

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Schreyvogel - Sprague

Section 10, Pages 271 - 280

A series of research correspondence from the Robert Taft collection relating to frontier artists. Robert Taft (1894-1955) was a professor of chemistry and author on the subjects of photography and art. The artists included here are Charles Schreyvogel, Carl Schuchard, Julian Scott, Samuel Seymour, Joseph Henry Sharp, Joshua Shaw, Walter Shirlaw, James D. Smillie, Dan Smith, De Cost Smith, Gean Smith, Jerome Howard Smith, William Smyth, Gustav Sohon, William Louis Sontag, and Isaac Sprague.

Date: 1930-1955

Callnumber: Robert Taft Coll. #172, Box 36

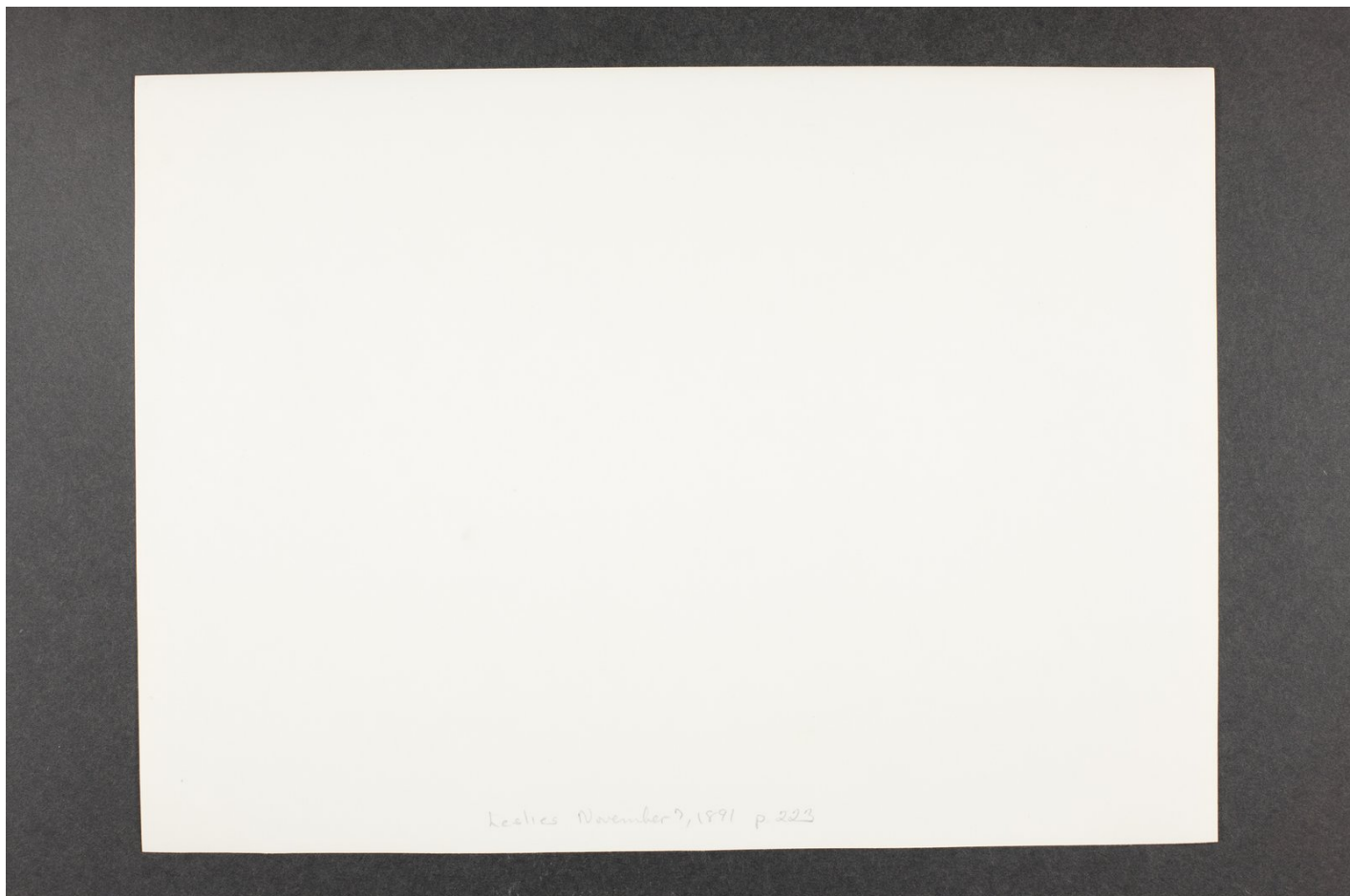
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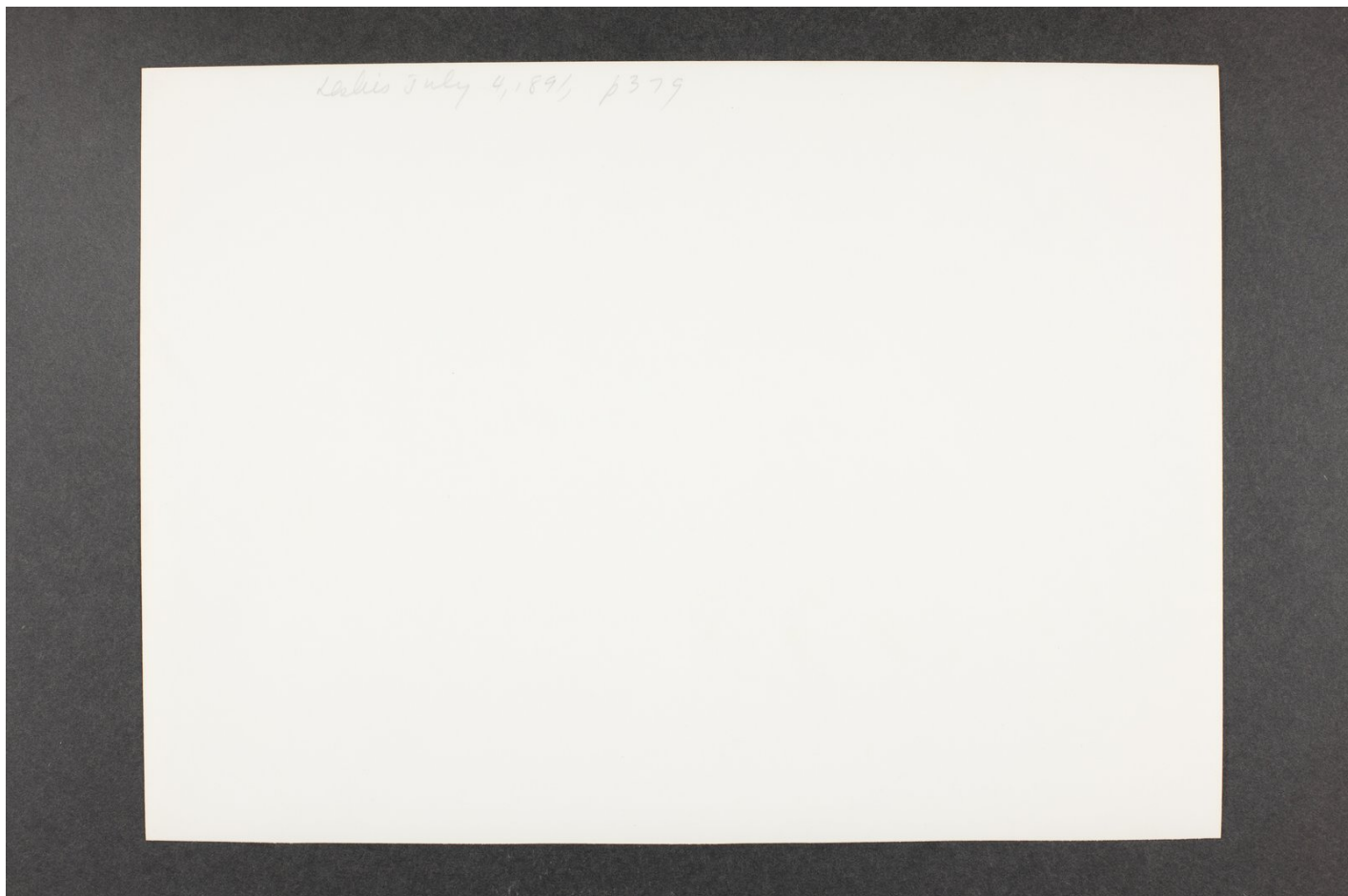


Leslies November 9, 1891 p. 223

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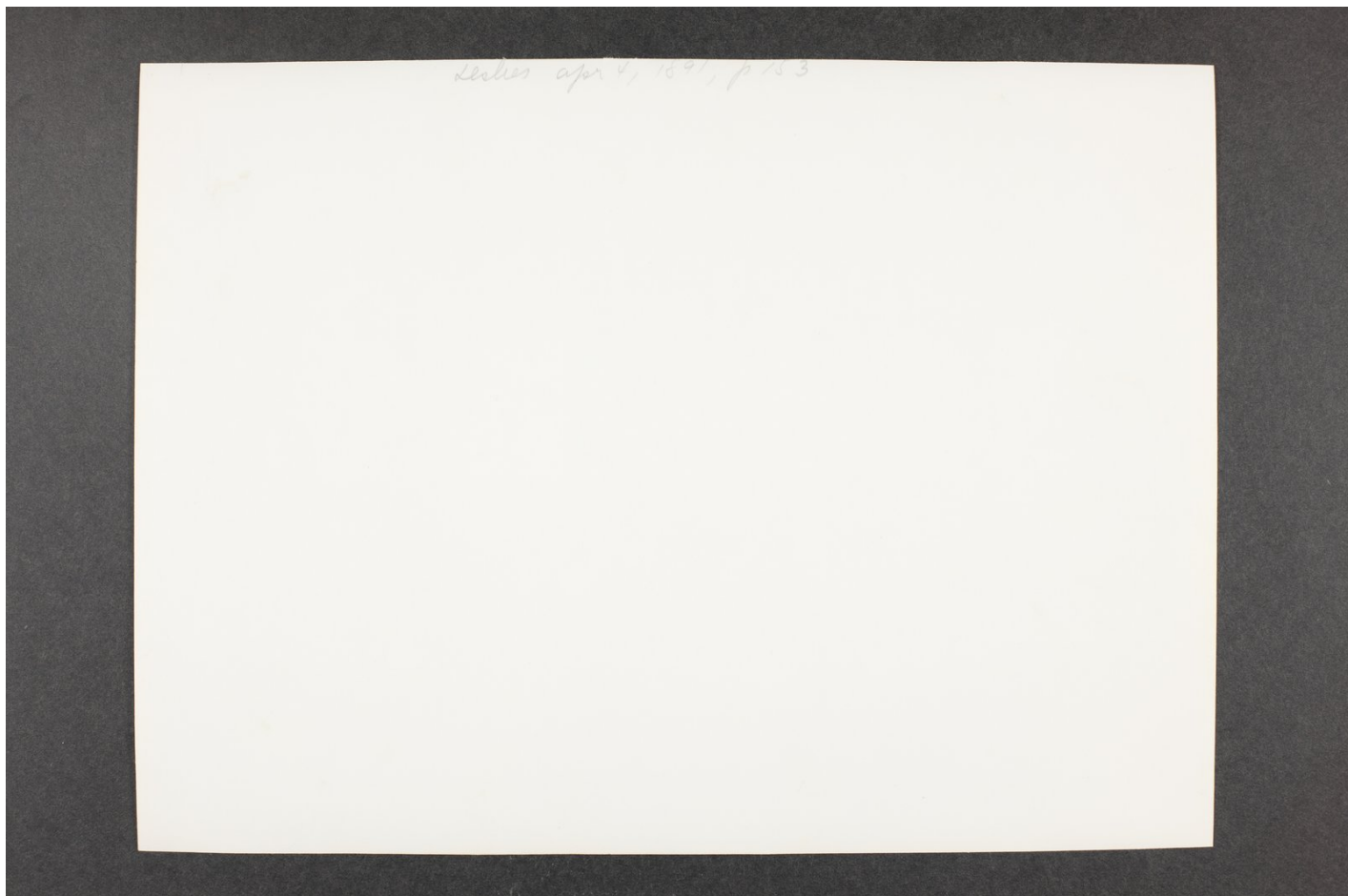
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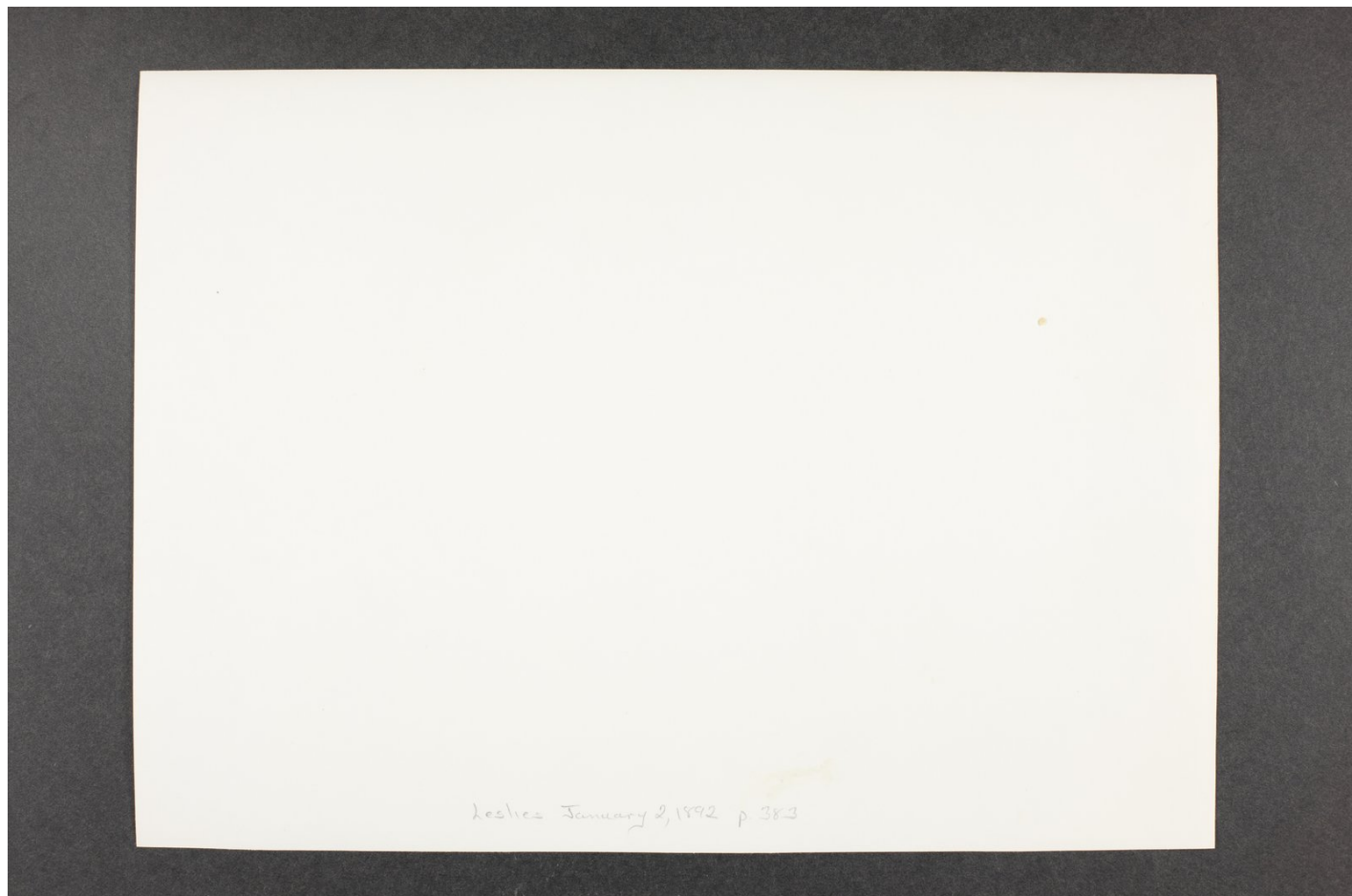
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January 4, 1951

Dr. Robert Taft
Department of Chemistry
Lawrence, Kansas:

Dear Dr. Taft:

I've had pretty much of a water haul in trying to secure biographical information on Gean Smith, who did the "Stampede" for the frontispiece of Cox, History and Biographical Records of the Cattle Industry...

Our copy of the book is mutilated and the frontispiece is a photostat. As you know, doubtless, it gives the copyright as 1895 and the picture from an original painting owned by W.H. Woodward of St. Louis.

I was glad to have your question propounded for we were able to locate one note that said that Gean Smith was born in New York State in 1851 and died in Galveston, Texas, in 1928.

I shall write to the Rosenberg Library in Galveston to see if they can locate the date of death and a possible obituary notice, but you may wish to write to them also. The only other lead that I can think of at the moment is a man in Fort Worth, Texas, who collects books on Western illustrators. I think that I am correct that he is B.W. Allred, 6405 Garland, Street, Fort Worth. It is possible that he is interested in present-day illustrators only, but I'm not sure.

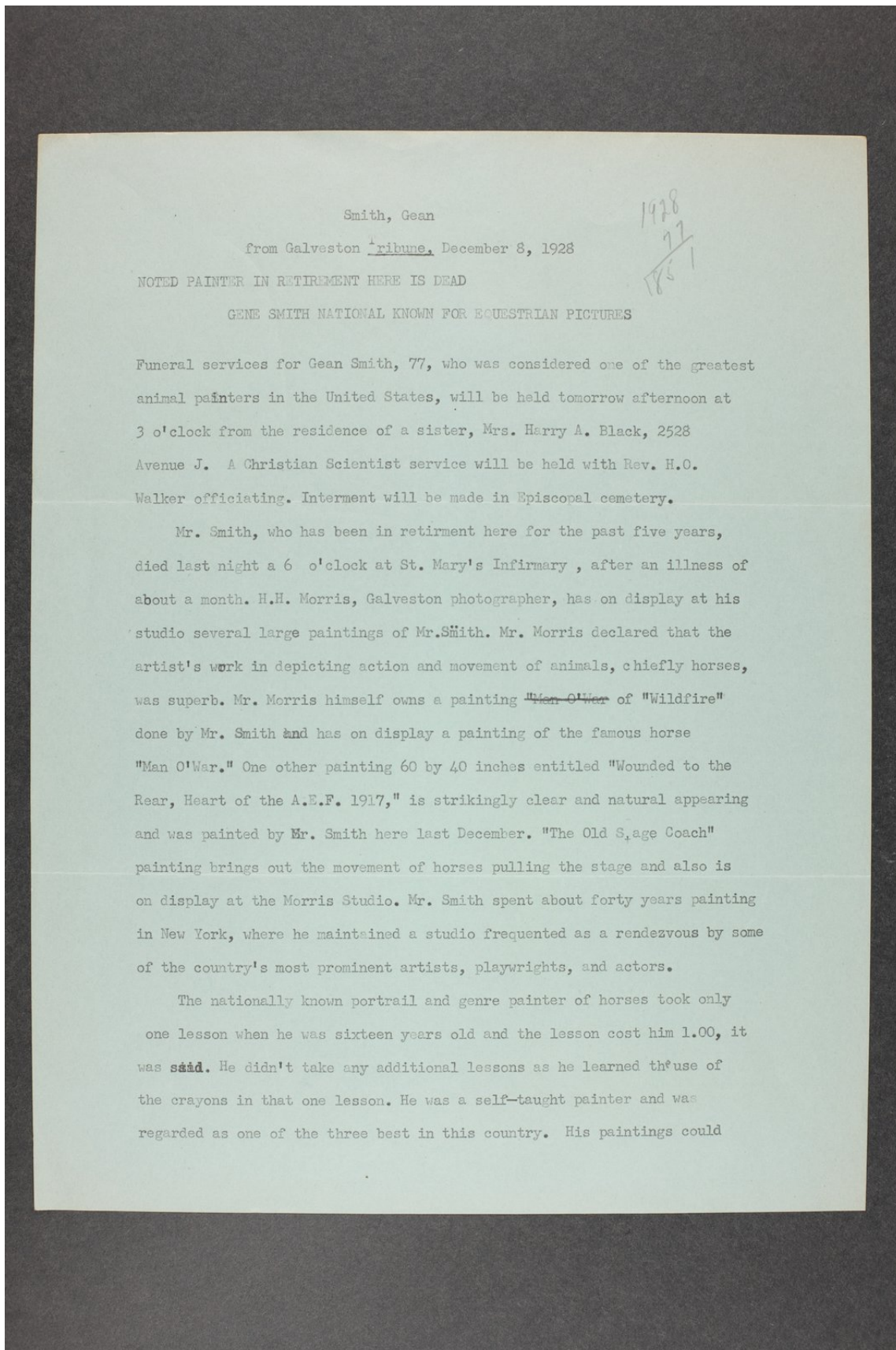
Our reference librarian is continuing to search for further information, but I thought I would report on our findings to date.

Sincerely yours,

Llerena Friend
Llerena Friend

Librarian, Barker Texas History Center

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they be reproduced in their completeness of numbers would furnish a valuable pictorial record of the champions of the American turf, both running and otherwise, a famous critic once remarked of Mr. Smith.

It is twenty-seven years since Smith painted one of his hits "Croesus" champion trotting stallion of the world. This painting was used as a cover for the menu at the ^{Waldorf} hotel and it is believed that copies of the menu are still held by souvenir seekers.

Other painting that drew national attention were "The Equine Trio," "Over the Wall," "The Thanksgiving Dinner Committee," "Judge Moore Driving Forest King," "Madison Square Garden," "The Signal" and many others. The "Thanksgiving Dinner Committee," pictures a raiding squad of federals galloping off with a wild turkey. They are being pursued but the pursuers are not shown in the picture. This canvas and "General Grant and His Staff at Fort Donelson" were painted in Chicago in 1884.

Mr. Smith came to Galveston about five years ago to retire. He has spent most of this time at the home of his sister, Mrs. Harry A. Black. He frequently visited local studios, Mr. Morris declared. He painted often during his residence here and many of his painting have been given to friends. His ^{earlier} ~~earliest~~ work brought large prices in New York. In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Black, Mr. Smith is survived by a brother, R.B. Smith, and a nephew, Harry Green Black of Galveston and other relatives. Mr. Smith was born in New York state and was 77 years old.

Sorry—I don't have a stenographer—and time is a fleeting.