Governor Crawford Indian correspondence

Section 3, Pages 61 - 90

In response to Indian attacks on frontier settlers, Governor Samuel J. Crawford was authorized by Congress to recruit a battalion of men to handle the crisis. This series of correspondence in Governor Crawford's papers contains many documents from men requesting commissions in the new battalion and permission to recruit soldiers. There are also letters from settlers documenting atrocities, asking for protection from hostile Indians, requesting compensation for stolen goods and livestock, and needing aid merely to survive after losing their supplies to Indian raids. A searchable transcription is available by clicking "Text Version" below. Funds for digitization provided by Mr. Steve Peckel in memory of William Chalfant.

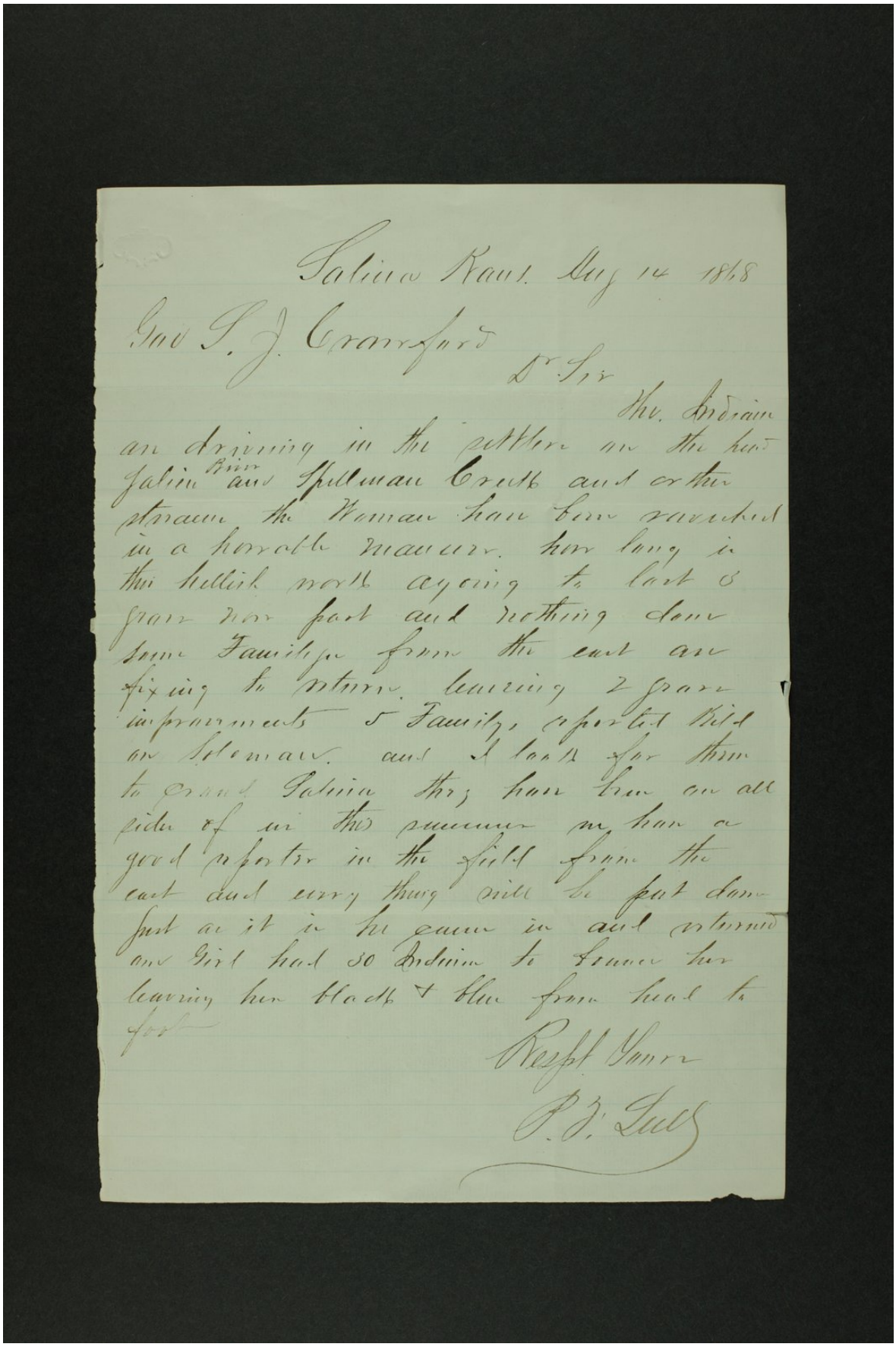
Date: 1867-1868

Callnumber: Governor Samuel J. Crawford, Correspondence, Indian Correspondence

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 304901

Item Identifier: 304901

www.kansasmemory.org/item/304901



Fabius Kans. May 14 1868

Gov S. J. Crawford

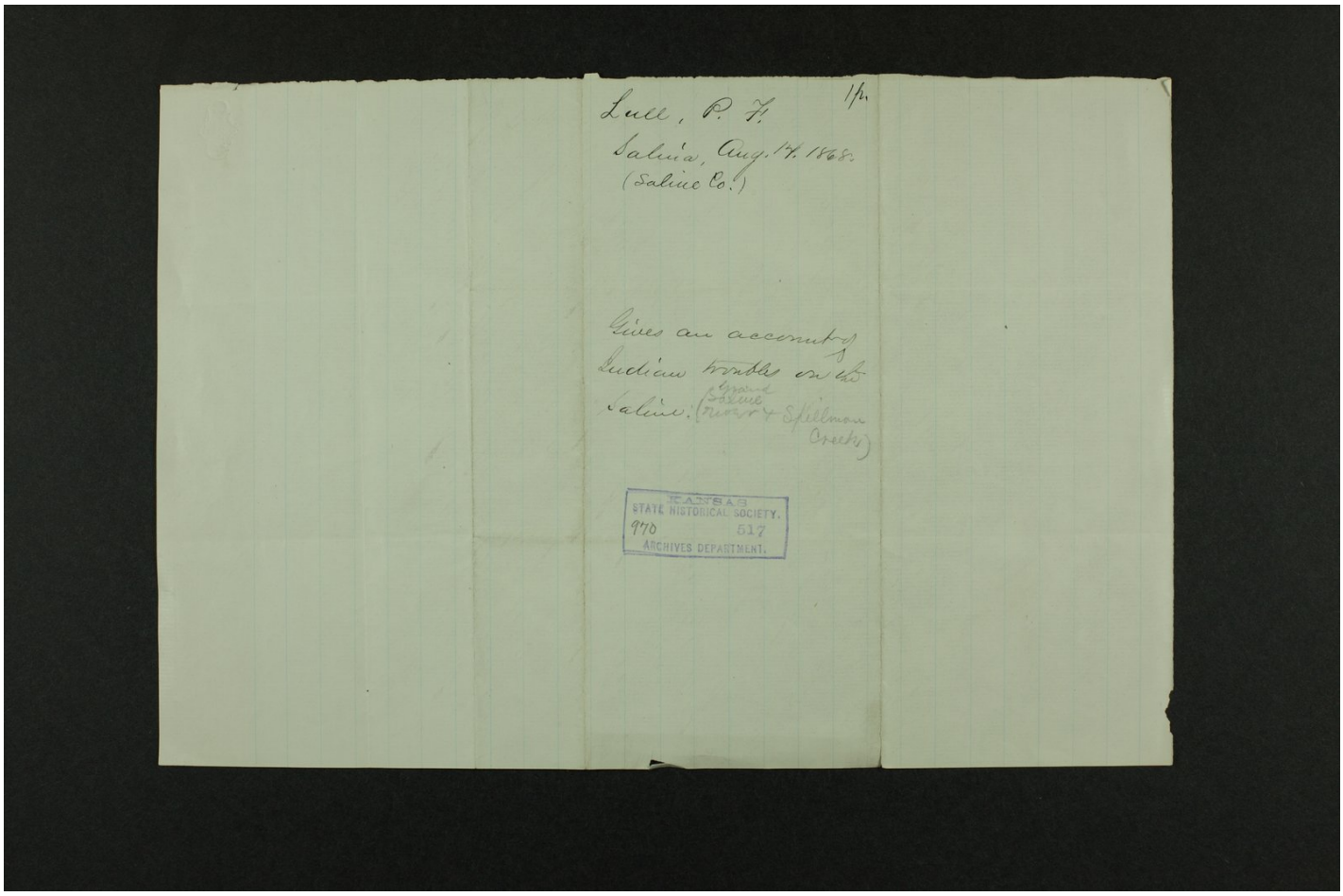
Dr Sir

The Indians are driving in the settlers on the head Fabius River and Spillman Creek and on the Nemaha the Woman have been murdered in a horrible manner. how long is this hellish work a going to last & grass now past and nothing done some Families from the east are fixing to return leaving 2 years improvements & Family, apprised that on Nemaha. and I look for them to Crowd Fabius they have been on all sides of us this summer we have a good reporter in the field from the east and every thing will be put down just as it is he came in and returned one Girl had 30 Indians to Ravage her leaving her black & blue from head to foot

Respt Yours

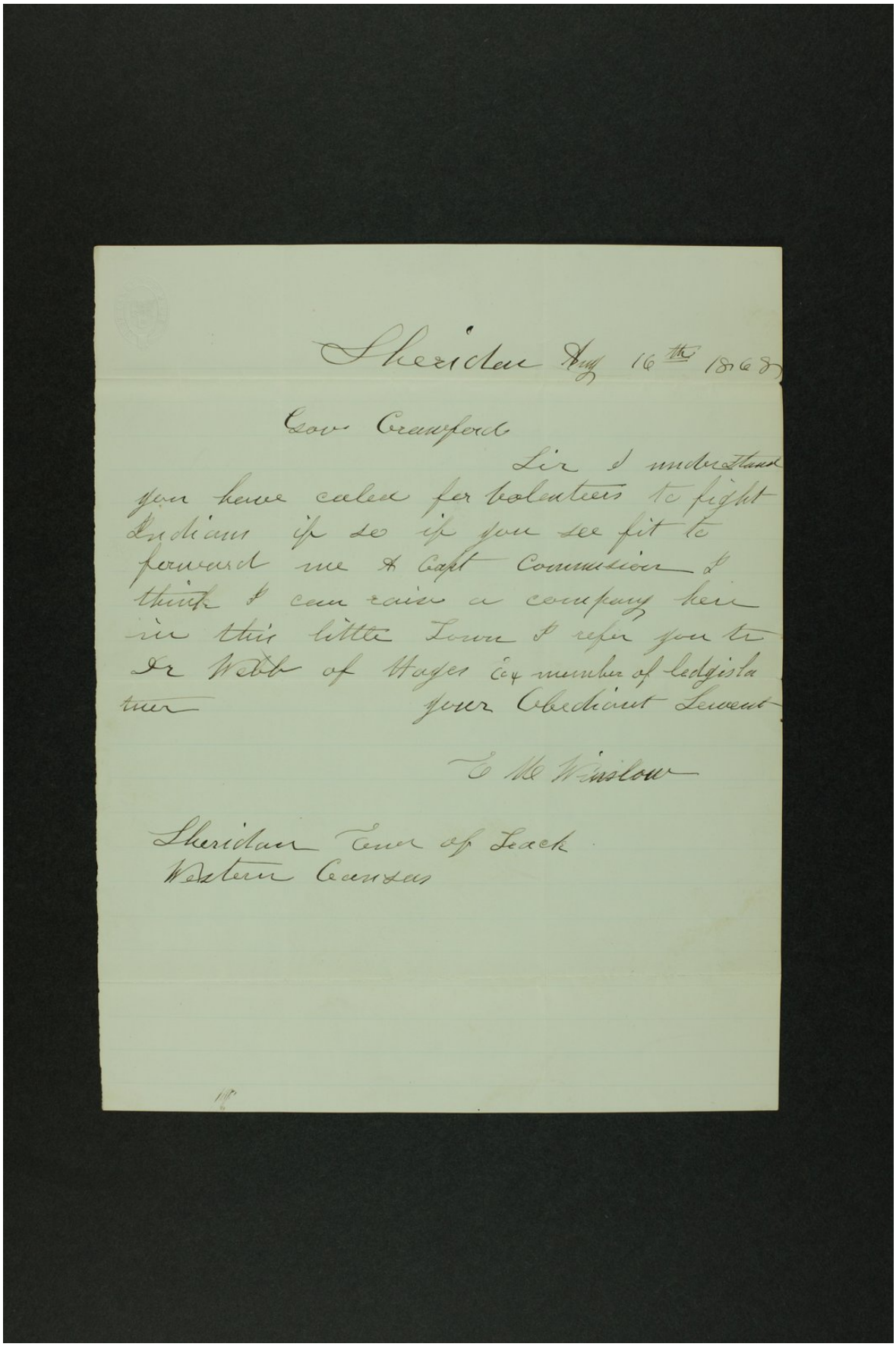
P. J. Isely

Governor Crawford Indian correspondence


Lull, P. H. 1/2
Salina, Aug. 17. 1868.
(Saline Co.)

Gives an account of Indian troubles on the Saline. (Grand Saline River & Spillman Creek)

KANSAS
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
970 517
ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT.



Sheridan Aug 16th 1868

Gov Crawford

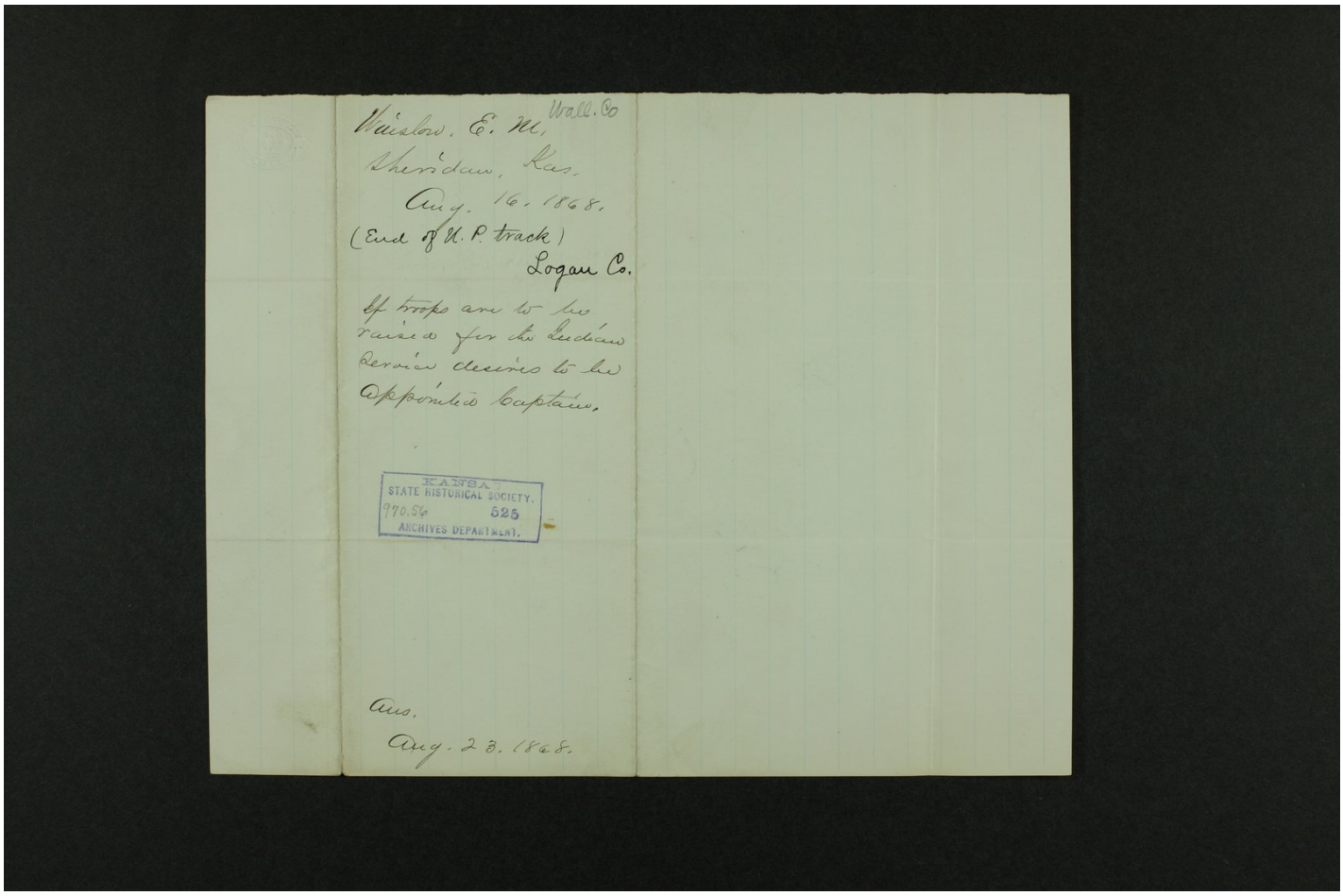
Sir I understand you have calld for volunteers to fight Indians if so if you see fit to forward me a Capt Commission I think I can raise a company here in this little Town I refer you to Dr Webb of Hayes City member of Legislature

your Obedient Servant

E M Winslow

Sheridan Town of Leach
Western Kansas

Governor Crawford Indian correspondence

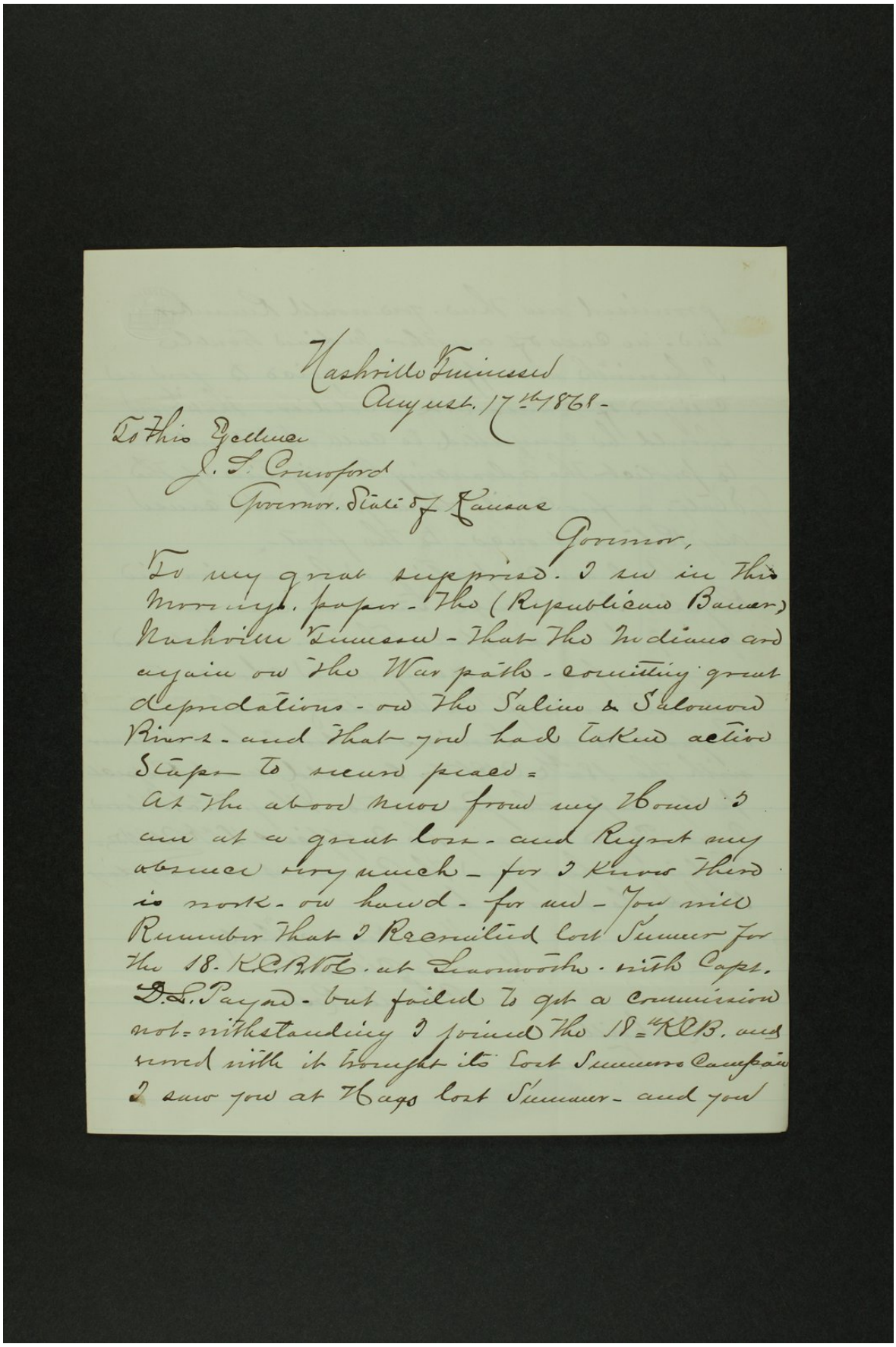


Winslow, E. M. Wall. Co
Sheridan, Kas.
Aug. 16. 1868.
(End of U. P. track)
Logan Co.

If troops are to be raised for the Indian Service desires to be appointed Captain.

KANSAS
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
970.56 525
ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT.

Ans.
Aug. 23. 1868.



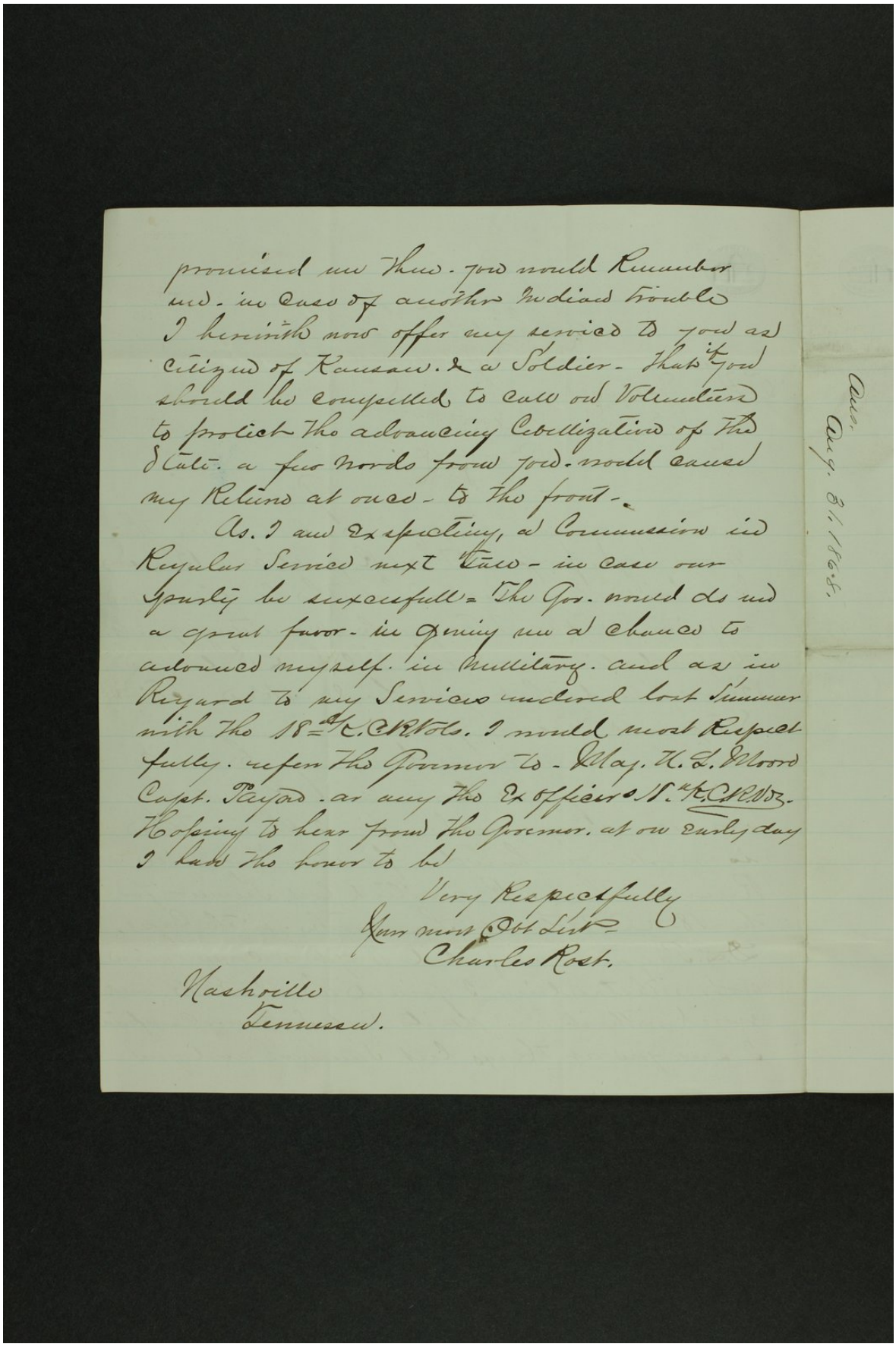
Nashville Tennessee
August. 17th 1868-

To His Excellency
J. T. Crawford
Governor. State of Kansas

Governor,

To my great surprise. I saw in this morning. paper - The (Republicans Banner) Nashville Tennessee - That the Indians and again on the War paths - comitting great depredations - on the Saline & Solomon Rivers - and that you had taken active Steps to secure peace -

At the about news from my Home I am at a great loss - and Regret my absence very much - for I know there is work - on hand - for me - You will Remember that I Recruited last Summer for the 18. K.C.B.V.C. at Leavenworth - with Capt. D.L. Payne - but failed to get a Commission not-withstanding I joined the 18th K.C.B. and served with it Brought it's Last Summers Campaign I saw you at Hays last Summer - and you



promised me then. you would Remember me. in case of another Indian trouble I herewith now offer my services to you as citizen of Kansas. & a Soldier. that if you should be compelled to call out Volunteers to protect the advancing Civilization of the State. a few words from you. would cause my Return at once. to the front.

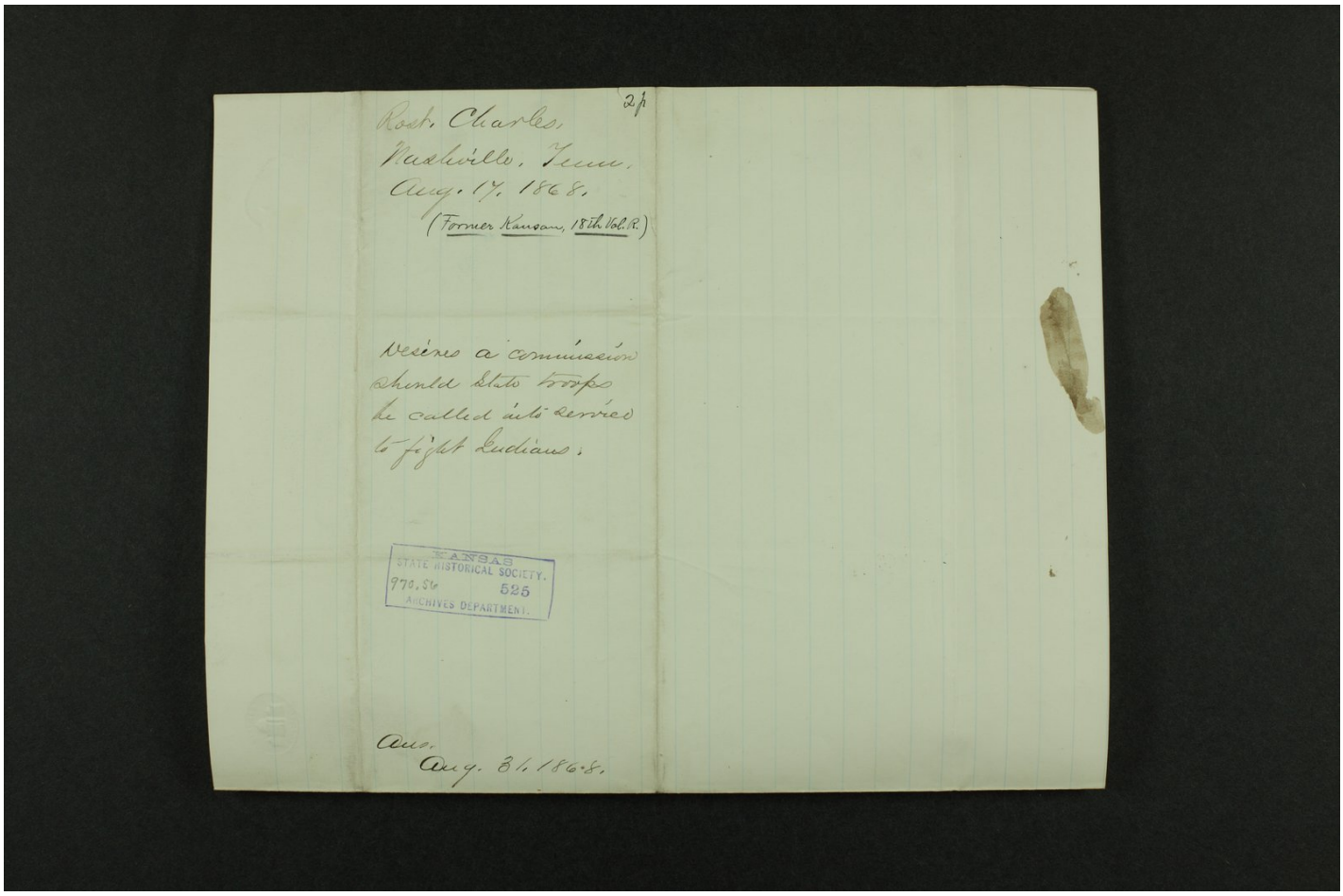
As. I am expecting, a Commission in Regular Service next Fall. in case our Country be successfull. The Gov. would do me a great favor. in giving me a chance to acquaint myself. in Military. and as in Regard to my Services rendered last Summer with the 18th U.S.I. Vols. I would most Respectfully refer the Governor to. Maj. H. L. Wood Capt. Rayard. or any the Ex officers of 18th U.S.I. Vols. Hoping to hear from the Governor. at an early day I have the honor to be

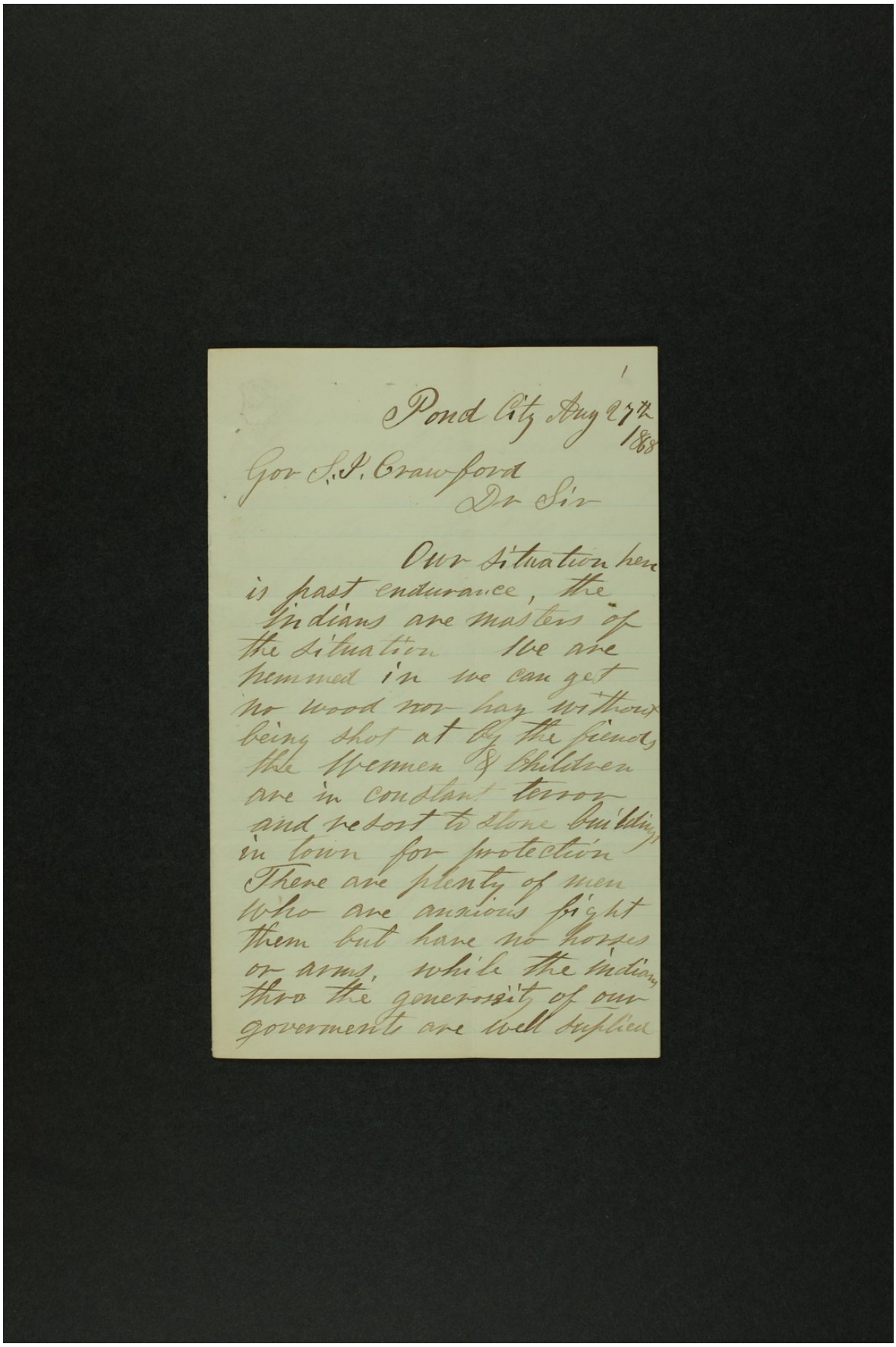
Very Respectfully
Your most Obt Servt
Charles Rost.

Nashville
Tennessee.

Aug. 31, 1864.

Governor Crawford Indian correspondence

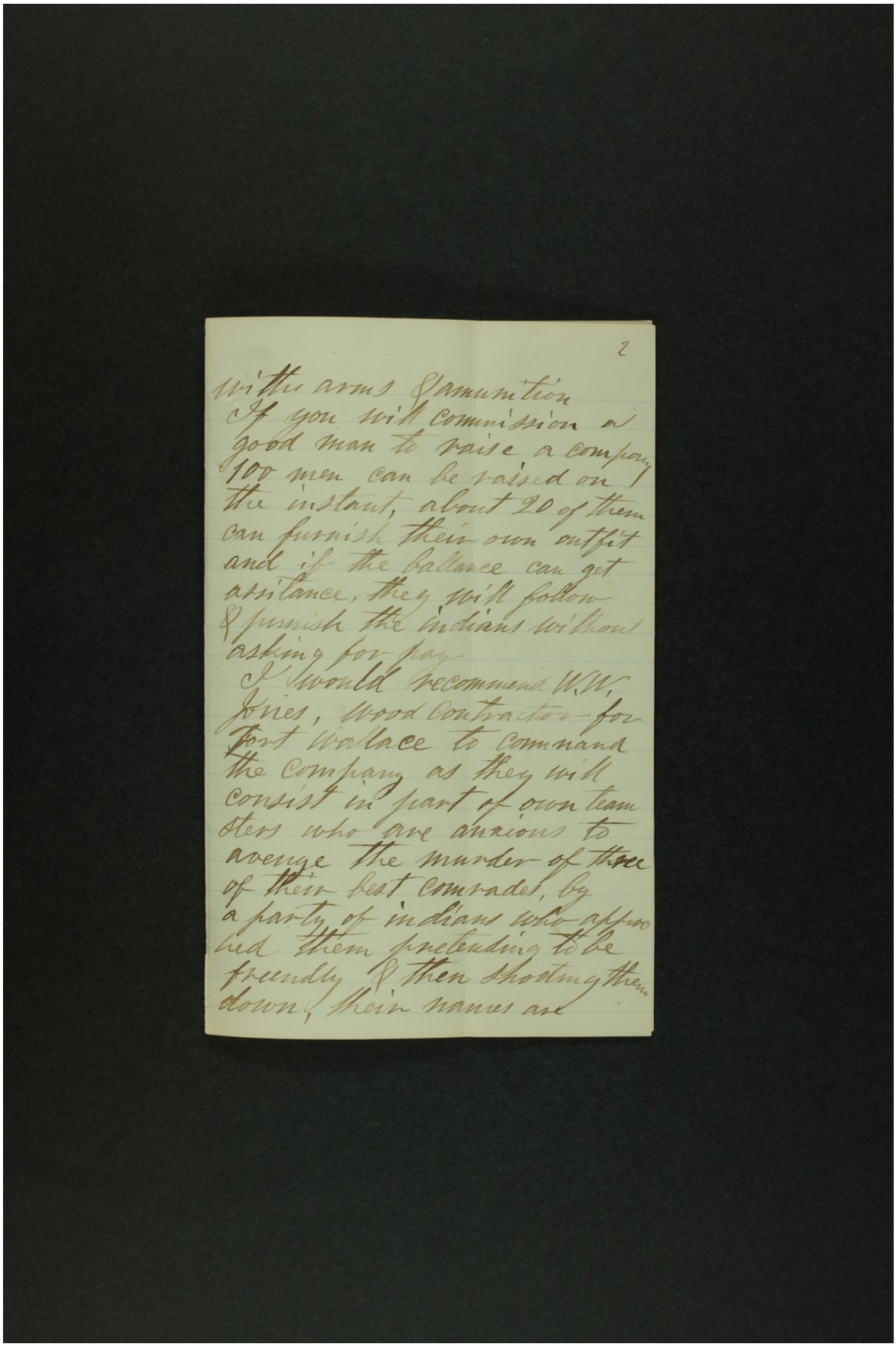




Pond City Aug 27th
1868

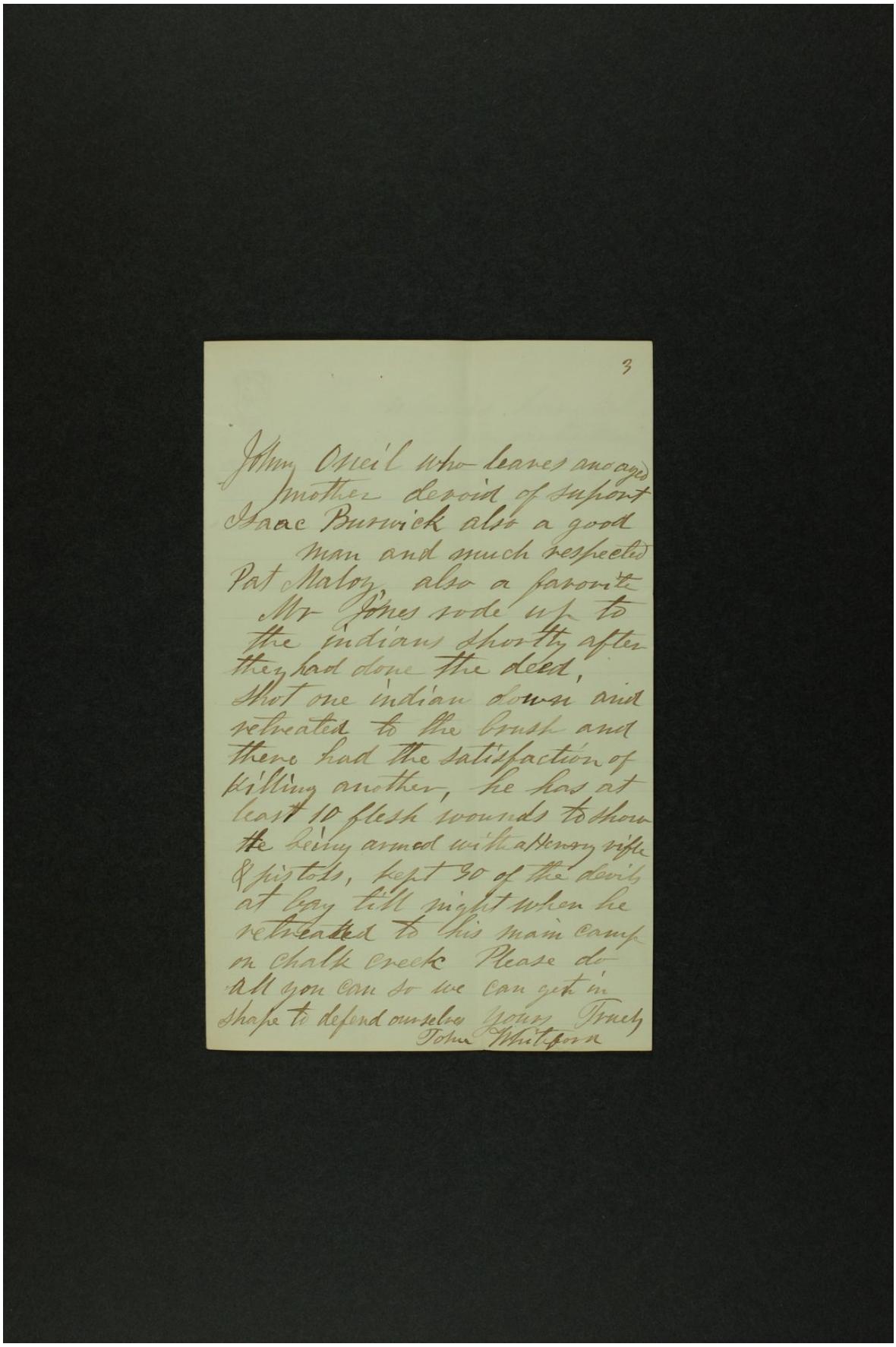
Gov S. J. Crawford
Dr Sir

Our situation here
is past endurance, the
Indians are masters of
the situation We are
penned in we can get
no wood nor hay without
being shot at by the fiends
the Women & Children
are in constant terror
and resort to stone building
in town for protection
There are plenty of men
who are anxious fight
them but have no horses
or arms, while the Indians
thro the generosity of our
government are well supplied



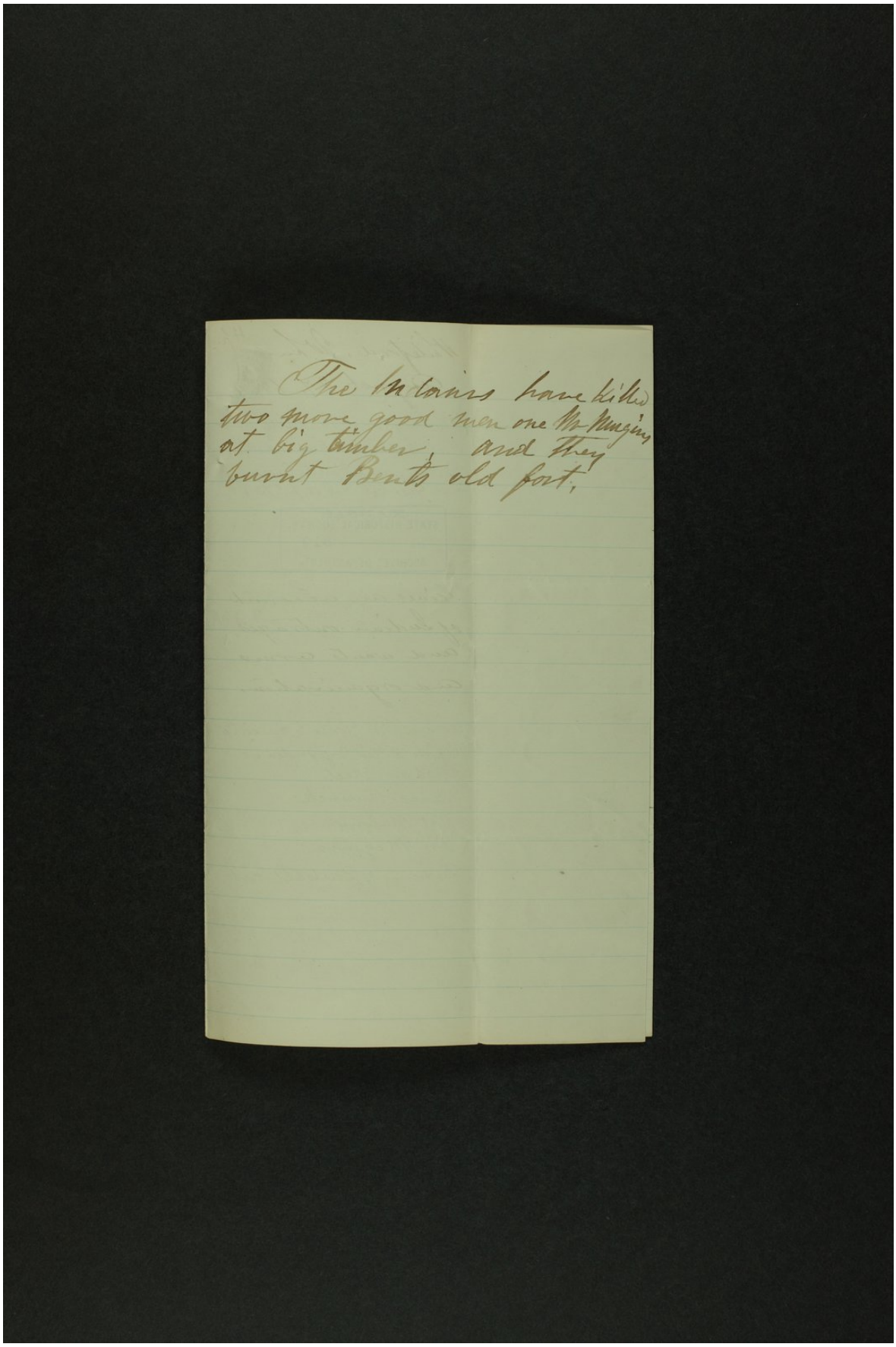
2

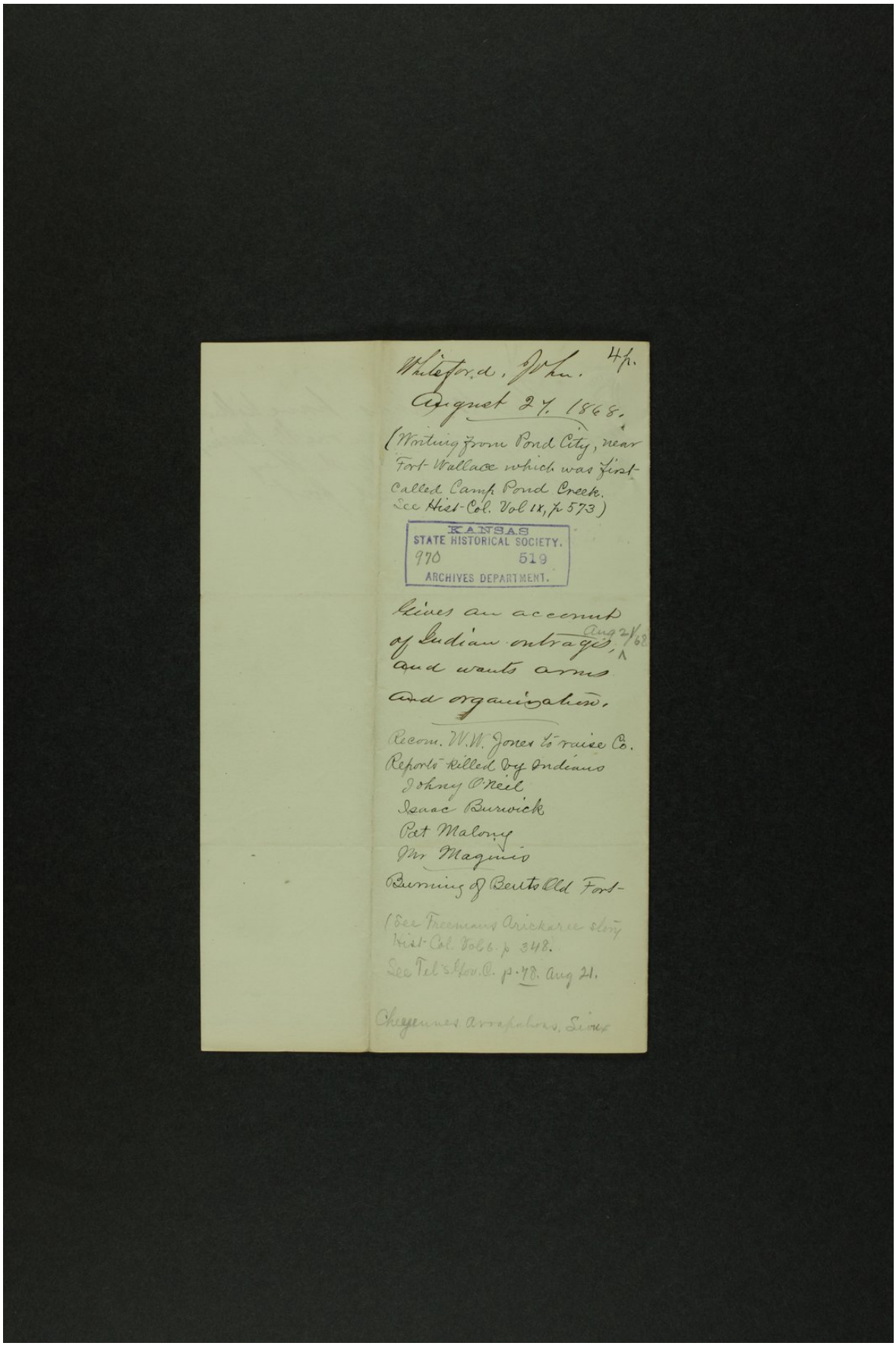
with the arms & ammunition
If you will commission a
good man to raise a company
100 men can be raised on
the instant, about 20 of them
can furnish their own outfit
and if the ballance can get
assistance, they will follow
& punish the Indians without
asking for pay.
I would recommend W.W.
Jones, Wood Contractor for
Fort Wallace to command
the Company as they will
consist in part of own team
sters who are anxious to
avenge the murder of three
of their best comrades, by
a party of indians who approached them pretending to be
friendly & then shooting them
down, their names are



3

John O'neil who leaves an aged
mother devoid of support
Isaac Burwick also a good
man and much respected
Pat Maloy also a favorite
Mr Jones rode up to
the Indians shortly after
they had done the deed,
shot one Indian down and
retreated to the brush and
there had the satisfaction of
killing another, he has at
least 10 flesh wounds to show
the being armed with a Henry rifle
& pistols, kept 30 of the devils
at bay till night when he
retreated to his main camp
on Chalk Creek Please do
all you can so we can get in
shape to defend ourselves Yours Truely
John Whitcomb


The Indians have killed
two more good men one Mr Rogers
at big timber and they
burnt Bents old fort.



4 p.

Whitefor.d, Jo Co.

August 27, 1868.

(Writing from Pond City, near Fort Wallace which was first called Camp Pond Creek. See Hist-Col. Vol IX, p. 573)

KANSAS
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
970 519
ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT.

Gives an account of Indian outrages, Aug 21/68 and wants arms and organisation.

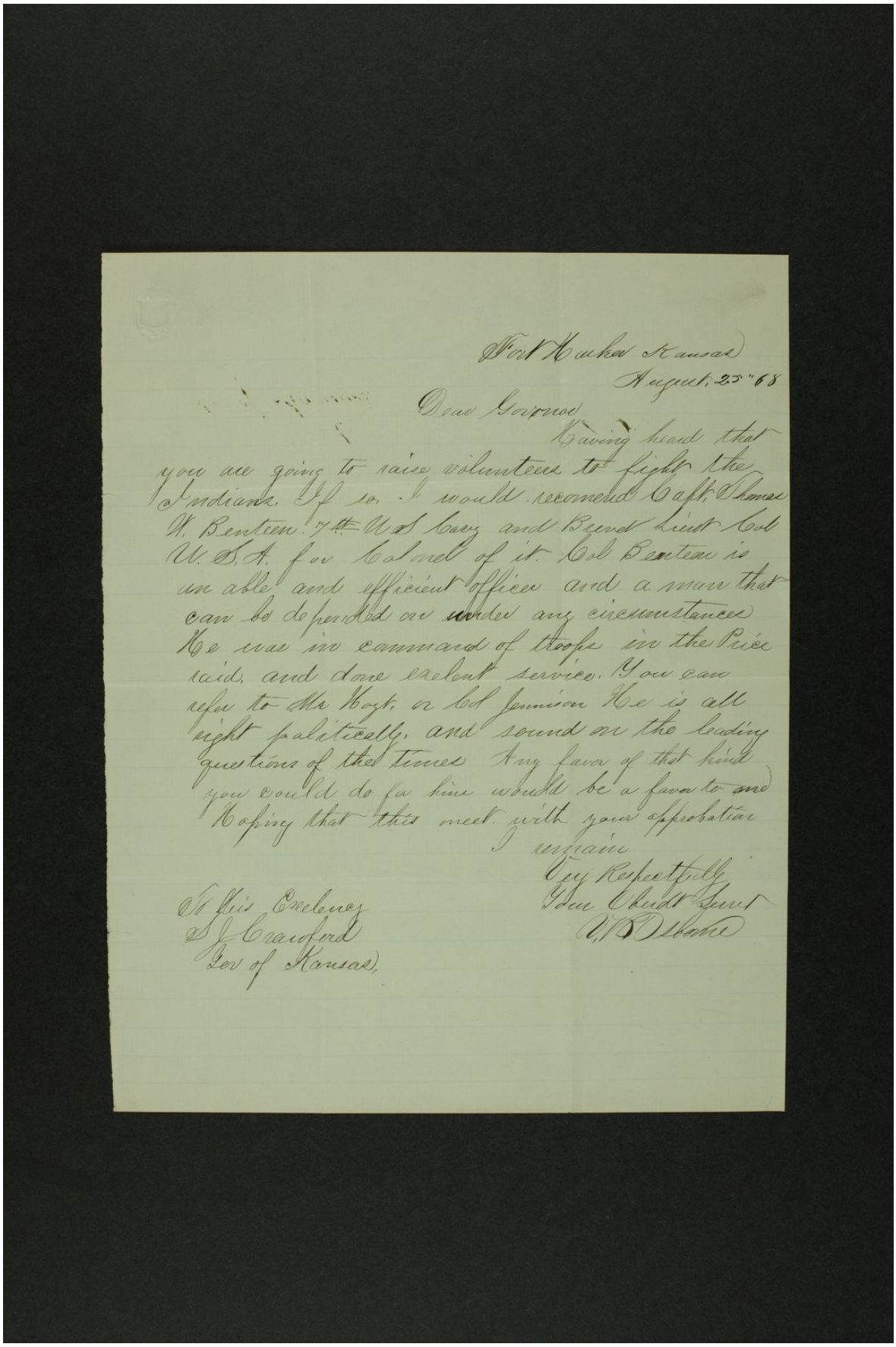
Recom. W.W. Jones to raise Co.

Reports killed by Indians
Johny O'Neil
Isaac Burwick
Pat Malony
Mr Magnis

Burning of Bents Old Fort-

(See Freemans Arickaree story Hist-Col. Vol 6. p 348.
See Tel's How. C. p. 78. Aug 21.

Cheyennes. arrapahoes. Sioux



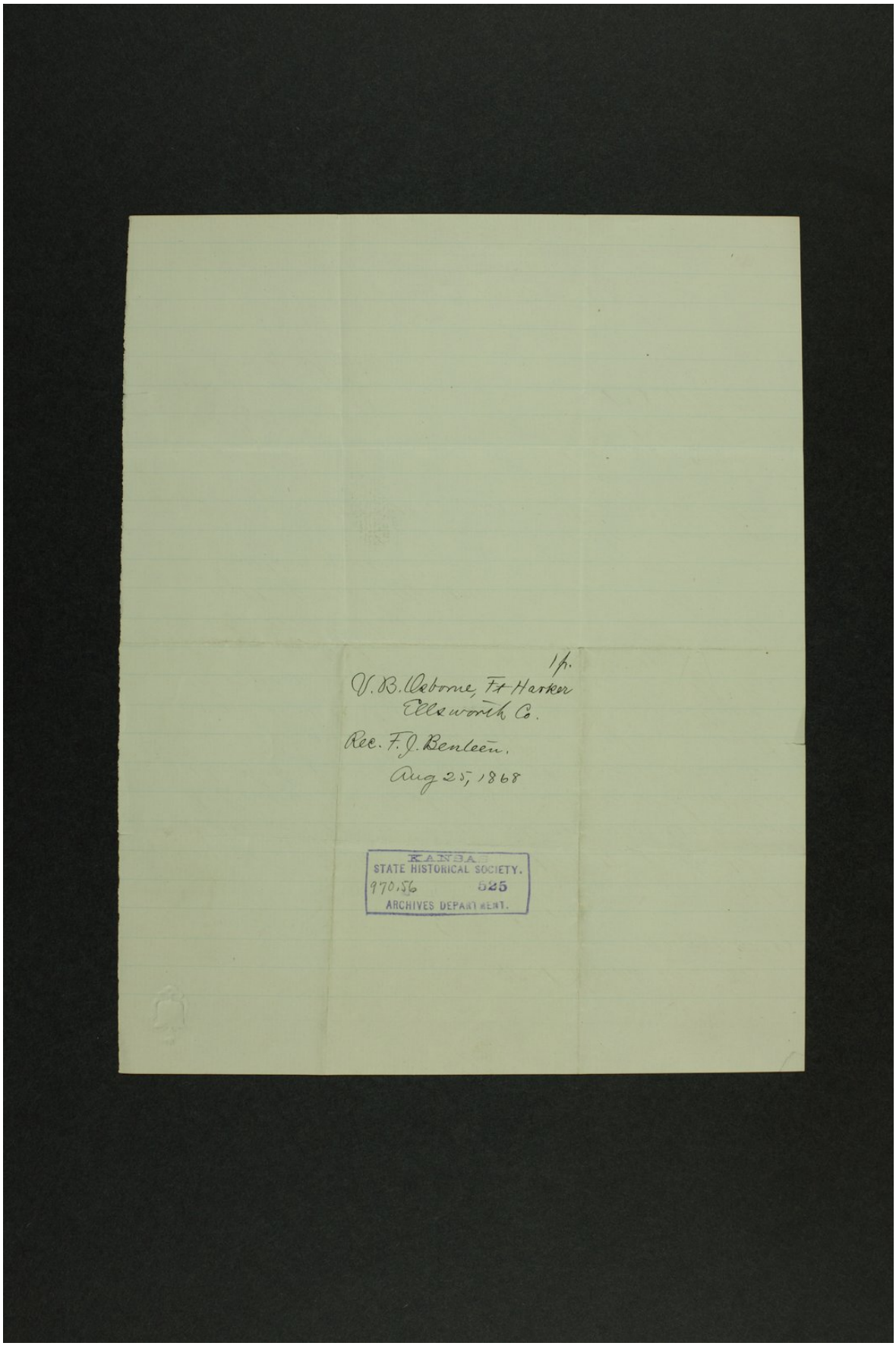
Fort Hacker Kansas
August 23 "68

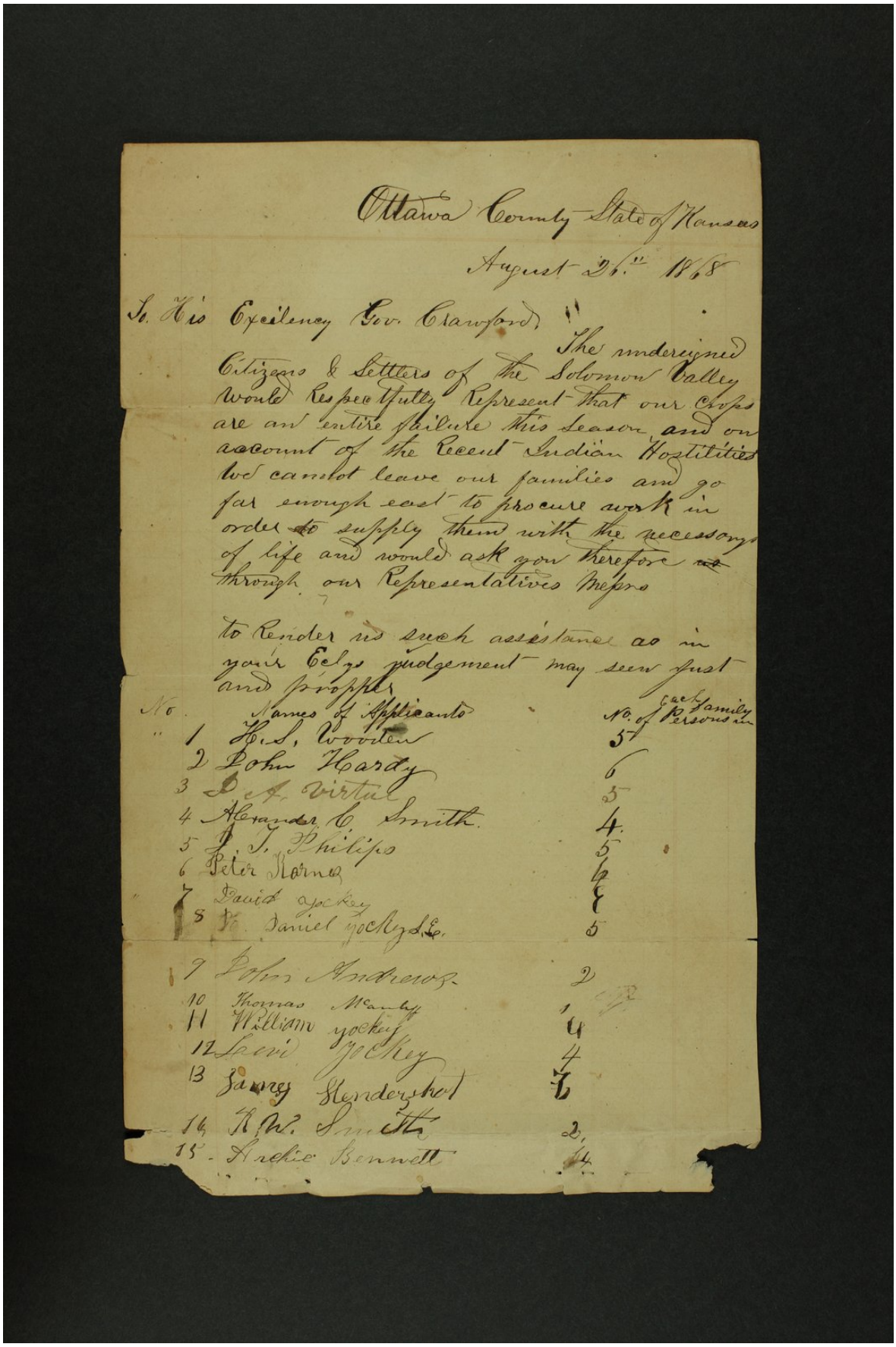
Dear Governor

Having heard that you are going to raise volunteers to fight the Indians. If so I would recomend Capt Thomas H. Benteen 7th U.S. Cavy and Brevt Lieut Col U.S.A. for Colonel of it. Col Benteen is an able and efficient officer and a man that can be depended on under any circumstances He was in command of troops in the Price raid, and done excelent service. You can refer to the Post or Col Jennison He is all right politically, and sound on the leading questions of the times Any favor of that kind you could do for him would be a favor to me Hoping that this meet with your approbation I remain

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servt
A B Dehart

To His Excelency
S. Crawford
Gov of Kansas


1 p.
V. B. Osborne, Ft Harker
Ellsworth Co.
Rec. F. J. Benleen.
Aug 25, 1868
KANSA
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
970.56 525
ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT.



Ottawa Cownty State of Kansas

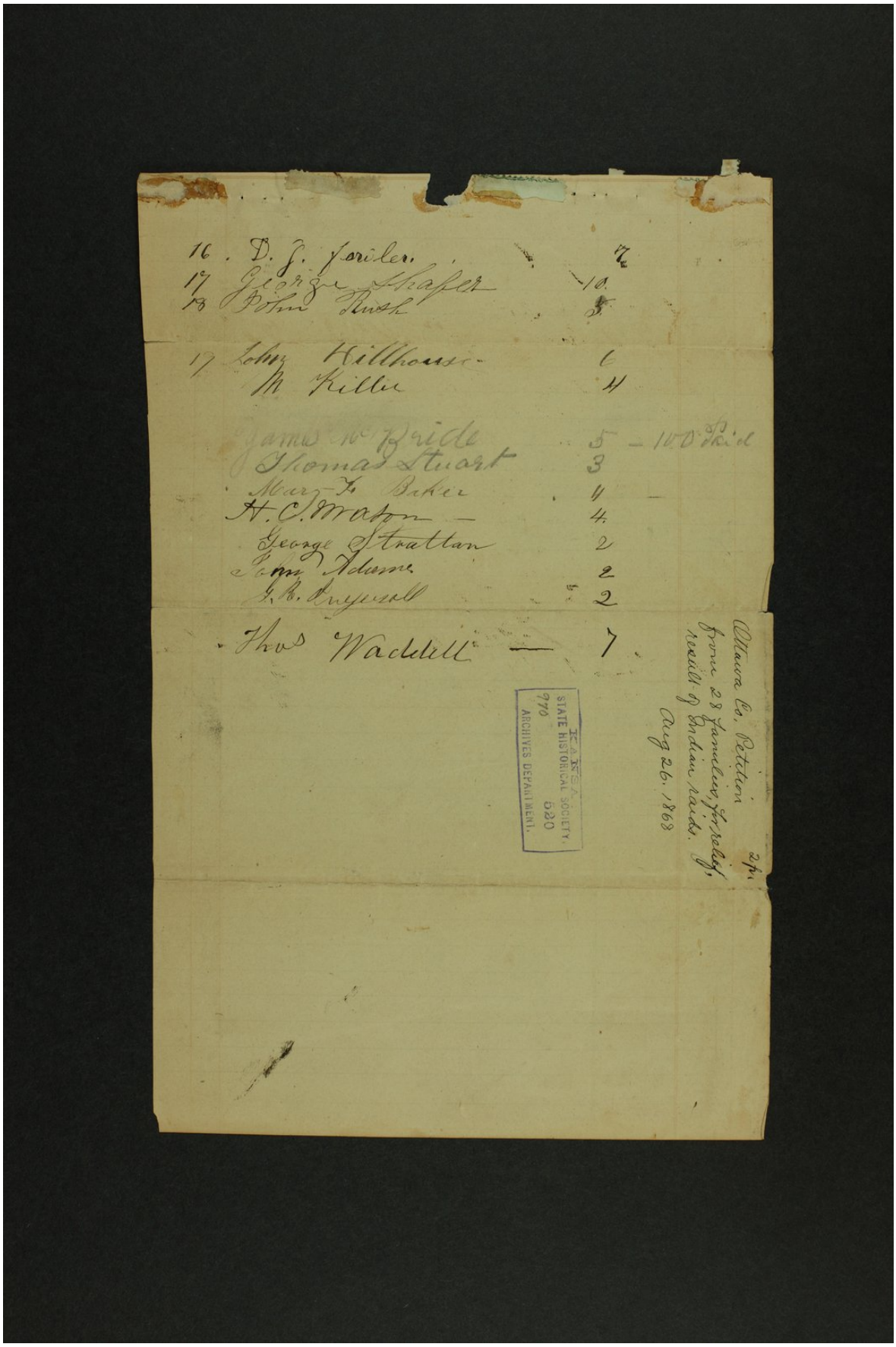
August 26th 1868

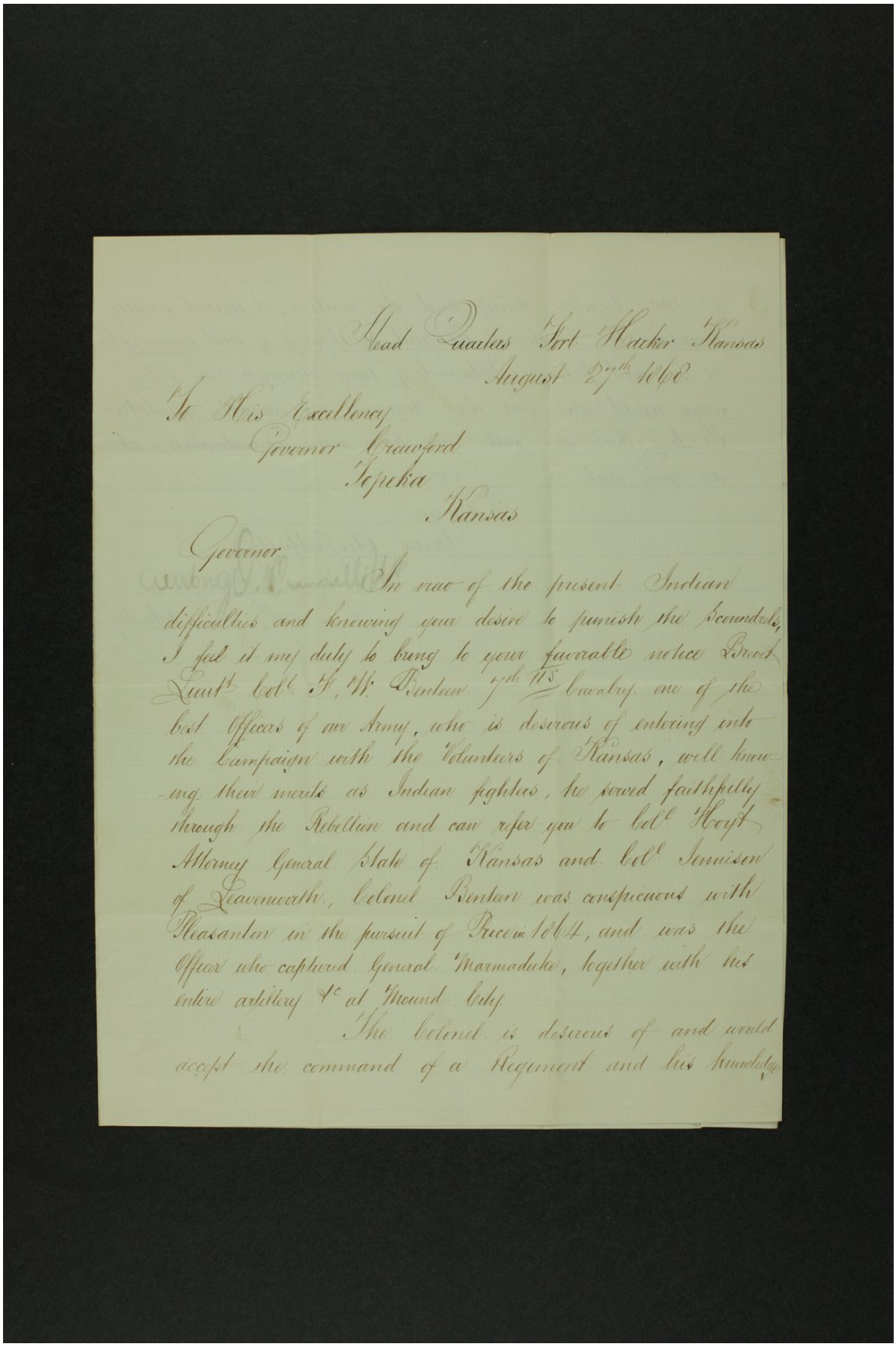
To His Excelency Gov. Crawford

The undersigned Citizens & Settlers of the Solomon Valley would Respectfully Represent that our Crops are an entire failure this season and on account of the Recent Indian Hostilities we cannot leave our families and go far enough east to procure work in order to supply them with the necessarys of life and would ask you therefore through our Representatives Messrs

to Render us such assistance as in your Excys judgement may seem just and proper

No.	Names of Applicants	No. of each Family Persons in
1	H. S. Wooten	5
2	John Hardy	6
3	D. A. Virtue	5
4	Alexander C. Smith	4
5	W. I. Philips	5
6	Peter Horne	6
7	David Jockey	8
8	Daniel Jockey Sr.	5
9	John Andrews	2
10	Thomas McCauley	1
11	William Jockey	4
12	Levi Jockey	4
13	Sarey Hendershot	7
14	R. W. Smith	2
15	Archie Bennett	4


16 D. J. Fowler 7
17 George Shafer 10
18 John Rush 5
17 Lohr Hillhouse 6
M Killin 4
James M. Bride 5 — 100 Paid
Thomas Stuart 3
Mary F. Baker 4
H. C. Mason — 4
George Strattan 2
John Adams 2
L. B. Engersall 2
Thos Wadsell — 7
Allaun Co. Petition 2 Pr.
from 28 families for relief,
in consequence of Indian raids.
Aug 26. 1869
KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 970 520 ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT



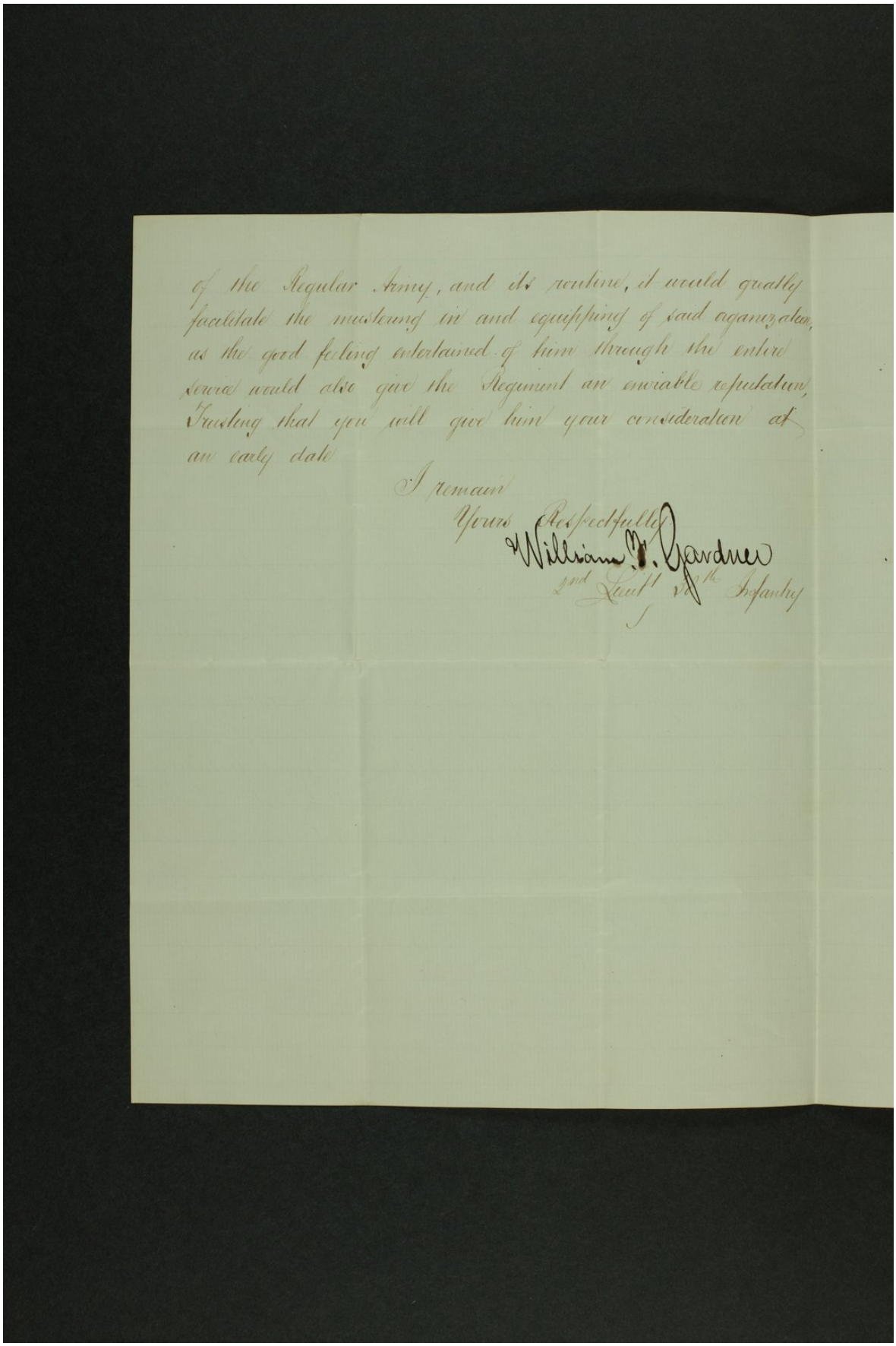
Head Quarters Fort Hacker Kansas
August 27th 1868

To His Excellency
Governor Crawford
Topeka
Kansas

Governor

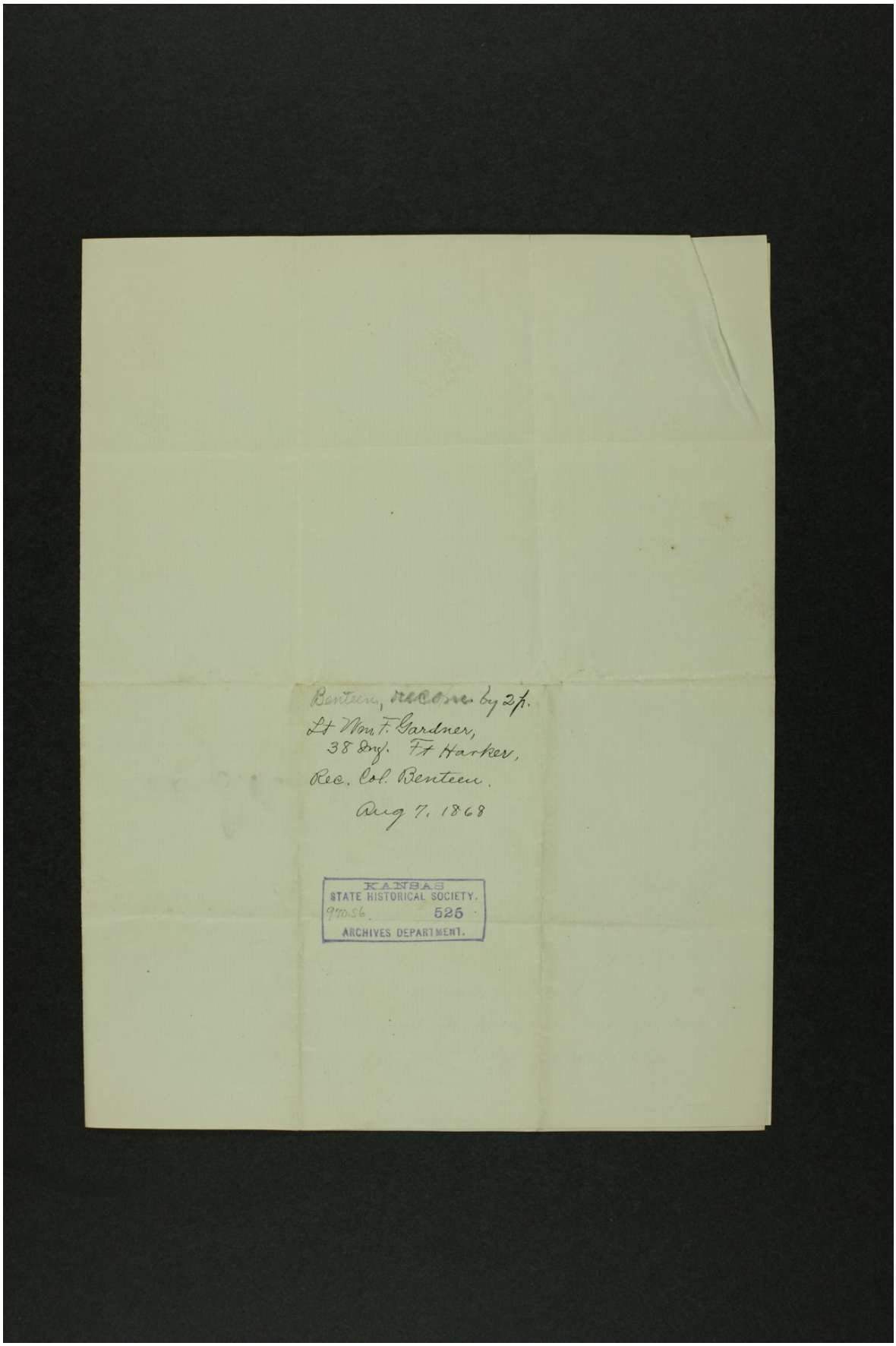
In view of the present Indian difficulties and knowing your desire to punish the Scoundrels, I feel it my duty to bring to your favorable notice Brevet Lieut Col H. W. Benteen 7th U.S. Cavalry one of the best Officers of our Army, who is desirous of entering into the Campaign with the Volunteers of Kansas, well knowing their merits as Indian fighters, he served faithfully through the Rebellion and can refer you to Col Hoyt Attorney General State of Kansas and Col Jennison of Leavenworth. Colonel Benteen was conspicuous with Pleasanton in the pursuit of Price in 1864, and was the Officer who captured General Marmaduke, together with his entire artillery &c at Mound City

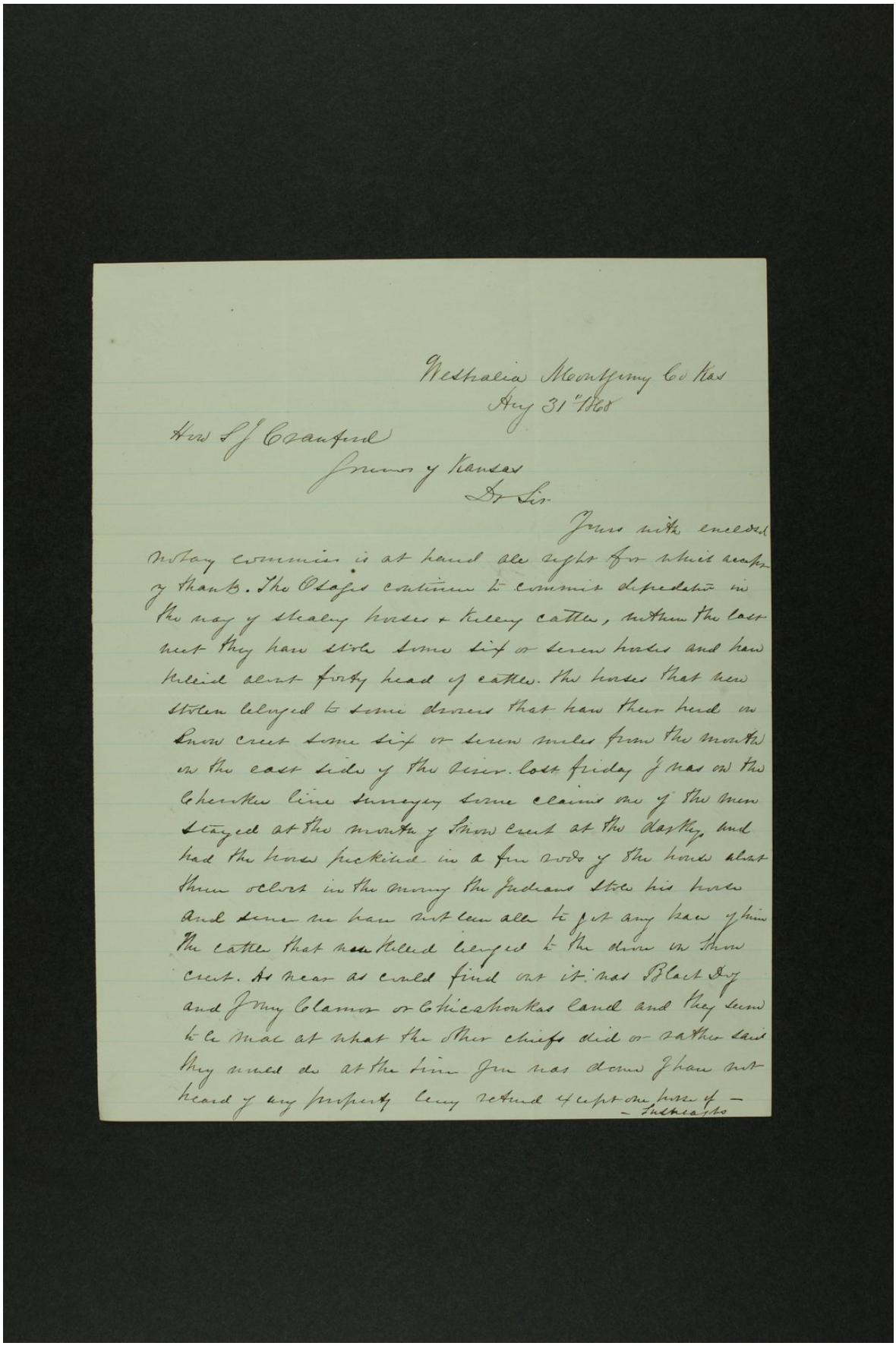
The Colonel is desirous of and would accept the command of a Regiment and his knowledge



of the Regular Army, and its routine, it would greatly facilitate the mustering in and equipping of said organization, as the good feeling entertained of him through the entire service would also give the Regiment an enviable reputation, trusting that you will give him your consideration at an early date

I remain
Yours Respectfully
William P. Gardner
2nd Lieut 20th Infantry

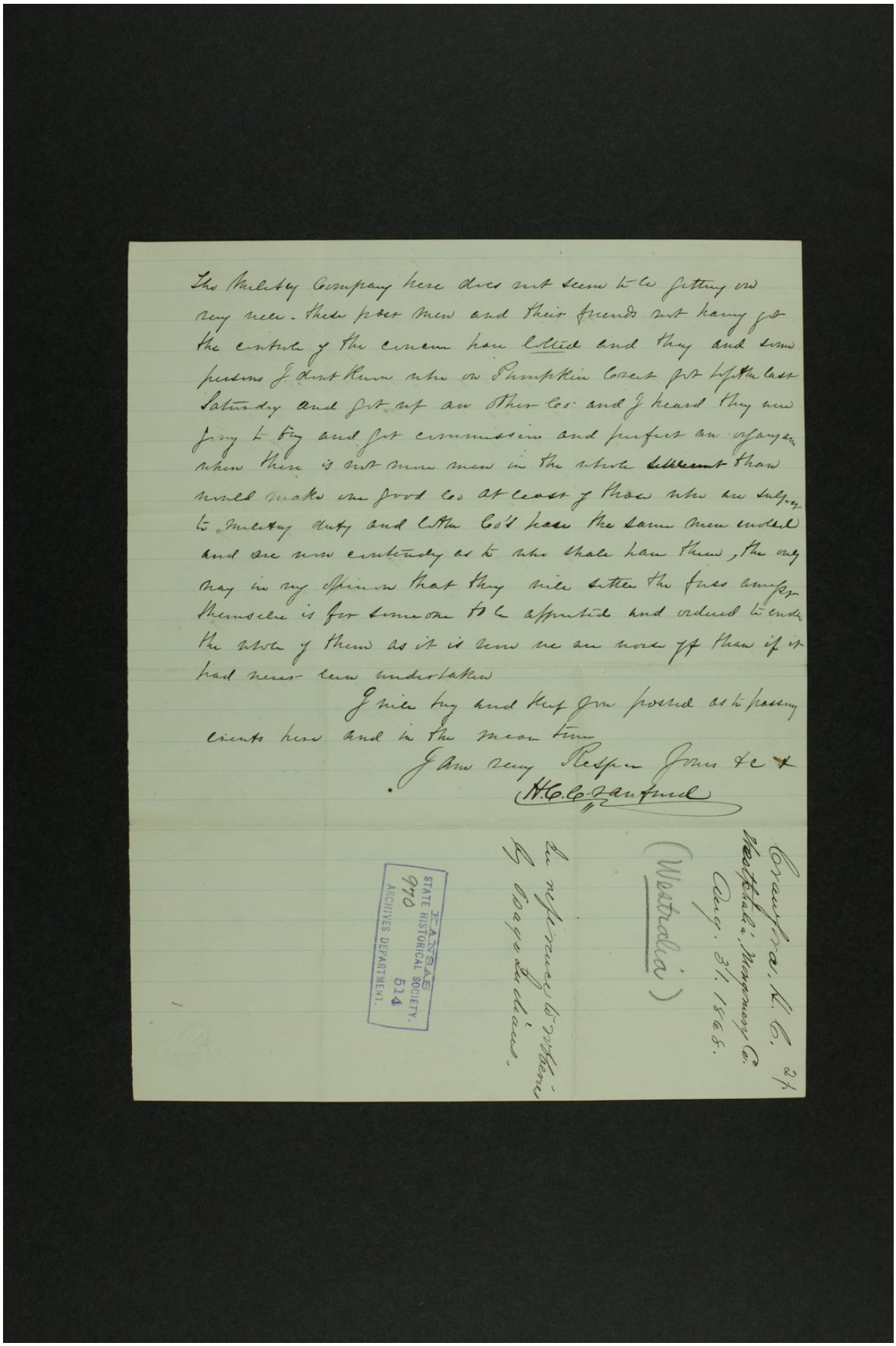

Benteen, Recd one by 2 P.
Lt Wm F. Gardner,
38 Drg. Ft Harker,
Rec. Col. Benteen.
Aug 7, 1868
KANSAS
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
970.56
525
ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT.



Westralia Montgomery Co Kas
Aug 31st 1868

Hon S J Crawford
Governor of Kansas
Dr Sir

Yours with enclosed notary commission is at hand all right for which accept my thanks. The Osages continue to commit depredations in the way of stealing horses & killing cattle, within the last week they have stole some six or seven horses and have killed about forty head of cattle. The horses that were stolen belonged to some drovers that have their herd on Snow creek some six or seven miles from the mouth on the east side of the river. Last Friday I was on the Cherokee line surveying some claims one of the men stayed at the mouth of Snow creek at the ferry and had the horses picketed in a few rods of the house about three o'clock in the evening the Indians stole his horses and since we have not been able to get any trace of them the cattle that were killed belonged to the drove on Snow creek. As near as could find out it was Black Dog and Jimmy Clamore or Chickashonkas band and they seem to be mad at what the other chiefs did or rather said they would do at the time you was down I have not heard of any property being returned except one horse &c —
— further on



The Militia Company here does not seem to be getting on very well. Their poor men and their friends not having got the contents of the circular have called and they and some persons I dont know who on Pumpkin Creek got up the last Saturday and got up an other Co. and I heard they were going to try and get commissions and purses as organized when there is not more men in the whole settlement than would make one good Co at least of those who are subject to Military duty and both Co's have the same men enrolled and are now contending as to who shall have them, the only way in my opinion that they will settle the fuss amongst themselves is for some one to be appointed and ordered to enroll the whole of them as it is now we are worse off than if it had never been undertaken

I will try and keep you posted as to passing events here and in the mean time

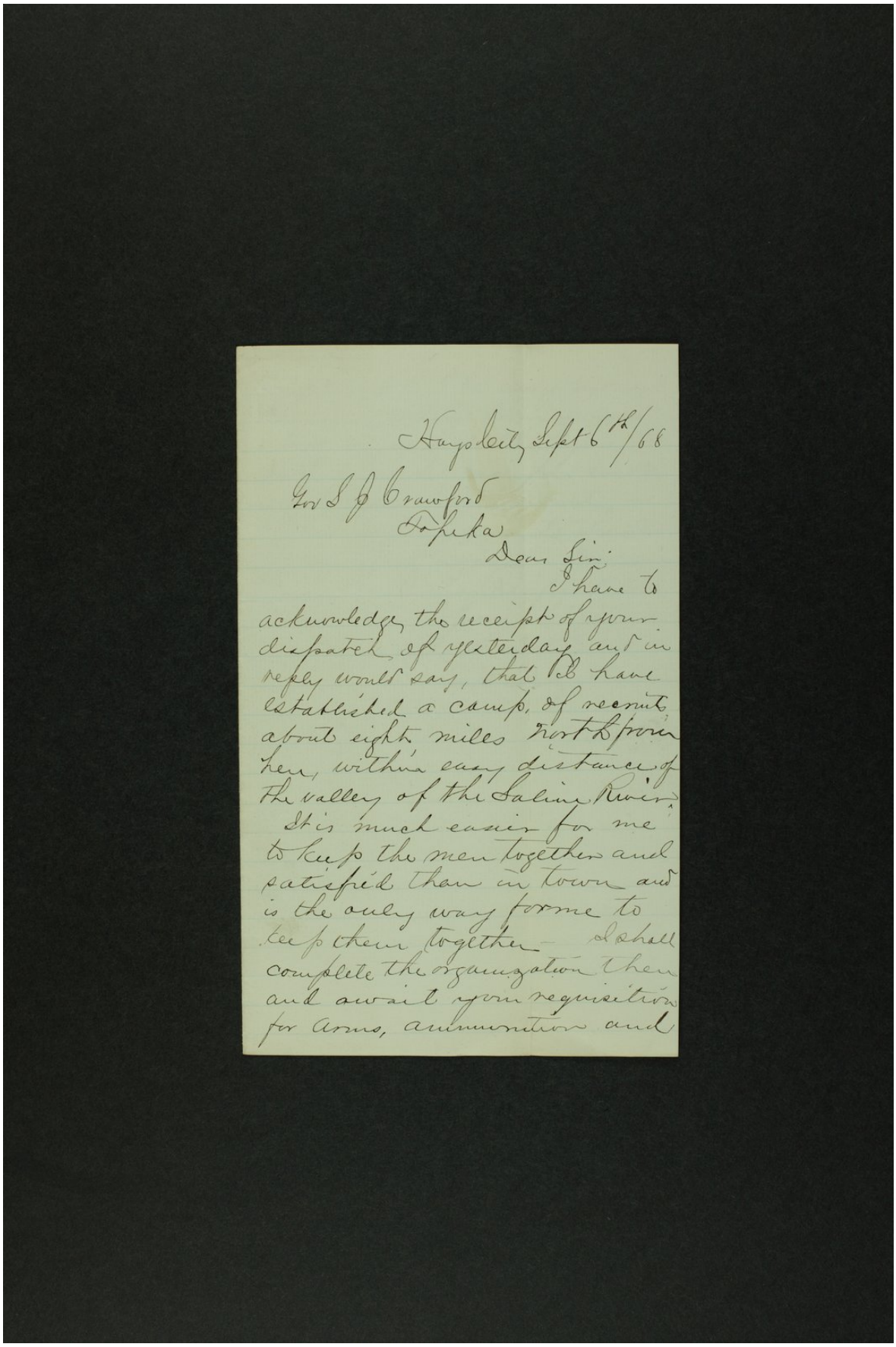
I am very Respectfully &c &c

W. C. Crawford

Crawford, W. C.
Westfield, Montgomery Co.
Aug. 31, 1865.
(Westfield)

In reference to Militia
5 Copies Addressed.

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 970 514 ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT



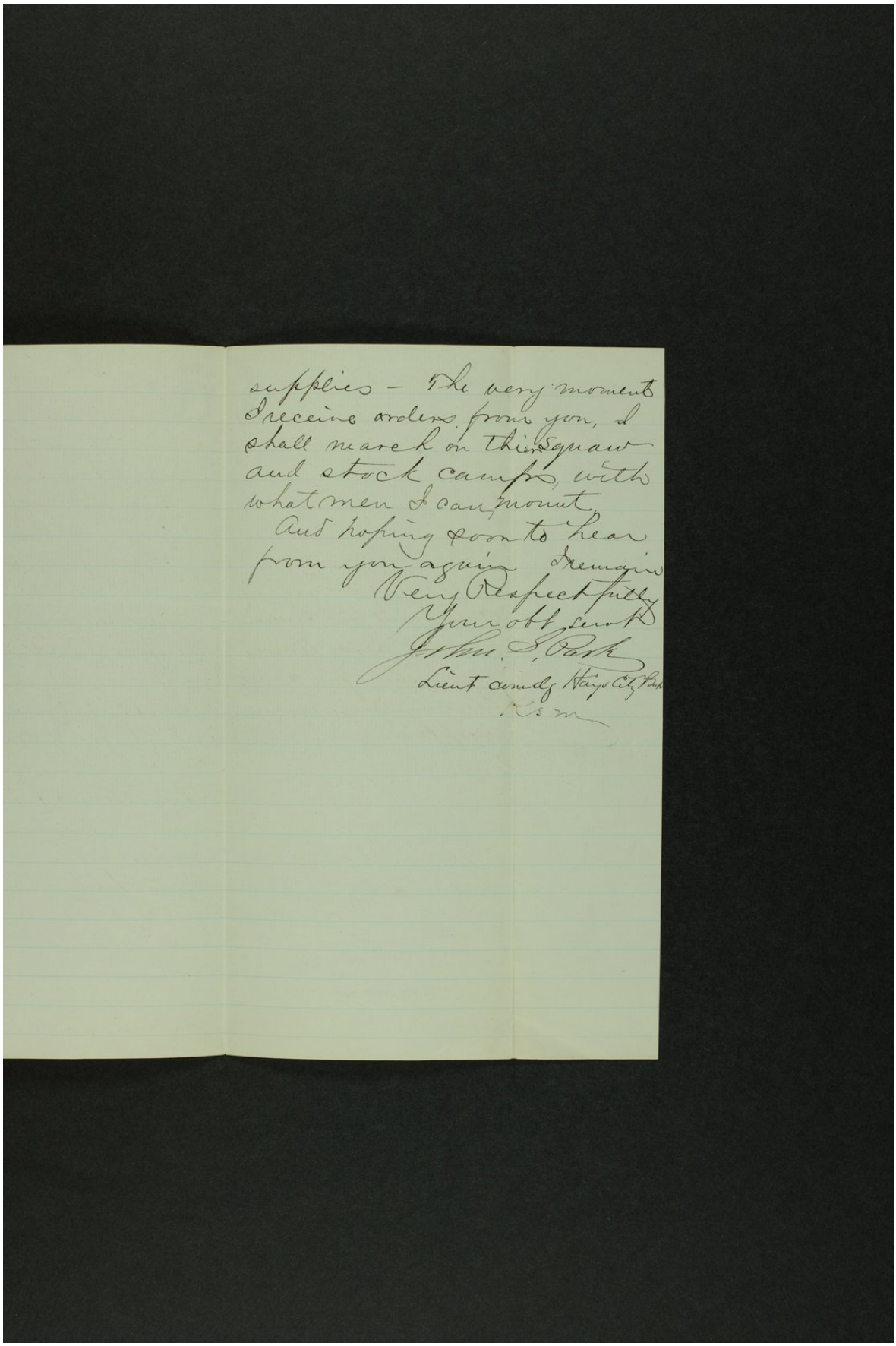
Hays City Sept 6th/68

Gov S J Crawford
Topeka

Dear Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of yesterday and in reply would say, that I have established a camp of recruits about eight miles North from here, within easy distance of the valley of the Saline River.

It is much easier for me to keep the men together and satisfied than in town and is the only way for me to keep them together. I shall complete the organization there and await your requisition for arms, ammunition and



supplies – The very moment I receive orders from you, I shall march on the Pawnee and stock camps, with what men I can mount.

And hoping soon to hear from you again I remain

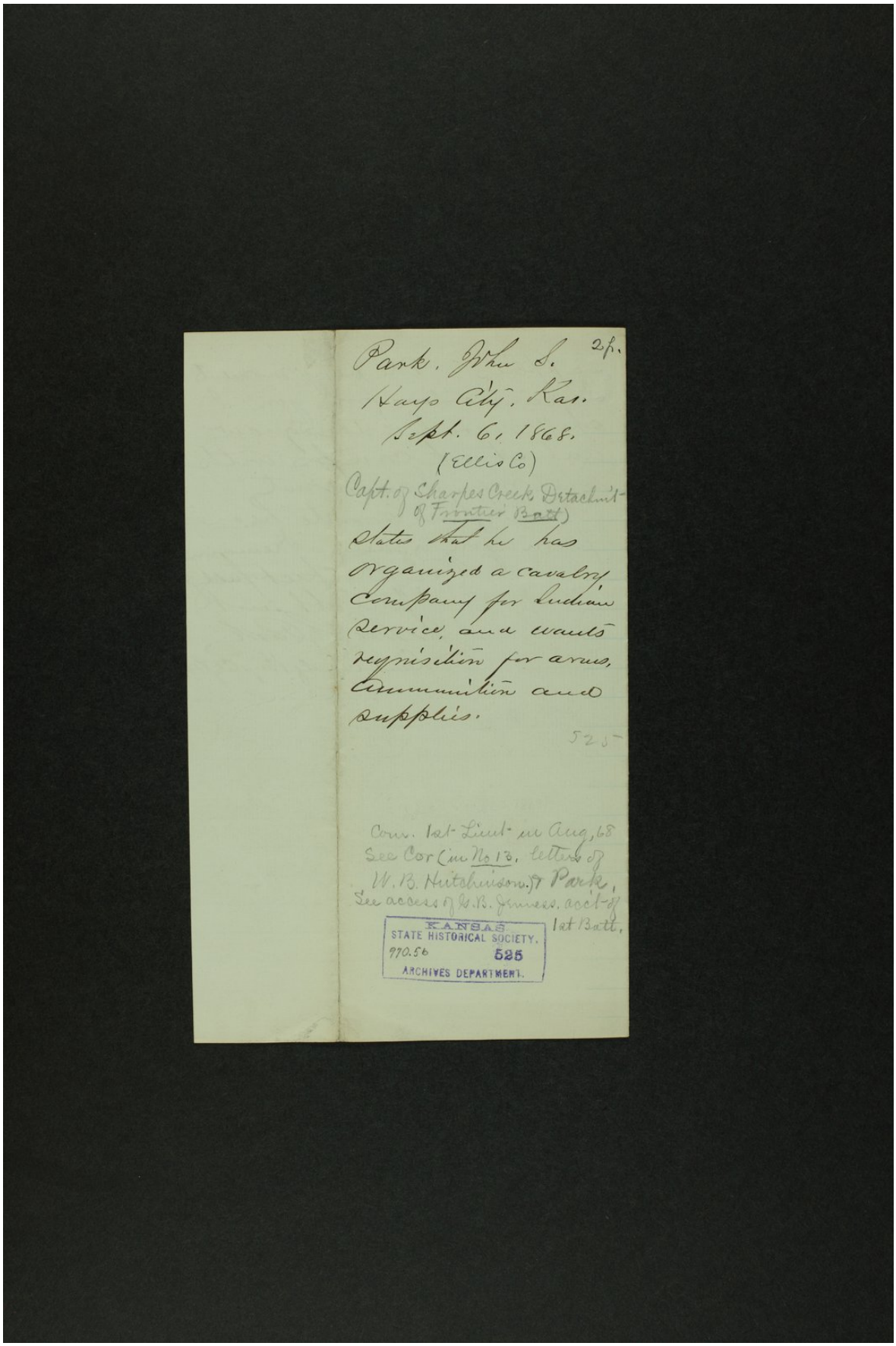
Very Respectfully

Your obt Servt

John S. Park

Lieut comdg Hays City Post

U S A



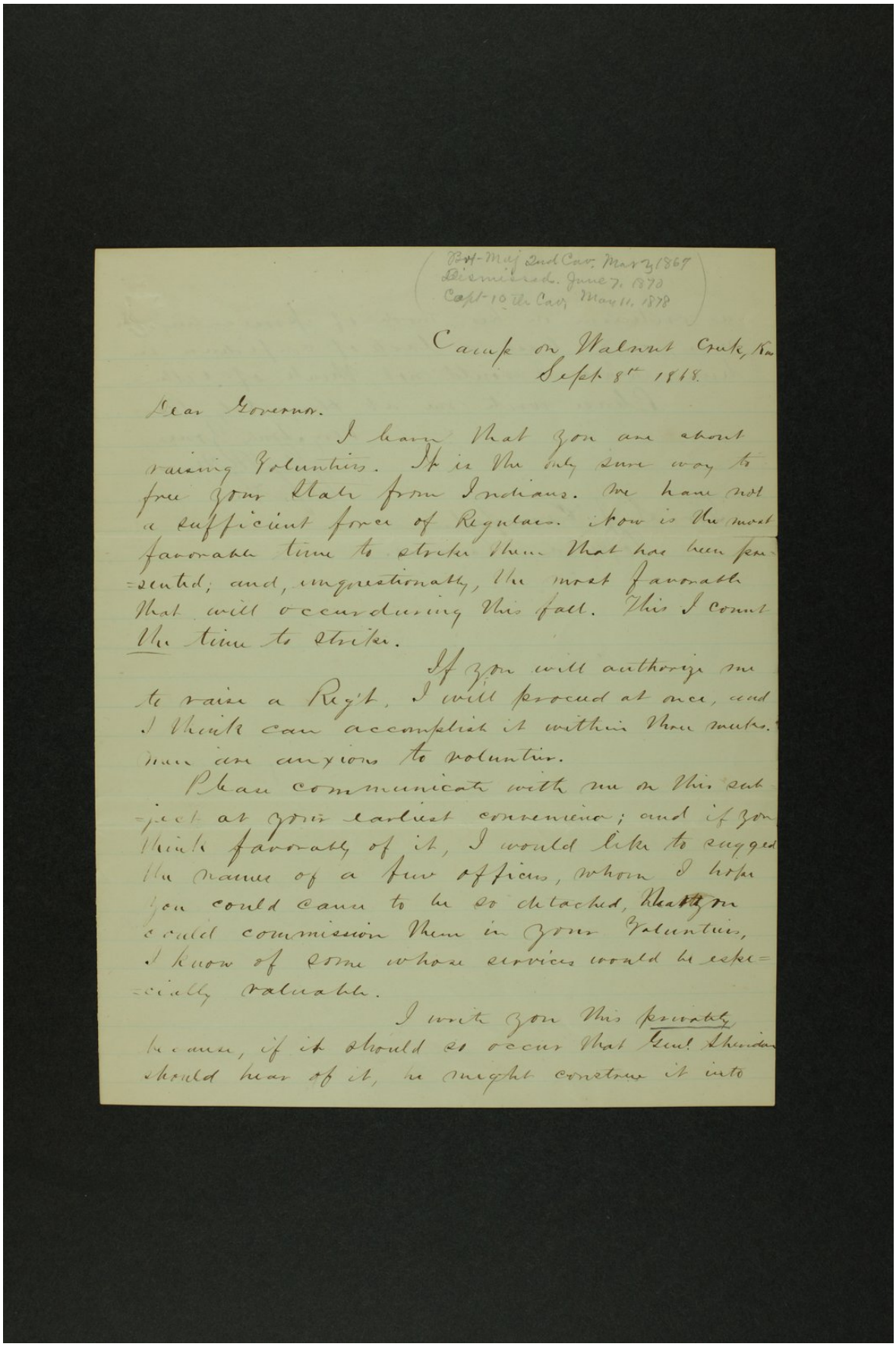
2 p.

Park. Wm S.
Hays City. Kas.
Sept. 6. 1868.
(Ellis Co)
Capt. of Charles Creek Detachment of Frontier Batt.
States that he has organized a cavalry Company for Indian Service, and wants requisition for arms, Ammunition and supplies.

525

Com. 1st Lieut. in Aug, 68
See Cor (in No 13. letters of W. B. Hutchinson.) Park,
See accers of W. B. Jones. acct of 1st Batt.

KANSAS
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
970.56 525
ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT.



Bvt-Maj 2nd Cav. Mar 7, 1867
Dismissed. June 7, 1870
Capt-10th Cav May 11, 1878

Camp on Walnut Creek, Kan
Sept 8th 1868.

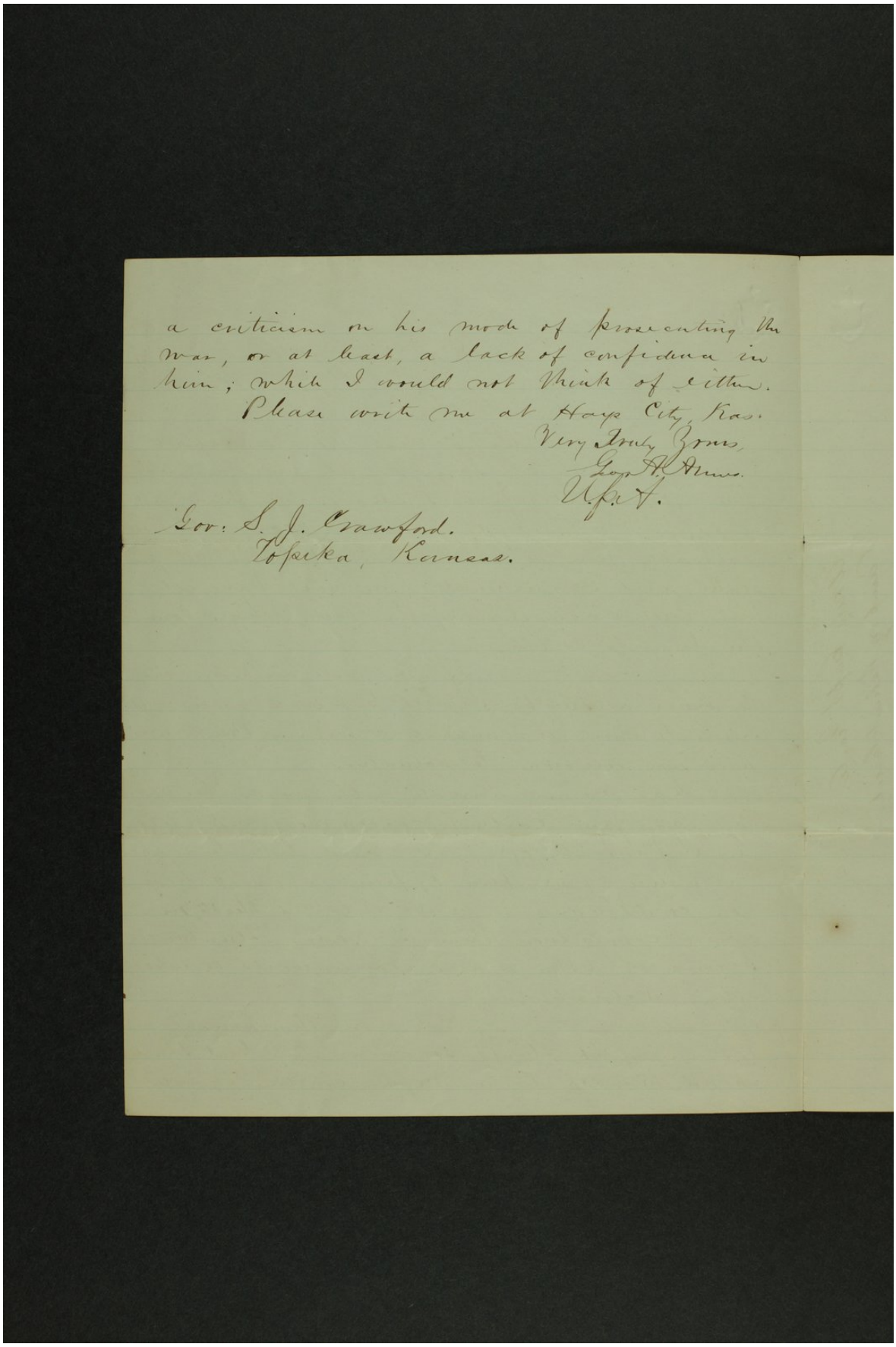
Dear Governor.

I learn that you are about raising Volunteers. It is the only sure way to free your State from Indians. We have not a sufficient force of Regulars. Now is the most favorable time to strike them that has been presented; and, unquestionably, the most favorable that will occur during this fall. This I count the time to strike.

If you will authorize me to raise a Reg't, I will proceed at once, and I think can accomplish it within three weeks. Men are anxious to volunteer.

Please communicate with me on this subject at your earliest convenience; and if you think favorably of it, I would like to suggest the names of a few officers, whom I hope you could cause to be so detached, that you could commission them in your Volunteers. I know of some whose services would be especially valuable.

I write you this privately because, if it should so occur that Genl Sheridan should hear of it, he might construe it into



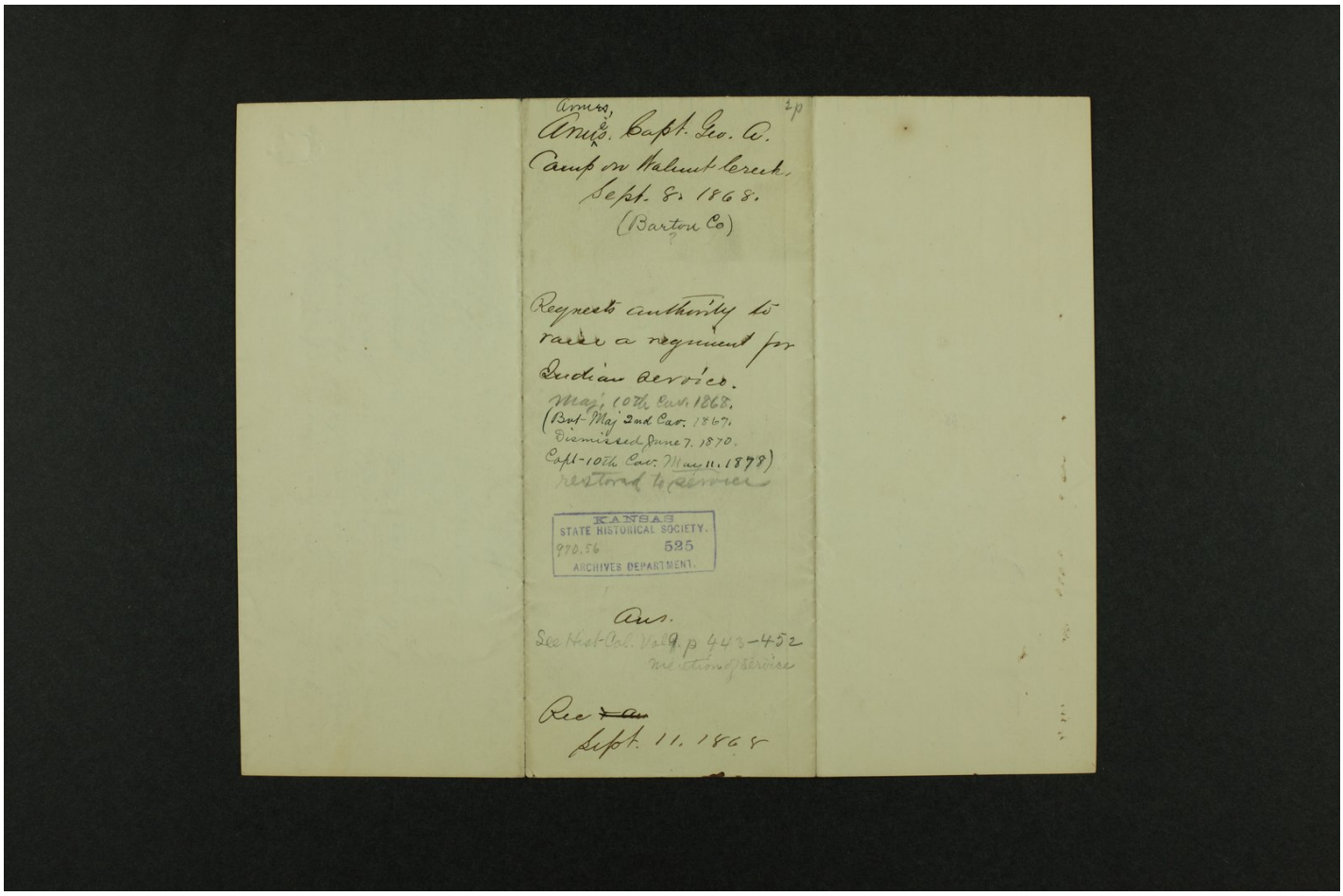
a criticism on his mode of prosecuting the war, or at least, a lack of confidence in him; which I would not think of either.

Please write me at Hays City, Kas.

Very Truly Yours,
Geo. A. Custer.
U.S.A.

Gov: S. J. Crawford.
Topeka, Kansas.

Governor Crawford Indian correspondence



Armes,
Ans. Capt. Geo. A.
Camp on Walnut Creek,
Sept. 8. 1868.
(Barton Co)

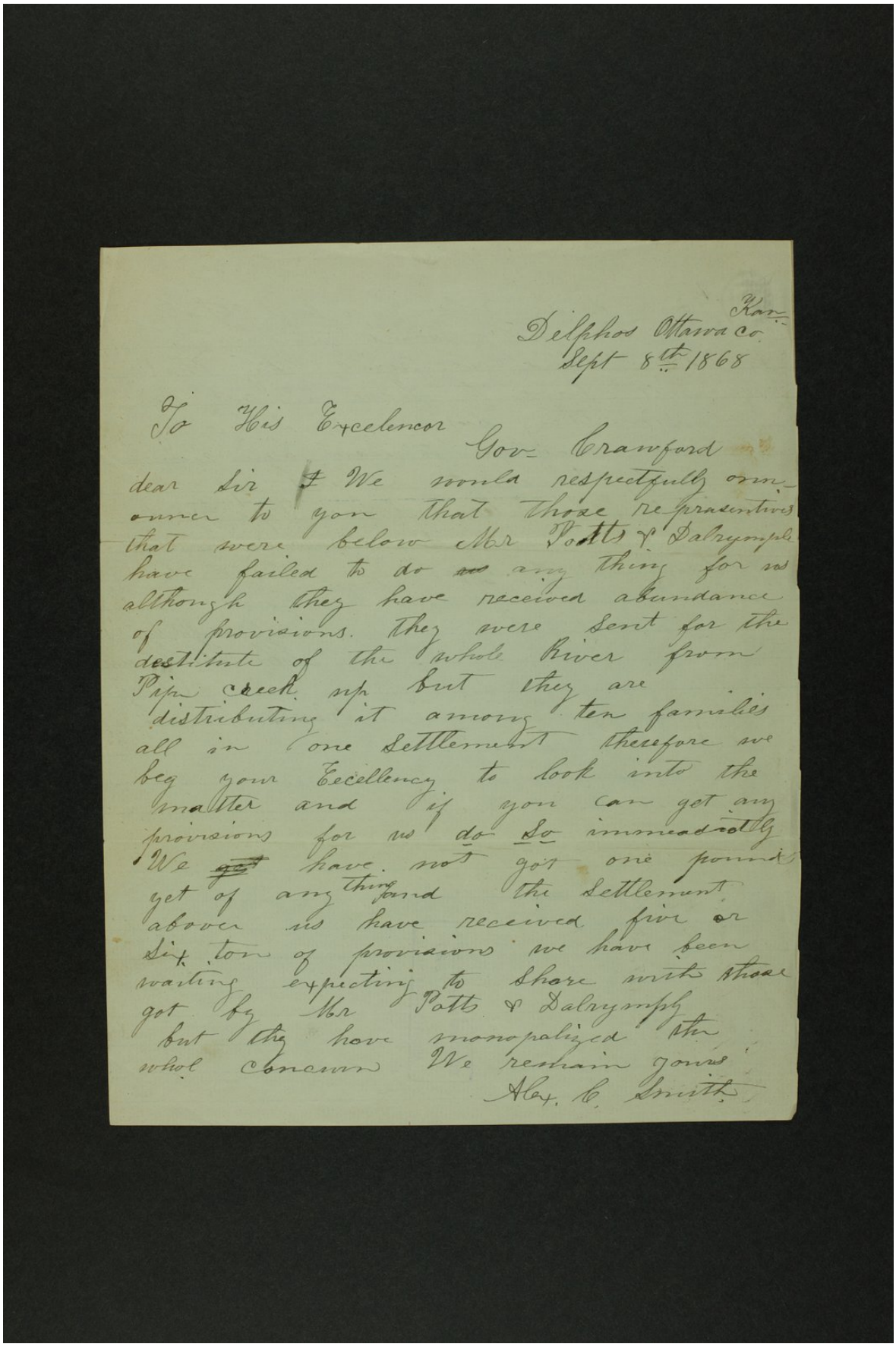
2p

Regrets authority to
raise a regiment for
Indian service.
Maj. 10th Cav. 1868.
(Brvt-Maj 2nd Cav. 1867.
Dismissed June 7. 1870.
Capt-10th Cav. May 11. 1878)
restored to service

KANSAS
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
970.56 525
ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT.

Ans.
See Hist-Col. Vol 9 p 442-452
Mention of service

Rec'd
Sept. 11. 1868

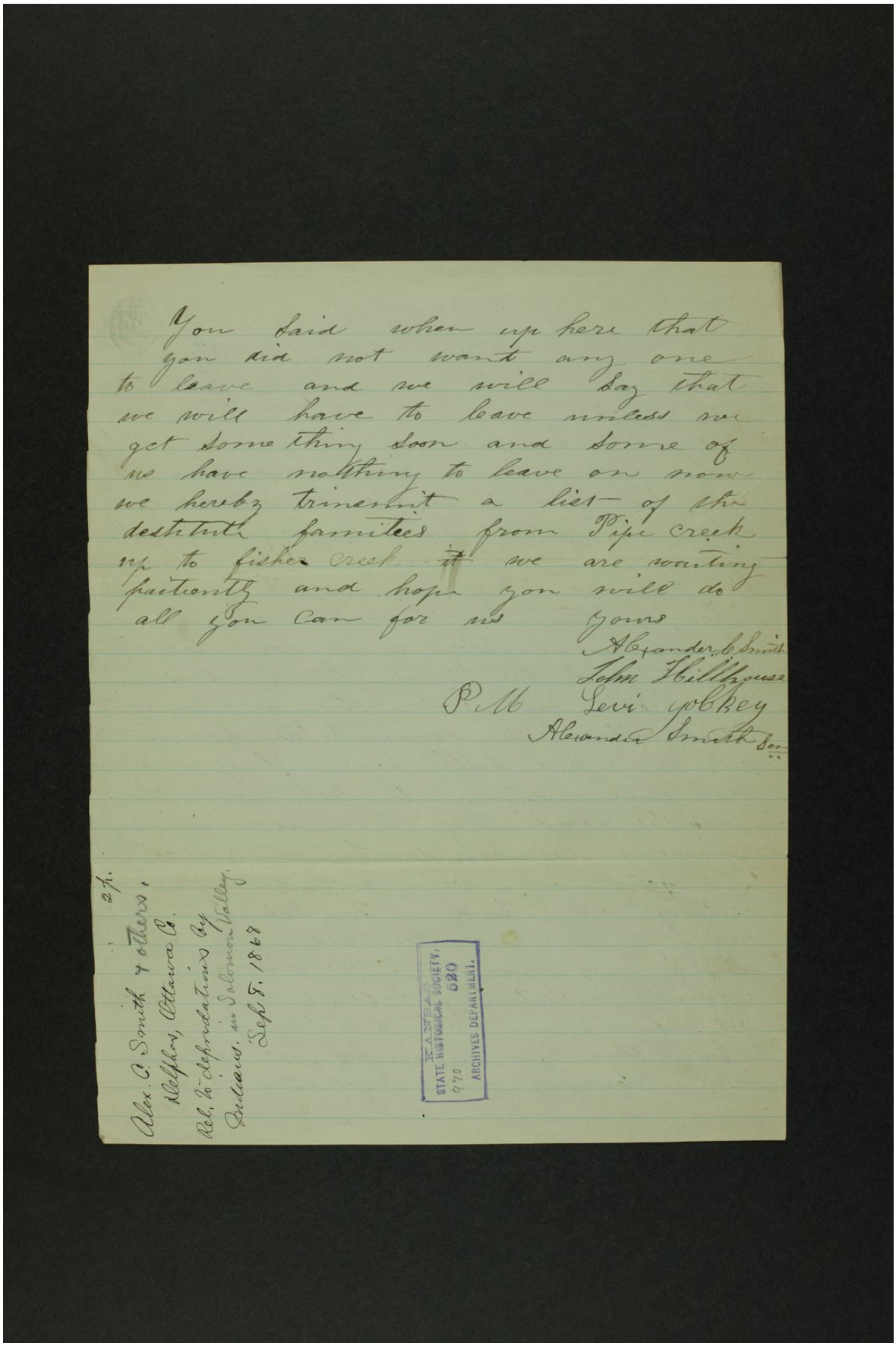


Delphos Ottawa Co Kan.
Sept 8th 1868

To His Excelencor
Gov- Crawford

dear Sir ~~I~~ We would respectfully communicate to you that those representives that were below Mr Potts & Dalrymple have failed to do ~~as~~ any thing for us although they have received abundance of provisions. they were sent for the destitute of the whole River from Pipe creek up but they are distributing it among ten families all in one Settlement therefore we beg your Excellency to look into the matter and if you can get any provisions for us do So immediately We ~~got~~ have not got one pound yet of any thing and the Settlement above us have received five or six ton of provisions we have been waiting expecting to share with those got by Mr Potts & Dalrymply but they have monopalized the whol concern We remain yours

Alex. C. Smith



You said when up here that you did not want any one to leave and we will say that we will have to leave unless we get something soon and some of us have nothing to leave on now we hereby transmit a list of the destitute families from Pipe creek up to fisher creek if we are wanting patiently and hope you will do all you can for us

Yours

Alexander C Smith
John Hillhouse
Levi McKey
Alexander Smith Son

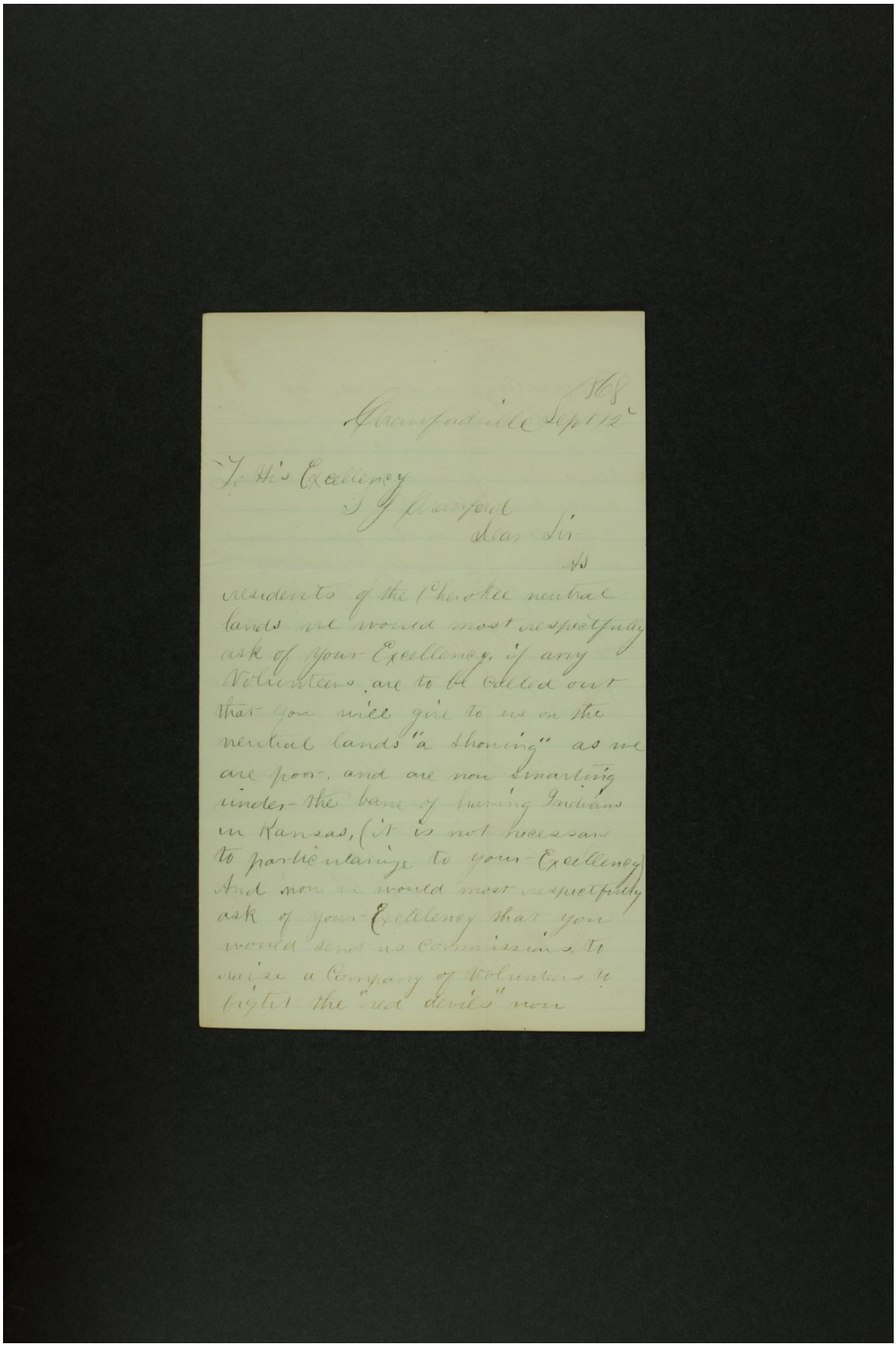
P M

27.

Alex. C. Smith & others,
Delphos, Ottawa Co.
Rel. to depredations by
Indians, in Solomon Valley.
Sept 5. 1868

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 630 ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT

Governor Crawford Indian correspondence



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Greenfield Sept 12

To His Excellency
S J Crawford
Dear Sir
We
residents of the Cherokee neutral
lands we would most respectfully
ask of your Excellency, if any
Volunteers are to be called out
that you will give to us on the
neutral lands "a showing" as we
are poor, and are now smarting
under the bane of having Indians
in Kansas, (it is not necessary
to particularize to your Excellency)
And now we would most respectfully
ask of your Excellency that you
would send us Commissions to
raise a Company of Volunteers to
fight the "red devils" now