Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Waud - Zogbaum

Section 4, Pages 91 - 120

This is 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 Alfred R. Waud, Alfred S. Waugh, William E. Webb, Danquart Anthon Weggeland, John E. Weyss, J.S. White, Worthington Whittredge, Samuel M. Wiles, Charles "Carl" Wilmar, George Winter, John D. Woodward, Henry Worrall, N.C. Wyeth, Harvey B. Young, John T. Young, and Rufus Fairchild Zogbaum.

Date: 1930-1955

Callnumber: Robert Taft Coll. #172, Box 38

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 308643

Item Identifier: 308643

www.kansasmemory.org/item/308643

Dodge Memorial Library
Rouses Point, N. Y.

January 26, 1950.

Mr. Robert Taft, Editor
Univ. of Kansas
Dept. of Chemistry
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

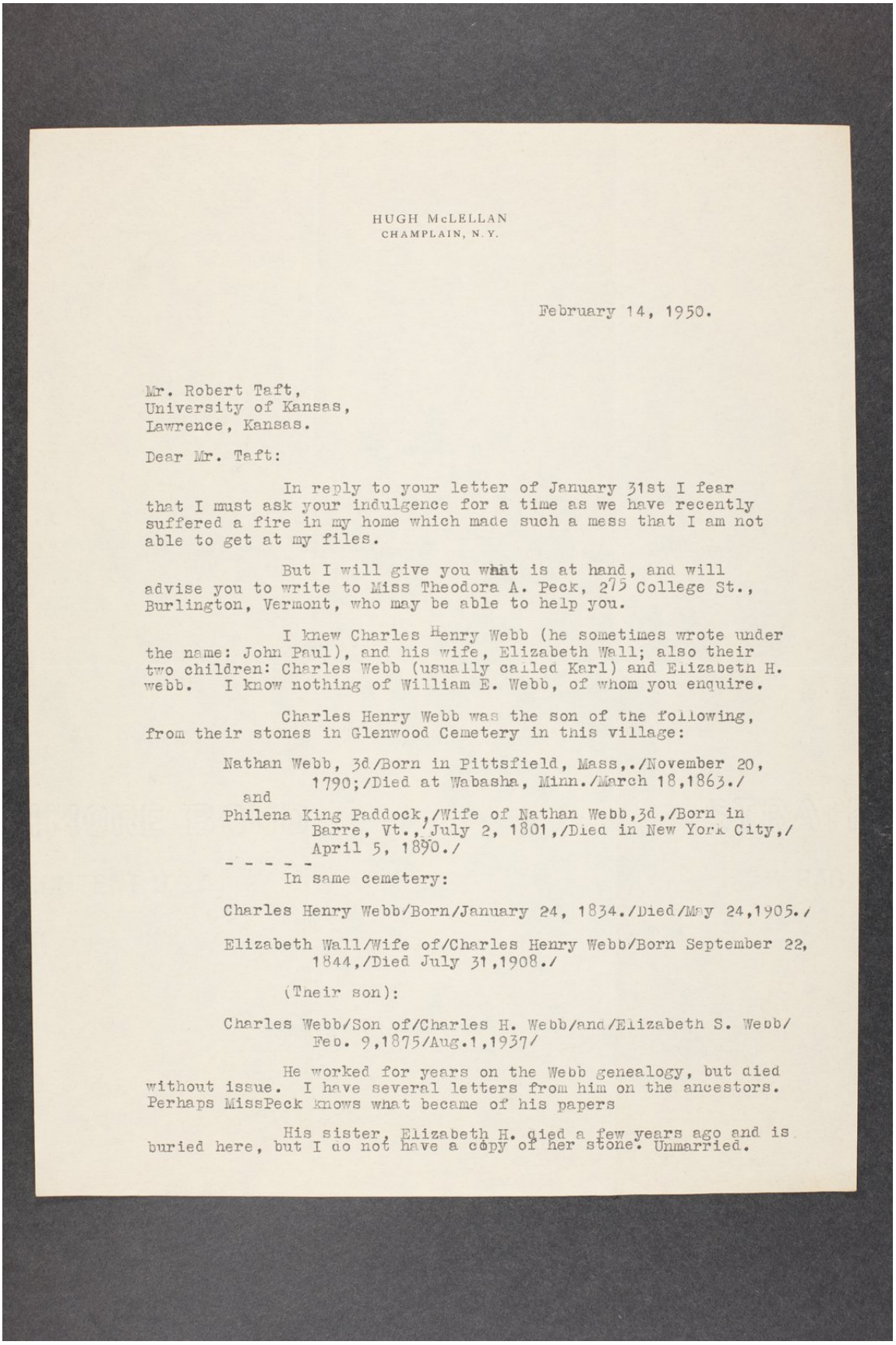
I received your letter in regard to biographical information concerning Charles Henry Webb and William E. Webb. There are no Webbs in Rouses Point at present. However, I called on the librarian, Mr. Hugh McLellan, at Champlain, N. Y., which is four miles from here. Mr. McLellan is also a printer and has a great deal of data on people who live and have lived around this vicinity. As it happens, he knew Charles Webb and was able to give me some information.

Charles Webb had one son and one daughter but neither are living, so as far as we know, there are no descendants. Mr. McLellan did not have any data on William Webb but he said he would be very glad to give you what other information he has about Charles Webb and his family. So I think if you will write to him, he can give you quite a bit of information, as he has letters which were written to him by both the son and daughter.

Sincerely yours,
Leila Hayford,

Librarian.

(Mrs.) Leila Hayford.



HUGH McLELLAN
CHAMPLAIN, N.Y.

February 14, 1950.

Mr. Robert Taft,
University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Taft:

In reply to your letter of January 31st I fear that I must ask your indulgence for a time as we have recently suffered a fire in my home which made such a mess that I am not able to get at my files.

But I will give you what is at hand, and will advise you to write to Miss Theodora A. Peck, 275 College St., Burlington, Vermont, who may be able to help you.

I knew Charles Henry Webb (he sometimes wrote under the name: John Paul), and his wife, Elizabeth Wall; also their two children: Charles Webb (usually called Karl) and Elizabeth H. webb. I know nothing of William E. Webb, of whom you enquire.

Charles Henry Webb was the son of the following, from their stones in Glenwood Cemetery in this village:

Nathan Webb, 3d./Born in Pittsfield, Mass,./November 20, 1790;/Died at Wabasha, Minn./March 18,1863./
and
Philena King Paddock,/Wife of Nathan Webb,3d,/Born in Barre, Vt.,/July 2, 1801,/Died in New York City,/April 5, 1890./

- - - - -

In same cemetery:

Charles Henry Webb/Born/January 24, 1834./Died/May 24,1905./

Elizabeth Wall/Wife of/Charles Henry Webb/Born September 22, 1844,/Died July 31,1908./

(Their son):

Charles Webb/Son of/Charles H. Webb/and/Elizabeth S. Webb/Feb. 9,1875/Aug.1,1937/

He worked for years on the Webb genealogy, but died without issue. I have several letters from him on the ancestors. Perhaps MissPeck knows what became of his papers

His sister, Elizabeth H. died a few years ago and is buried here, but I do not have a copy of her stone. Unmarried.

2. R.T. 2/14/50

As to William E. Webb: If you could give me the date of his death I might find something innewspapers of Champlain or Plattsburgh, of which I have quite a number.

A sketch of Charles Henry Webb should be found in old issues of Who's Who. I will hunt this up.

It would help if you could give me more particulars of the data which you desire.

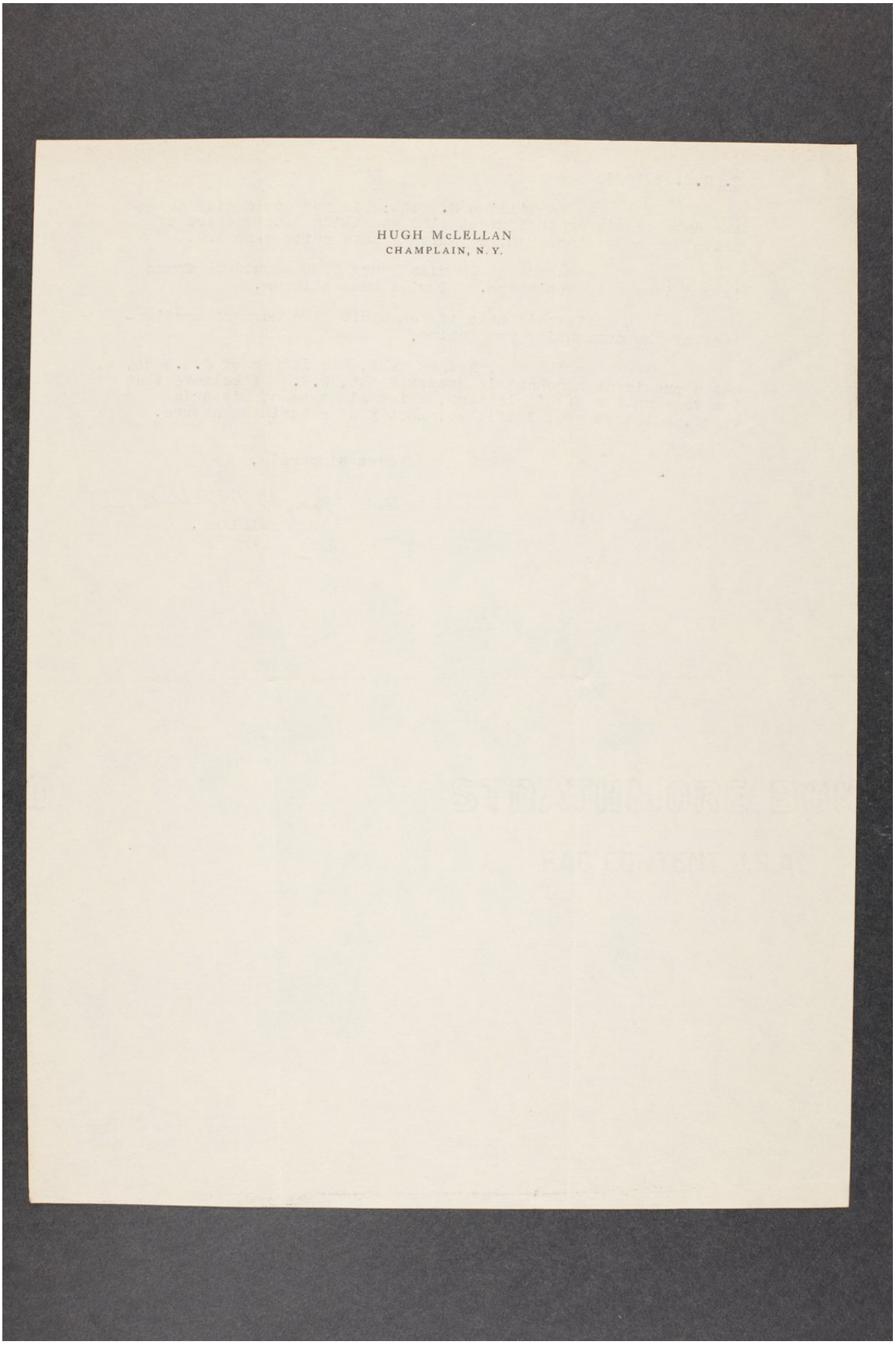
By the way, Nathan Webb, the father of C.H.Webb, was a prominent merchant in Rouses Point, N.Y. I believe that I have a number of his letters, which might be of historic value, but they are, I believe, mostly of a business nature.

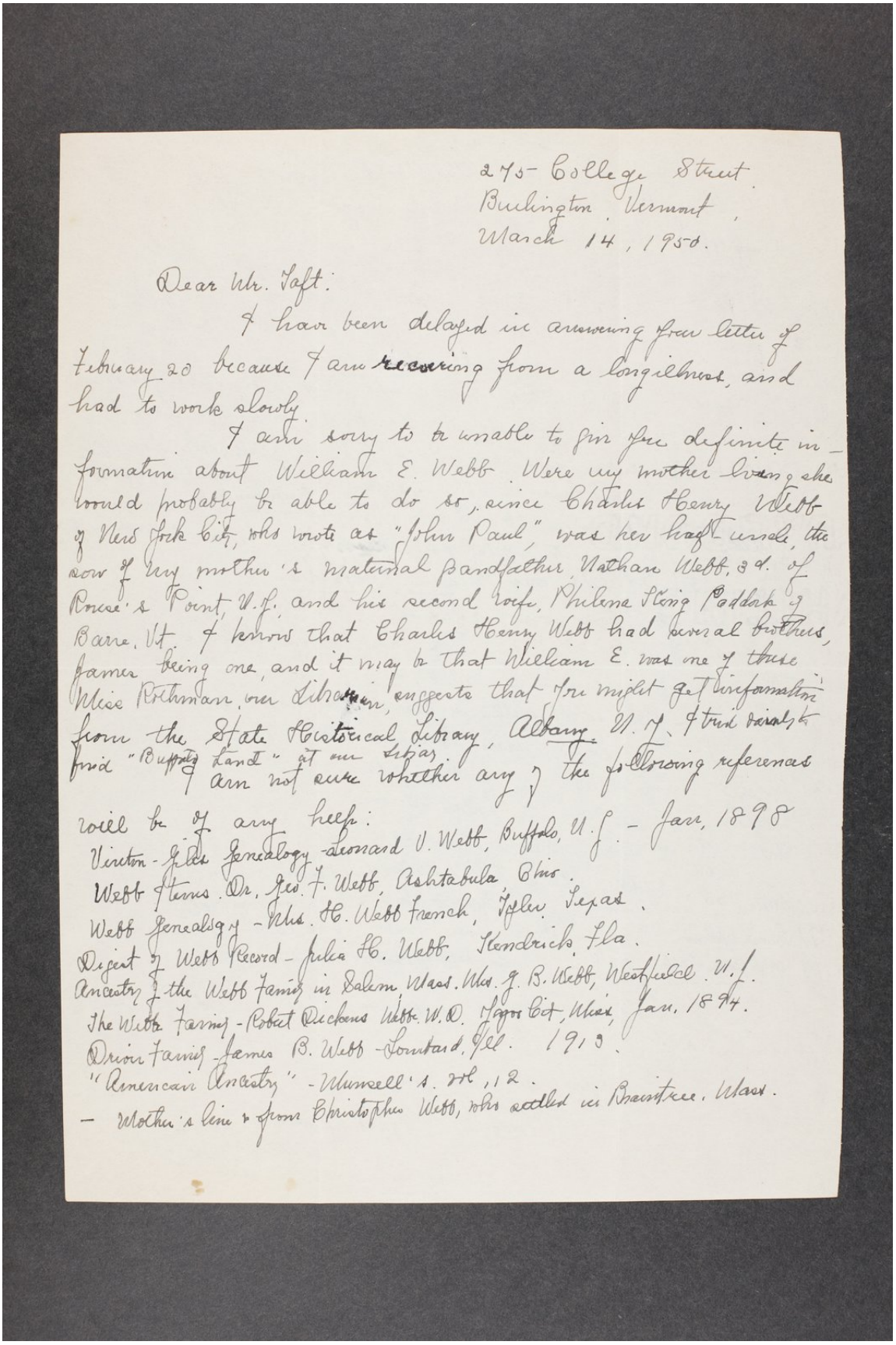
Yours sincerely,

Hugh McLellan

Hugh McLellan.

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Waud - Zogbaum





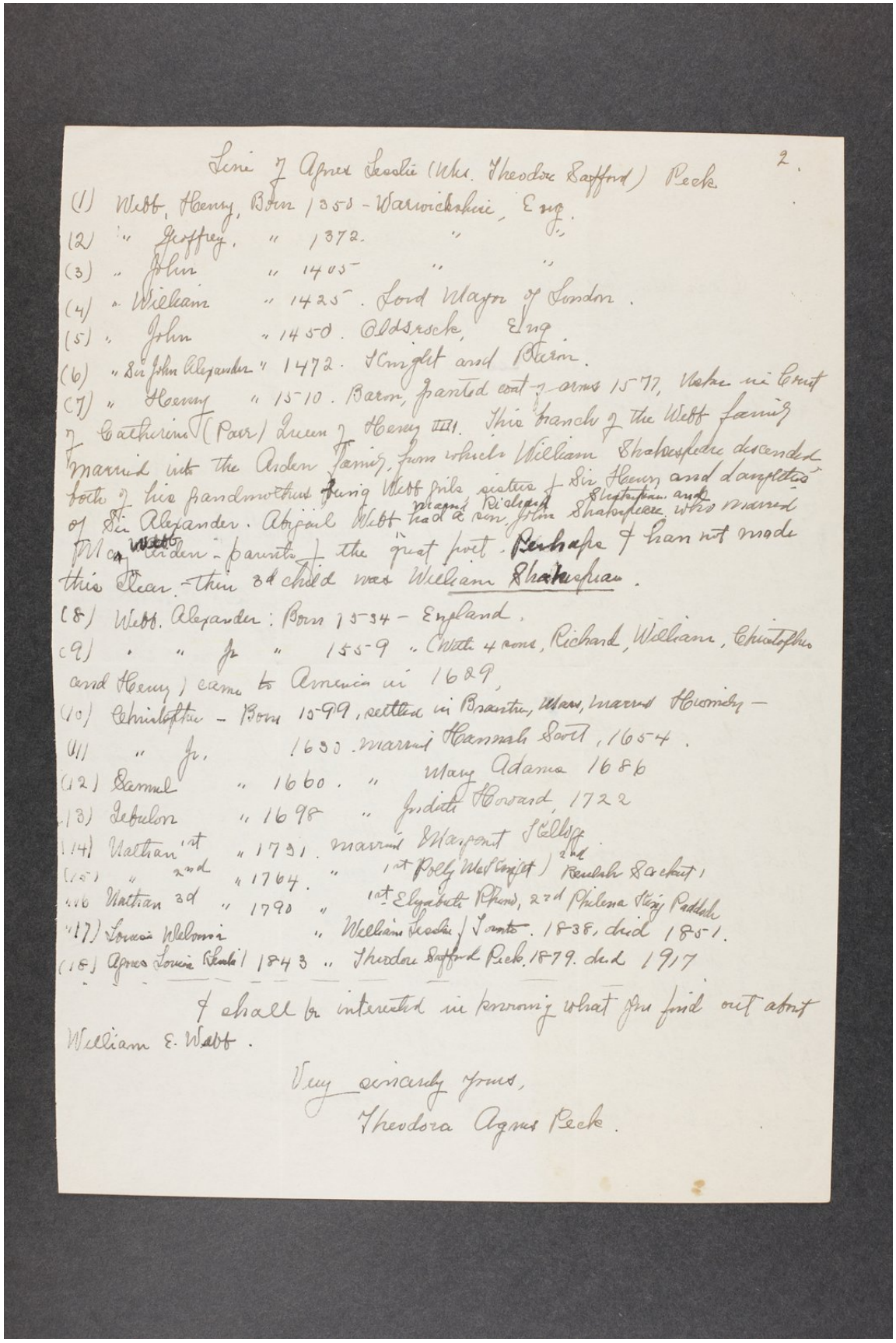
275 - College Street
Burlington, Vermont,
March 14, 1950.

Dear Mr. Taft:

I have been delayed in answering your letter of February 20 because I am recovering from a long illness, and had to work slowly.

I am sorry to be unable to give you definite information about William E. Webb. Were my mother living, she would probably be able to do so, since Charles Henry Webb of New York City, who wrote as "John Paul," was her half uncle, the son of my mother's maternal grandfather, Nathan Webb, 3d. of Rouse's Point, N.Y. and his second wife, Philena King Paddock of Barre, Vt. I believe that Charles Henry Webb had several brothers, James being one, and it may be that William E. was one of these. Miss Rothman, our Librarian, suggests that you might get information from the State Historical Library, Albany, N.Y. I tried vainly to find "Buffalo Land" at our Library. I am not sure whether any of the following references will be of any help:

Vinton - Gilds Genealogy - Leonard V. Webb, Buffalo, N.Y. - Jan. 1898
Webb Items. Dr. Geo. F. Webb, Ashtabula, Ohio.
Webb Genealogy - Mrs. H. Webb French, Tyler, Texas.
Digest of Webb Record - Julia H. Webb, Kendrick, Fla.
Ancestry of the Webb Family in Salem, Mass. Mrs. G. B. Webb, Westfield, N.J.
The Webb Family - Robert Dickens Webb, W.D. Hyde City, Miss. Jan. 1894.
Orion Family - James B. Webb - Loudon, Tenn. 1913.
"American Ancestry" - Munsell's, Vol. XII, 12.
— Mother's line is from Christopher Webb, who settled in Braintree, Mass.



Line 7 Agnes Leslie (Mrs. Theodore Safford) Peck 2.

(1) Webb, Henry, Born 1350 - Warwickshire, Eng.
(2) " Geoffrey, " 1372. " "
(3) " John " 1405 " "
(4) " William " 1425. Lord Mayor of London.
(5) " John " 1450. Oldsrede, Eng.
(6) " Sir John Alexander " 1472. Knight and Baron.
(7) " Henry " 1510. Baron, granted coat of arms 1577, Visitation Court of Catherine (Parr) Queen of Henry VIII. This branch of the Webb family married into the Arden family, from which William Shakespeare descended both of his grandmothers being Webb girls sisters of Sir Henry and daughters of Sir Alexander. Abigail Webb had a son, John Shakespeare who married Mary Arden - parents of the great poet. Perhaps I have not made this clear. Their 3d child was William Shakespeare.
(8) Webb, Alexander: Born 1534 - England.
(9) " " Jr " 1559 " Children 4 sons, Richard, William, Christopher and Henry) came to America in 1629,
(10) Christopher - Born 1599, settled in Braintree, Mass, married Hicomby -
(11) " Jr. 1630. married Hannah Sorel, 1654.
(12) Samuel " 1660. " Mary Adams 1686
(13) Zebulon " 1698 " Judith Howard, 1722
(14) Nathan 1st " 1731. married Margaret Sellers.
(15) " 2nd " 1764. " 1st Polly Westcott) 2nd Rebekah Beckett)
(16) Nathan 3d " 1790 " 1st Elizabeth Peters, 2nd Philena Stacy Paddock
(17) Louisa Wilcox " William Leslie Jr. 1838, died 1851.
(18) Agnes Louise Leslie 1843 " Theodore Safford Peck. 1879. died 1917

I shall be interested in knowing what you find out about William E. Webb.

Very sincerely yours,
Theodora Agnes Peck.

July 9, 1951

The Librarian
Chicago Historical Society
North Avenue and Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Sir:

May I have your aid again? I am preparing a book manuscript for publication, and a number of odds and ends which need to be checked have appeared in the course of the preparation--which accounts for my several requests in recent weeks.

Late in 1872, according to Topeka papers, William E. Webb moved from Topeka to Chicago. A brief biographical sketch of Webb, appearing in 1908, stated that Webb died in Chicago, a fact which I have been unable to verify.

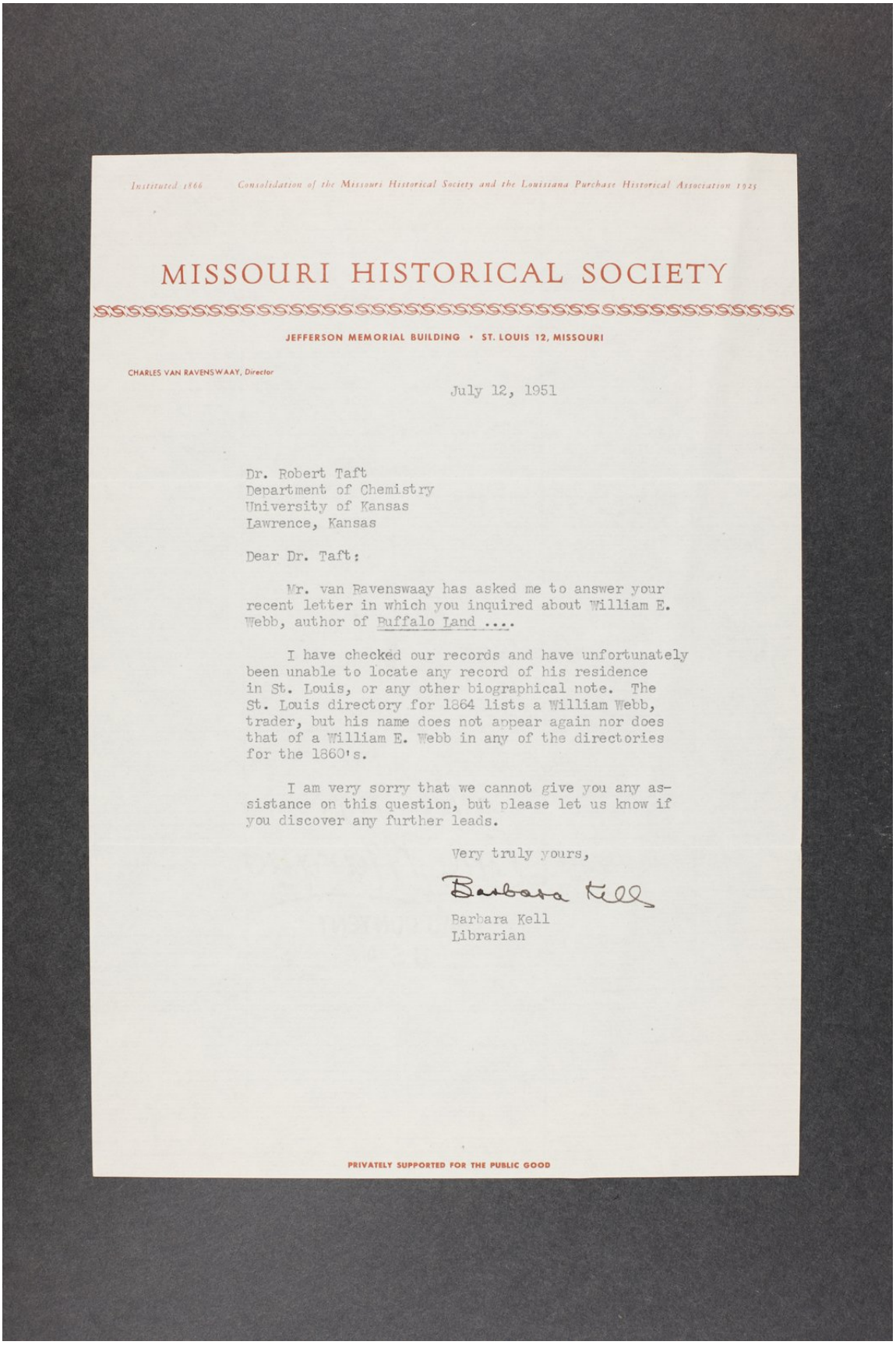
Could Chicago directories, beginning with 1873, be examined for me to see if Webb is listed therein and at what date he disappears from the directories?

Thank you again for your aid.

Sincerely,

Robert Taft

RT:c



Instituted 1866 Consolidation of the Missouri Historical Society and the Louisiana Purchase Historical Association 1925

MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JEFFERSON MEMORIAL BUILDING • ST. LOUIS 12, MISSOURI

CHARLES VAN RAVENSWAAY, Director

July 12, 1951

Dr. Robert Taft
Department of Chemistry
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Taft:

Mr. van Ravenswaay has asked me to answer your recent letter in which you inquired about William E. Webb, author of Buffalo Land ....

I have checked our records and have unfortunately been unable to locate any record of his residence in St. Louis, or any other biographical note. The St. Louis directory for 1864 lists a William Webb, trader, but his name does not appear again nor does that of a William E. Webb in any of the directories for the 1860's.

I am very sorry that we cannot give you any assistance on this question, but please let us know if you discover any further leads.

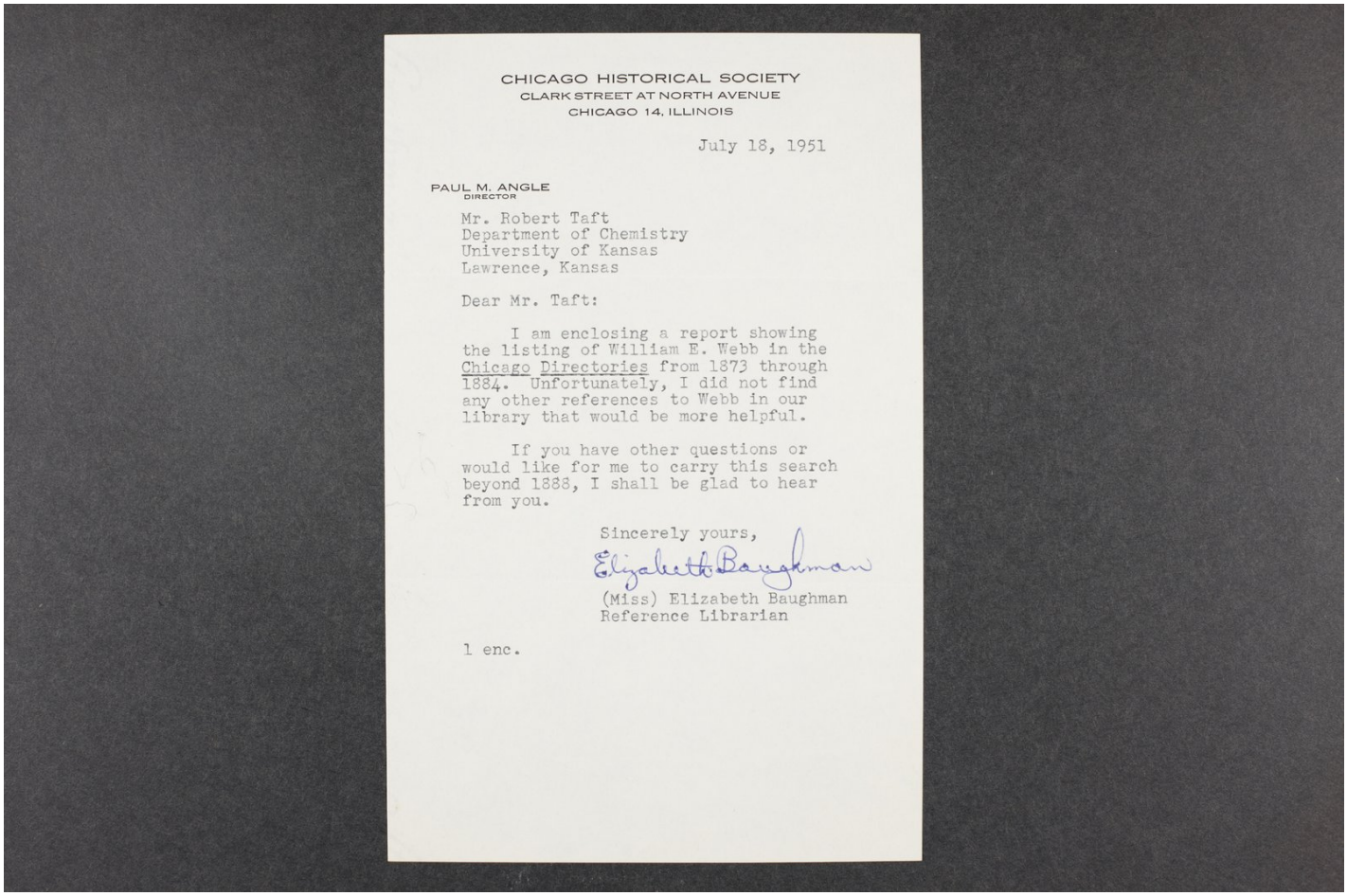
Very truly yours,

Barbara Kell

Barbara Kell
Librarian

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Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Waud - Zogbaum



CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CLARK STREET AT NORTH AVENUE
CHICAGO 14, ILLINOIS

July 18, 1951

PAUL M. ANGLE
DIRECTOR

Mr. Robert Taft
Department of Chemistry
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Taft:

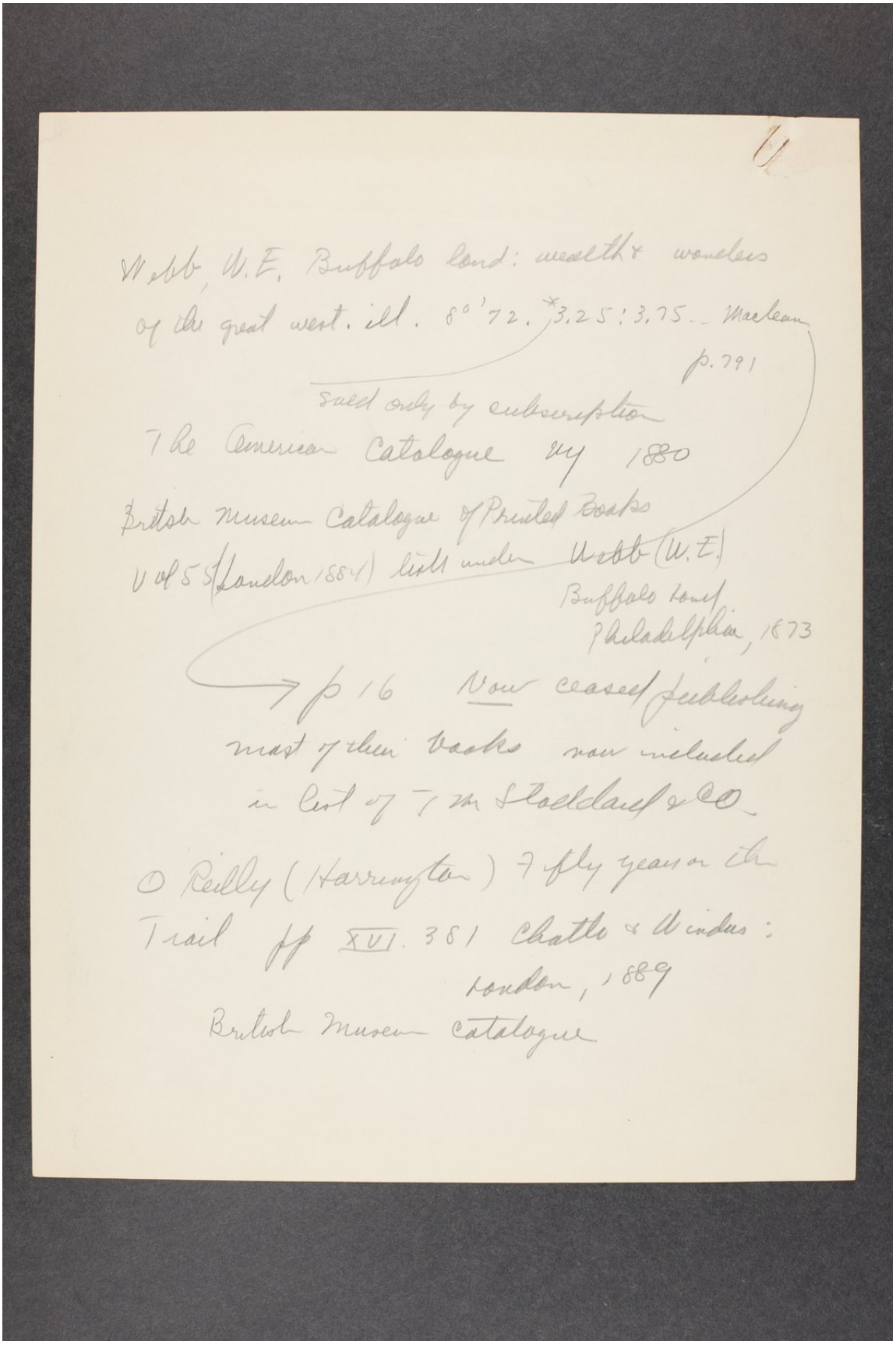
I am enclosing a report showing the listing of William E. Webb in the Chicago Directories from 1873 through 1884. Unfortunately, I did not find any other references to Webb in our library that would be more helpful.

If you have other questions or would like for me to carry this search beyond 1888, I shall be glad to hear from you.

Sincerely yours,
Elizabeth Baughman
(Miss) Elizabeth Baughman
Reference Librarian

1 enc.

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Waud - Zogbaum



Webb, W.E. Buffalo land: wealth & wonders of the great west. ill. 8° '72. *3,25: 3,75 - Maclean p. 791

sued only by subscription

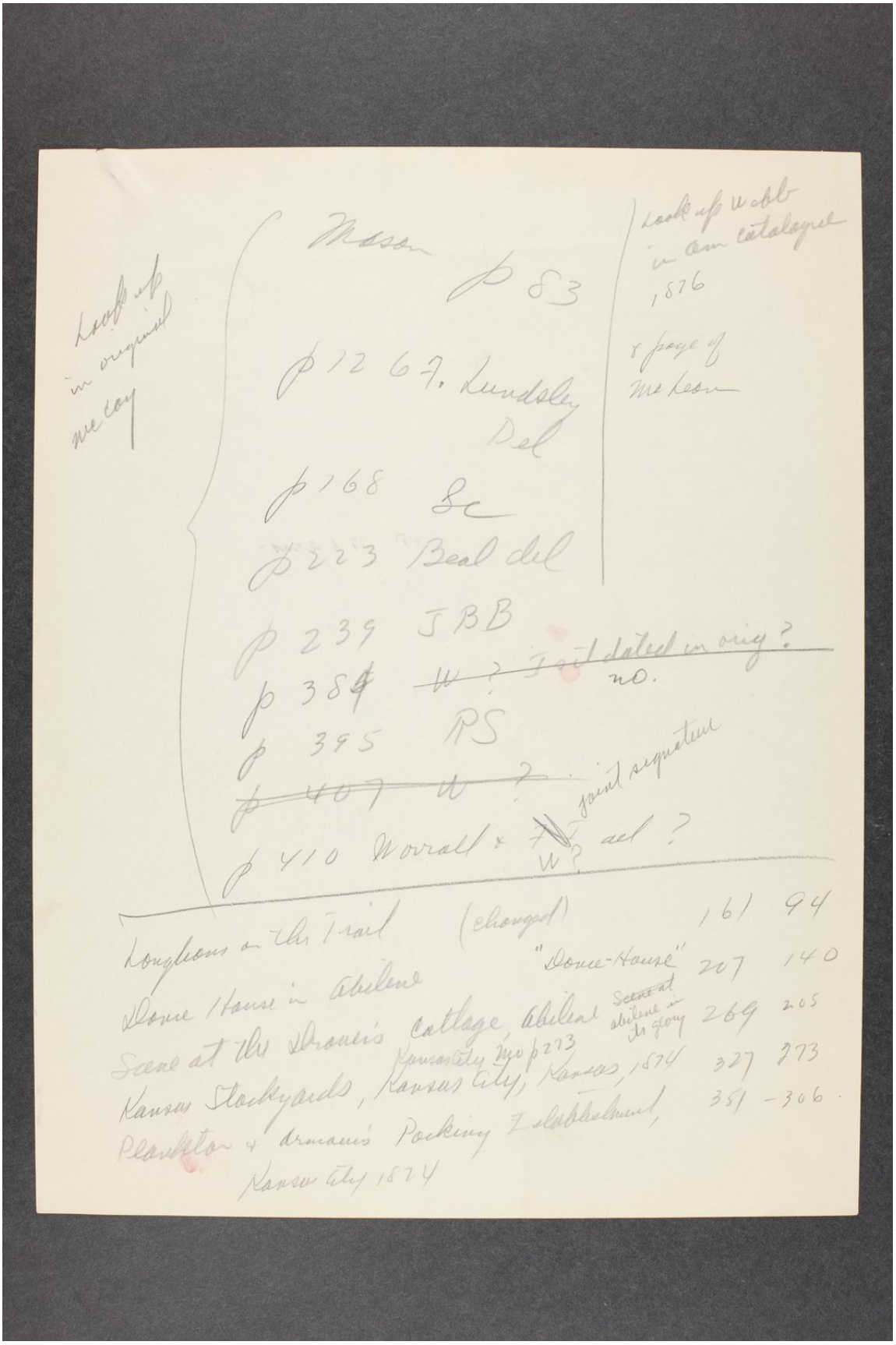
The American Catalogue for 1880

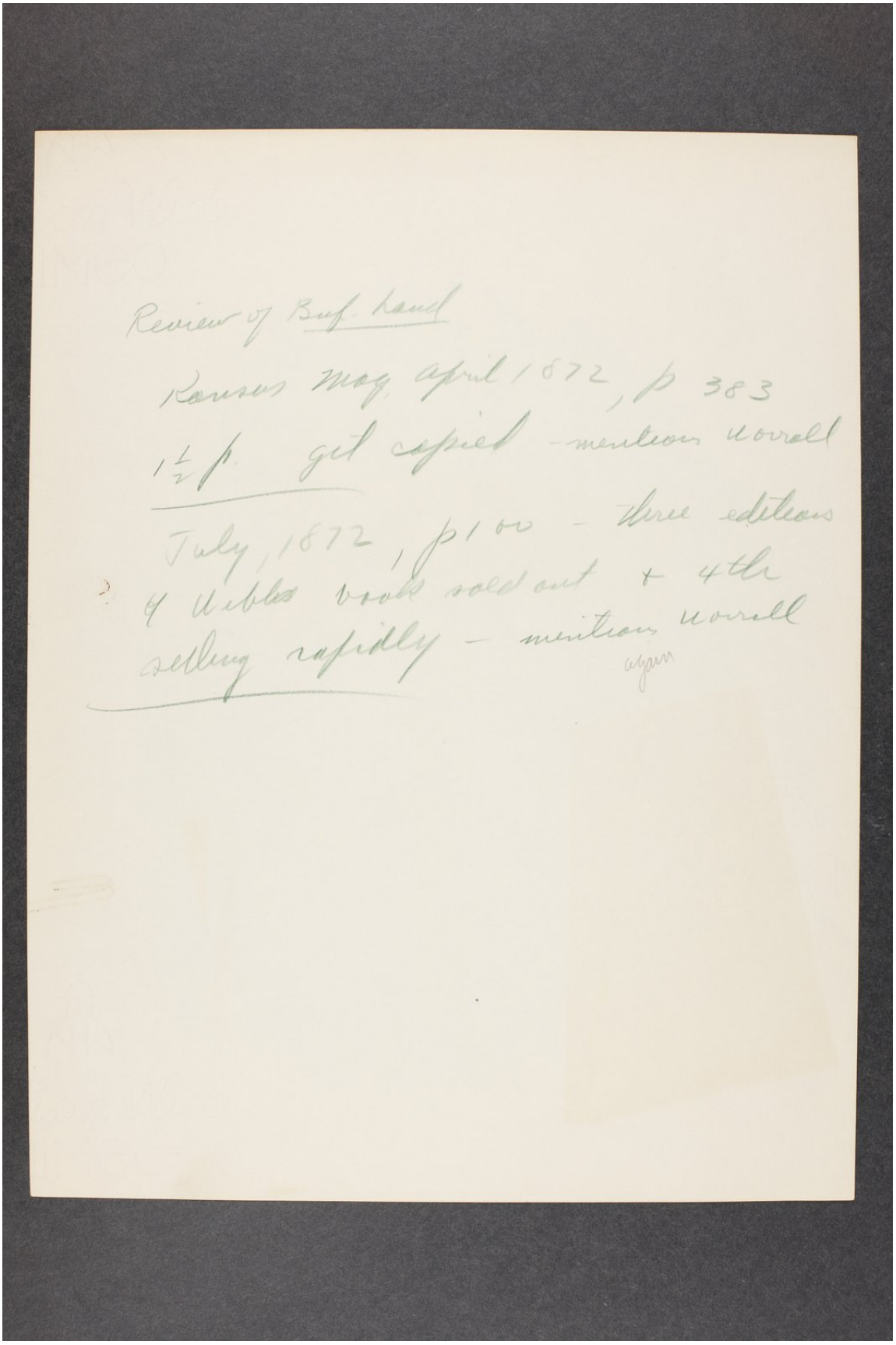
British museum Catalogue of Printed Books Vol 5 (London 1884) lists under Webb (W.E.) Buffalo land Philadelphia, 1873

→ p 16 Now ceased publishing most of their books now included in list of J. M. Stoddard & Co.

O Reilly (Harrington) Fifty years on the Trail pp XVI. 381 Chatto & Windus: London, 1889

British Museum catalogue


look up in original ms copy
Mason p 83
look up Webb in am catalogue 1876
p 1267 Lundsley Del
8 page of McLean
p 168 Sc
p 223 Beal del
p 239 JBB
p 384 W? Taft dated in orig? no.
p 395 RS
p 407 W ?
p 410 Worrall & W? joint signature del ?
Longhorns on the Trail (changed) 161 94
Home House in Abilene "Home-House" 207 140
Scene at the Drovers Cottage, Abilene Scene at abilene in its glory 269 205
Kansas Stockyards, Kansas City, Kansas, 1874 Kansas City Mo p 273 327 273
Plankton & drovers Packing Establishment, Kansas City 1874 351 306


Review of Buf. hand
Kansas Mag. April 1872, p 383
1½ p. get copied - mention Worrall
July, 1872, p 100 - three editions
of Dibbs book sold out + 4th
selling rapidly - mention Worrall
again

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Waud - Zogbaum

We have a clipping from the Hays Free Press of May 11, 1922 "Publication Notice. In the District Court of Ellis County, Kansas. P. W. Harvey Plaintiff vs. The Unknown Heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees and assigns of William E. Webb, Wm. E. Webb and Charlotte J. Webb, his wife, Philena K. Webb [and others]. . . . This summons is to require you to answer the petition filed by said plaintiff . . . or said petition will be taken as true and judgment rendered forever barring and enjoining you and each of you from claiming or to claim or expect any right, title, interest, lien, property or estate in the following real estate lying being and situate in the County of Ellis . . . and forever quieting and establishing the title in and to said real estate above described and every part thereof in said plaintiff and for such other relief as may seem to the Court just and proper.

C. M. Holmquist
Attorney for Plaintiff."

REFERENCE REPORT

For: Mr. Robert Taft
Address: Department of Chemistry, Univ. of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas
Date: July 18, 1951

Chicago Historical Society
Clark St. at North Ave.
Chicago 14, Illinois
Paul M. Angle, Director

WILLIAM E. WEBB AS LISTED IN CHICAGO DIRECTORIES:

1873 - William E. Webb, agt. Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Ry. 77 Clark, r. 463 W. Washington.

1874-1875 - (1) William E. Webb, chief editor Daily Courier, r. 534 W. Monroe. (2) William E. Webb, gen. agt. A. T. & S. Fe R. R. 77 Clark, r. 534 W. Monroe.

1875-1876 - William E. Webb, real est. 77 Clark, r. 534 W. Monroe.

1876-1877 - (1) W. E. Webb, packer, house 842 Clark. (2) William E. Webb, real est. 109 Dearborn, house 46 S. Sangamon.

1877- 1878 - Same as (2) in 1876-1877.

1878-1879 - William E. Webb, loan broker, 109 Dearborn, boards 46 S. Sangamon.

1879 - 1880 - None

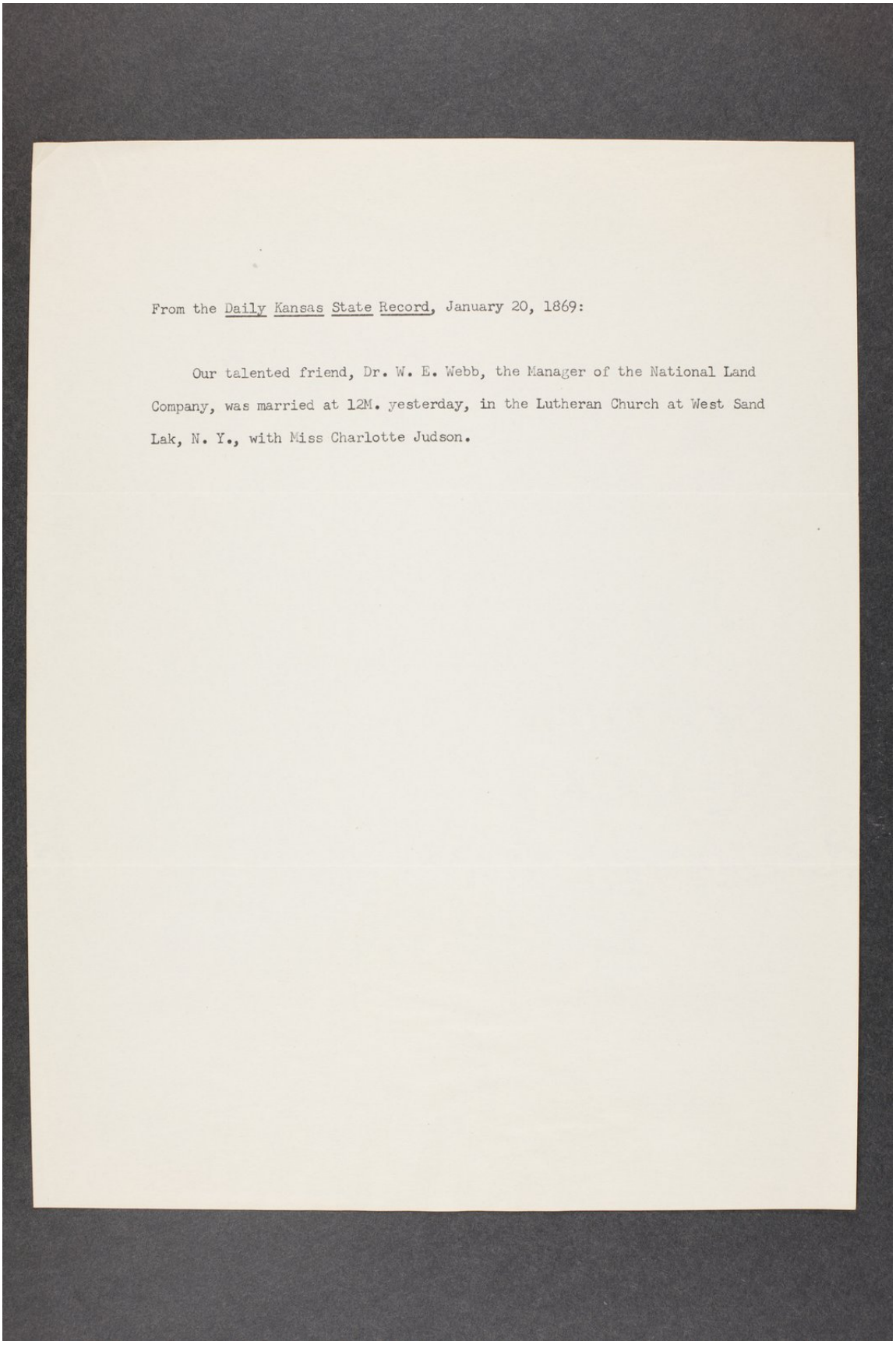
1881- William E. Webb, clerk, house 273 S. Morgan.

1882 - William E. Webb, salesman, 145 Lake, house 273 S. Morgan.

1883 - William E. Webb, bkpr. 145 Lake, h. 273 S. Morgan.

1884 - William E. Webb, salesman. Same address as in 1883.

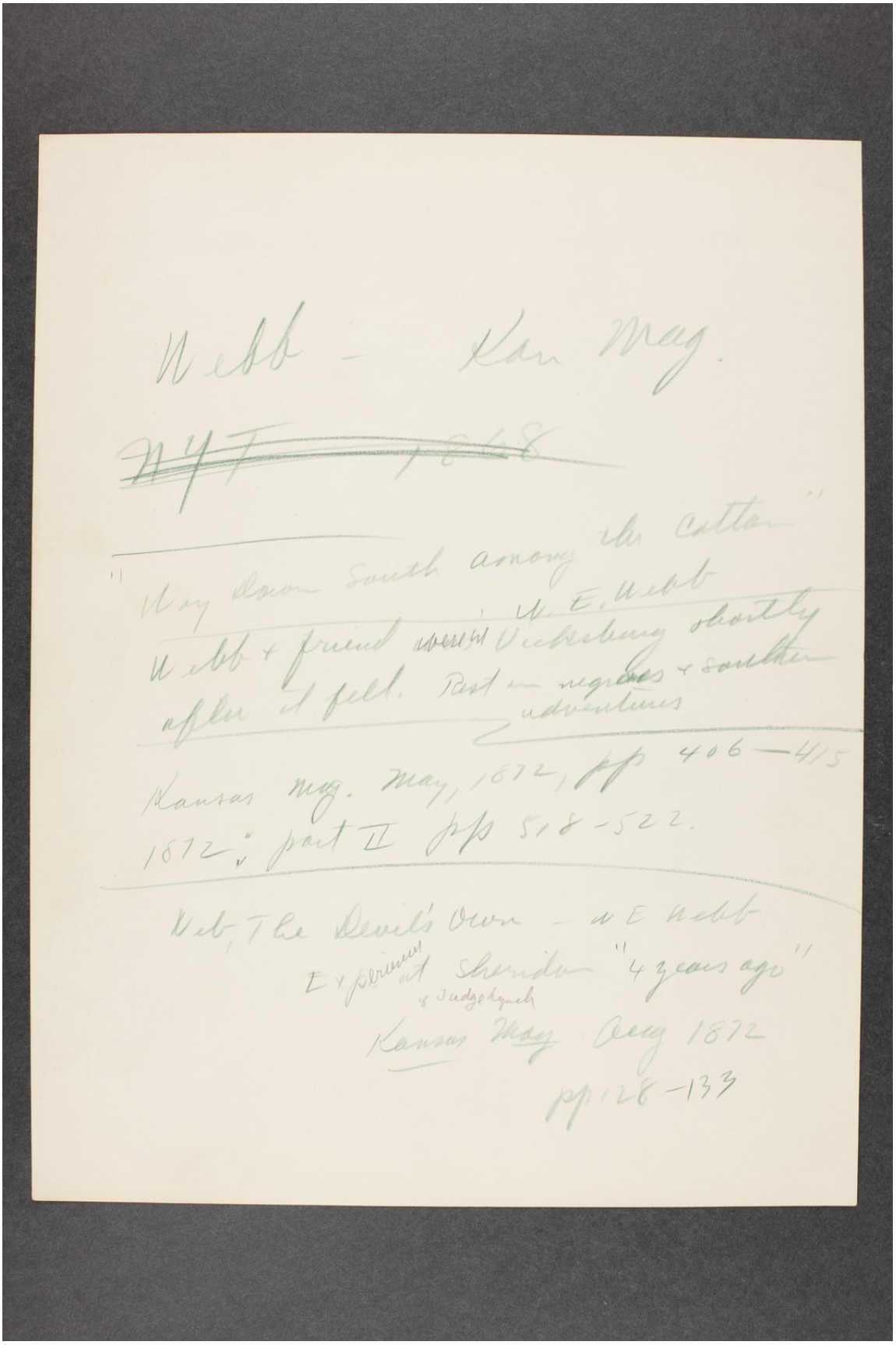
1885 - 1888 None



From the Daily Kansas State Record, January 20, 1869:

Our talented friend, Dr. W. E. Webb, the Manager of the National Land Company, was married at 12M. yesterday, in the Lutheran Church at West Sand Lak, N. Y., with Miss Charlotte Judson.

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Waud - Zogbaum



We are gratified to learn that Mr. W. E. Webb's "Buffalo Land," published by Hannaford & Co., of Cincinnati, is being received with marked favor by the press and reading public. Three editions have already been exhausted, and the fourth is selling rapidly.

Mr. Webb's book is written in a fresh and vigorous style, and gives the first really correct and satisfactory idea of the Plains country that has been published. It embraces the results of extensive personal experiences and observations within the last three years, and is not a mere reproduction, in a new garb, of what Greeley, Richardson and others saw and heard in their flying trips across the continent. Everything desirable to be known about the interesting region between the Missouri River and the Rocky Mountains, for any purpose whatever, is told in a manner that leaves nothing to be guessed at; and the illustrations, from original designs by Professor Worrall, of Topeka, add materially to the naturalness and general attractiveness of the work.

The appendices, designed specially to interest and enlighten immigrants and sportsmen, form a feature of the book which merits unqualified commendation, having been prepared with particular attention to details, and with an evident view to practicability, a point usually left out of the plans of such books.

THE KANSAS MAGAZINE VOL. 11
July 1872.
page 100

A NEW KANSAS BOOK

We have been favored with advance-sheets of a new book on Kansas by W. E. Webb, of Topeka, a gentleman well known throughout the State in connection with land and immigration affairs. It bears the title of Buffalo Land, and recounts the experiences of an Eastern scientific and sporting party, with descriptions of the country traversed and the people and things seen during the trip. The style of the work is a pleasantly-mixed one of gravity and gayety in about equal proportions, and barring an occasional tendency to ghastliness in the joke-making, we find it really enjoyable. The information given concerning the matters treated of we can endorse as being entirely authentic; and it is information of interest and value, to Kansas and to the country at large.

Topeka was the outfitting point of Mr. Webb's party. Here they saw the first Indians, and were introduced to the Kansas politician, and listened to the legend of the Wakarusa, and bought horses of Bill Holman. And near here, within sight of the Capitol, they enjoyed their first shooting of quails and wild chickens, and fell in with a gopher, and saw flocks of the snow-goose, which, the author tells us, "in its flight across the continent, apparently passes through but a narrow belt of country, being found in but few of the States outside of Kansas." Here, too, they met a man from Butler County, who delighted them with a lynching-story, which the author repeats in verse:

* * * *

" 'Pris'ner,' says Judge, 'now say your say,
An' make it short and sweet,
An' while yer at it, kneel and pray,
For death yer can not cheat.

" 'No man shall hang, by this 'ere court,
Exceptin' on the square;
There's time fur speech, if so it's short,
But none to chew or swear.'

" An then the thievin' rascal cursed,
An' threw his life away:
He said, 'Jest pony out your worst,
Your best would be foul play.'

" The Judge he frowned an awful frown,
And snapped this sentence short:
'Jones, twitch the rope an' write this down:
Hung for contempt of court.' "

Passing westward from Topeka, along the line of the Kansas Pacific Railway, they inspected the great cattle region, the rich framing-lands of the upper valleys, and the interesting geological features of the sandstone bluffs bordering on the Plains. At Bavaria, they were shown the curious sandstone blocks bearing the impression of human feet, which were talked of so much at the time of their discovery. Here, they also found on the rocks, fine impressions of leaves, resembling those of oak; and gathered a bushel of petrified walnuts and butternuts, "there being no other indications whatever of trees, the whole country, as far as eye could see, being a desolate prairie."

As the train moved up the bluffs, and on toward the Plains proper, the "Professor" of the party entertained his companions with the following scientific information:

"The vast plateau lying east of the Rocky Mountains, and which we are now approaching, was once covered by a series of great fresh-water lakes. At an early period these must have been connected with the sea, their waters then becoming quite salty, as is abundantly demonstrated by the remains of marine shells. During the time of the continental elevation these lakes were raised above the sea level, and their size very much diminished. Over the new land thus created, and surrounding these beautiful sheets of water, spread a vegetation at once so beautiful and so rich in growth that earth has now absolutely nothing with which to compare it. Amid these lovely pastures roved large herds of elephants, with the mastodon, rhinoceros, horse and elk, while the streams and lakes abounded with fish. But the drainage toward the distant ocean continued, the water area diminished, the hot winds of the dry land drank up what remained of the lakes, and, in process of time, lo! the great grass-covered plains that we wander over delightedly to-day."

At the first sight of "the great earth-ocean," we are assured that the customary and proper emotions were experienced; and then the chronicler of the expedition jotted down the following:

"The grass which covers the Great Plains is more like brown moss than what its name implies. Perhaps as good an idea of it as is possible to any one who has never seen it, may be obtained by imagining a great buffalo-robe covering the ground. The hair would be about the color and nearly the length of the

grass, at this season (autumn). In the spring, the Plains are fresh and green; but the grass cures rapidly in the stalk, and before the end of July is brown and ripe. It will then burn readily, but the fire is like that eating along a carpet, and is by no means terrifying to either man or brute."

* * * *

" We examined highlands and lowlands for poor soil, but found none. What we had once expected to see a bed of sand, if ever we saw it at all, turned up under the spade a rich dark loam, the depth and character fully equal to an Illinois prairie. Together with those other legends, localized drought and grasshoppers, the Great American Desert, when revealed by the headlight of civilization, had taken to itself the wings of a myth, and fled away."

At Hays City, the party found General Sheridan, and he gave them, in a few brief sentences, his ideas of the proper policy to pursue in dealing with the Indians. He said:

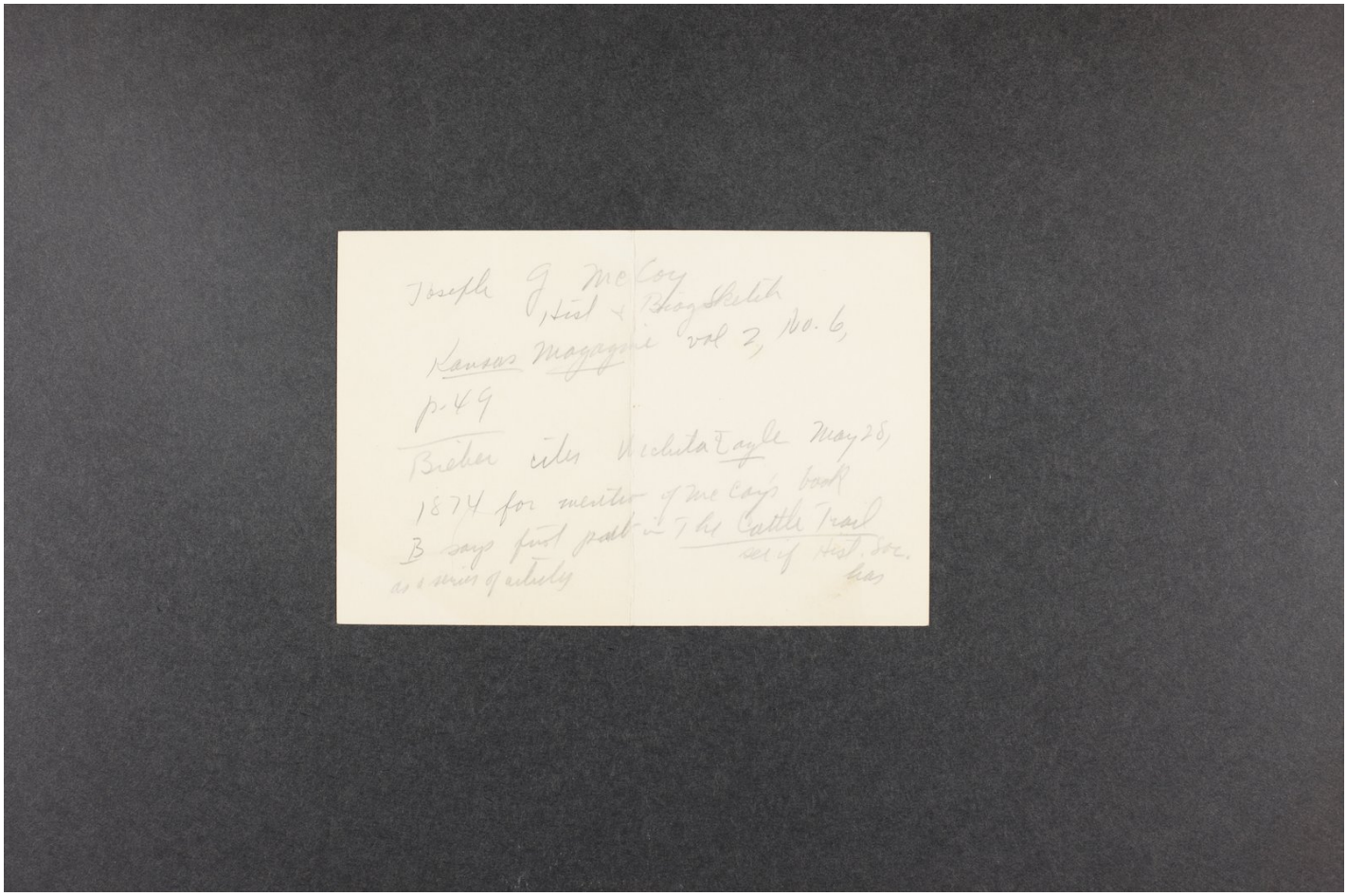
"Place the Indians on reservations, under their own Chiefs, with an honest white Superintendent. Let the civil law reign on the reservations, and military law away from it, every Indian found by the troops out of his proper limits to be treated as an outlaw."

From Hays City, the party started out, with the celebrated Buffalo Bill for a guide, on an overland jaunt a hundred miles further to the west. This portion of the general journey embraced buffalo-hunting in all its phases, the spectacle of a battle between two bands of Indians, (which the author pronounces a first-class fraud,) an interview with the "wild woman" who was crazed by the murder of her husband, a visit to the interesting region lying at the base of the Rocky Mountains, and other sights and incidents which we have not space even to specify, much less to speak of at any length.

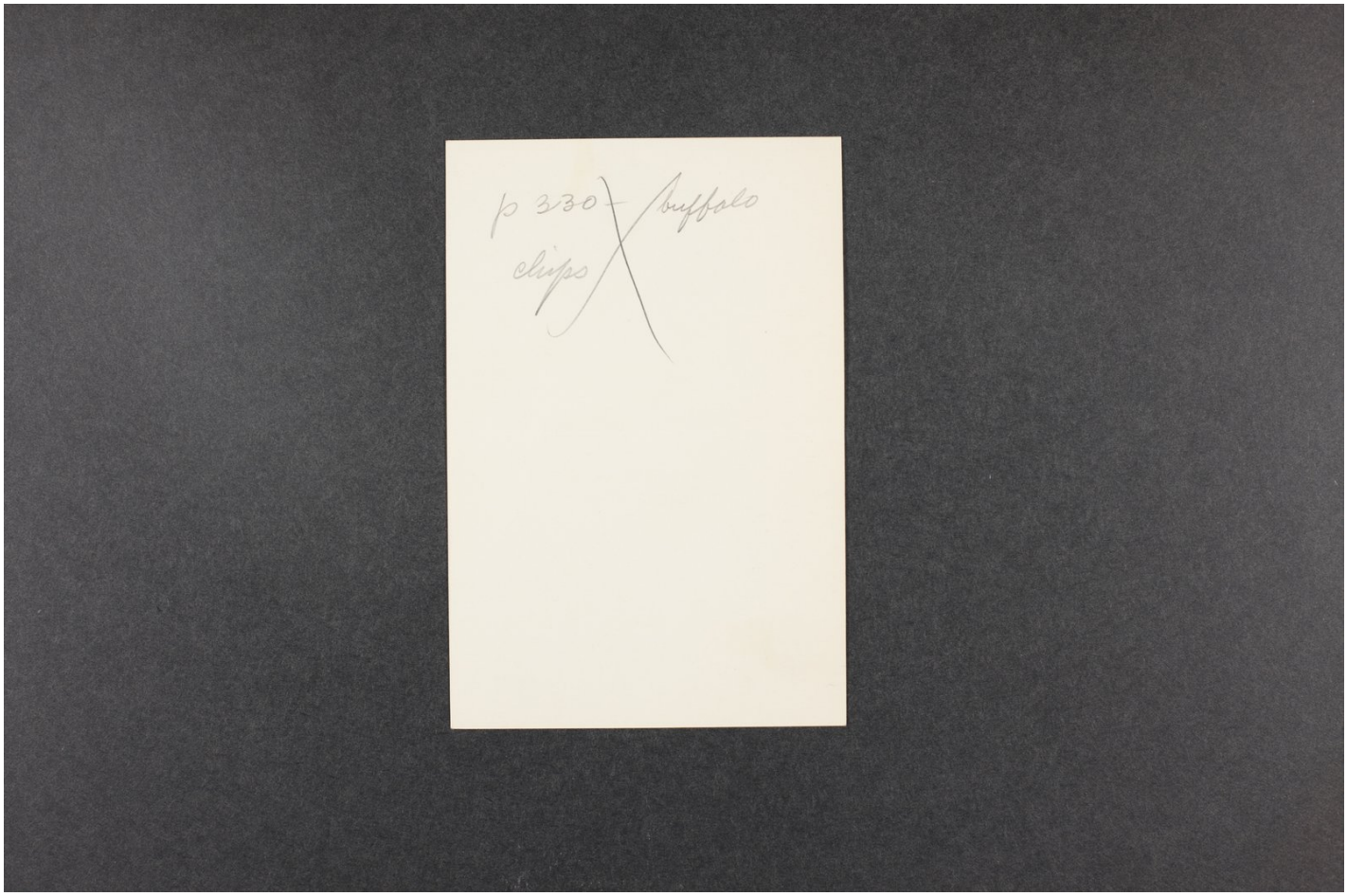
The book is profusely illustrated from designs by Professor Henry Worrall, of Topeka--all of them good, and some of them, particularly the frontispiece, of striking excellence. The publishers of the work are E. Hannaford & Co., Cincinnati and Chicago, and it is to be sold by subscription.

THE KANSAS MAGAZINE VOLUME 1
April 1872.
pp 383-384.

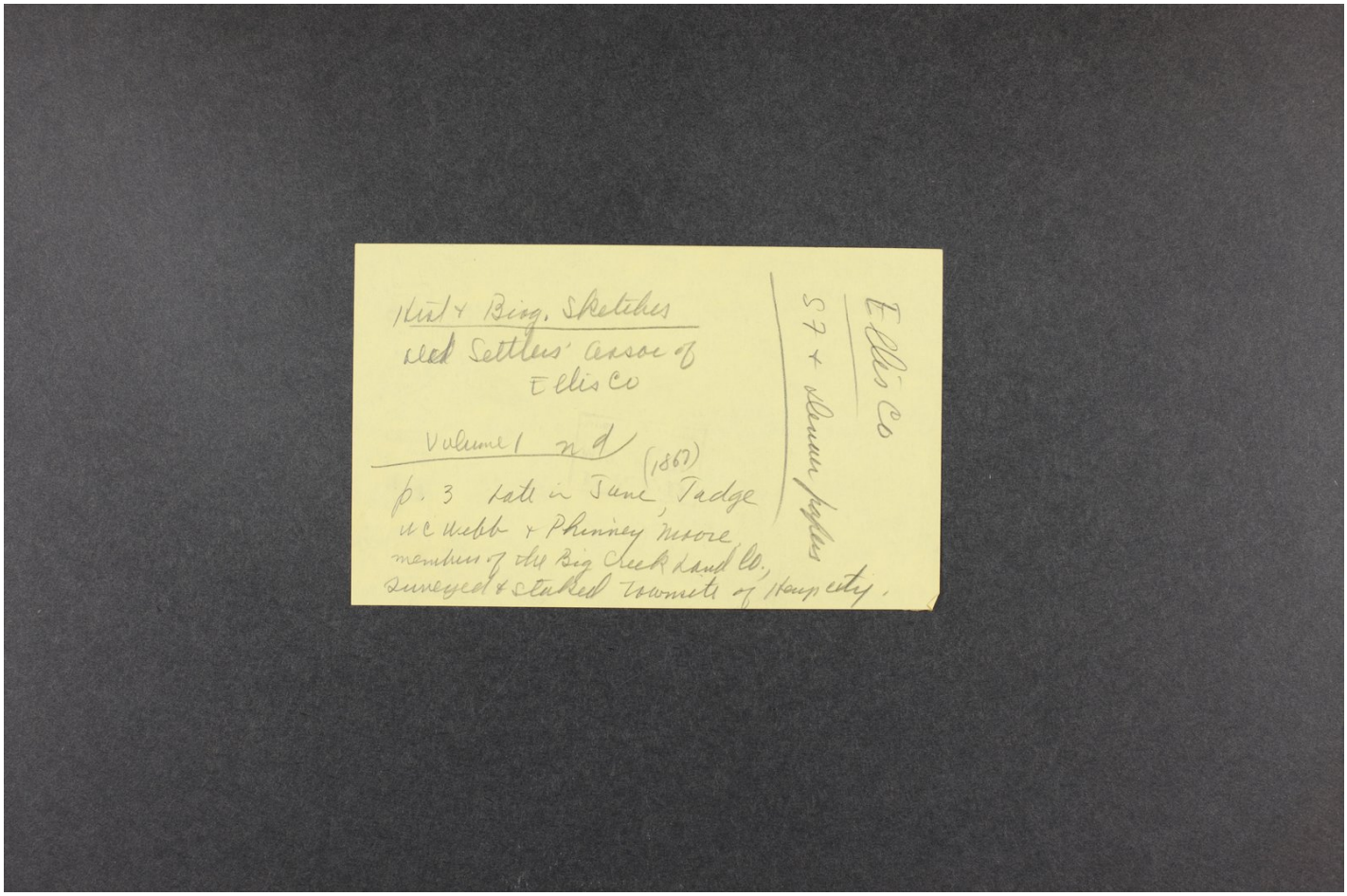
Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Waud - Zogbaum



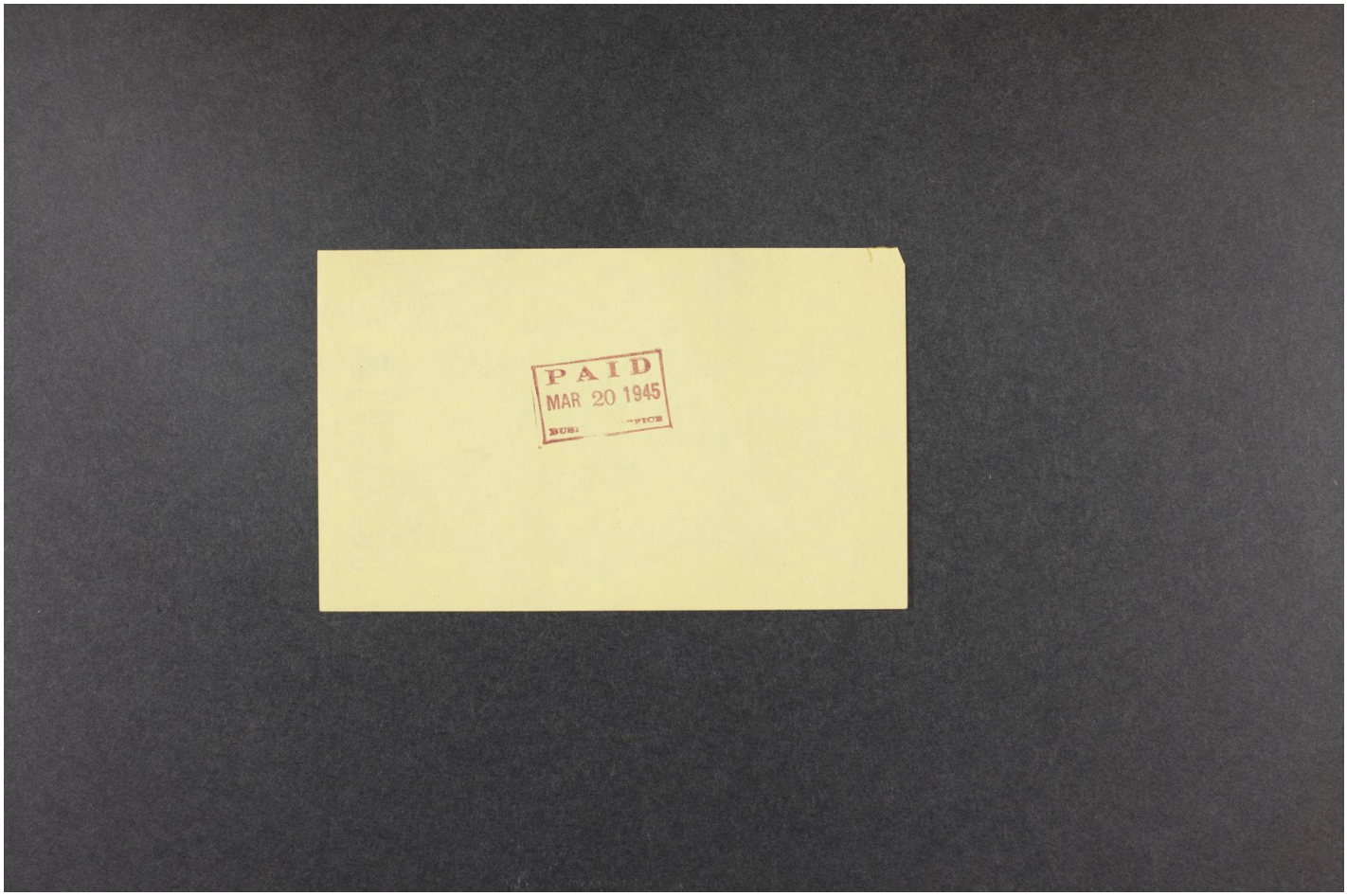
Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Waud - Zogbaum



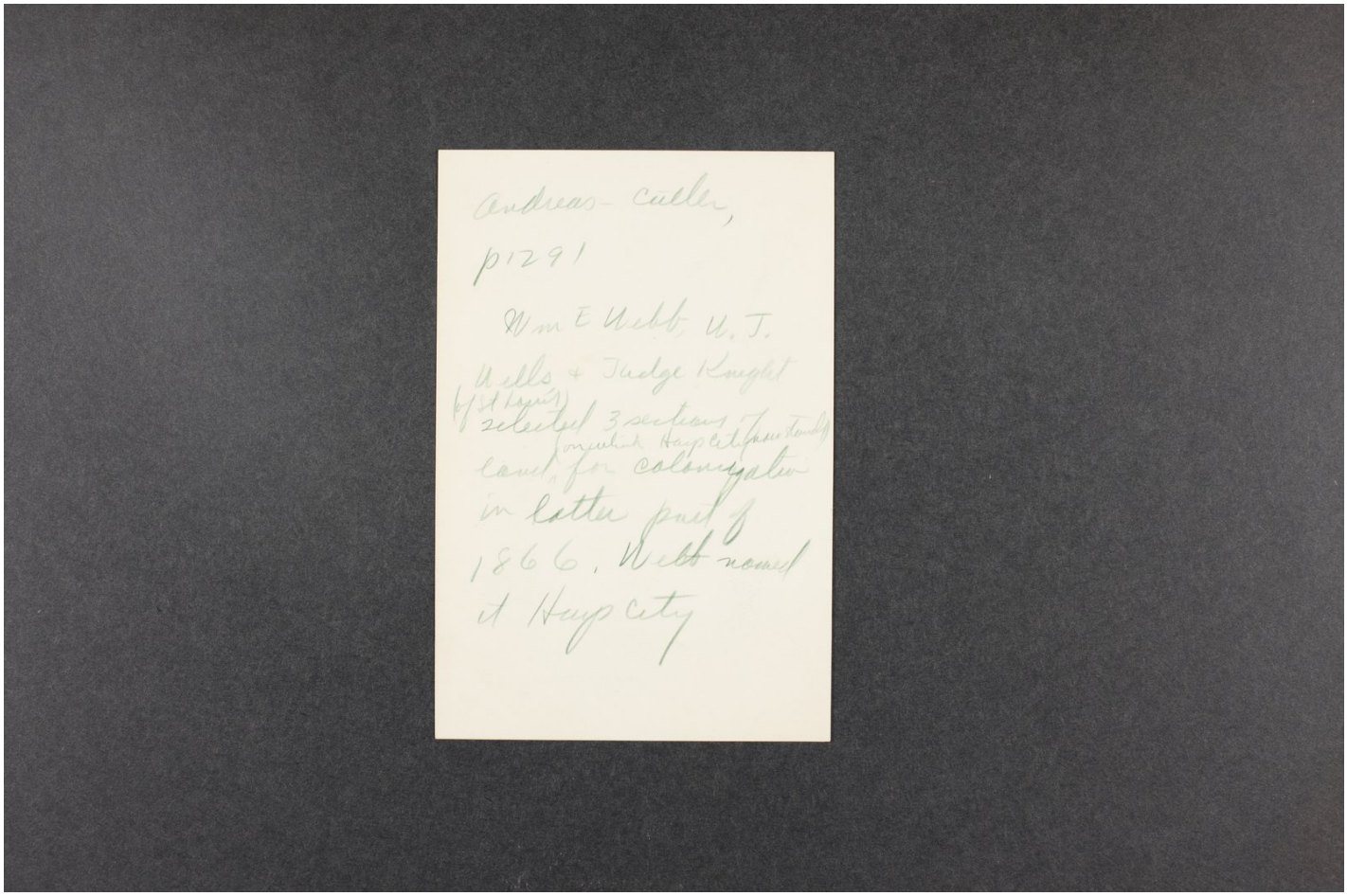
Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Waud - Zogbaum



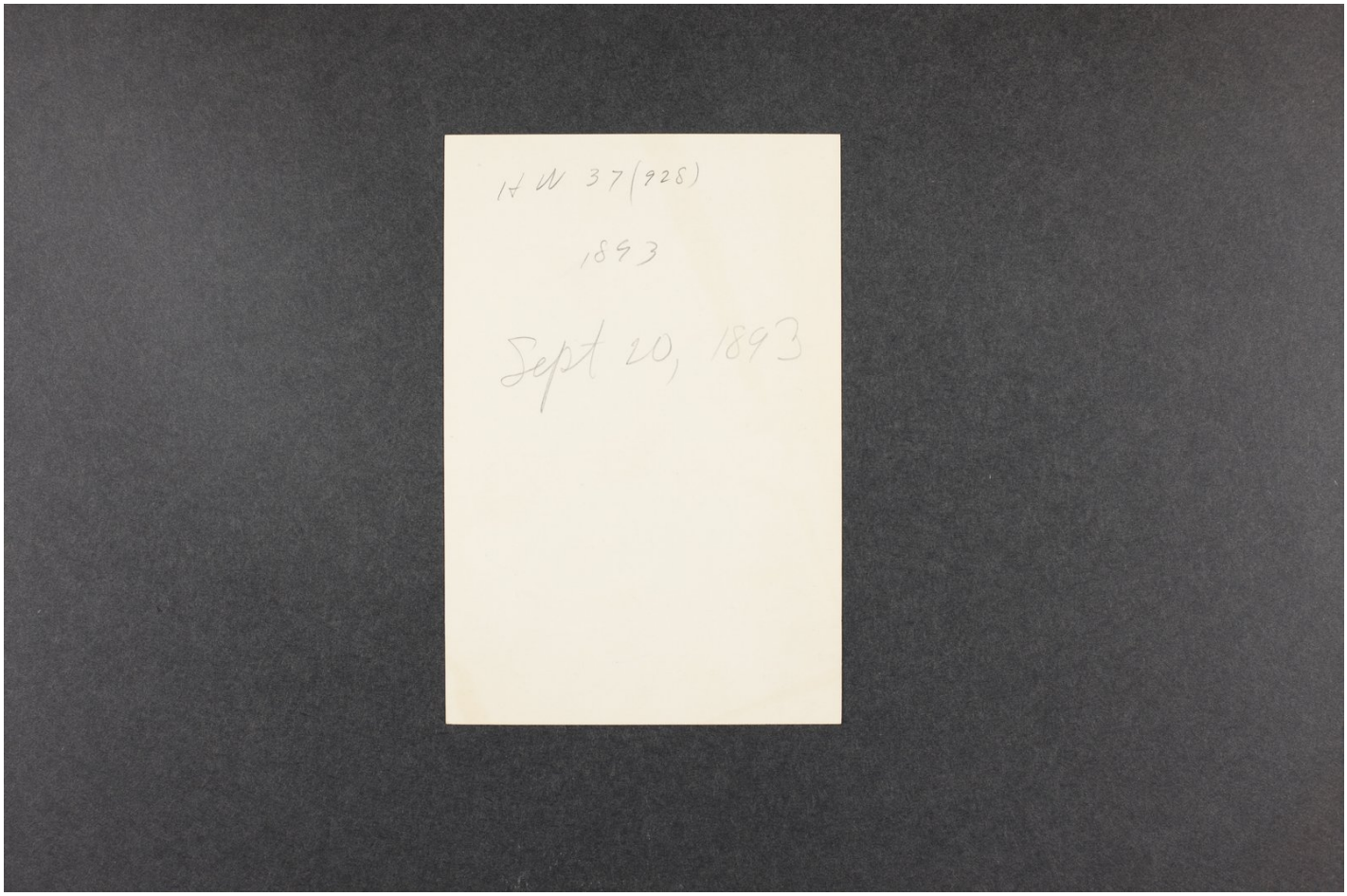
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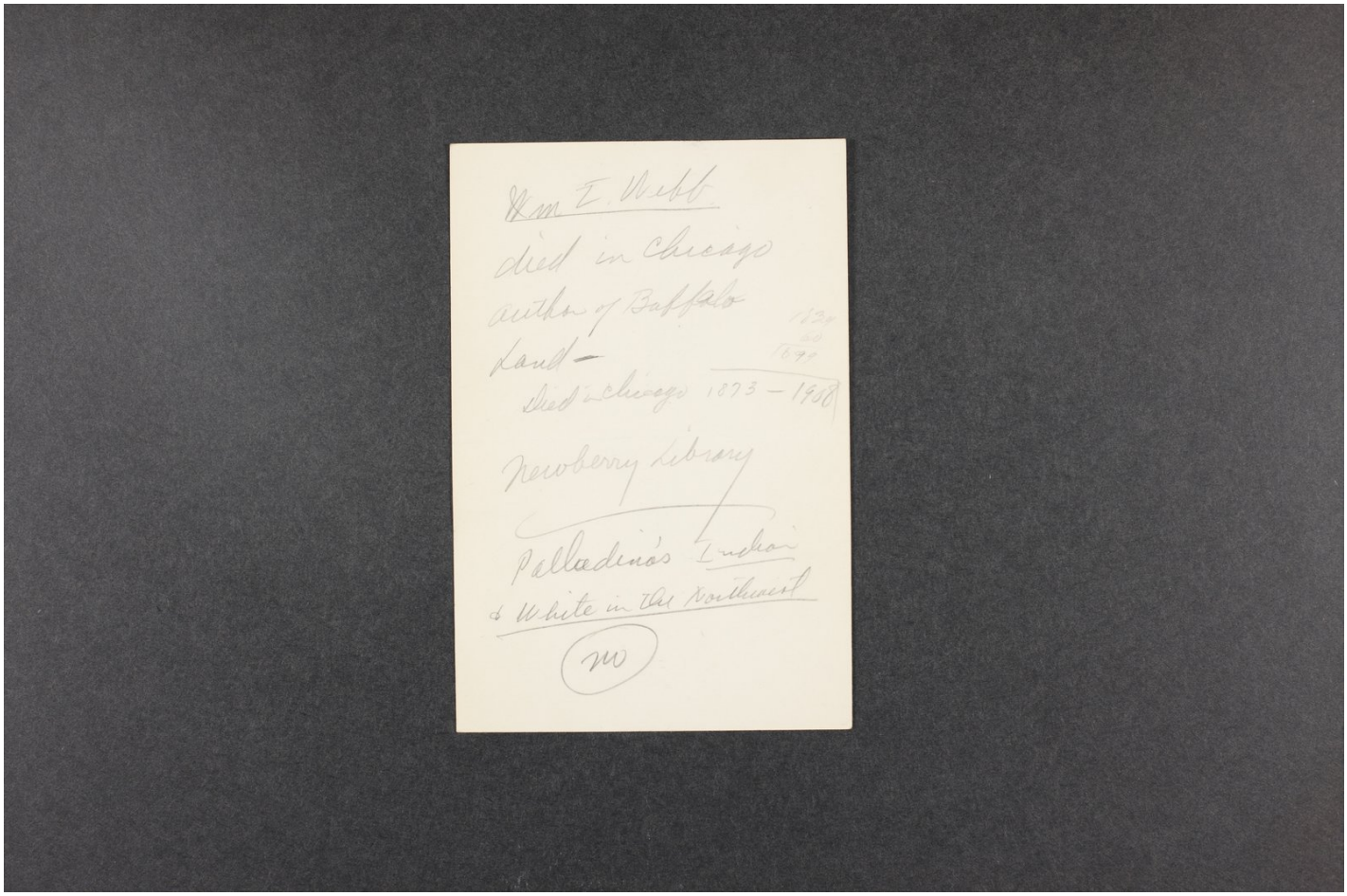
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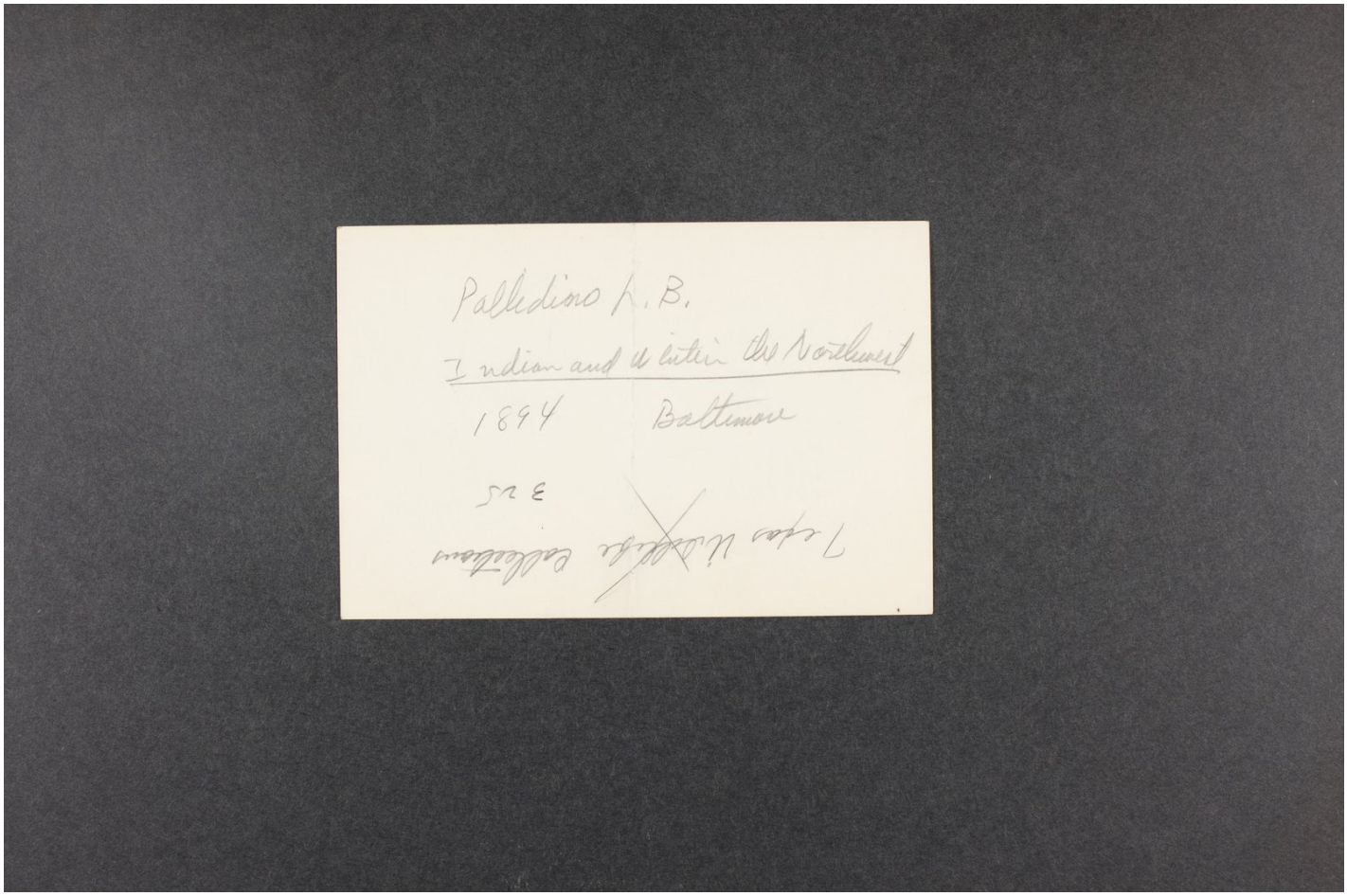
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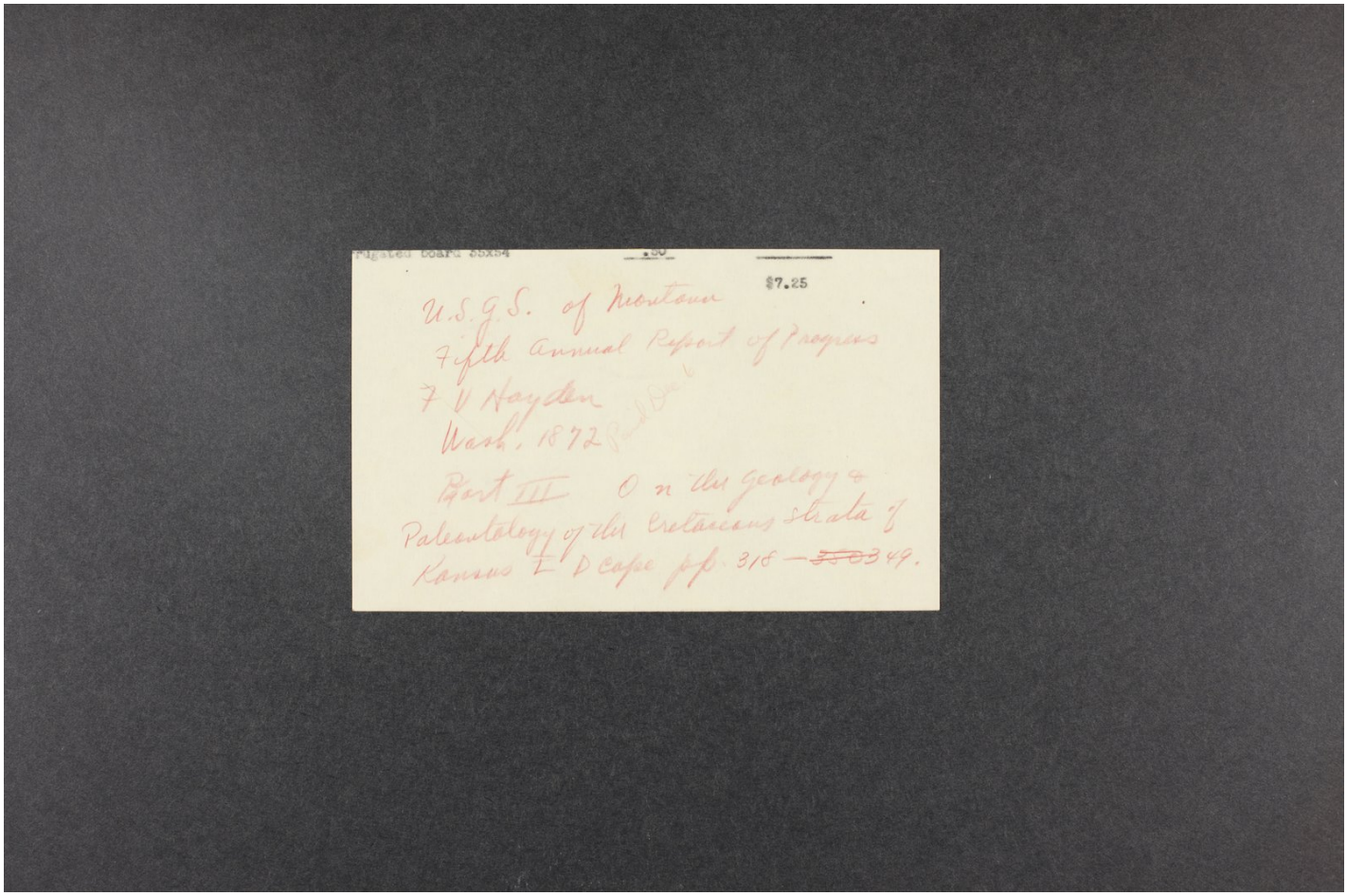
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