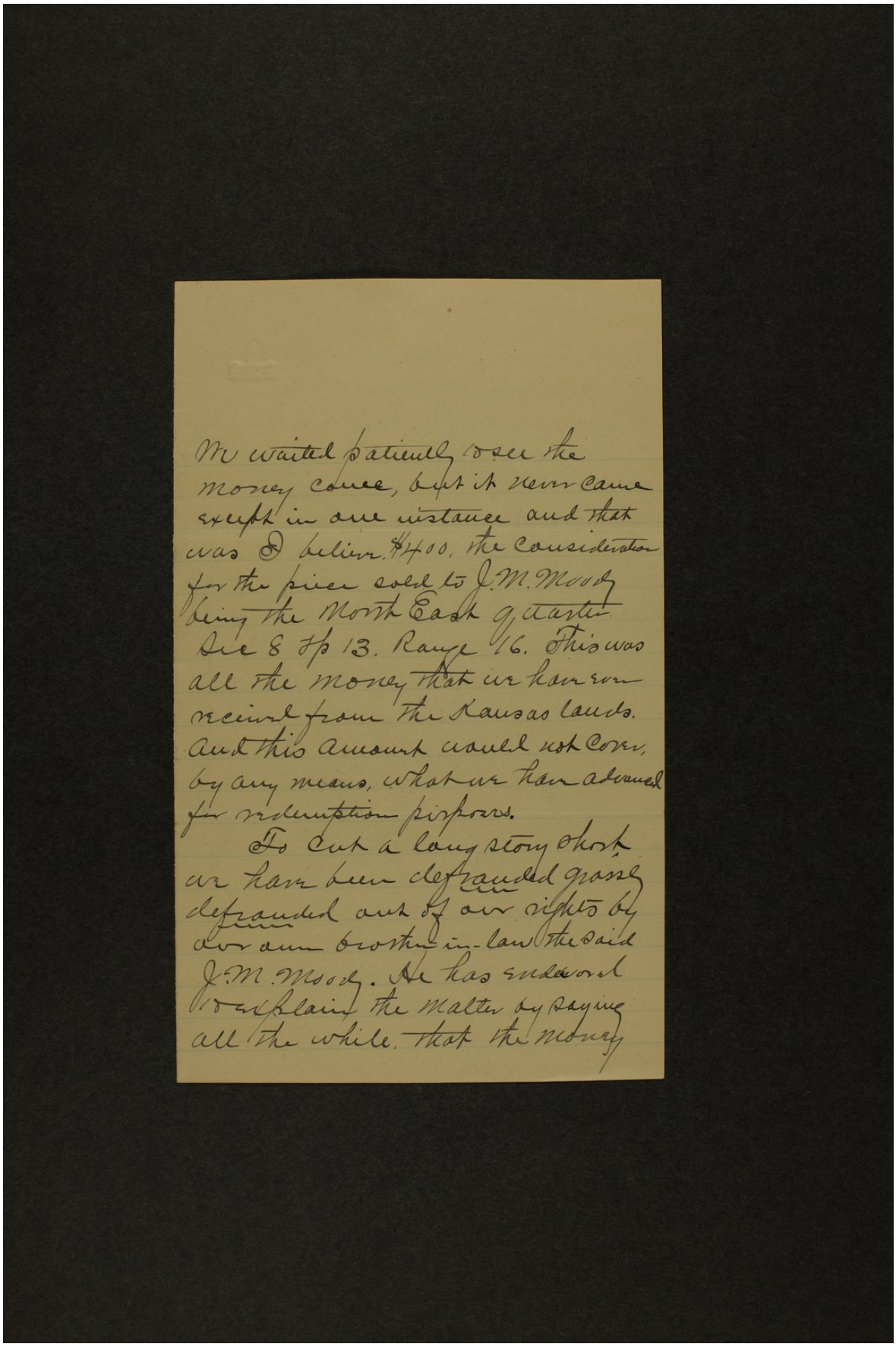
I am one of the heirs of
John N. Fornoh late of Osage
Mitchell County Iowa, deceased.
and as you see my name appears
as one of the grantors in the
conveyances of which you sent me
memoranda. My Father, at one
time owned numerous tracts
of land in the State of Kansas.
Some in Shawnee, some in
Miami, some in Coffey County,
and I am not certain but that
some of these lands lie in other
counties. At the time of my Father's
death or immediately before I should
have said, he deeded all these
lands in the State of Kansas to
Frank P. Fornoh. James B. Fornoh
and J. M. Moody giving no quit
Claim deeds. It was found upon
inquiring into the matter, as as
expected to find, that most of these
tracts of land, i
had been sol
that it became
to take immed
redeeming, all
showing of cou
tinuely Straigh
When these pi
conveyed to us
was a minor.
being a minor,
was redeem
tion laws of
J. M. Moody
conveyances is
to me. His b
these conveyan
by Father, as
name, was that
Frank P. For
these conveyan
It will be



heirs of
of Osage
deceased.
name appears
ors in the
ch you sent me
Father, at one
rous tracts
e of Kansas.
, same in
Coffey County,
ertain but that
lie in other
ne of my Father's
upon I should
ded all these
of Kansas to
James B. Forsch
giving no quit
as found upon
matter, as as
ect most of these
tracts of land, if not all of them,
had been sold for taxes. And
that it became very important
to take immediate steps toward
redeeming, selling, & settling up,
knowing of course, that time daily
& hourly strengthens adverse titles.
When these pieces of land were
conveyed to us by my Father, I
was a minor. And though me,
being a minor, some of the land
was redeemed under the redemp-
tion laws of your State. The
J.M. Morby mentioned in these
conveyances is a brother-in-law
to me. His business at the time
these conveyances were made us
by Father, as well as his business
now, was that of a lawyer.
Frank P. Forsch mentioned in
these conveyances is a brother to me.
It will be unnecessary to go into

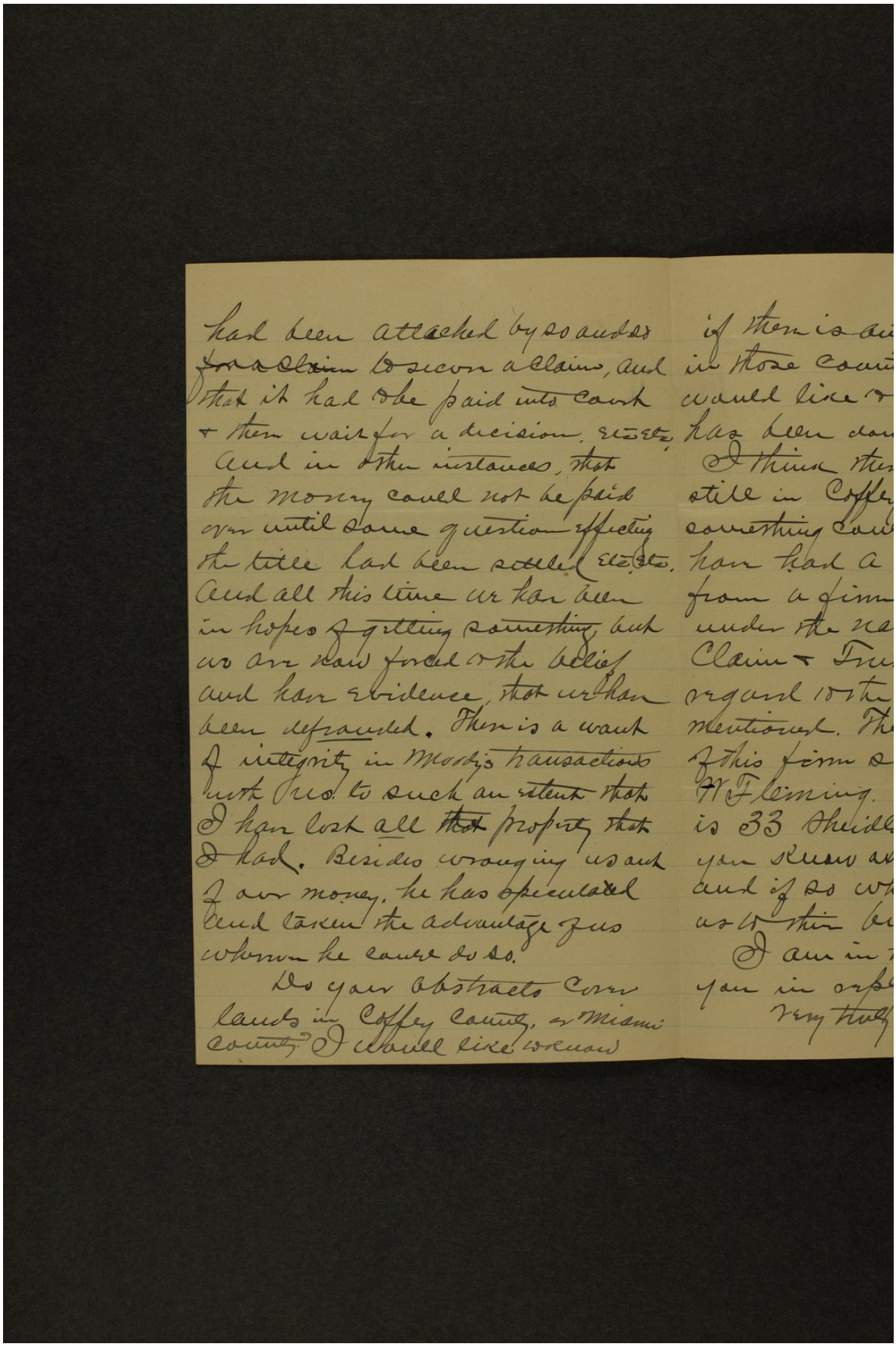


details and tell you why J M Mook was made one of the Trustees by My Father, in these Conveyances. However, he being a lawyer and conversant with such business, My brother & myself decided that he (Mook) should go to Kansas and protect our interests there. Thereupon Mook went to Kansas with instructions to settle up matters to the best advantage he could, selling when it could be done, and redeeming & selling. After he had been in Kansas a while and had looked the ground over he began operations. and in due time deeds were sent to My brother and to myself who executed, which we did & returned them.



We waited patiently to see the money come, but it never came except in one instance and that was I believe $1400. the consideration for the piece sold to J.M. Mock being the North East q. Sec 8 Tp 13. Range 16. This was all the money that we have ever reciev from the Kansas lands. And this amount would not cover, by any means, what we have advanced for redemption purposes.

To cut a long story short we have been defrauded grossly defrauded out of our rights by our own brother in-law the said J.M. Mock. He has endeavored to explain the matter by saying all the while, that the money



had been attached by so and so
for a claim to secure a claim, and
that it had to be paid into court
& then wait for a decision, etc etc,
And in other instances, that
the money could not be paid
over until some question effecting
the title had been settled etc etc.
And all this time we have been
in hopes of getting something and
we are now forced to the belief
and have evidence, that we have
been defrauded. There is a want
of integrity in Mordy's transactions
with us to such an extent that
I have lost all that property that
I had. Besides wronging us and
I am money, he has speculated
and taken the advantage of us
whereon he could do so.

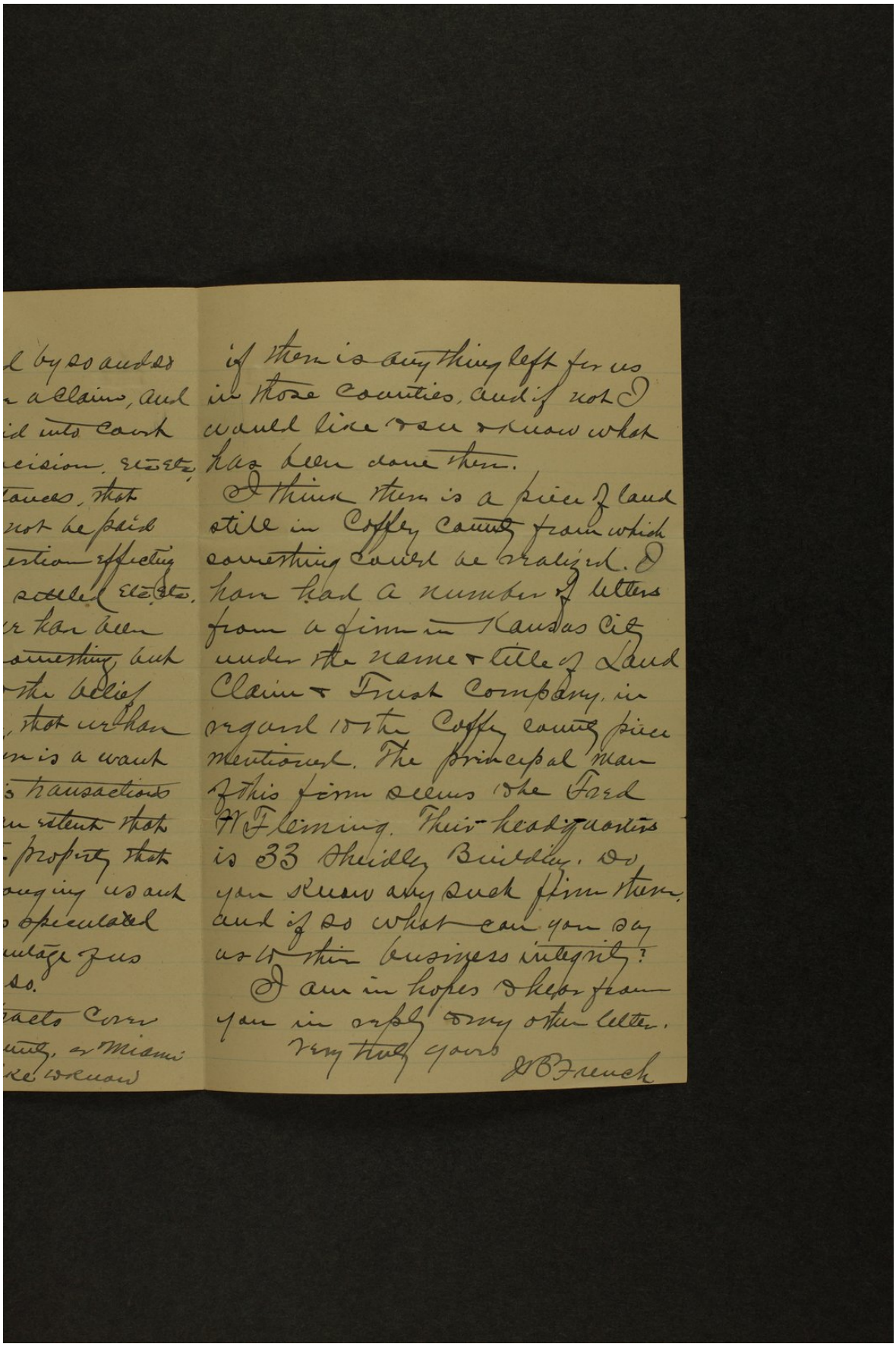
Do you abstracts Coffey
lands in Coffey County, or Miami
County? I should like to know

if there is an
in those coun
would like t
has been don

I think ther
title in Coffe
something coul
have had a
from a firm
under the na
Claim & Tru
regard to the
mentioned. The
of this firm a
W F Fleming.
is 33 Shield
you know an
and if so wh
us of this be

I am in
you in orde

Very truly



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a claim, and
id into court
cision, restr
tances, that
not be paid
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sold etc. etc.
r has been
something such
the belief
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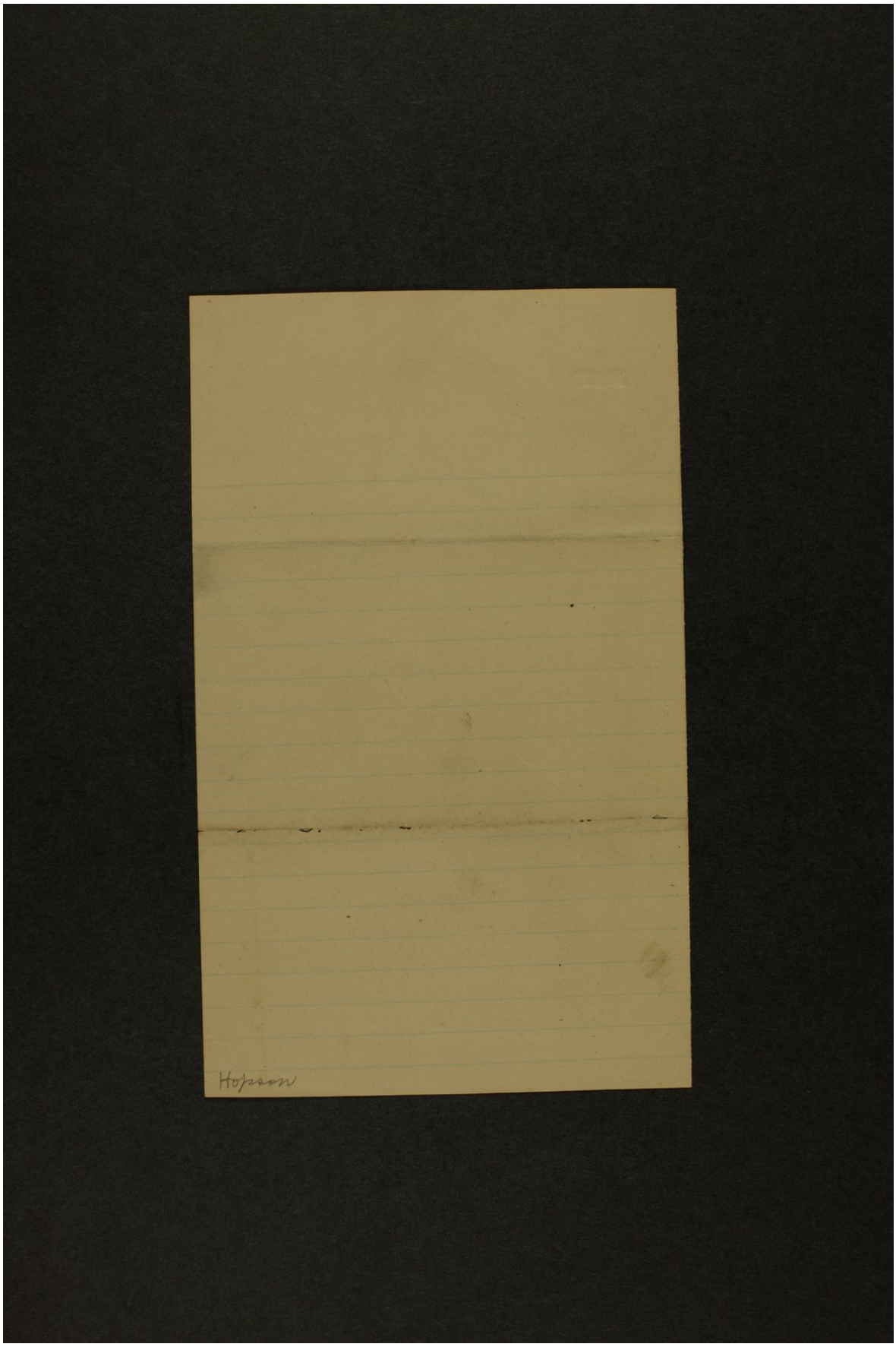
if there is anything left for us in those Counties, and if not I would like to know what has been done there.

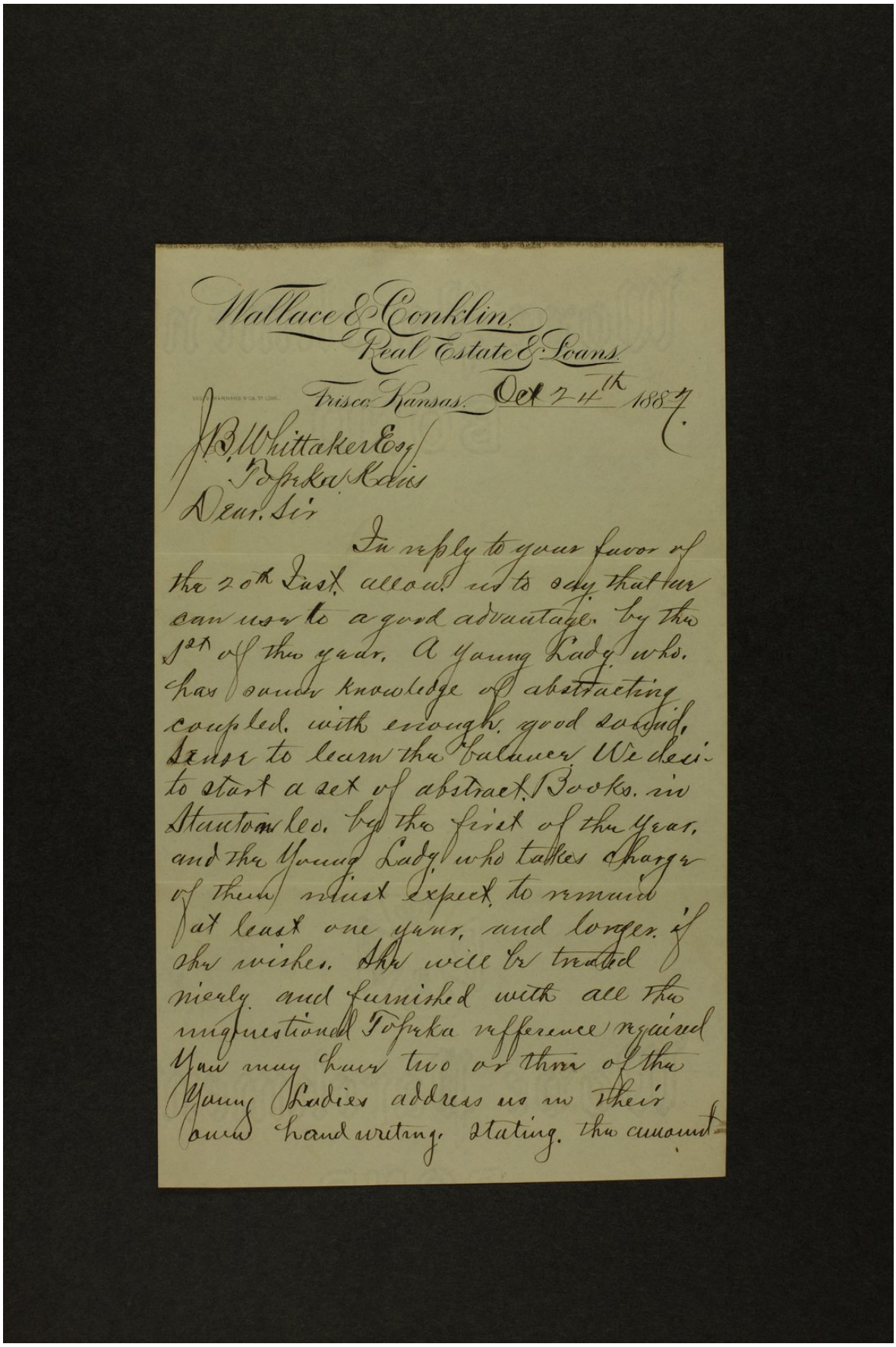
I think there is a piece of land still in Coffey County from which something could be realized. I have had a number of letters from a firm in Kansas City under the name & title of Land Claim & Trust Company, in regard to the Coffey County piece mentioned. The principal man of this firm seems to be Ford W Fleming. Their headquarters is 33 Shukley Building. Do you know any such firm there, and if so what can you say as to their business integrity?

I am in hopes to hear from you in reply to my other letter.

Very truly yours
J B Brench

James Barnes Whitaker correspondence

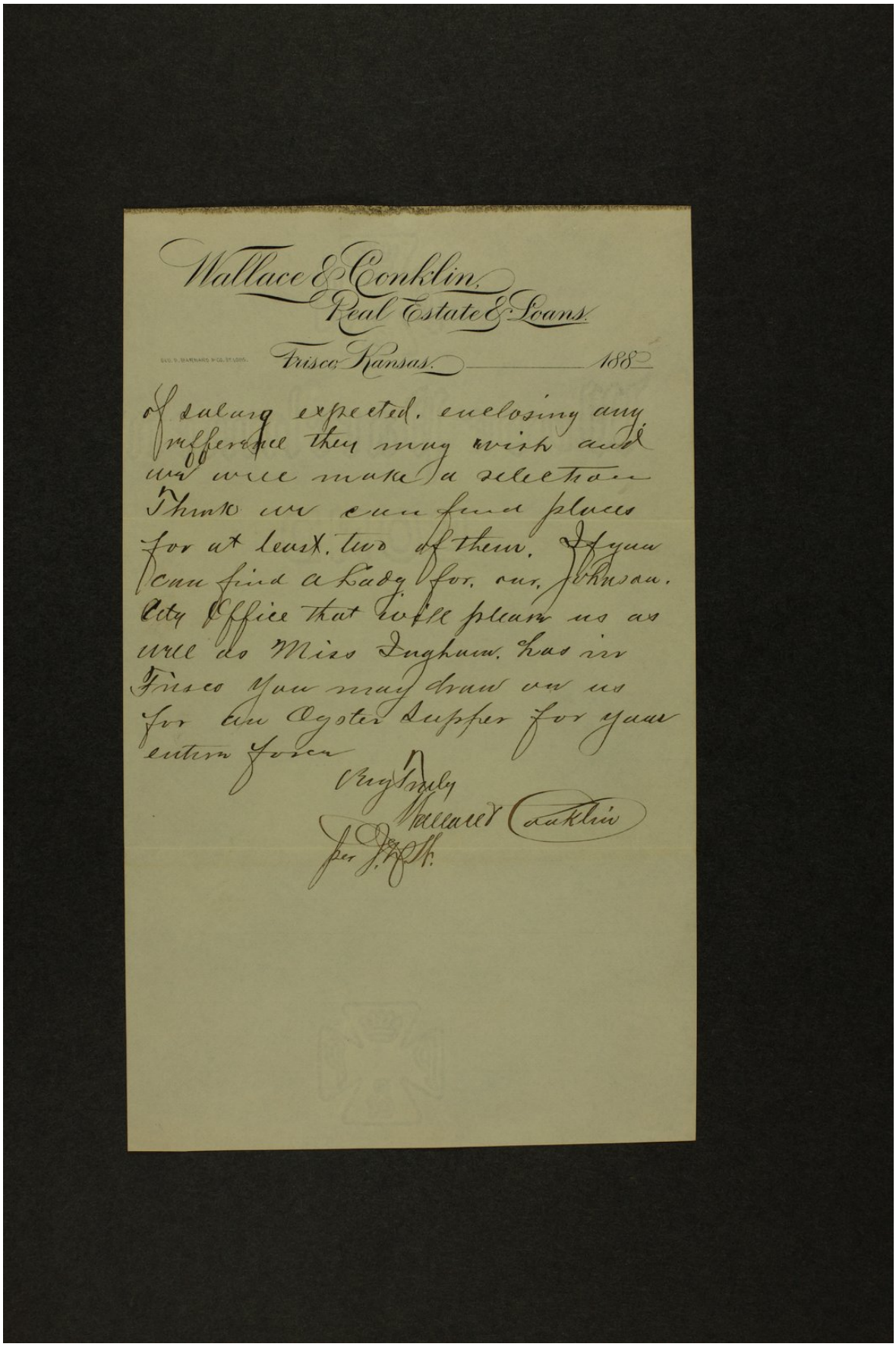




Wallace & Conklin.
Real Estate & Loans
Trisco Kansas. Oct 24th 1887

J. B. Whittaker Esq
Topeka Kans
Dear Sir

In reply to your favor of the 20th Inst. allow us to say that we can use to a good advantage by the 1st of the year. A young Lady who has some knowledge of abstracting coupled with enough good sound sense to learn the balance. We desire to start a set of abstract Books in Stanton Co. by the first of the Year, and the Young Lady who takes charge of them must expect to remain at least one year, and longer if she wishes. She will be treated nicely and furnished with all the unquestioned Topeka reference required You may have two or three of the Young Ladies address us in their own handwriting, stating the amount



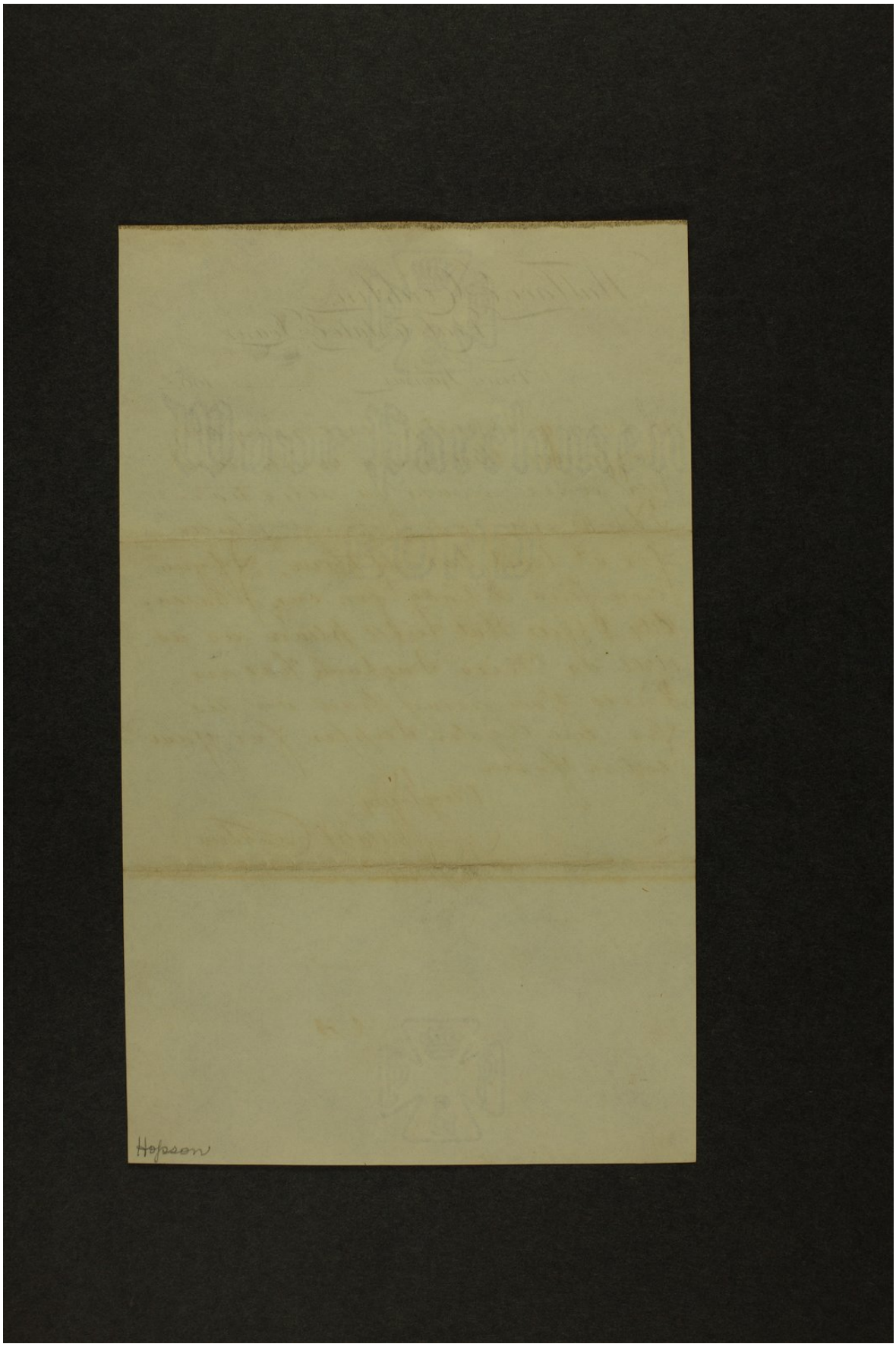
Wallace & Conklin.
Real Estate & Loans.

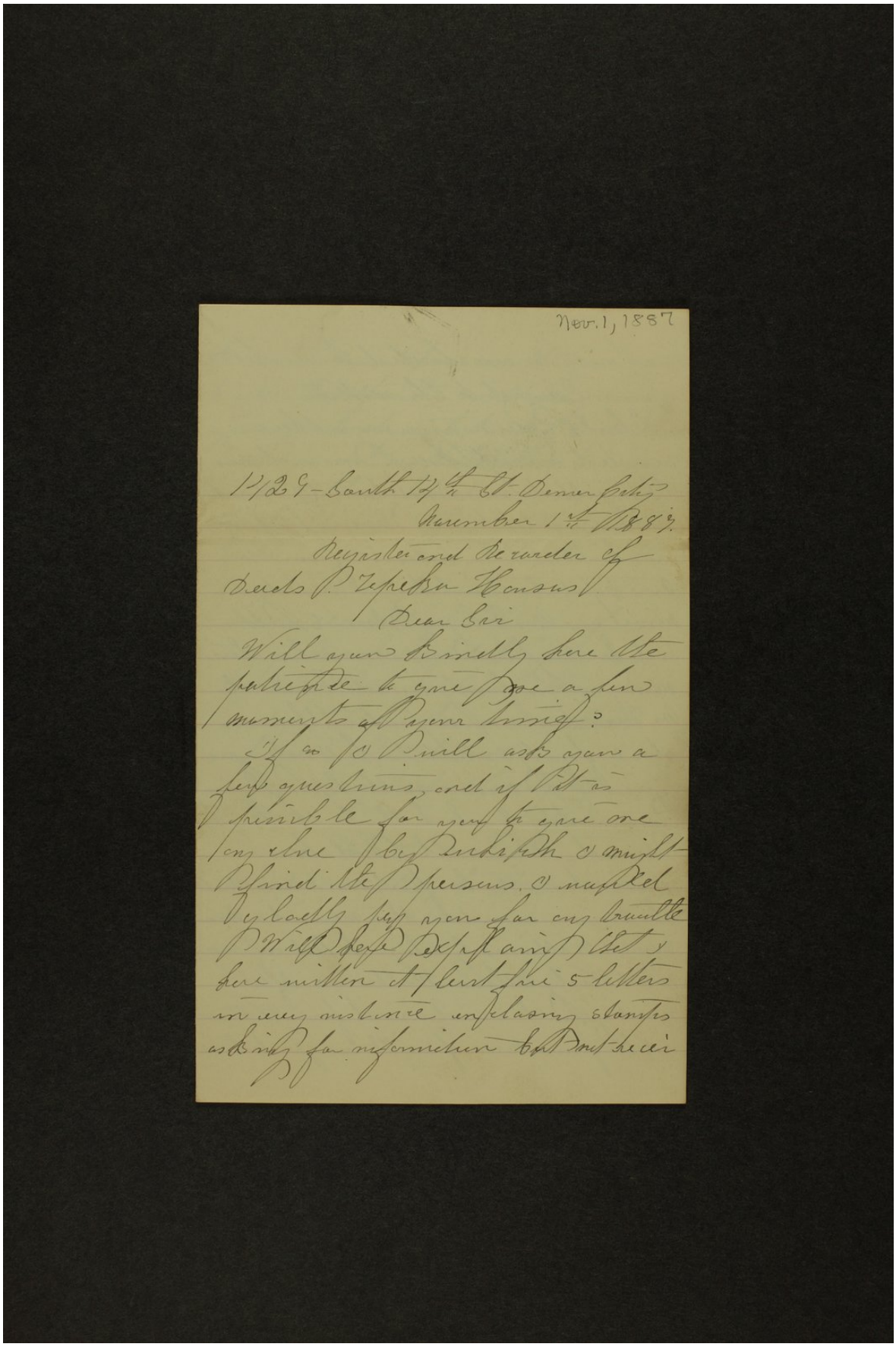
Trisco Kansas. _____ 188_

of salary expected. enclosing any reference they may wish and we will make a selection. Think we can find places for at least two of them. If you can find a Lady for our Johnson City Office that will please us as well do Miss Dugham has in Trisco You may draw on us for an Oyster Supper for your entire force

Very Truly
Wallace & Conklin
per J. W. C.

James Barnes Whitaker correspondence





Nov. 1, 1887

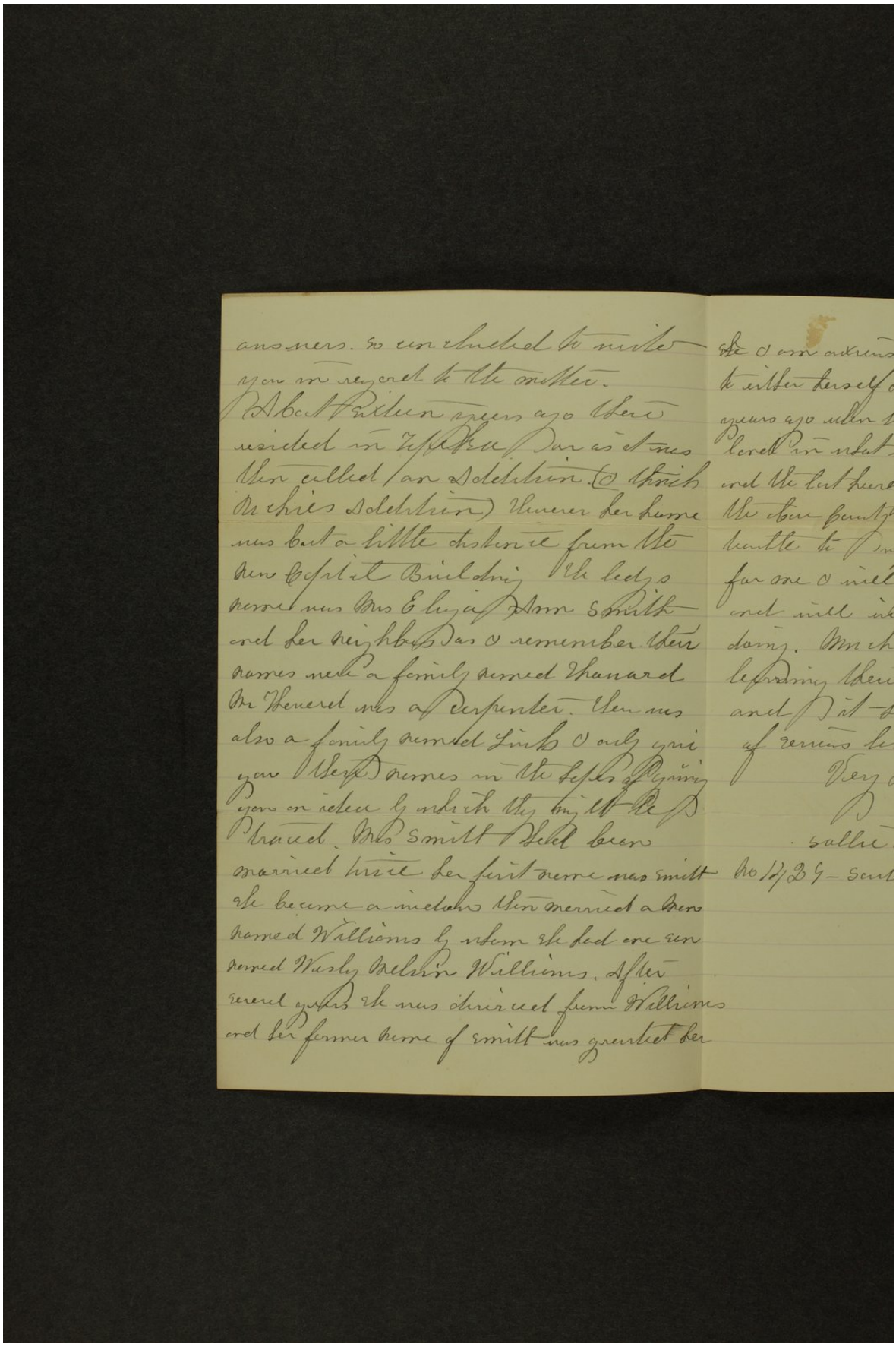
1129 South 4th St. Denver Colo
November 1st 1887.

Register and Recorder of
Deeds P. Zepeba Kansas.

Dear Sir

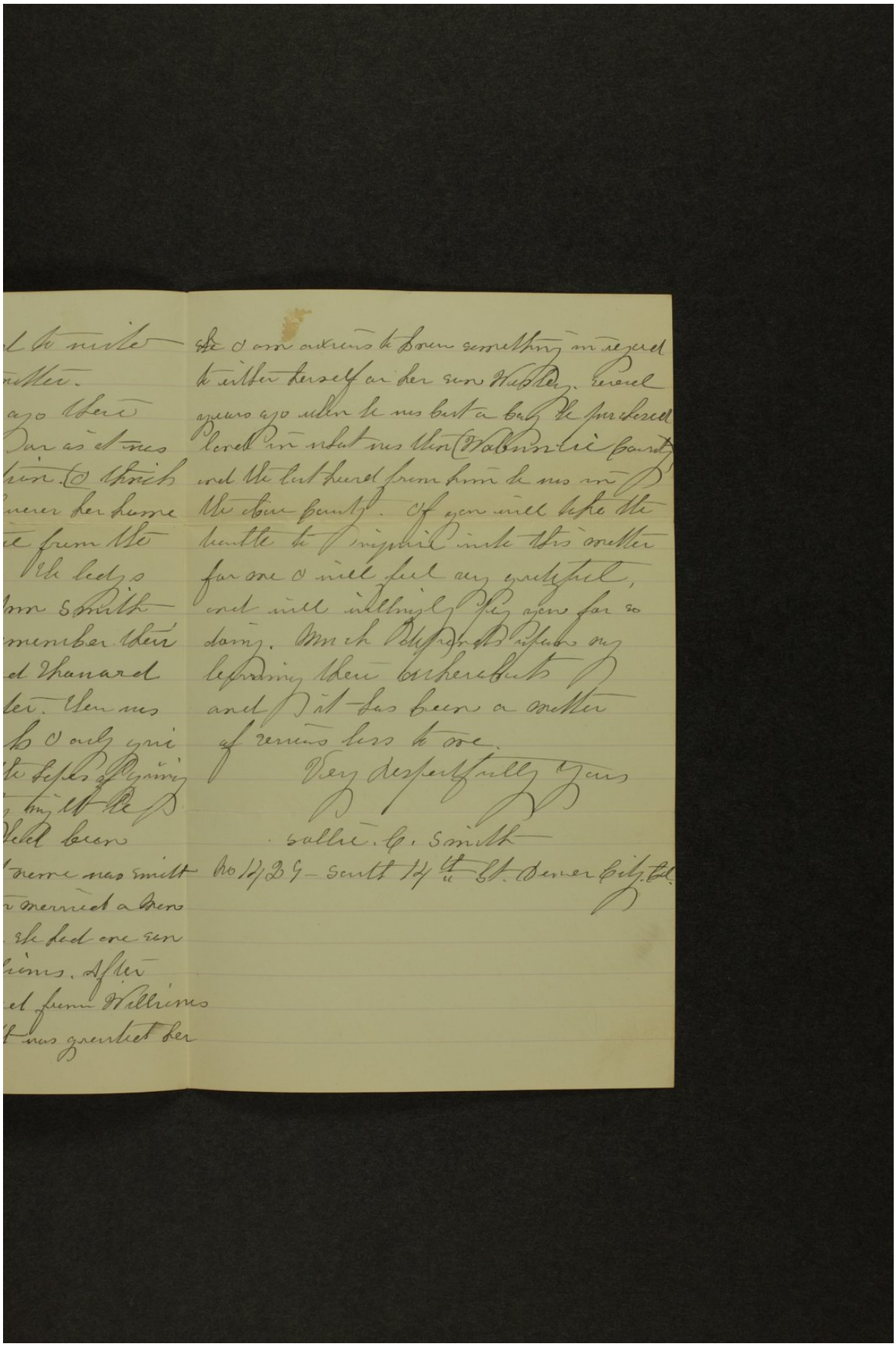
Will you kindly have the
politeness to give me a few
moments of your time?

If so I will ask you a
few questions, and if it is
possible for you to give me
any clue by which I might
find the persons, I would
gladly pay you for any trouble
I will here explain that I
have written at least five letters
in each instance enclosing stamps
asking for information but have



answers. so am shocked to write
you am regret to the matter.
About Fifteen years ago there
resided in Topeka Kan as it was
then called Kan Soldiers Orphans
Homes Soldiers Home) Homes her home
was but a little distance from the
Main Capital Building She lived
across was Mrs Eliza Ann Smith
and her neighbors Kas a remember there
names were a family named Maynard
Mr Maynard was a Carpenter. There was
also a family named Sinks Only one
your Uncle names in the papers of Topeka
you or others by which they might be
traced. Mrs Smith Dickel been
married twice her first name was Smith
She became a inebriate then married a man
named Williams by whom she had one son
named Wesley Melvin Williams. After
several years she was divorced from Williams
and her former name of Smith was granted her

She Com attempt
to write herself
years ago when
lived in what
and the last here
the Com family
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and Pat
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Very
Sallie
Oct 1/23 - Sent



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She lives
ohn Smith
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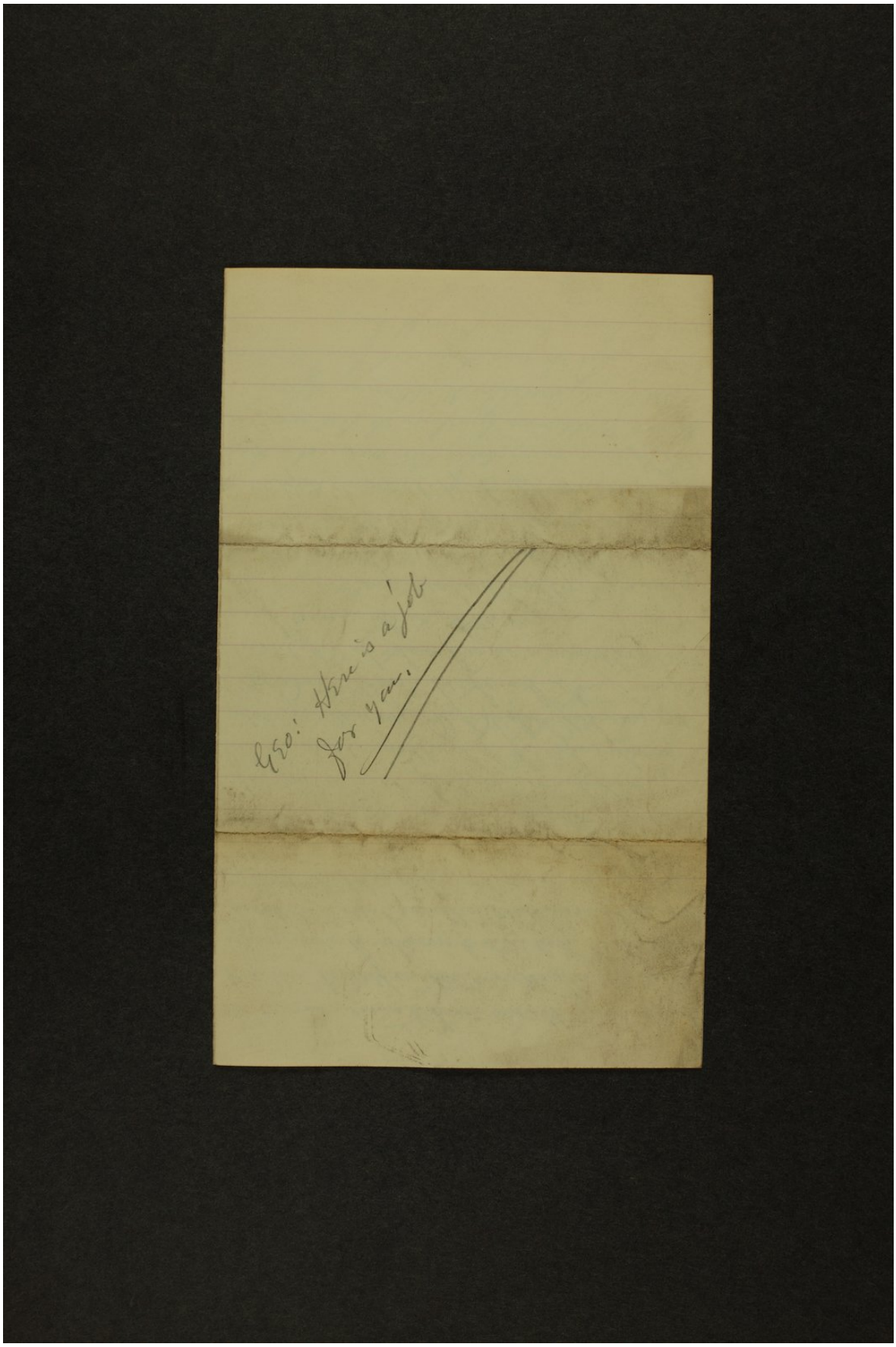
She & Son desires to know something in regard
to either herself or her son Webster. Several
years ago when he was but a boy he purchased
Bored in what was then Wabaunsee County
and He but heard from him he was in
the above County. If you will help the
matter to a right issue in this matter
for me & will feel very grateful,
and will willingly pay you for so
doing. Much Respects please any
befriending them therefore but
and if it has been a matter
of serious loss to me.

Very respectfully Yours

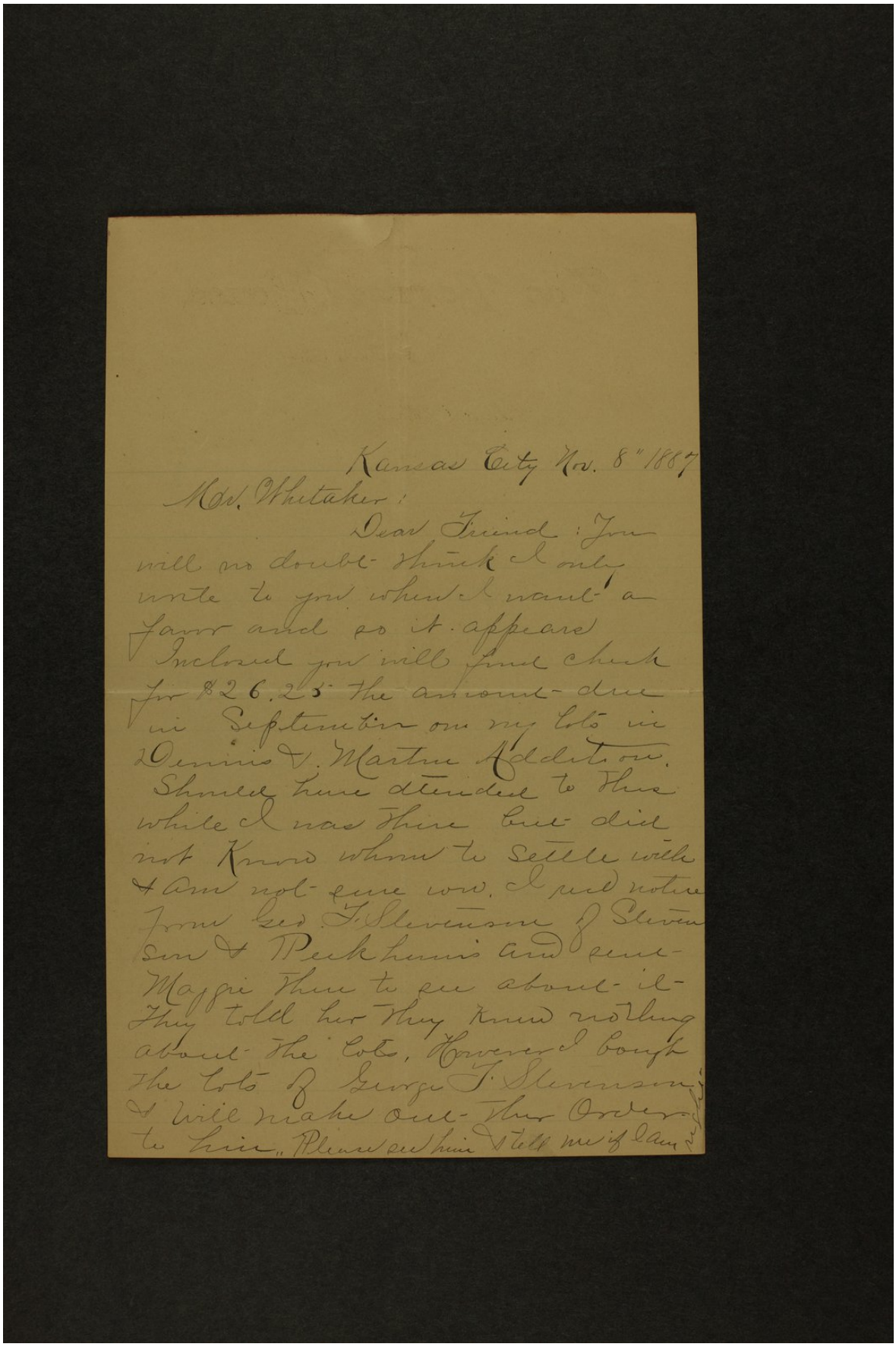
Sallie E. Smith

Box 1/23 - Smith Ky " St. Denver City Col.

James Barnes Whitaker correspondence



James Barnes Whitaker correspondence

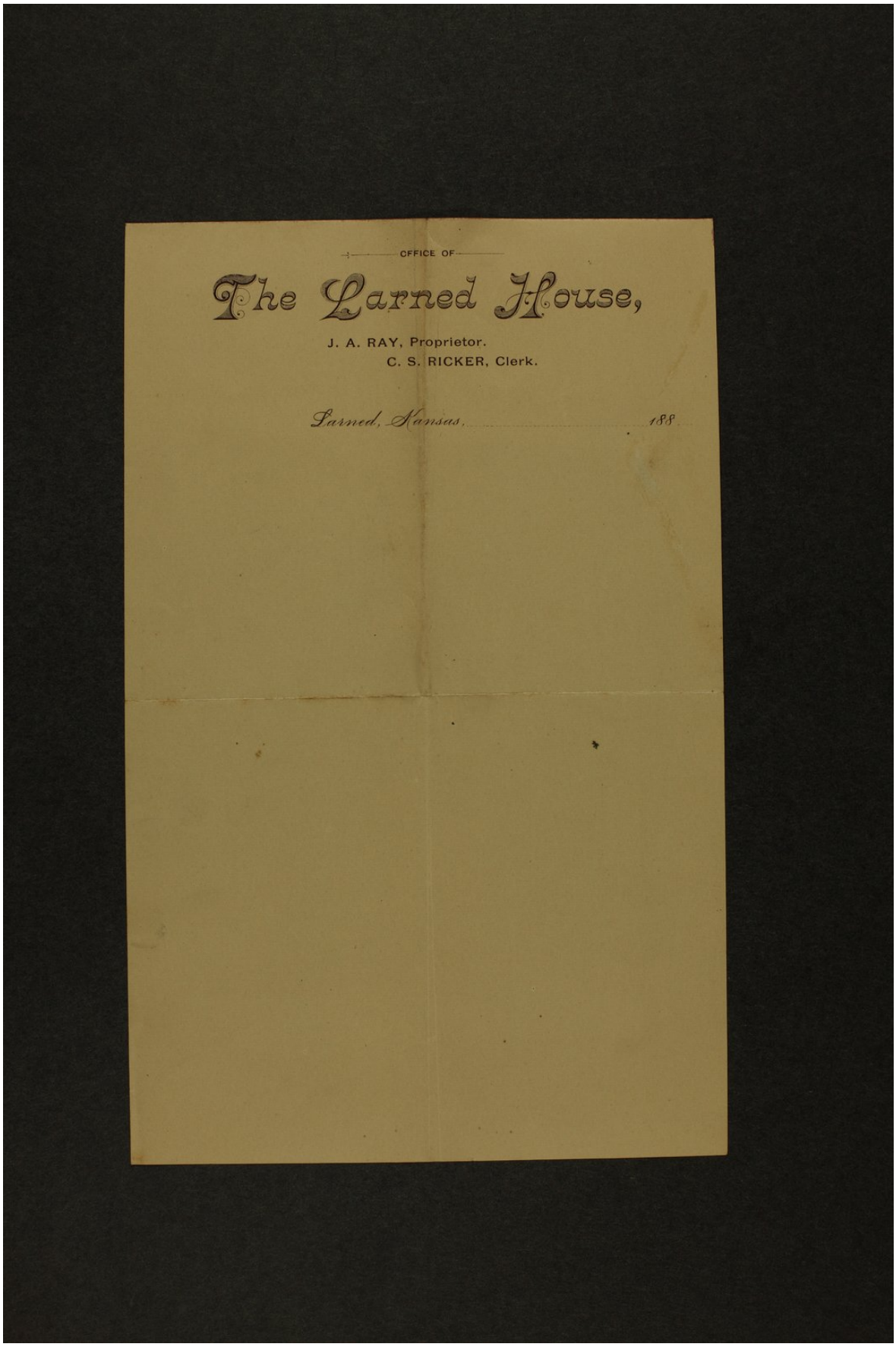


Kansas City Nov. 8" 1887

Mr. Whitaker:

Dear Friend: You will no doubt think I only write to you when I want a favor and so it appears. Inclosed you will find check for $26.25 the amount due in September on my lots in Dennis & Martin Addition. Should have attended to this while I was there but did not know whom to settle with & am not sure now. I put notice from Geo. T. Stevenson & Stevenson & Peckham's and sent Maggie them to see about it. They told her they knew nothing about the lots. However I bought the lots of George T. Stevenson & will make out their Orders to him. Please see him & tell me if I am

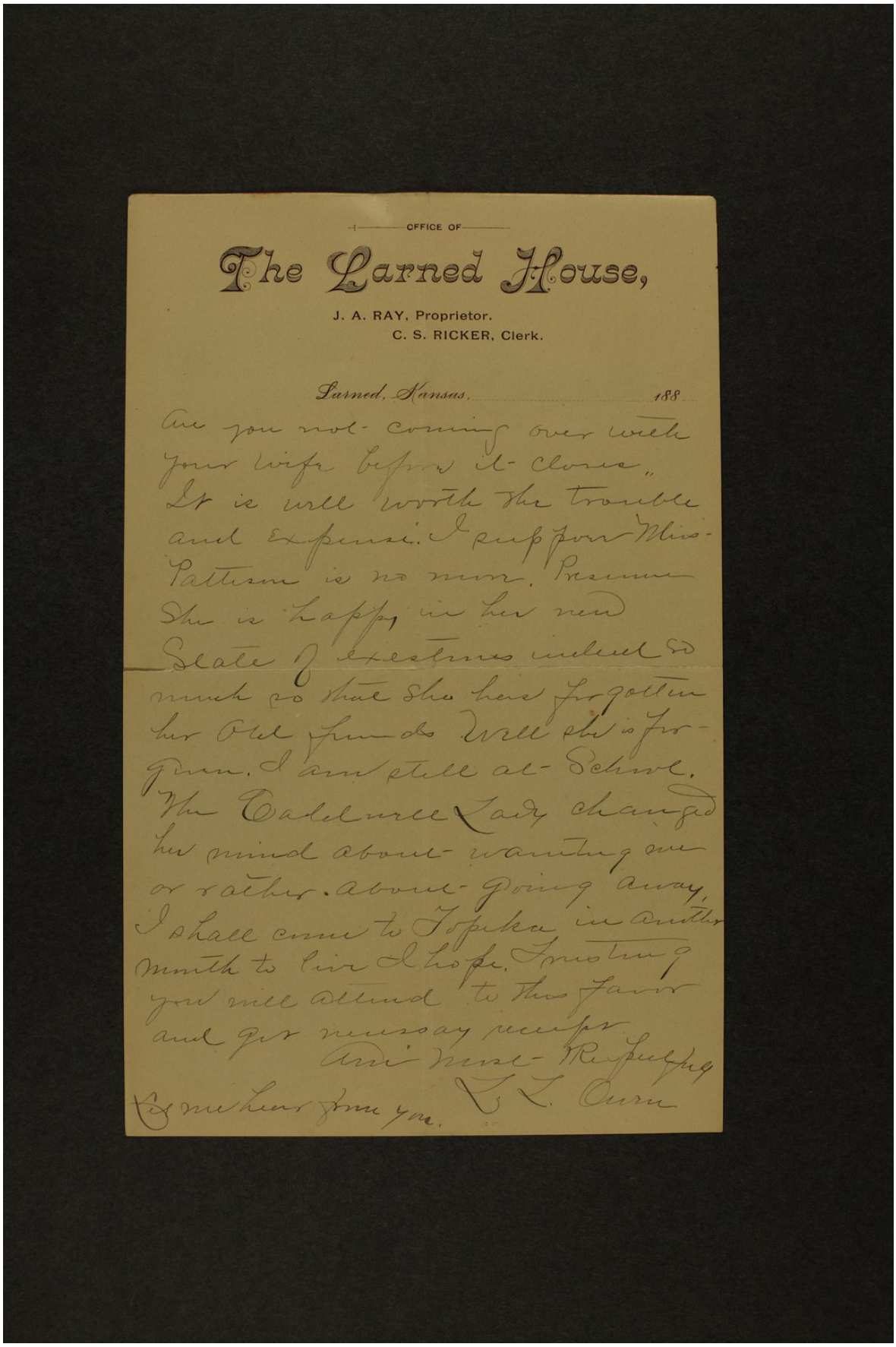
James Barnes Whitaker correspondence


OFFICE OF

The Larned House,

J. A. RAY, Proprietor.
C. S. RICKER, Clerk.

Larned, Kansas, 188



OFFICE OF

The Larned House,

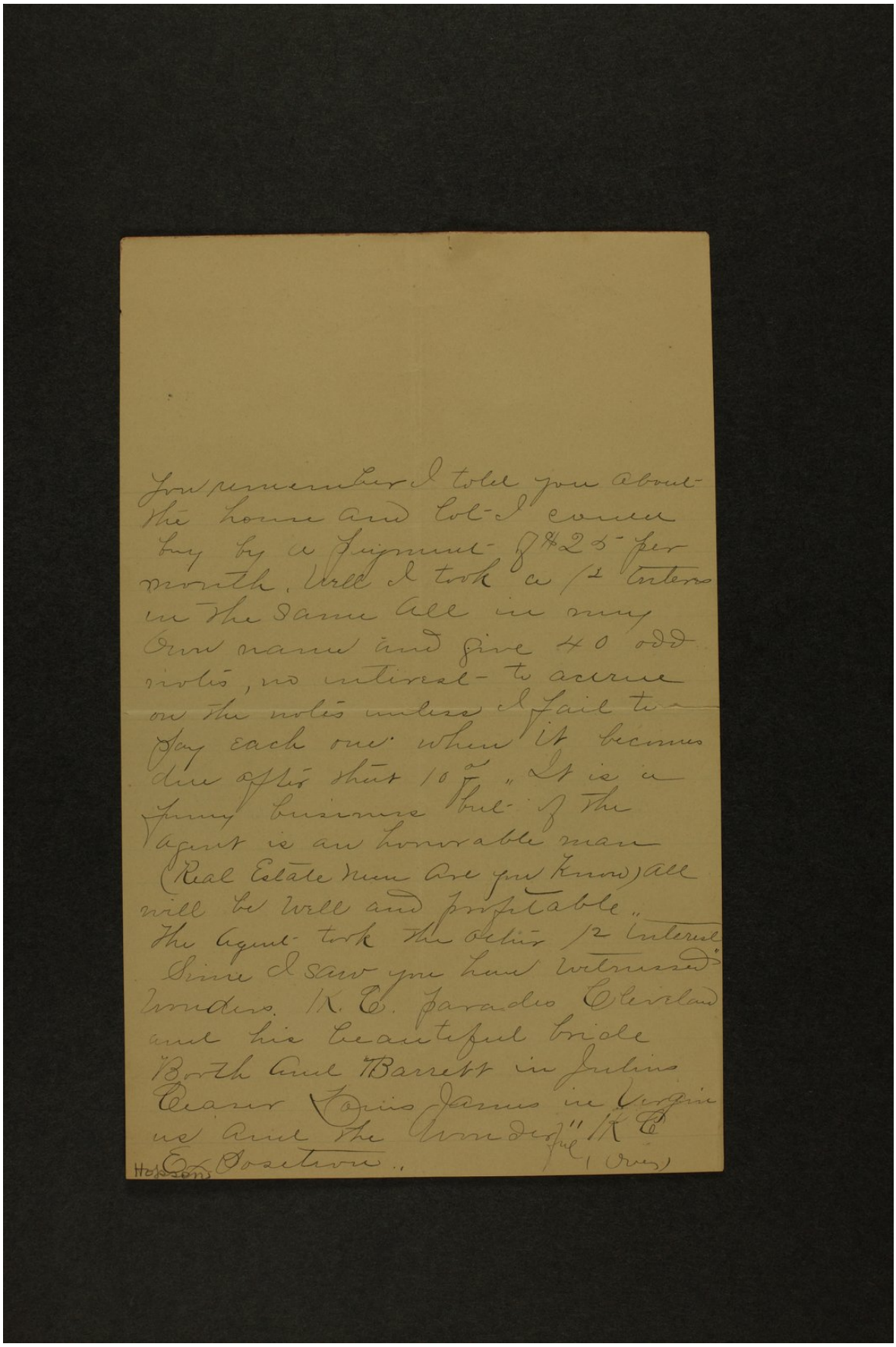
J. A. RAY, Proprietor.
C. S. RICKER, Clerk.

Larned, Kansas, 188

Are you not coming over with your wife before it closes.
It is well worth the trouble and expense. I suppose Miss Patterson is no more. Presume she is happy in her new State of existence indeed so much so that she has forgotten her old friends. Well she is forgiven. I am still at School. The Cadmus Lady changed her mind about wanting me or rather about going away. I shall come to Topeka in another month to live I hope. Trusting you will attend to this favor and get me a pass.
And remain Respectfully
Yours
L. L. Cann

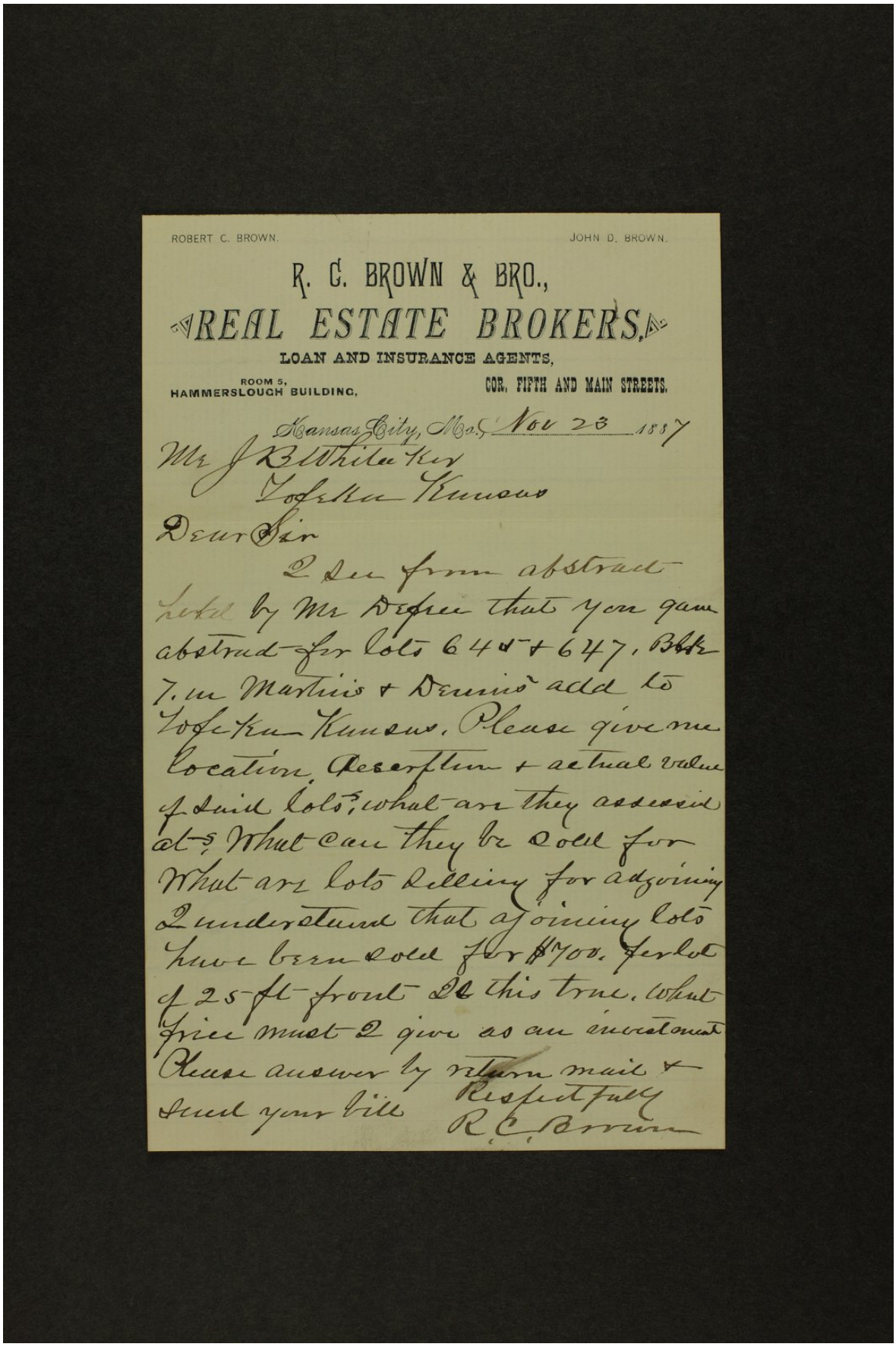
Let me hear from you.

James Barnes Whitaker correspondence



You remember I told you about the house and lot I was going to buy by a payment of $25 per month. Well I took a 1/2 interest in the same all in my own name and give 40 odd notes, no interest to accrue on the notes unless I fail to pay each one when it becomes due after that 10%. It is a funny business but if the agent is an honorable man (Real Estate men are you know) all will be well and profitable. The agent took the other 1/2 interest.

Since I saw you have witnessed Anders. K. C. Parades Cleveland and his beautiful bride Booth and Barrett in Julius Caesar Louis James in Virginius and the Anderson "K C" Operations.



ROBERT C. BROWN. JOHN D. BROWN.

R. C. BROWN & BRO.,

REAL ESTATE BROKERS,

LOAN AND INSURANCE AGENTS,

ROOM 5, HAMMERSLOUGH BUILDING, COR. FIFTH AND MAIN STREETS.

Kansas City, Mo., Nov 23 1887

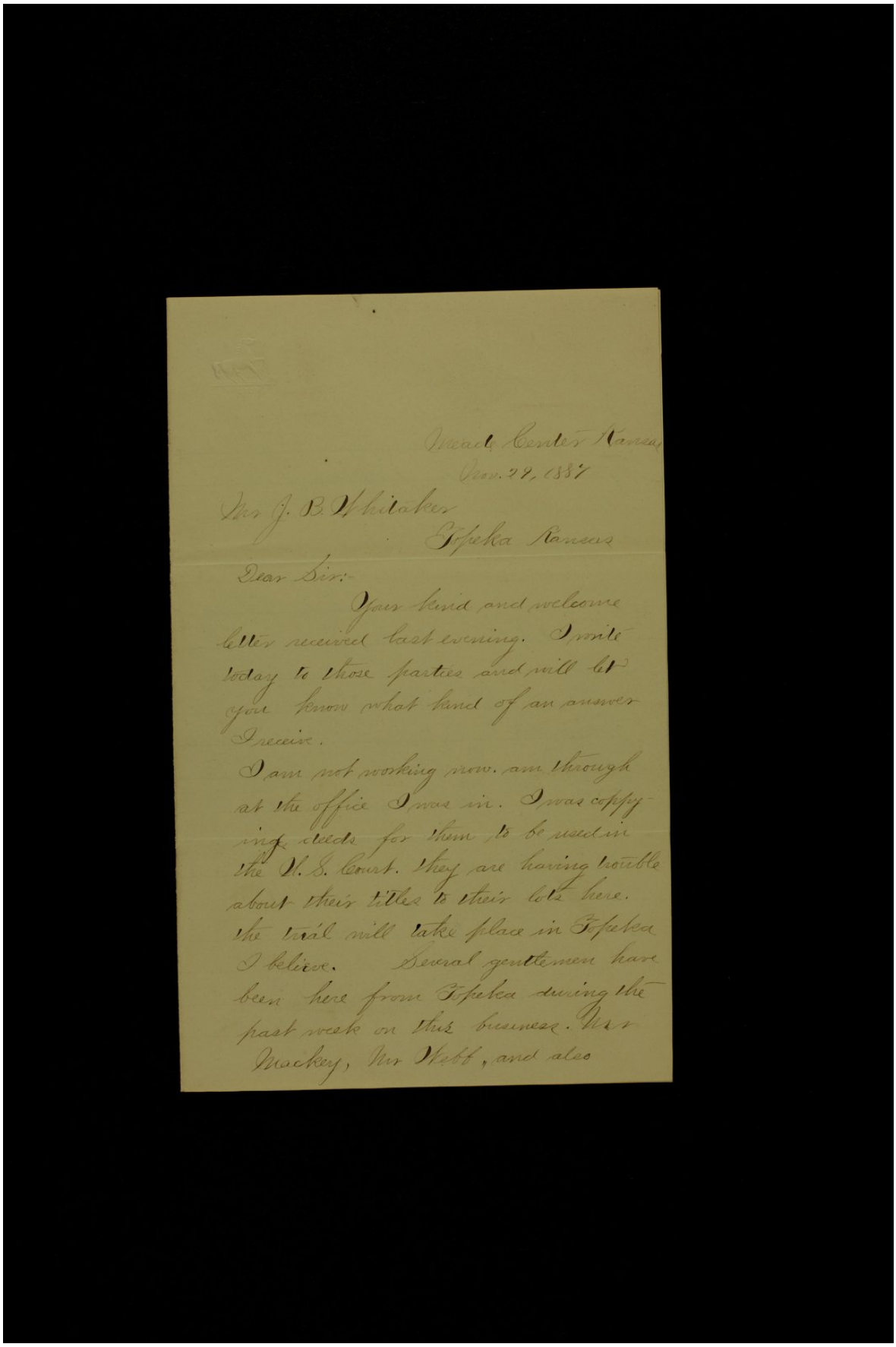
Mr J B Whitaker
Topeka Kansas

Dear Sir

I see from abstract
lately by Mr Dysart that you gave
abstract for lots 646 + 647, Blk
7, in Martin & Dennis add to
Topeka Kansas. Please give me
location, description + actual value
of said lots; what are they assessed
at? What can they be sold for
What are lots selling for adjoining
I understand that adjoining lots
have been sold for $700. per lot
of 25 ft front & this true. What
price must I give as an investment
Please answer by return mail +
send your bill

Respectfully
R. C. Brown

James Barnes Whitaker correspondence



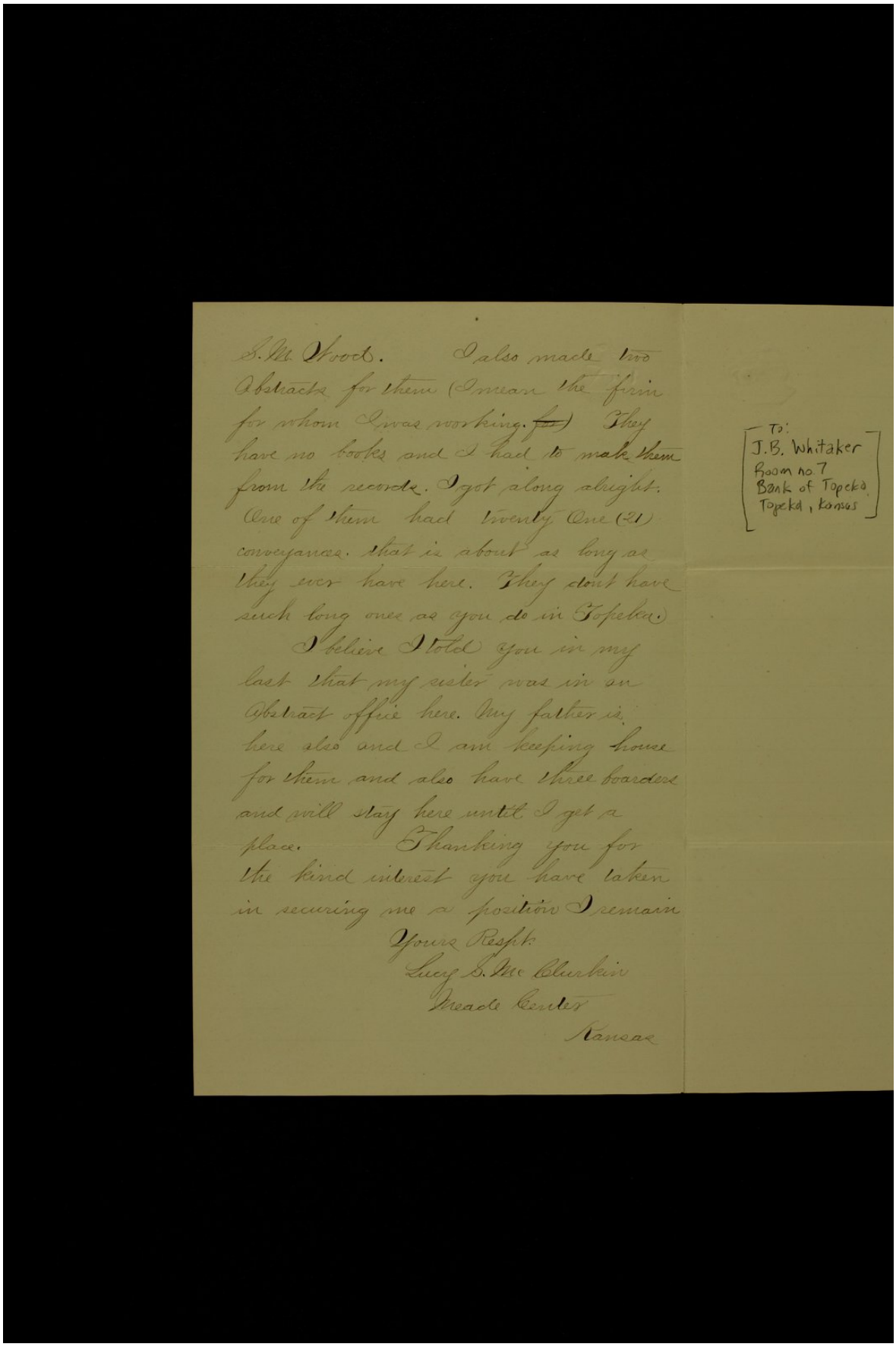
Meade Center Kansas
Nov. 29, 1887

Mr J. B. Whitaker
Topeka Kansas

Dear Sir:-

Your kind and welcome letter received last evening. I write today to those parties and will let you know what kind of an answer I receive.

I am not working now. am through at the office I was in. I was copying deeds for them to be used in the U. S. Court. They are having trouble about their titles to their lots here. the trial will take place in Topeka I believe. Several gentlemen have been here from Topeka during the past week on this business. Mr Mackey, Mr Webb, and also



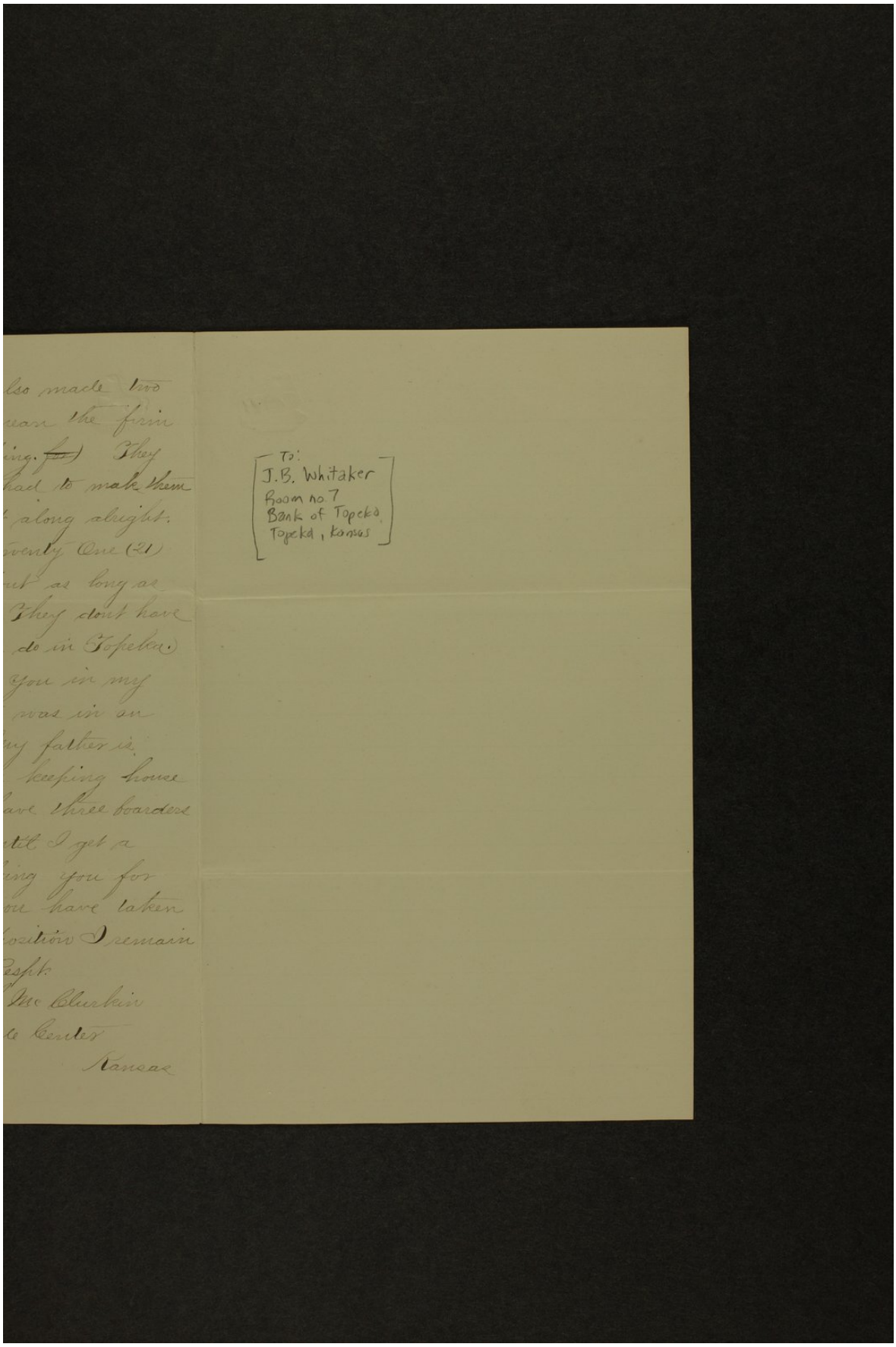
S. W. Wood. I also made two Abstracts for them (I mean the firm for whom I was working. ~~for~~) They have no books and I had to make them from the records. I got along alright. One of them had twenty One (21) conveyances. That is about as long as they ever have here. They dont have such long ones as you do in Topeka.

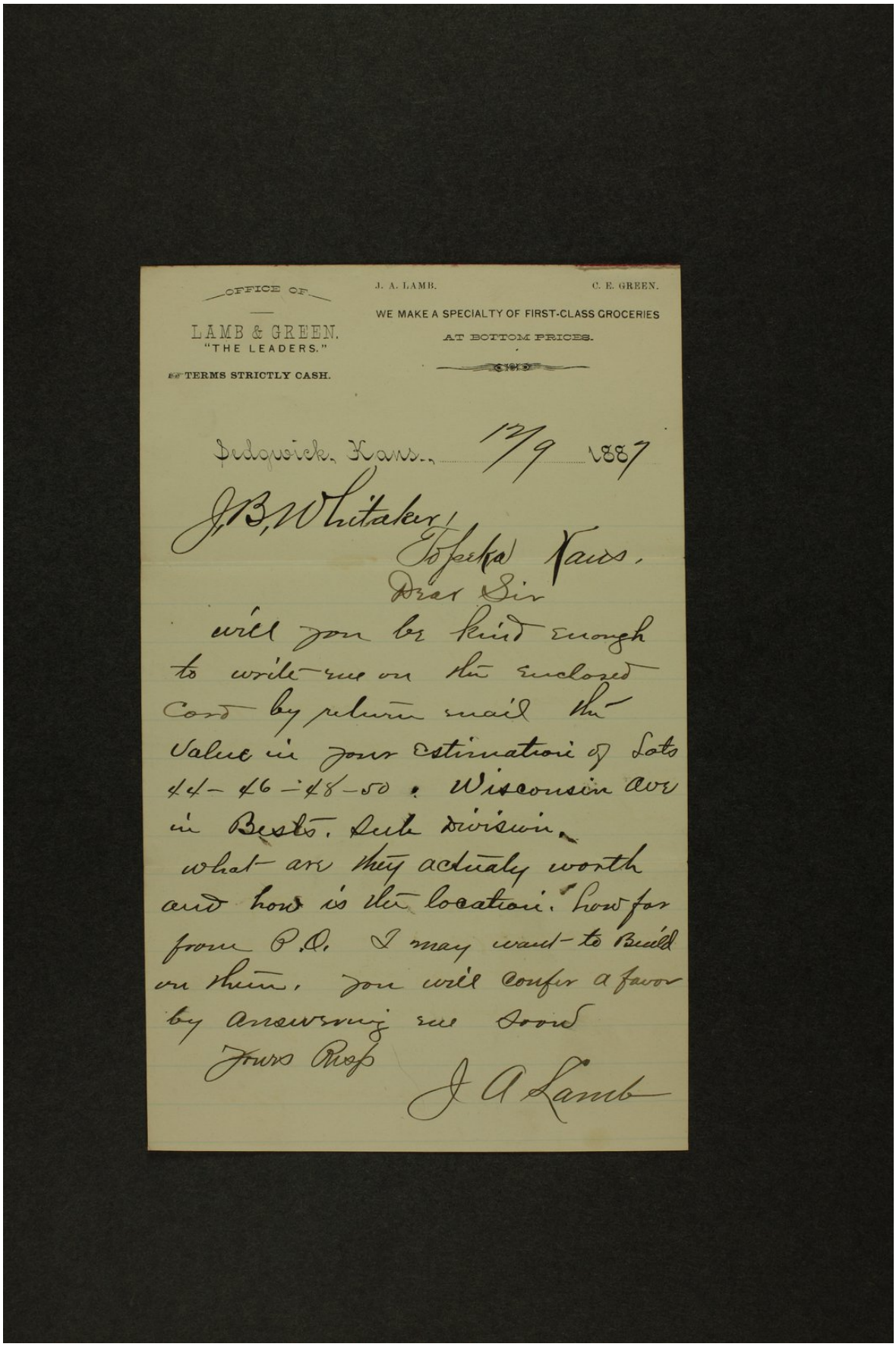
I believe I told you in my last that my sister was in an Abstract office here. My father is here also and I am keeping house for them and also have three boarders and will stay here until I get a place. Thanking you for the kind interest you have taken in securing me a position I remain

Yours Respt.
Lucy D. Mae Clurkin
Meade Center
Kansas

To:
J.B. Whitaker
Room no. 7
Bank of Topeka
Topeka, Kansas

James Barnes Whitaker correspondence





OFFICE OF
LAMB & GREEN.
"THE LEADERS."
TERMS STRICTLY CASH.

J. A. LAMB. C. E. GREEN.
WE MAKE A SPECIALTY OF FIRST-CLASS GROCERIES
AT BOTTOM PRICES.

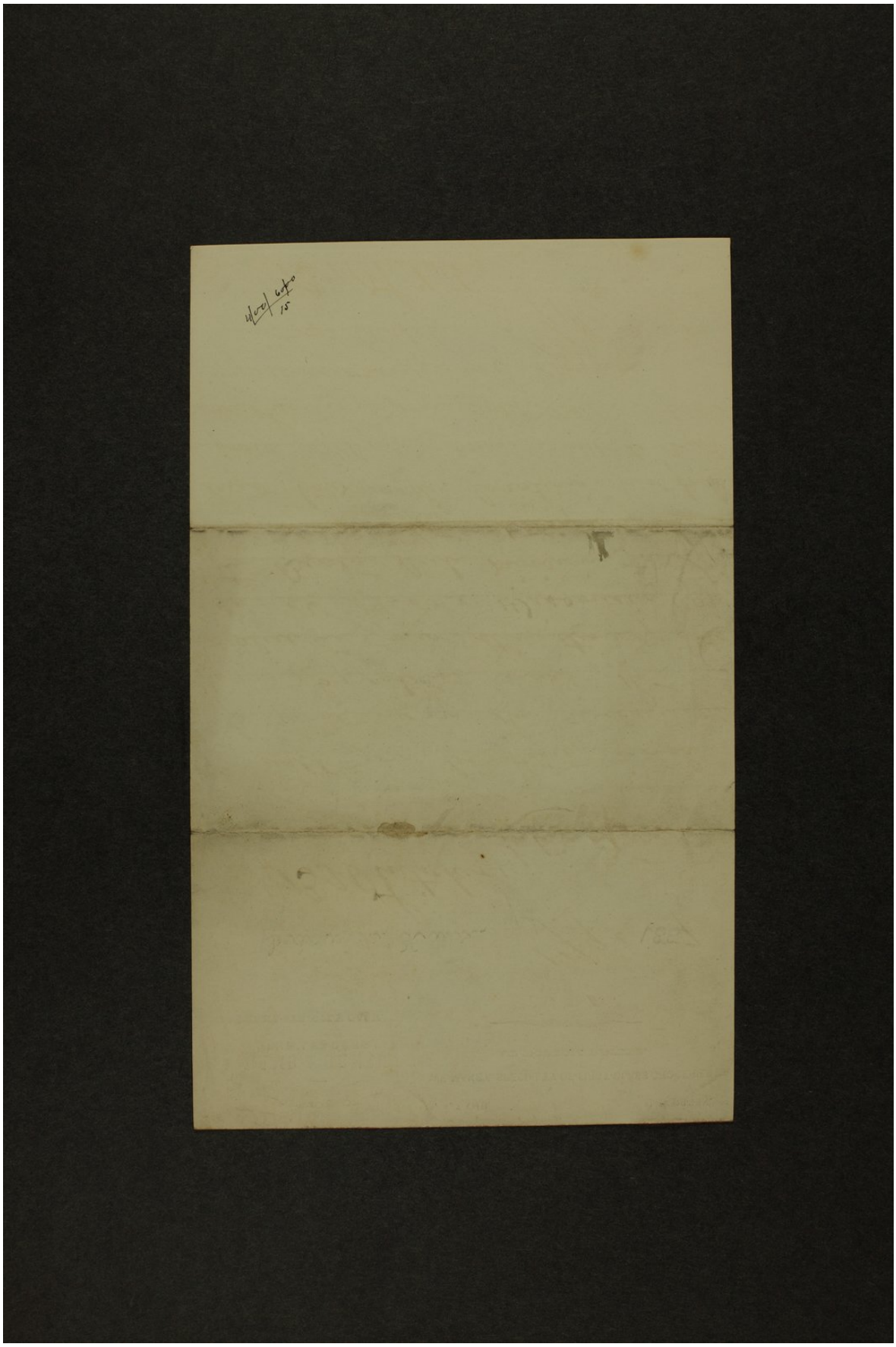
Sedgwick, Kans., 17 1887

J. B. Whitaker
Topeka Kans.

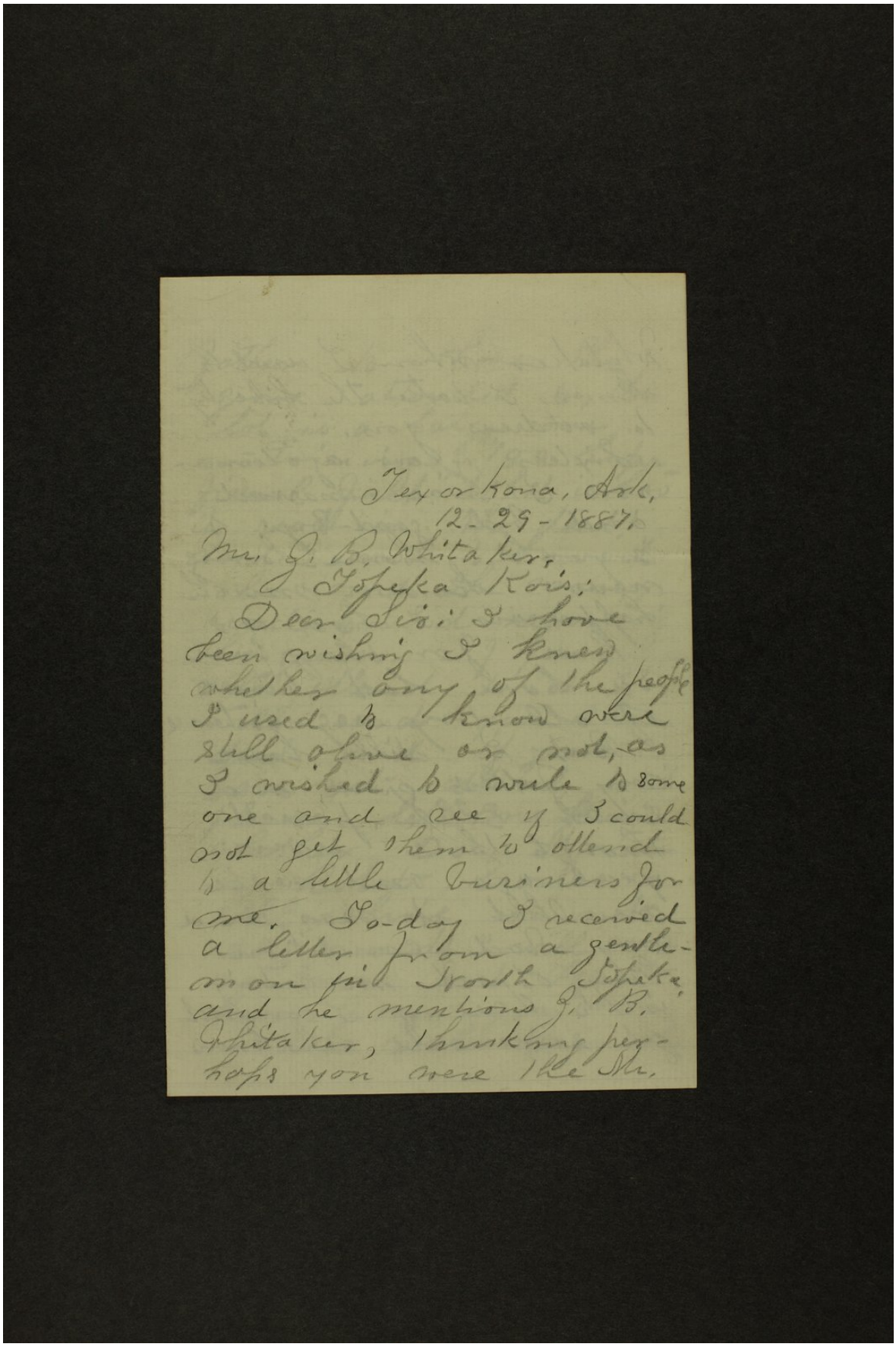
Dear Sir
will you be kind enough to write me on the enclosed card by return mail the value in your estimation of Lots 44-46-48-50. Wisconsin Ave in Best's Sub division. what are they actualy worth and how is the location. how far from P.O. I may want to build on them. you will confer a favor by answering me soon

Yours Resp
J A Lamb

James Barnes Whitaker correspondence



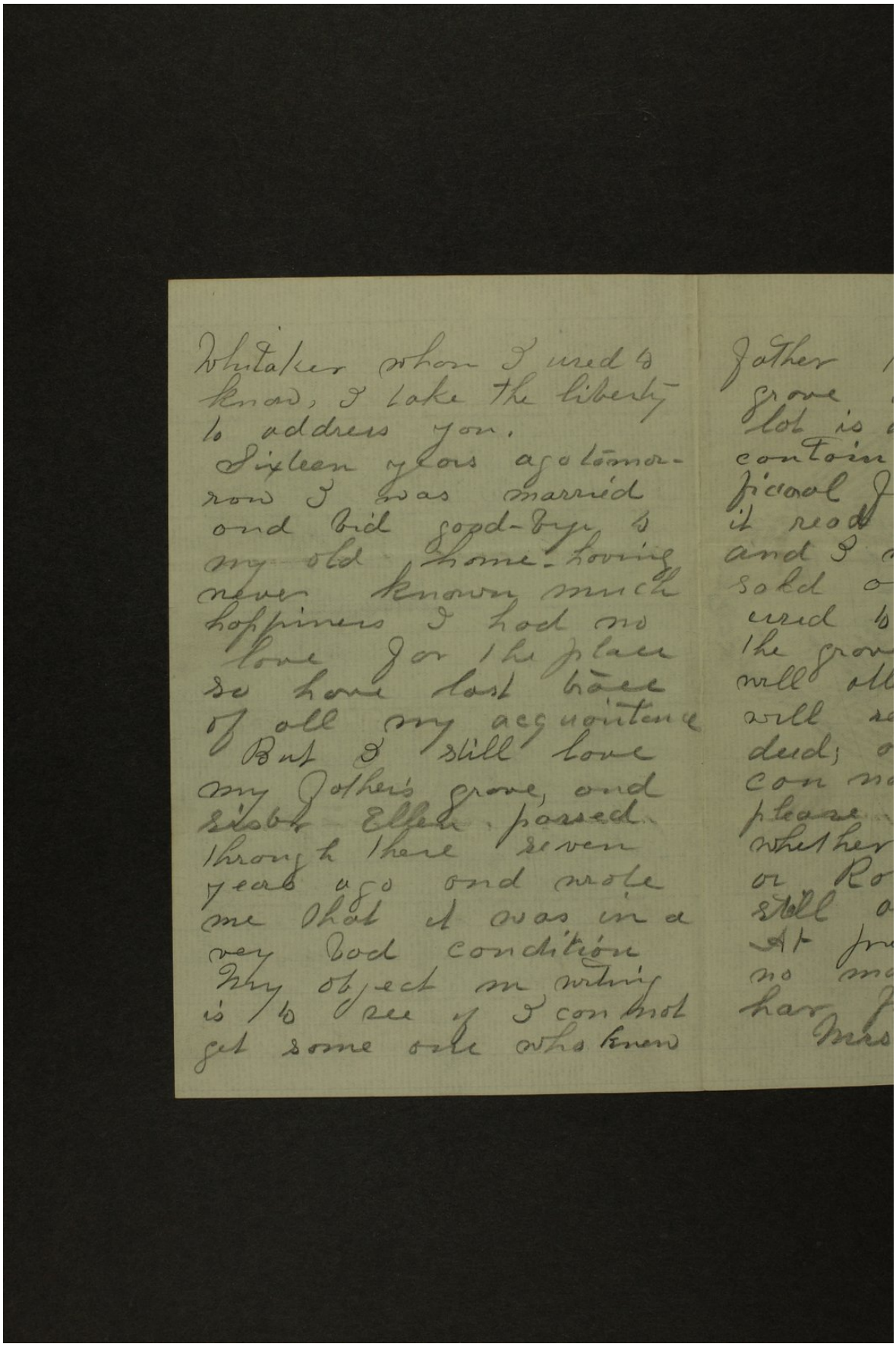
James Barnes Whitaker correspondence



Texarkana, Ark.
12-29-1887.

Mr. J. B. Whitaker.
Topeka Kan.

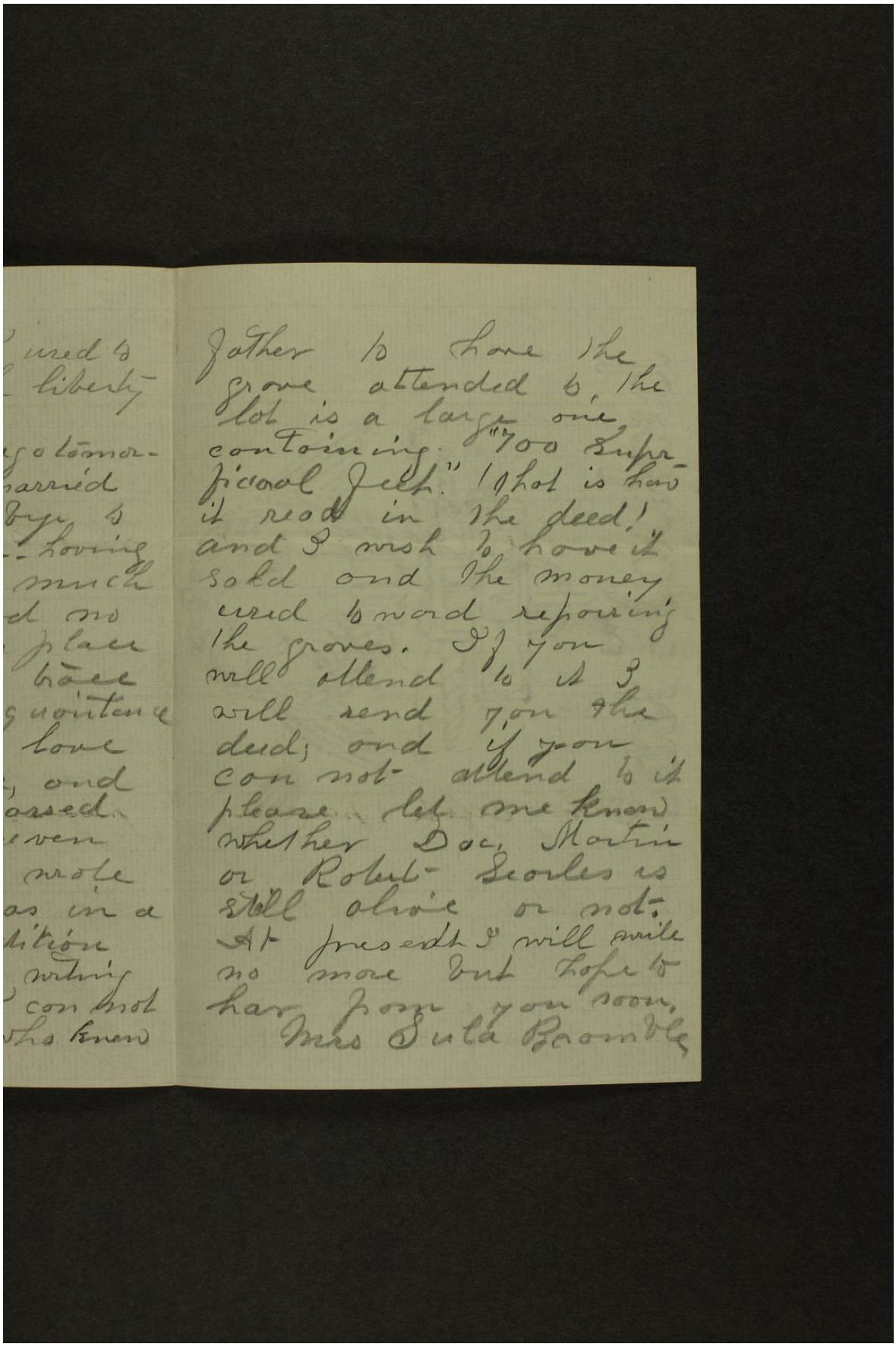
Dear Sir: I have been wishing I knew whether any of the people I used to know were still alive or not, as I wished to write to some one and see if I could not get them to attend to a little business for me. To-day I received a letter from a gentleman on 5th South Topeka, and he mentions J. B. Whitaker, I thinking perhaps you were the Mr.



Whitaker whom I used to
know, I take the liberty
to address you.
Sixteen years ago tomor-
row I was married
and bid good-bye to
my old home. Having
never known much
happiness I had no
love for the place
no home last tie
of all my acquaintance
But I still love
my father's grave, and
Sister Ellen passed
through there seven
years ago and wrote
me that it was in a
very bad condition
My object in writing
is to see if I can not
get some one who knew

father
grave
lot is
contain
ficial
it read
and I
sold
used to
the grave
will
will
dead;
can
please
whether
or
still
At
no
has

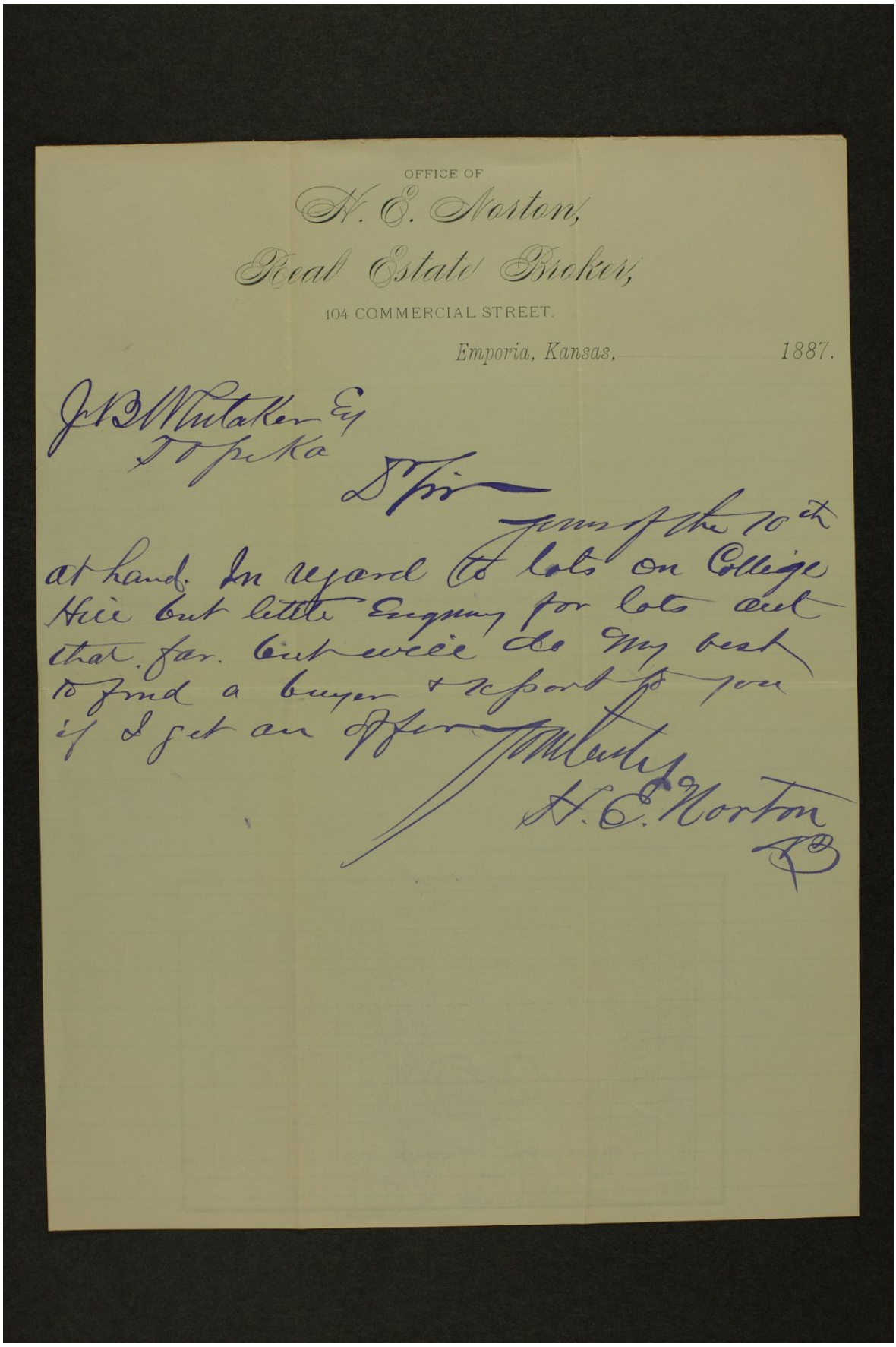
Mrs



used to
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father to have the
grave attended to. The
lot is a large one
containing "700 Superficial Feet." What is how
it read in the deed?
and I wish to have it
sold and the money
used toward repairing
the graves. If you
will attend to it I
will send you the
deed; and if you
can not attend to it
please let me know
whether Doc, Martin
or Robt. Scoles is
still alive or not.
As I guess I will write
no more but hope to
hear from you soon.
Mrs Zula Bramble

James Barnes Whitaker correspondence



OFFICE OF
H. E. Norton,
Real Estate Broker,
104 COMMERCIAL STREET.

Emporia, Kansas, 1887.

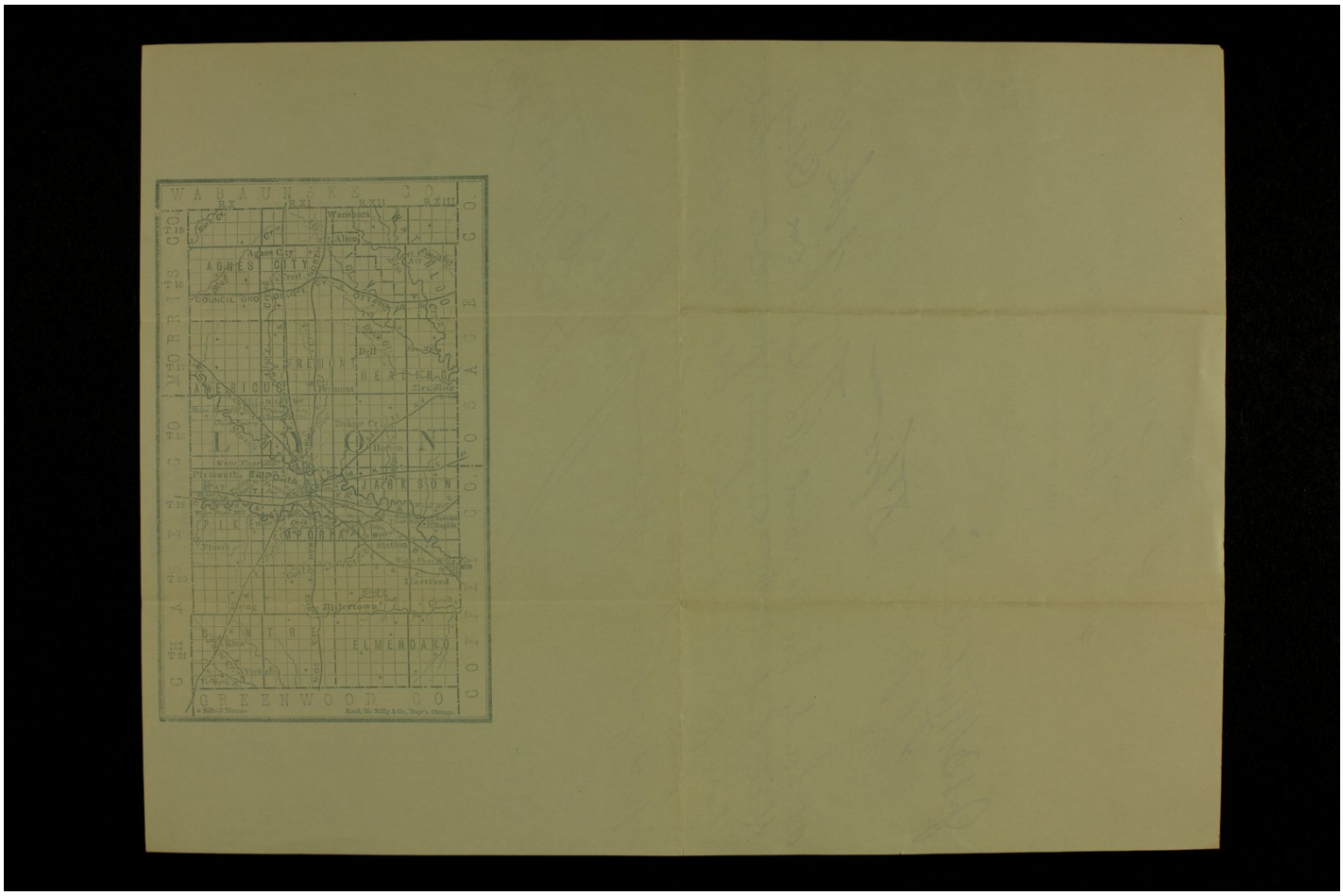
J. B. Whitaker Esq
Topeka

Dear Sir

Yours of the 10th at hand. In regard to lots on College Hill but little enquiry for lots out that far. But will do my best to find a buyer & report to you if I get an offer.

Yours truly
H. E. Norton

James Barnes Whitaker correspondence



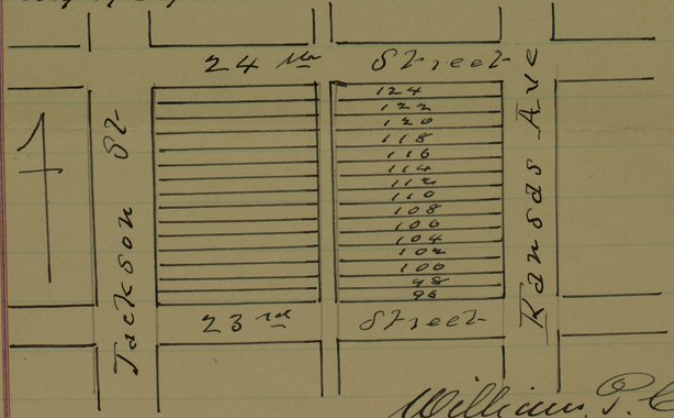
To The Clerk
Shawnee County
State of Kansas.

Please Search in your Office for and Certify to me all Conveyances and other instruments of record in your office affecting premises. North West Quarter Section 23. Township 10. Range 16 East P.M. And exhibited in diagram below and numbered 96. 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122 and 124.

Made by
H. D. Booge
This Grantees

From February 16th 1888 to date of your return

Subdivision
Chicago Heights Addition
To the City of Topeka. Shawnee Co. Kansas.



William P. Cook
1719 Broadway
New York