

Papers relating to the impersonation of Boston Corbett by John Corbit

Section 3, Pages 61 - 90

Correspondence and legal documents relating to the impersonation of Boston Corbett by John Corbit. Boston Corbett was the man who killed John Wilkes Booth following President Lincoln's assassination. Corbett moved to Kansas in 1878 and lived in a dugout near Concordia, Kansas. In 1887, Corbett was given the position of assistant doorkeeper for the Kansas House of Representatives in Topeka. However, when he brandished his pistol during a session of the legislative that same year, he was arrested and sent to the insane asylum in Topeka. In 1888, he escaped and his whereabouts remained unknown until his presumed death. John Corbit was operating as a sales agent in Texas for the W. W. Gavitt's Medical Company in Topeka after having convinced them that he was Boston Corbett. A marriage license for Mr. John Corbit and Miss Effie Britz, dated October 2, 1899 in Wichita Falls, Texas, is also included. On August 20, 1904, John Corbit testified before a U. S. pension examiner that he was Boston Corbett. The district court in San Angelo, Texas found John Corbit guilty of perjury and sentenced him to three years hard labor in an Atlanta, Georgia penitentiary.

Date: 1898-1905

Callnumber: Boston Corbett Coll. #318, Box 2, Folder 24-26

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Papers relating to the impersonation of Boston Corbett by John Corbit



TOPEKA KANSAS, Jan 26, 1901.

Boston Corbet, Esq.,

Menardville, Tex.

Dear Sir:--

Your favor of the 21st inst., with report of sales, at hand and contents noted. We are glad to see that you are pushing the business lively and we have this day sent you six dozen boxes Gavitt's System Regulator by Fargo Express and, therefore, you ought to be able to get that as soon as you can be able to get up after it.

We have, also, sent you a good supply of advertising matter, and, also, some more application blanks that have your name on them. We have sent you one bottle of Cough Balsam, one bottle of Liniment, one bottle of Catarrh Cure and one jar of Ointment, free to you, with this order, so that you can use them for yourself.

Hope you will be able to get a large number of agents in the part of the country, where you are going, especially, those, who will take hold of it and do some canvassing. It is canvassing agents, that we want and when you cannot get some gentlemen, then get some ladies to take the agency.

In regard to your other business, we heard nothing particular about it, since we wrote you last. In fact, there is nothing to hear. We told you then, the only thing that could be done, and it all rests with you for the balance.

Hoping to hear from you often and we think it would be a good idea, if you wrote us about once a week, sending the report of the sales that you make.

Yours respectfully

W. W. Gavitt Medical Co.

L.K.

Papers relating to the impersonation of Boston Corbett by John Corbit



TOPEKA KANSAS, Mar 25, 1901.

Boston Corbett, Esq.,
Menardville, Tex
Dear Sir:--

Your favor of the 22nd inst., enclosing report of sales, at hand and contents noted. We are sorry to learn th at you have been sick so long, and supposed all the time that you had some of our Liniment and Ointment with you, if you had in connection with the System Regulator, it ought to have cured you long ago.

In making your report, we wish you would put the number of boxes you still have on hand at the head of the report blank, without that, we do not know anything about how many boxes you have left.

The agents, who have taken hold of the business from your work since your last report are W. R. Patterson, Menardville, Tex., and Geo. M. Hayes, Flynn, Lincoln Co., Okla, both took an agency March 23rd.

The weather will be getting better from now on and as you are able to be up and out, we think you will get through alright in a short time. If not, if you have any of our Liniment, you ought to be able to take all the soreness out of your System in a short time.

We have had an immense trade in Texas on a ccount of LaGrippe, as Gavitt's System Regulator is recognized all over the country as being the greatest cure for that, providing it is used according to the special directions for that particulars disease.

In leaving Menardville, we suppose th at you have a good rustling agent there, who will take hold of the business and crowd it around that part of the country. We notice that W. R. Patterson, lives four miles out of town. He would not do very much business at Menardville, but he can supply the country outside of that, therefore you ought to leaves us a good agent in Menardville.

David Doty and C. H. Womack, both of them took agencies Feb. 1st at Ft. McKavitt. We think we called your attention to them, as we notice you got credit for them. We have never heard from either one of them since we sent them the medicine. If you go over there, tell them we want a report of their sales, giving us the names of their customers, their postoffice address, etc., on the report blank th at we furnish them for that purpose.

Everybody will be wanting a spring medicine and now is the time to supply them. There is nothing that will purify the blood as good as Gavitt's System Regulator, therefore, our southern agents are already having a good trade.

Yours very respectfully

L. K.

W. . GAVITT MEDICAL CO.

Papers relating to the impersonation of Boston Corbett by John Corbit



TOPEKA KANSAS. Apr., 27, 1901.

Boston Corbett,
Pontotoc, Tex.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 22nd, at hand and contents noted. We are sorry to learn that you have been laid up so long, but hope you will soon be able to be out again. Our agents that we had located in Mason County have not done very much good there, we have had six different agents and none of them seem to have done any good. We have no agents in San Saba, Mills or Brown Counties and would be pleased to have some located there. When you want more medicine let us know where you want it sent to.

Hoping to hear from you again, soon, we remain,

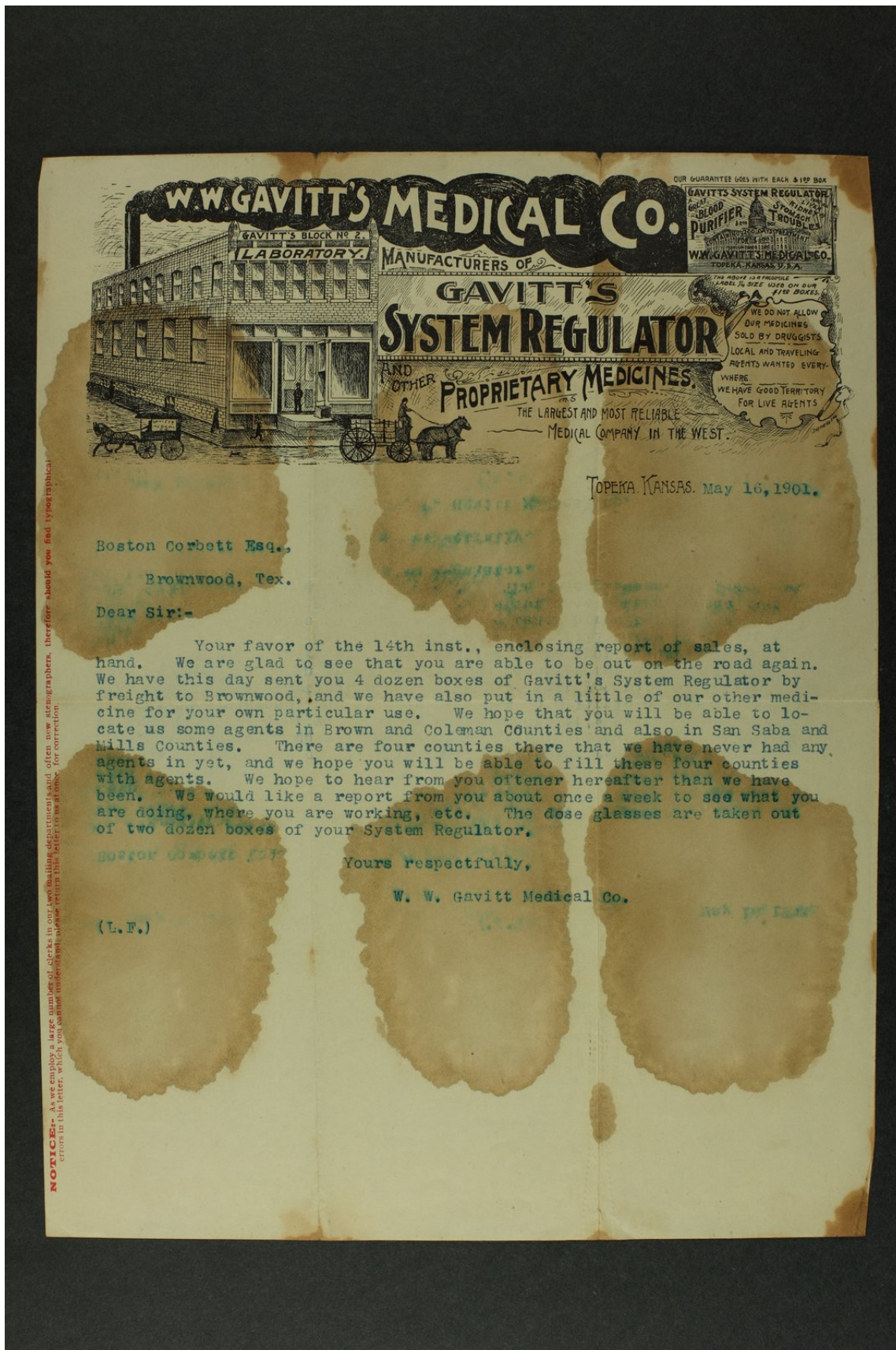
Respectfully,

W. W. Gavitt Medical Co.

Dictated to A. J.
L. F.

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TOPEKA KANSAS. June 1, 1901.

Boston Corbett Esq.,
Brownwood, Tex.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 28th ult., at hand and contents noted. We sent your medicine to Brownwood on the 16th ult., and also wrote you a long letter. Your letter came back to us unclaimed, but we returned it to Brownwood. We have sent Jas. Slaughter of Fredonia, Mason County, Tex., wholesale prices, agent's application blank with your name on it and hope we will hear from him soon by way of a wholesale order.

We have sent you ten application blanks. Give them to parties and tell them to write us, if they want an agency; and not wait for us to write them.

Thanking you for past favors and hoping to hear from you often, we remain

Yours respectfully,

W. W. Gavitt Medical Co.

(L. F.)

L.K.

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TOPEKA, KANSAS, June 7th, 1901.

Boston Corbett/

Brownwood, Texas.

Dear Sir,--

Your favor of the 4th inst., enclosing report of sales, at hand and contents noted. We were glad to hear from you and to see that you received the medicine all right, and hope that you will have luck in closing it out and that we will hear from you again soon.

Mrs Pairalee Williams wrote in her last letter that she was selling medicine in Allene, Taylor County, Nebraska. Mrs Pairalee Partlo or George Partlo, are not doing any business for us that we know of, at least, we do not find any such names on our books from parties in Nebraska.

We have no agent at San Sabe County yet, neither have we any in Mills, Golemar, or McClulla County. Those counties are all around you where you are at the present time, therefore, by circulation in those four or five counties, we think you ought to make a good trade.

We wrote to Mr. Slaughter, but we have not heard from him. you will have to give us Mr. Slaughters name and address again, and we will stir him up.

We find that you are overlooking one very important class, who would make excellent agents in handling this medicine for us. Those are Hucksters and others who go out through the country and buy eggs, butter, chickens, etc., and take groceries and others stuff for the same. They make the best agents in the world, simply because, if they can not get cash they can take their pay in trade, therefore, they make very large number of sales.

Hoping to hear from you often while you are around there, we remain

Yours respectfully,

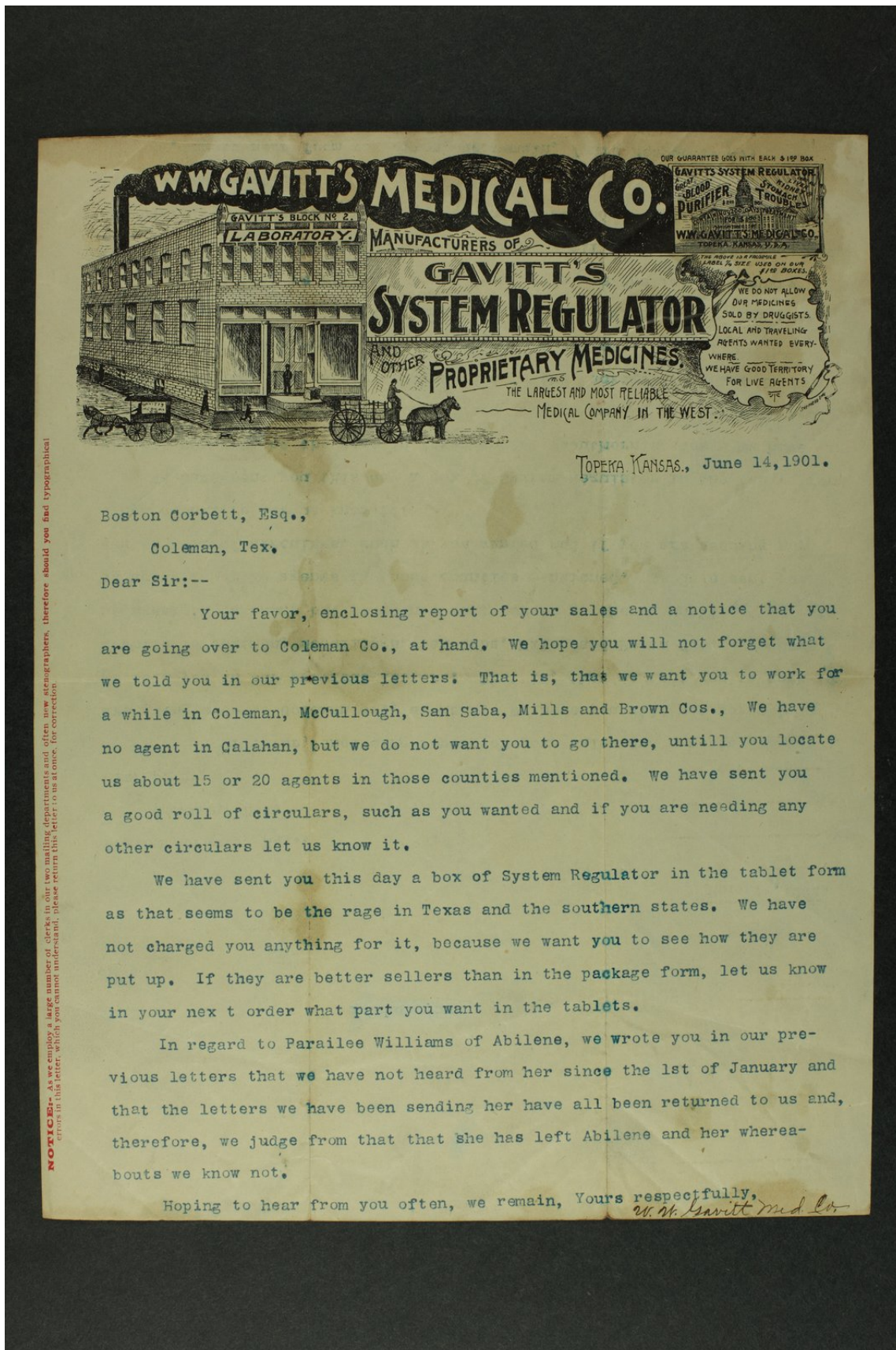
W. W. Gavitt Medical Company.

Dic to y

L.K.

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GAVITT'S MEDICAL CO.
MANUFACTURERS OF
GAVITT'S SYSTEM REGULATOR
AND OTHER PROPRIETARY MEDICINES.
THE LARGEST AND MOST RELIABLE
MEDICAL COMPANY IN THE WEST.

TOPEKA KANSAS, July 11, 1901.

avor of the 10th inst., at hand and contents noted. We
at you four dozen boxes Gavitt's System Regulator,
age form and one in the tablet form, by freight.
more agents to get to make things straight. This
s, makes thirteen more agents to get.
many new agents have ordered since W. R. Patterson made
There are four, Geo. Brown of Bluff Dale, Tex., Mrs.
Gainesville, Tex., Jas Slaughter of Fredonia, Tex.,
ter of Mason, Tex., He sent in his first order June 22
last new agent you got for us.
d nothing from Mrs. Paralee Williams since we notified
ters were returned to us unclaimed.
ear from you often, we remain
Yours very respectfully

W. W. GAVITT MEDICAL CO.

Papers relating to the impersonation of Boston Corbett by John Corbit



TOPEKA, KANSAS, July 24, 1901.

Boston Corbett Esq.,
Seymour, Tex.

Dear Sir:--

Your favor, from Wichita Falls, at hand. We will put a tracer after your medicine which should have been at Seymour before this, and will hurry the matter up just as fast as possible. We notice that you want us to send a wholesale price list and agent's application blank to a man in Wichita Falls, to whom you have been talking, but you failed to give us his name, so that we can tell what it is. In fact you did not undertake to give us his first name at all or anything else so that he would receive our letters. In writing, his name looks like Meefster, but it might be almost anything else. We cannot make out whether the first letter of his name is M or W. If it should have been intended for a W, then the name might be Webster; but you did not give us his first name, and therefore, we cannot write him, because he would not get our letters.

In giving us peoples' name, be very careful to make one letter at a time, and make that look plain, so that we will know. Sometimes in making your W's, you run it right into the word connecting the next letter, making it look exactly like an M. We do not see anything in your letter to show us that you are out of these wholesale blanks. We sent you quite a lot about a month ago. If you are out of those agent's application blanks and wholesale prices, you should have let us know, so that we could have sent you a lot of them. Perhaps there is a lot of them in your box of medicine, if you mentioned anything about them at that time. Part of our force, at the present time, is off on a vacation, and therefore, we do not know exactly what was done with the last order, without looking the matter up. The supposition is that circulars, application blanks and everything were put into that. We would write this gentleman, that you mention, if we only knew what his name is. Please let us hear from you as soon as you get the package, so that we will know that you received it. We hope we will hear from a couple dozen of your friends down there, because we have no agents in Baylor County. We wrote you at Brownwood and requested that you get us some agents in two or three counties nearby there, mentioning the names of the counties in which we had no agents. We have not received an application from anybody in either one of the four counties that we mentioned; neither have we heard from you in regard to them, why you did not get some of them started there.

Hoping to hear from you often, by way of new agents, we remain

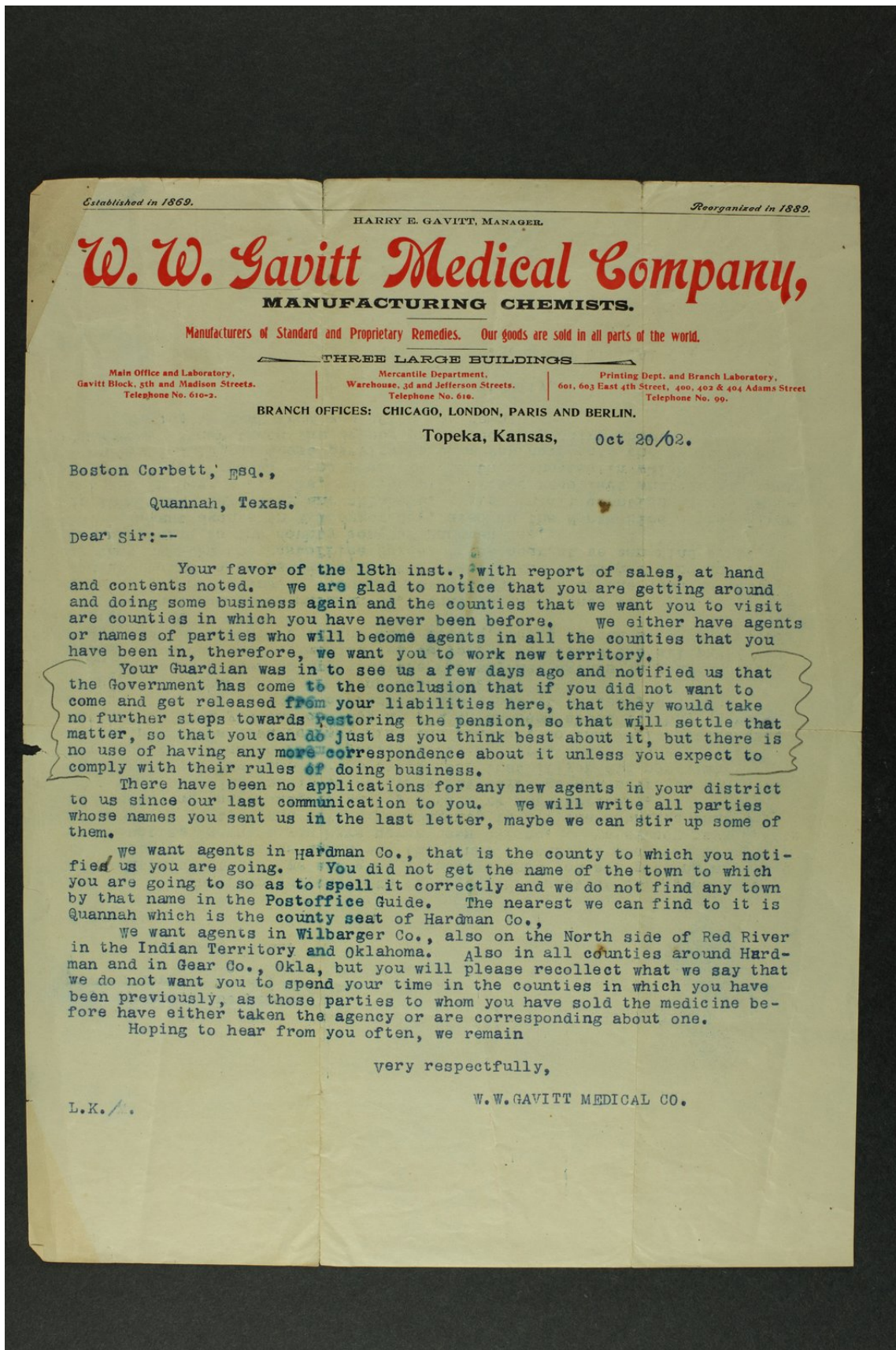
Yours respectfully,
W. W. Gavitt Medical Co.

(L.F.)

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Established in 1869.

HARRY E. GAVITT, MANAGER.

Reorganized in 1889.

W. W. Gavitt Medical Company, MANUFACTURING CHEMISTS.

Manufacturers of Standard and Proprietary Remedies. Our goods are sold in all parts of the world.

THREE LARGE BUILDINGS

Main Office and Laboratory,
Gavitt Block, 5th and Madison Streets.
Telephone No. 610-2.

Mercantile Department,
Warehouse, 3d and Jefferson Streets.
Telephone No. 610.

Printing Dept. and Branch Laboratory,
601, 603 East 4th Street, 400, 402 & 404 Adams Street
Telephone No. 99.

BRANCH OFFICES: CHICAGO, LONDON, PARIS AND BERLIN.

Topeka, Kansas, Oct 20/02.

Boston Corbett, Esq.,

Quannah, Texas.

Dear Sir:--

Your favor of the 18th inst., with report of sales, at hand and contents noted. We are glad to notice that you are getting around and doing some business again and the counties that we want you to visit are counties in which you have never been before. We either have agents or names of parties who will become agents in all the counties that you have been in, therefore, we want you to work new territory.

Your Guardian was in to see us a few days ago and notified us that the Government has come to the conclusion that if you did not want to come and get released from your liabilities here, that they would take no further steps towards restoring the pension, so that will settle that matter, so that you can do just as you think best about it, but there is no use of having any more correspondence about it unless you expect to comply with their rules of doing business.

There have been no applications for any new agents in your district to us since our last communication to you. We will write all parties whose names you sent us in the last letter, maybe we can stir up some of them.

We want agents in Hardman Co., that is the county to which you notified us you are going. You did not get the name of the town to which you are going to so as to spell it correctly and we do not find any town by that name in the Postoffice Guide. The nearest we can find to it is Quannah which is the county seat of Hardman Co.,

We want agents in Wilbarger Co., also on the North side of Red River in the Indian Territory and Oklahoma. Also in all counties around Hardman and in Gear Co., Okla, but you will please recollect what we say that we do not want you to spend your time in the counties in which you have been previously, as those parties to whom you have sold the medicine before have either taken the agency or are corresponding about one.

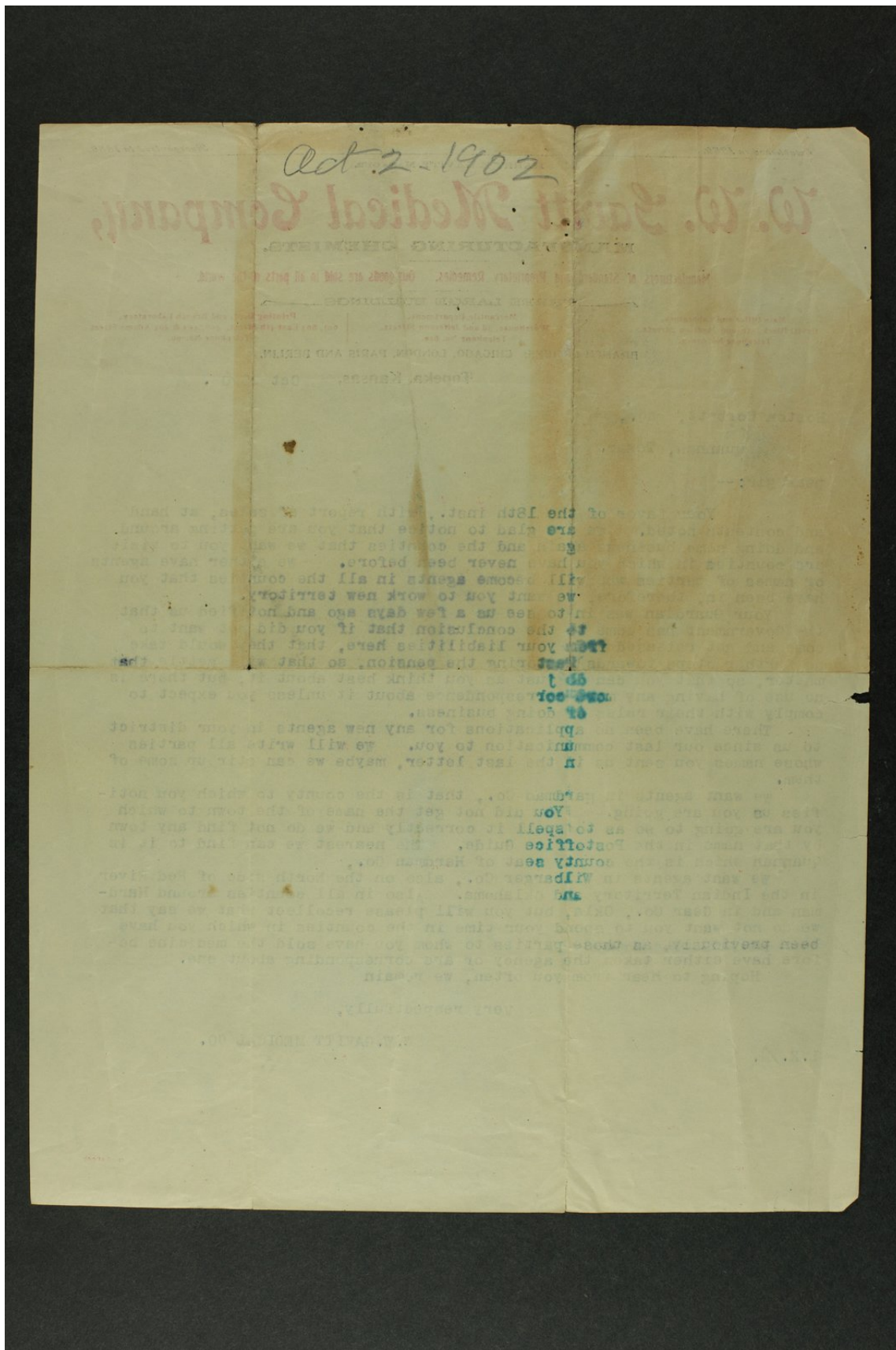
Hoping to hear from you often, we remain

very respectfully,

W.W.GAVITT MEDICAL CO.

L.K./A.

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Sept 18 - 1900
said nothing regarding pension
Corbett had not followed in
Shannon - //

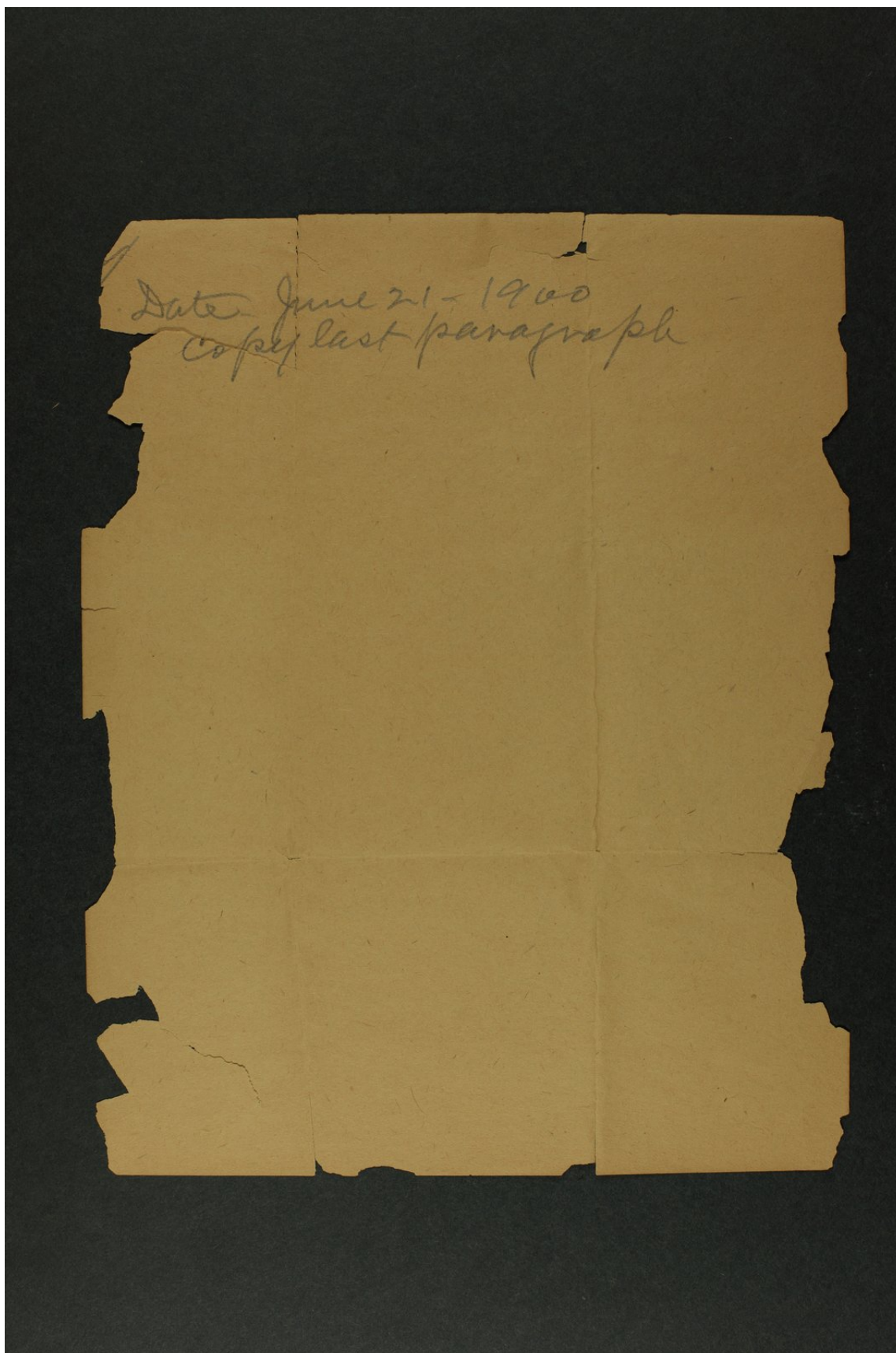
Date Oct. 20 - 1902 Say
Your guardian notified us few
ago that Government has come to
conclusion that if you do not
come and get released from
these here no further steps
taken toward restoring the
X X there is no ~~more~~ ^{more} having any
more correspondence about it -
unless you expect to comply with
their rules of doing business - //

July 21 - 1902
Addresses him as John Corbett
Tells him the Probate Judge is
in Colorado - + Havitt cannot learn
definitely about what has to be done
to get Corbit released - //

July 23 - 1900 -
Have copy made -

July 7 - 1900 -
Say's have not seen Dr East -
Have first Paragraph
Copied -

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Papers relating to the impersonation of Boston Corbett by John Corbit

Truscott, Knox County, Texas.

February 17, 1903.

Personally appeared Boston Corbett who for the purpose of securing restoration to the U. S. Pension rolls states the following facts:

First.- That he is the same Boston Corbett who was a sergeant in Company L. 16 Regiment New York Cavalry during the war of the Rebellion from 1861 to 1865.

Second.- That he was granted a pension, certificate No. 218,545.

Third.- That he was confined in the State Insane Hospital at Topeka, Kansas about the 16th day of February, 1887 and escaped from said hospital on the or about the 26th or 28th day of May, 1888. That he went immediately from Topeka west to Colorado, on foot,- that he left the City of Topeka, on foot and went first to Julesburg, Col., for two days and went to Denver, Colorado about the last of June, 1888 That he staid in Denver on Corbett Street for about two months, then went to Great Bend, Kansas, for a short time, left there about Thanksgiving day, then went to Wichita, Kansas, but left in about two days. That Wichita was the most desolate town he ever saw.

That from Wichita he went to the south, to Chester, Oklahoma, where he staid for three years with Oscar Gaylord. That he next went to Sonora Sutton County, Texas, and staid there about a year and a half. That he went to Pontotoc Mason County, Texas, where he staid several months and had a baby die there. That he had been married one and a half years before going to Pontotoc. That he was married in Wichita Falls, Texas, in 1898 to Miss Effey Beitz. That he lived four years in San Angelo, Tom Green County before his marriage, and was well acquainted with John Shoemaker, driver of a dray wagon; that he got acquainted with Shoemaker immediately after going to San Angelo. That he worked with John Hewitt most of the time at San Angelo,- lived with Shoemaker for three or four years off and on.

Papers relating to the impersonation of Boston Corbett by John Corbit

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That he has been sick ever since leaving the Insane hospital, that he has suffered from Diarrhea, Rheumatism and Scurvy,-- that all these diseases were contracted in the army.

That he was never taken prisoner while in the army but was on duty all of the time while in the army. That Capt. Rayner and Capt. Harrison commanded his Company, also Col. Butterfield and Col. Edward Kirk commanded the Regiment.

That immediately after being discharged from the U. S. Service, he removed to the State of Kansas, after stopping in Indianapolis and Terrehaute, Indiana. That he worked in a rock-quarry at Terrehaute.

That he has not been treated for his diseases since escaping from the Insane hospital at Topeka, but has treated himself with medicines made by the Cavitt Medical Company at Topeka, Kansas, for the past nine years.

That he has sold medicines for the Cavitt Medical Company since for six or seven years.

That he was born in the State of Maine on the Delaware River but cannot remember the name of the county in which he was born. That he left Maine when 15 or 16 years of age. That he went from Maine to New York, that he ran away from home, and has never been in Maine since he left when a boy.

That he had no trade but worked as a common laborer before he enlisted in the army. That he did not serve in any other regiment than the 16th, New York Cavalry. That he does not remember in which army he served with his regiment.

That he weighs 165 pounds and is five feet (5) and nine(9) inches high in his stocking feet, but has been taller, that his knees are bent by rheumatism, which reduces his stature.

That he is fifty nine years of age at this time and that when he enlisted he was five feet, eight inches high but grew about two inches while in the service.

Papers relating to the impersonation of Boston Corbett by John Corbit

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That he is competent to look after and manage his own business affairs and requests the Pension Department of the United States to restore him to the pension rolls and make his said pension payable to him direct without going through the hands of any guardian. That he has not gone by his name of Boston Corbett during all the time since his escape from the Insane hospital at Topeka but has gone by other names to prevent the Kansas authorities discovering him. That he was married under the name of John Corbett.

IN TESTIMONY whereof he hereby certifies that the foregoing statement is true in every particular and hereby subscribes his name this seventeenth day of February, 1903.

Boston Corbett.

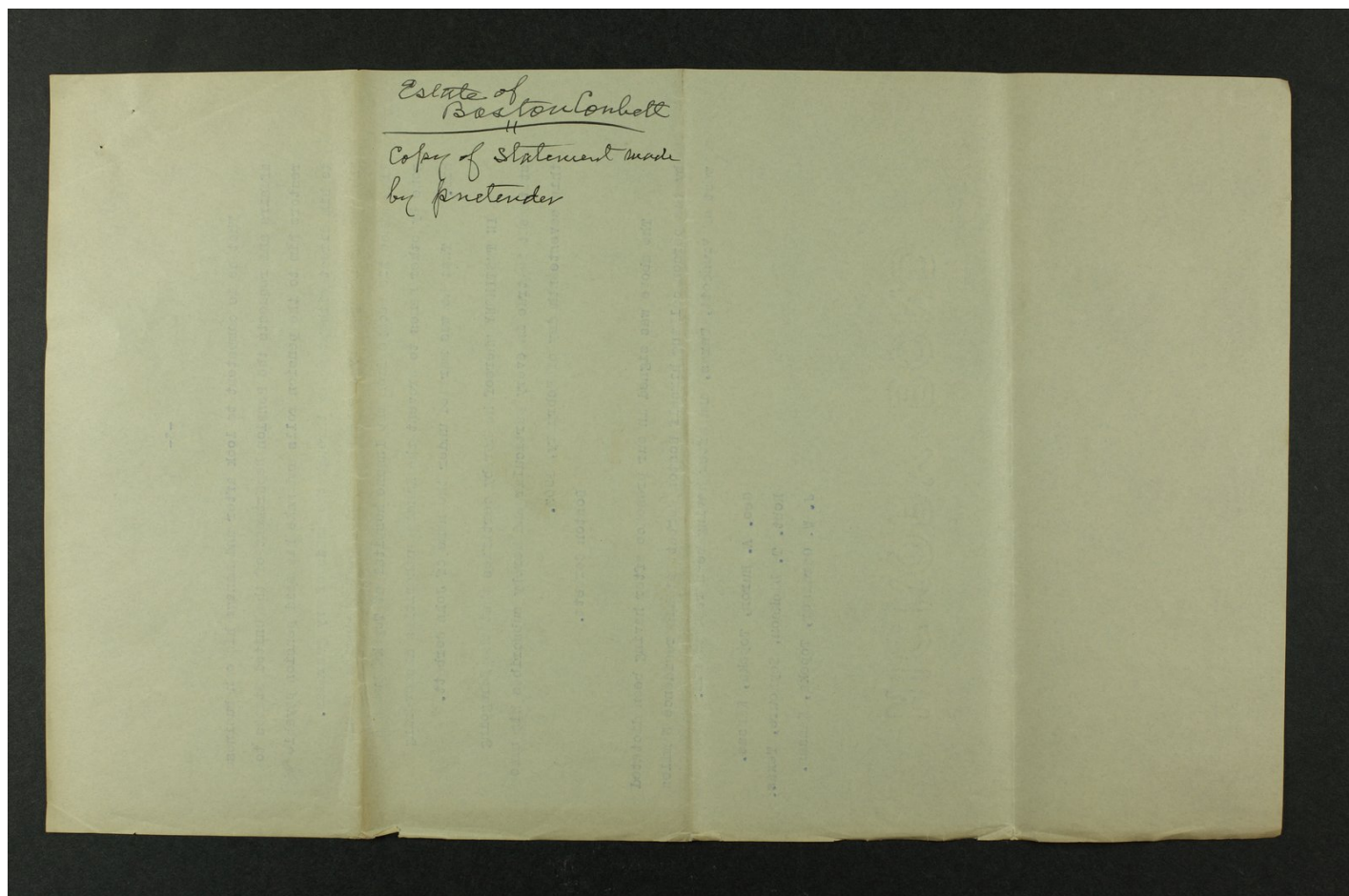
The above was signed in our presence after having been dictated by the person calling himself Boston Corbett at his residence 5 miles west of Truscott, Texas, and after having been read to him.

Geo. A. Huron, Topeka, Kansas.

Robt. T. Dickson, Seymore, Texas.

J. W. Gardiner, Topeka, Kansas.

Papers relating to the impersonation of Boston Corbett by John Corbit



Papers relating to the impersonation of Boston Corbett by John Corbit

[Jan. 31, 1909]

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,) Application for restoration
PENSION BUREAU.) on pension rolls.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PENSION CERTIFICATE OF BOSTON CORBETT
NO. 218545.

Comes now, George A. Huron, and represents to the Pension Bureau that he is the duly appointed, qualified and acting guardian of the estate of Boston Corbett, an insane person; that said Boston Corbett escaped from the State Hospital for the Insane at Topeka, Kansas, in May, 1888; that prior to his being adjudged insane, the said Boston Corbett was the holder of pension certificate No. 218545; that your petitioner, George A. Huron, as his guardian, had drawn his said pension to the 4th day of December, 1887, but had drawn no part of the pension due upon said certificate since the said 4th day of December, 1887, and that there is now due to said Boston Corbett, upon his said pension certificate, the sum of eight dollars per month since the said 4th day of December, 1887.

Your petitioner further represents that after the escape of the said Boston Corbett from the State Hospital for the Insane, he so thoroughly concealed himself and his whereabouts from your petitioner that no evidence could be obtained that he was still living so as to make the necessary proofs and vouchers upon which to draw his said pension, and that under the rules of the Pension Bureau, your petitioner is informed that the name of the said Boston Corbett has been dropped from the pension rolls.

Your petitioner further informs the said Pension Bureau that he has recently discovered the whereabouts of the said Boston Corbett; that he is now located upon the farm or ranch of a Mr. Anderson, near the town of Free, Pecos county, Texas, that that Free is his post office address.



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Your petitioner further gives information that he has not seen his said ward since his said escape, but that from letters received from him, he is satisfied that the person with whom he is corresponding at Free, Texas, is truly Boston Corbett, as he represents himself to be; that he is in very bad health and needs his said pension.

Your petitioner further represents that he has made investigation of the condition of mind of the said Boston Corbett, and is satisfied that he is able to take all charge of his business affairs necessary in the drawing of his said pension and expending the same for his own personal benefit.

WHEREFORE: Your petitioner prays that the Pension Bureau shall make such investigation of the case of the said Boston Corbett as may be necessary, and if satisfied as to the identity of the party representing himself to be Boston Corbett and that he is capable of receiving and caring for, and expending his said pension, that he be restored again to the said pension rolls, and that his said pension be paid to him direct without the interposition of your petitioner as his said guardian.

Your petitioner further represents that he is not related to the said Boston Corbett except officially as his said guardian, and that he has no interest whatever in the pension of the said Boston Corbett, except his desire that he shall be restored to all his rights as an ex-soldier of the Union now greatly broken in health.

Subscribed and sworn before me :

this day of :.....

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..... 2

My commission expires

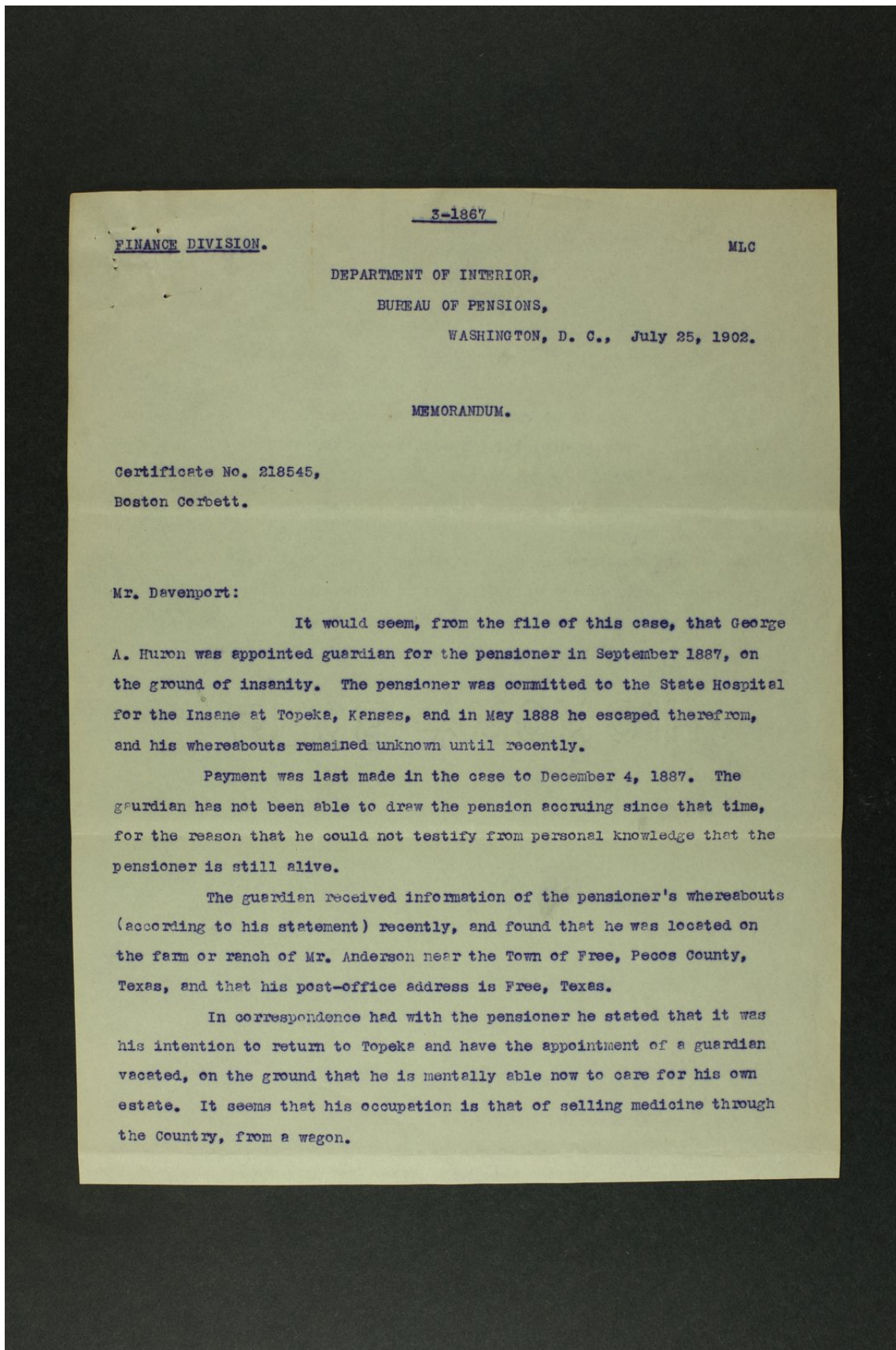
Papers relating to the impersonation of Boston Corbett by John Corbit

Boston Corbett

copy of
Application
for
Restoration
to the
Pension Roll -

mailed to Com. Pension
at Blue Grass.
Jan 31-1902

Papers relating to the impersonation of Boston Corbett by John Corbit



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The pensioner's long disappearance makes it reasonable to raise the question of identity, as well as the question of his mental condition since his escape from the insane asylum. Section 4719, R.S., U.S., provides that the failure of a pensioner to claim his pension for a period of three years shall result in his name being dropped, on the ground of recovery from the disability for which the pension was allowed, among other things. Rule 71 states that the three years' limitation provided by Section 4719, R.S., U.S., will not apply in case of a pensioner who within three years shall have died or been insane or been a minor with or without a guardian.

This case at the present time is in such a bad shape that I hardly know what to do with it, and consequently have been pondering over it for some time, with the intention of talking it over with you. probably the best thing to do is to let the matter rest until the pensioner applies in the proper court to have the guardianship vacated. If you agree with this view, the only thing necessary at this time is to advise Congressman Calderhead to that effect.

Very respectfully,

Wm. L. Totean
Chief of Finance Division.

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Before Enlistment.

Allen M. Thompson }
N. Y. City } Filed July 14, 1882.

Testifies to claimant's soundness prior to his enlistment.

James H. Brown, }
N. Y. City, } Filed July 5, 1882.

Testifies to claimant's soundness prior to his enlistment: also in affidavit filed August 26, 1882.

Thomas Brown }
N. Y. City. } Filed July 5, 1882.

Testifies to claimant's soundness prior to his enlistment.

Testifies to same effect in affidavit filed August 26, 1882.

In Service.

Jos. H. Whitehead, }
Concordia, Kans. } Filed August 26, 1882.

Testifies that he knew claimant while in Andersonville: became acquainted with him at their prayer meetings; claimant suffered then from diarrhoea and scurvy and his whole system was diseased.

Since Discharge.

James H. Brown } Filed July 5, 1882.

Testifies that he saw claimant frequently after the war until 1874: that he was then much broken down and was suffering from a complication of diseases.

Same in affidavit filed August 26, 1882 states that he was personally acquainted with claimant's condition from his discharge until 1869: that he was suffering during that time with diarrhoea and piles, scurvy and rheumatism and affiant thinks he is safe in saying that claimant was wholly unfit for manual labor during those years.

Thos. Brown } Filed July 5, 1882.

Testifies that he saw claimant very frequently after his discharge in 1865: he was then suffering from rheumatism, scurvy, diarrhoea and piles: knew him well until he removed to Kansas in 1878, and believes that he was during that time wholly unfit to perform manual labor.

In affidavit filed August 26, 1882 testifies to the same effect, and states that he does not think there was a time from 1865 to 1878 in

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which claimant did not suffer rheumatism, diarrhoea and piles.

A. M. Thompson, Sr. Filed July 14, 1882.

Testifies that when claimant was discharged he was suffering from diarrhoea, scurvy and general debility, and was very feeble and greatly emaciated: saw him often until his removal to Kansas in 1878, and does not know of any time from 1870 to 1878 when claimant was able to do manual labor.

Jos. H. Whitehead. Filed August 26, 1882.

Testifies that he is a "near neighbor" and that claimant is unable to do anything: suffers from diarrhoea, scurvy, rheumatism and piles.

D. B. Moore, M. D.)
Concordia, Kans.) Filed July 5, 1882.

Testifies that he has treated claimant for the past three years for diarrhoea and piles: "The piles are not benefited by treatment: the diarrhoea is only temporarily relieved: there is a scorbutic condition of system, and chronic rheumatism is continually present: # # # # the diarrhoea comes from slight exertion # # # # or from cold, or the eating of any food which disagrees with him, and at times the piles are much aggravated: the rheumatism affects the arms, legs and back, also the neck and back part of the head."

J. W. Strait.)
Concordia, Ks.) Filed July 5, 1882.

Testifies that claimant during the past three years has been "wholly" unable to labor on account of diarrhoea, scurvy and dyspepsia.

James F. Fish,)
Concordia, Ks.) Filed July 5, 1882.

Testifies that he has known claimant well the past three years and knows that he has been wholly unable to do any manual labor: that he has suffered constantly from chronic diarrhoea, scurvy, dyspepsia, and what affiant would call general debility.



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J. F. N. Fleury)
Concordia, Ks.)

Filed July 5, 1882.

Testifies to same facts and in the same language as the last preceding witness.

A. F. Bishop)
Concordia, Kans.)

Filed July 5, 1882.

Testifies that claimant has made affiants house his home the past three years: affiant knows that he has been wholly unable to do any labor, suffering constantly with chronic diarrhoea, effects of scurvy: dyspepsia, and general debility.

Papers relating to the impersonation of Boston Corbett by John Corbit

Truscott, Knox County, Texas.

February, 17, 1903.

Personally appeared Boston Corbett who for the purpose of securing restoration to the U. S. Pension rolls states the following facts:

First.- That he is the same Boston Corbett who was a sergeant in Company L. 16 Regiment New York Cavalry during the war of the Rebellion from 1861 to 1865.

Second.- That he was granted a pension, certificate No. 218,545.

Third.- That he was confined in the State Insane Hospital at Topeka, Kansas about the 16th day of February, 1887 and escaped from said hospital on the or about the 26th or 28th day of May, 1888. That he went immediately from Topeka west to Colorado, on foot,- that he left the city of Topeka, on foot and went first to Julesburg, Col., for two days and went to Denver, Colorado about the last of June, 1888. That he staid in Denver on Corbett Street for about two months, then went to Great Bend, Kansas, for a short time, left there about Thanksgiving day, then went to Wichita, Kansas, but left in about two days. That Wichita was the most desolate town he ever saw.

That from Wichita he went to the south, to Chester, Oklahoma, where he staid for three years with Oscar Gaylord. That he next went to Sonora Sutton County, Texas, and staid there about a year and a half. That he went to Pontotoc Mason County, Texas, where he staid several months and had a baby die there. That he had been married one and half years before going to Pontotoc. That he was married in Wichita Falls, Texas, in 1899 to Miss Effey Beitz. That he had lived four years in San Angelo, Tom Green County before his marriage, and was well acquainted with John Shoemaker, driver of a dray wagon; that he got acquainted with Shoemaker immediately after going to San Angelo. That he worked with John Hewitt most of the time at San Angelo,- lived with Shoemaker for three or four years off and on.

Papers relating to the impersonation of Boston Corbett by John Corbit

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That he has been sick ever since leaving the Insane hospital, that he has suffered from Diarrhea, Rheumatism and Scurvy, -- that all these diseases were contracted in the army.

That he was never taken prisoner while in the army but was on duty all of the time while in the army. That Capt. Reynor and Capt. Harrison commanded his Company, also Col. Butterfield and Col. Edward Kirk commanded the Regiment.

That immediately after being discharged from the U. S. Service, he removed to the State of Kansas, after stopping in Indianapolis and Terrehaute, Indiana. That he worked in a rock-quarry at Terrehaute.

That he has not been treated for his diseases since escaping from the Insane hospital at Topeka, but has treated himself with medicines made by the Cavitt Medical Company at Topeka, Kansas, for the past nine years.

That he has sold medicines for the Cavitt Medical Company since for six or seven years.

That he was born in the State of Maine on the Delaware River but cannot remember the name of the county in which he was born. That he left Maine when 15 or 16 years of age. That he went from Maine to New York, that he ran away from home, and has never been in Maine since he left when a boy.

That he had no trade but worked as a common laborer before he enlisted in the army. That he did not serve in any other regiment than the 16th, New York Cavalry. That he does not remember in which army he served with his regiment.

That he weighs 165 pounds and is five feet (5) and nine (9) inches high in his stocking feet, but has been taller, that his knees are bent by rheumatism, which reduces his stature.

That he is fifty nine years of age at this time and that when he enlisted he was five feet, eight inches high but grew about two inches while in the service.



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That he is competent to look after and manage his own business affairs and requests the Pension Department of the United States to restore him to the pension rolls and make his said pension payable to him direct without going through the hands of any guardian. That he has not gone by his name of Boston Corbett during all the time since his escape from the Insane hospital at Topeka but has gone by other names to prevent the Kansas authorities discovering him. That he was married under the name of John Corbett.

IN TESTIMONY whereof he hereby certifies that the foregoing statement is true in every particular and hereby subscribes his name this seventeenth day of February, 1903.

Boston Corbett.

The above was signed in our presence after having been dictated by the person calling himself Boston Corbett at his residence 5 miles west of Truscott, Texas, and after having been read to him.

Geo. A. Huron, Topeka, Kansas.

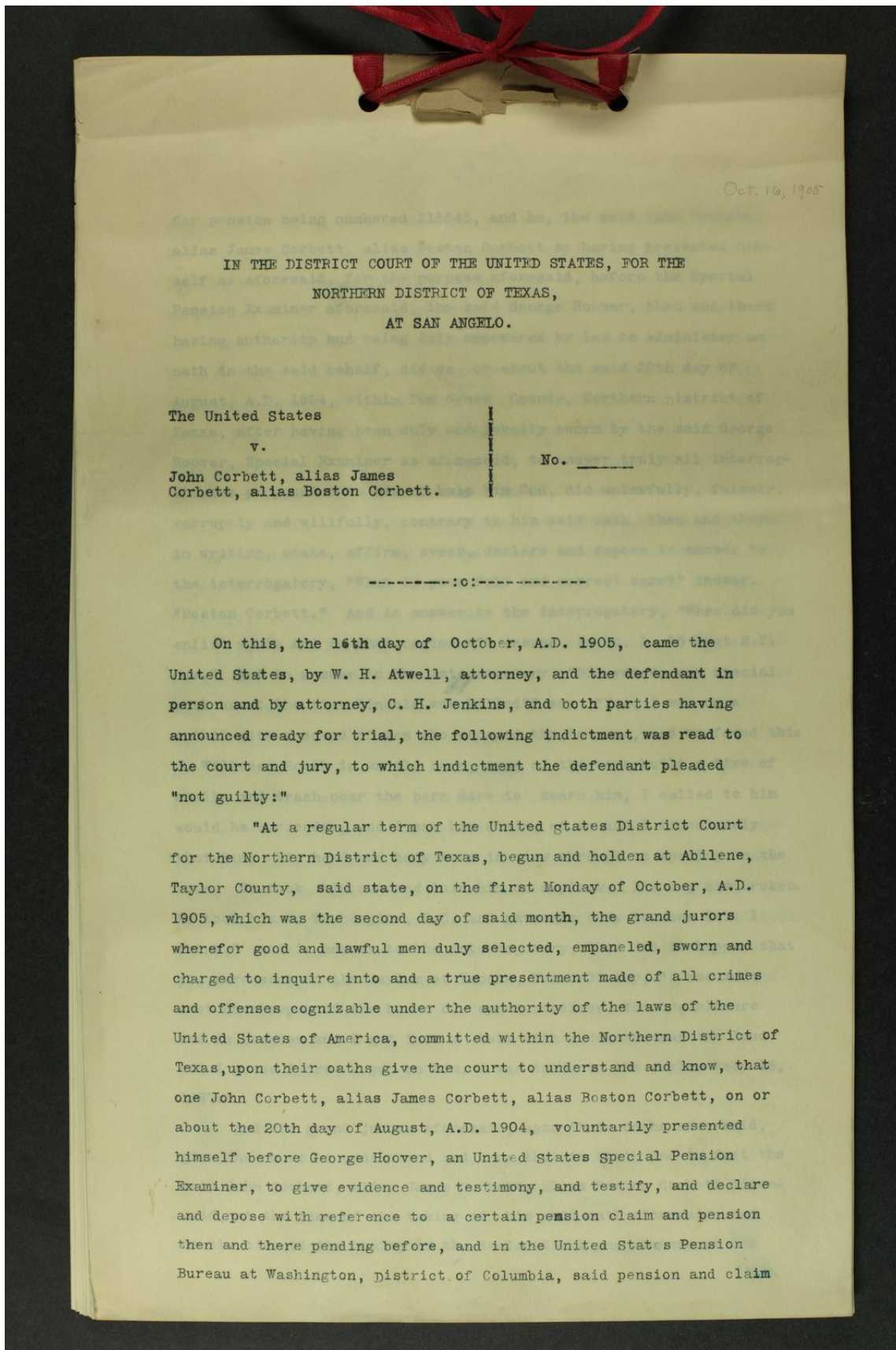
Robt. T. Dickson, Seymoure, Texas.

J. W. Gardiner, Topeka, Kansas.

Papers relating to the impersonation of Boston Corbett by John Corbit

Boston Corbett
Susanne
Copy of
False Statement
of party who claimed
to be Boston Corbett
H

Papers relating to the impersonation of Boston Corbett by John Corbit



Oct. 16, 1905

for pension being numbered 215545, and he, the said John Corbett, alias James Corbett, alias Boston Corbett, as before mentioned, did, as aforesaid, before the said Special Pension Examiner, George Hoover, then and there having authority and being duly authorized by law to administer an oath in the said behalf, did on, or about the said 20th day of August, A.D. 1904, within the County of Taylor, Northern District of Texas, after having been duly and legally sworn by the said George Hoover, Special Examiner as aforesaid, No. _____, voluntarily all interrogatories, John Corbett, alias James Corbett, alias Boston Corbett, Corbett, alias Boston Corbett, corruptly and willfully, contrary to his said oath, then and there in writing, state, affirm, swear, declare and depose in answer to the interrogatory, "-----:c:-----" Answer, "Boston Corbett." And in answer to the interrogatory, "When did you call On this, the 16th day of October, A.D. 1905, came the United States, by W. H. Atwell, attorney, and the defendant in person and by attorney, C. H. Jenkins, and both parties having announced ready for trial, the following indictment was read to the court and jury, to which indictment the defendant pleaded "not guilty:" "At a regular term of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, begun and holden at Abilene, the Taylor County, said state, on the first Monday of October, A.D. 1905, which was the second day of said month, the grand jurors wherefor good and lawful men duly selected, empaneled, sworn and charged to inquire into and a true presentment made of all crimes and offenses cognizable under the authority of the laws of the United States of America, committed within the Northern District of Texas, upon their oaths give the court to understand and know, that, one John Corbett, alias James Corbett, alias Boston Corbett, on or about the 20th day of August, A.D. 1904, voluntarily presented himself before George Hoover, an United States Special Pension Examiner, to give evidence and testimony, and testify, and declare and depose with reference to a certain pension claim and pension then and there pending before, and in the United States Pension Bureau at Washington, District of Columbia, said pension and claim