

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

Section 17, Pages 481 - 510

These folders contain correspondence subject files with Governor Allen. Some subjects included are land for soldiers, rifle practice, requests for assistance, the 35th Division, Fort Dodge Soldier's Home, the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, unemployment, venereal disease, and vocational education.

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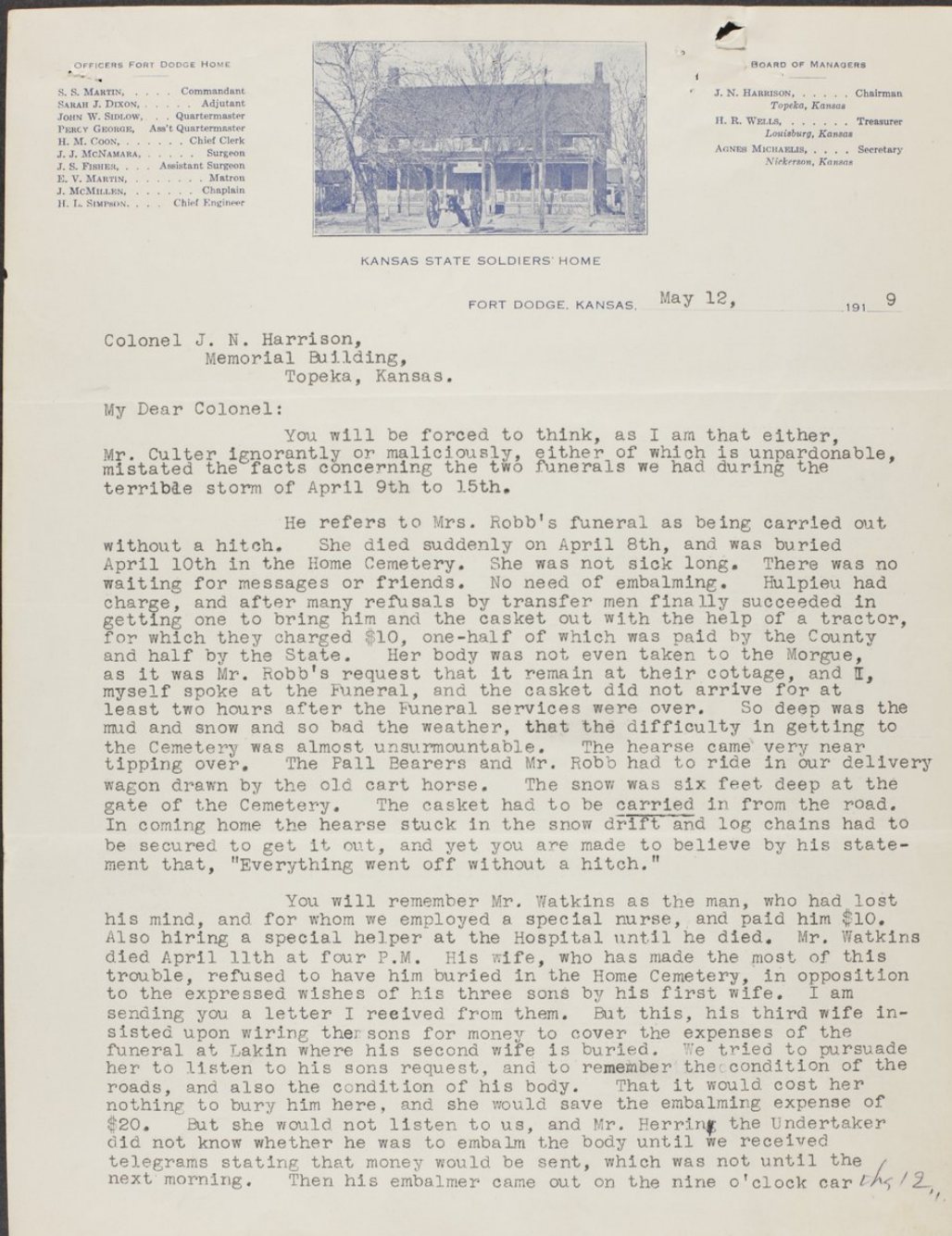
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Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19



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OFFICERS FORT DODGE HOME

S. S. MARTIN, Commandant
SARAH J. DIXON, Adjutant
JOHN W. SIDLOW, Quartermaster
PERCY GEORGE, Asst. Quartermaster
H. M. COON, Chief Clerk
J. J. McNAMARA, Surgeon
J. S. FISHER, Assistant Surgeon
E. V. MARTIN, Matron
J. McMILLER, Chaplain
H. L. SIMPSON, Chief Engineer



BOARD OF MANAGERS

J. N. HARRISON, Chairman
Topeka, Kansas
H. R. WELLS, Treasurer
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Nickerson, Kansas

-2-Col. J.N.H. 5/12/19

KANSAS STATE SOLDIERS' HOME

FORT DODGE, KANSAS.

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and went to work on the body at once, and worked until nearly four o'clock P.M., not even stopping for his dinner. Mr. Herring told me over the phone that, "The body could safely wait until morning," and also that "The Kennedy's had told him, some cars were stuck in the snow drifts that day, and it would be impossible for him to get out here the evening of Mr. Watkins' death."

We have had bodies to wait twelve to fifteen hours after death before being embalmed. So Mr. Culter, instead of saying that it was on the 13th at four o'clock in the evening before the Undertaker came should have said that it was at 9:30 o'clock A.M. for a malicious discrepancy of 30½ hours, evidently intended to convey the idea of gross neglect on the part of the Management. The Undertaker also said, "We could send the body to town on a stretcher where they could complete the binding of the limbs and other work that has to be done in the case of death from dropsy." He also said, "It would be impossible to dress the body and put it into the casket out here, and take it to town over the rough roads without destroying the clothes and staining the casket." I was in the Morgue a short time while he was embalming, and noticed a large quantity of water had been taken from the body. I told the Undertaker and the people here that, "As the roads were it would be impossible for our team to go to town twice in one day," and the Undertaker said the body must be there by four o'clock that evening.

Since I have been here we have sent from twenty-five to thirty bodies to town without a casket to be embalmed, and some of them brought back. But the most of them were shipped away. In the case of Comrade Watkins we waited until Sunday noon, the day of the funeral, before we decided not to try to get to town with our auto truck instead of taking the hearse, as we had great fears that the hearse might tip over on the bad roads.

As to the Pall Bearers making affidavit that, "They thought the body was not embalmed here," is entirely incorrect. It was embalmed here and everything done possible with a bad case to make it respectable and safe for shipment. Mr. McWilliams, who is now away on a furlough, was at the Morgue three or four times, and reported the hard time the Embalmer was having. Rev. McMillen held a beautiful service in front of the Morgue, and I was present when the body was put in the hearse, and I called for an extra sheet or cover which was placed over it, and I think as Mr. Clay states, and as he says, "Mr. Osborne says and Mr. Crist, and I don't know how many others, that, 'under the circumstances everything was done that could be done to make the best out of such bad conditions.'"

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-3- Col. J.N.H. 5/12/19 KANSAS STATE SOLDIERS' HOME

FORT DODGE, KANSAS.

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I have seen more than one hundred people buried from this Home, and I am sure I never saw nicer or more satisfactory work done in the burial of our old Comrades, or their wives or widows.

During the great blizzard in December, Comrade Victor was taken to town without any preparation. His brother came to Dodge City from Gardner to take his body home, and could not get out here, and it looked also for a while that they could get no one to take the body to town. But finally we took our team and took his body on a bob sled without a casket, and no embalming. Absolutely nothing done, only as he died in the hospital, and we have heard nobody making complaint about it.

We have done the best we could in all of these cases, and all criticism and fault finding is, "Simply the spirit of a few people who undertake to make," as Mr. Hulpieu says, "a mountain out of a molehill, and to make us trouble where there are impossibilities that we cannot overcome." We had telegraphed on to Lakin to have the Minister and the Post and the Undertaker meet them. The body was wrapped in our beautiful flag, which is always furnished by our Relief Corps, and his wife took him to Lakin, and he was laid by the side of his second wife with fitting burial services.

Yours respectfully,

SSM/SD

S. S. Martin
Commandant.

STATE OF KANSAS)
COUNTY OF FORD) SS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12 day of May 1919.

My Commission expires June 15 1919

John W. Sidlow
Notary Public.

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

May 16,

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Mr. J. W. Watkins,
Caldwell, Idaho.

Dear Mr. Watkins:

I am writing you just a word concerning the situation here about the burial of your Father, and the actions of Mrs. Watkins, his widow.

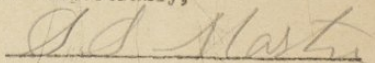
She signed a contract to leave the Home in case of his death. Now then she refuses to go, and we will have some trouble in seeing that she observes her own signed agreement. You know her first husband was not a soldier, and her little girl is her first husband's child, and so has no right in this Home, and as Mrs. Watkins is under fifty years of age, she has no right in the Home. So she signed a contract in order to get your Father into the Home, which we tried to affect for his good and not for hers.

She has been a source of disturbance to us ever since I have been here, writing letters when she was out threatening me with the law, and other disturbances almost continually. I want to put you on your guard that you are not deceived to advance any money or to imagine there was any neglect of your Father or in the handling of his funeral or shipping his body to Lakin. He died with dropsy and our Undertaker had a hard task to get the body embalmed so it could be shipped. But everybody did the very best possible, and I want to assure you, your Father was laid away with all honors of War and of respectable citizenship.

I thought a little hint of what might possibly come to you through the mail would be your protection.

Yours respectfully,

SSM/SD



Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

*Pt Dodge Kan
May - 20 - 1919*

STATEMENT BY PERCY GEORGE.

- Q. What position do you hold in the Kansas State Soldiers' Home?
A. Assistant Quartermaster.
Q. Do you have in your charge automobiles and automobile trucks operating between Dodge City and the Home?
A. Yes Sir.
Q. Do you remember the condition of the roads on April 11th, 12th and 13th?
A. Yes Sir. They were very bad. Impassible. Several cars being stuck in the road.
Q. Did Commandant Martin, at any time during these dates ask you whether the trip to Dodge City was passible or not?
A. He did. It was Sunday the 13th.
Q. What was your answer to him?
A. That they were not.
Q. Do you remember at the time that that body was removed to Dodge City that there was any complaint made by anyone?
A. No. I do not know.

Percy George.

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<p>RESIDENT OFFICERS</p> <p>KANSAS STATE SOLDIERS' HOME FORT DODGE, KAN.</p> <p>S. S. MARTIN, Commandant JOHN W. SIDLOW, Quartermaster PERCY GEORGE, Ass't Quartermaster H. M. COON, Chief Clerk J. J. McNAMARA, Surgeon J. S. FISHER, Assistant Surgeon SARAH J. DIXON, Adjutant E. V. MARTIN, Matron J. McMILLEN, Chaplain H. L. SIMPSON, Chief Engineer</p> <p>MOTHER BICKERDYKE HOME ELLSWORTH, KAN.</p> <p>A. R. KYLE, Superintendent G. H. WASSON, Steward C. E. KYLE, Matron HISSEM and O'DONNELL, Surgeons</p>	<p>OFFICE OF PRESIDENT</p> <p>BOARD OF MANAGERS</p> <p>KANSAS STATE SOLDIERS' HOME</p> <p>AND</p> <p>MOTHER BICKERDYKE HOME</p> <p>MEMORIAL BUILDING</p>	<p>BOARD OF MANAGERS</p> <p>J. N. HARRISON, President Topeka, Kan.</p> <p>H. R. WELLS, Treasurer Louisburg, Kan.</p> <p>AGNES MICHAELIS, Secretary Nickerson, Kan.</p>
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Topeka, Kan.,
May 26th., 1919.

Hon. H.J. Allen, Governor,
State of Kansas,
Topeka, Kansas.

My dear Governor:

In compliance with your request- that the Board of Managers make immediate investigation of the complaints made by the local G.A.R. Post at the Soldiers' Home in regard to caring for the body of Comrade I.H. Watkins deceased, beg leave to make the following report:

We entered into the inquiry with the determination, that should the evidence support the statement, that we would dismiss the Undertaker and bar him from doing business in the Home hereafter and prosecute to the full extent of the law, and if the local management was in any way guilty of gross negligence in the care of a deceased Comrade we would immediately suspend them from farther service in the Home.

We have gone carefully over the case and have heard the statements of Comrade S.S. Martin, Commandant of the Home, who was present at the embalming of the body and S.H. Herrin, the Undertaker, who had the case in charge and C.A. Helpieu, a Dodge City competitor of Herrin, and Dr. J.J. McNamara, Chief Surgeon of the Home; Percy George, Assistant Q.M. of the Home and Bert Kennedy, the garage man at Dodge City and perhaps twenty of our best and most reliable and conservative Comrades in the Home.

There seems to be two factors interested in the complaint- one that is always ready to take advantage even of a funeral to discredit the local management, and the other complainants have a personal grudge against the Undertaker, and they joined hands in this case and your Board of Managers have come to the unanimous conclusion that there was no reasonable grounds or just cause for complaint, and that the Undertaker in charge did the very best that could be done under the circum-

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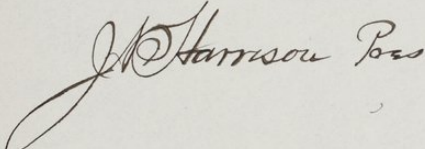
Topeka, Kan.,
May 26th.,
1919.

Hon.H.J.Allen, #2.

stances, the conditions of the weather and the roads.

We enclose you a few statements and correspondence.

Respectfully Submitted,


 Board of Managers.

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

Dodge City Kan 6/29/19
Gov Henry Allen
Topeka Kan
Dear Sir
It has been said,
Truth crushed to earth will rise
again - but when?
The truth is, the Soldiers
Home at Fort Dodge is the
worst managed institution in
the state, under present manage-
ment. This same warning was
given Gov Capron many times
but the warnings were shut to
the commandant and found
the waste basket, and there it
ended, and the truth failed to rise
again, but while there is a

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will there a way.
 First: put back Harrison
 that's where ^{by school} ~~by school~~ ^{he belonged} ~~he belonged~~
 in the pen. ^{Wade} ~~Wade~~ & new
 appointments for the Bd of
 directors. Appoint a business
man for Commandant, also one
 for Quartermaster. There are
 no good, extra large.
 It's a shame to the state.
 the manner in which this
 institution has been run -
 Hay pens, full of poor old
 wabby cows - alfalfa fields
 allowed to grow up in weeds.
 Hay machinery allowed
 to stand out to the weather.
 Sickles down on ground all
 rusted, &c &c cattle hay racks,
 hay pulled out and tramped
 into the mud &c everything

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else in keeping with what
has been narrated.
Let the truth be known.
Many times and oft tainted
leaflets issued (and beef)
everything inferior in catkins
at full price
yours
one who knows

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Fort Dodge Kans

July 12th. 1919.

Gov. Allen.

Dear Sir.

I Beg your Pardon
for addressing you but
we see by the morning
journal you have
reappointed the architect
for the Fort Dodge Soldiers
Home and we beg
leave to just give you
some reasons why we
as inmates of this Home
Beg you to come in Person
and see the true condi-
tion before the Building
is begun.

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In the first place there
is a very great expense
attached to moving
the 4 or 5 cottages and
cutting down some
of the finest trees in
the home that the
inmates of these
cottages have lived in
for years. They say they
wish this site right
on the Fort Dodge Road
as it would show
off to such a very
good advantage to the
home, but the Board
of managers does not ^{care} here
and does not consider

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This site the very wisest
In the world for this
Building and the Board
says this is for the return
and gives who are to
be able to longer care
for a. passage. so you
can understand it -
would work a hard-
ship on the inmates
of this Building. as can
be seen here day and nig-
ht. and some night
as many as three Pass
stand right - In front
of where this building
is staked off. and they

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Says they are going to
sell or tear down or
move these 4 or 5 Potters
and if they move them
they say one will be
very near the House
Bank and not even
one tree, for a shade
and one other one
on a side hill and
not a tree, and one
of these Potters has
lived here long eno
ugh to plant - and
raise a nice little
front-yard orchard
and it is just last
year and this bringing

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5-

family, and if this was
for the benefit of these
Inmates the Cattages
would not say a
word but it is work
ing a hardship on
both parties, besides
the great expense to
the state and the loss
of the trees.
and none many other
reasons why the inmates
of this home wish your
presence here. The word
has gone out that the
inmates of this home
are old and crazy not
accountable, and are

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6

know there are some
here as else where who
are feeble and some
chronic Grumblers
but we invite you
to Honor us with your
Presence and call the
Christian Honest Econ-
ent People together and
learn the very truth
for your self.
Now what would you
think of a Comman-
ent Pasing as a basel
Minister and addressing
the Oldsters and Yous
as Paupers Fools. Little
Dirty low down Scum

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I beg your Pardon for the
Phrase, and Duty done
down Lian, and went
so far as to threaten to
knock him off the
Sick Walk, and this
Wife had to hold him
the Commandant - to
prevent him from
putting his threat into
Effect, and part of the
took place on the 21st
and on the 22nd
Worm are sweet
Last Sunday night
and one Christian Lady
called on the Mother
for a favor only to

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2

be insatiable and told
they would not believe
and she said and
none no matter what
she might need has
no courage to even
go again.
and now however we
had the confidence
in you to vote for you
and make you our
honour and if you
would only come
and know for
your self the true
condition we fully believe
you could not permit
these people to rule or

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Being as the nation
has said she would
do.
all we ask is to—
Come Come Come
This is strictly Confidential
from a poor distressed
Immigrant who is
anxiously waiting
to see their Governor.

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

J. W. Probst

Topeka, Kansas. July 22nd 1919.

Hon. Henry J. Allen,
Governor of Kansas,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir:-

As a member of the Fort Dodge State Soldiers' Home G. A. R. investigating committee I have been urged to see you or write you. Having so far failed in the first I now resort to this plan almost fearing that I may trespass too much on your busy time. It happened that I remained at the Home and in Dodge City longer than the others and thereby obtained some information additional to or not touched on in our committee report mainly prepared by the chairman.

Before going to the Home I was advised (?) by comrade Bernard Kelly "That there was nothing to investigate, that everything was all right out there". I also had two or more talks with comrade J. P. Harrison that I could have his version of conditions there, and obtained some names of inmates with their pro and con attitudes that I might have the widest possible grasp of the situation.

My dear Governor, it is with great regret that I must say that I found matters pertaining to the condition and managing of the Home so at variance with some of the assurances that it would be too burdensome to you for me to relate, even very briefly, the many things I have jotted down in my rather voluminous notes based on only two days observances and gatherings of facts, not idle reports.

It is needless here to dwell on the complained of treatment of the dead. The evidence obtained and heretofore submitted to you probably is as complete as could easily be obtained since we found that some very creditable witnesses had such fear of the management that they begged us not to call them to testify lest by so doing severe consequences would follow.

I scarcely dare to give expression of my opinion of such a condition especially so when in confidence I was told of many things.

It is quite embarrassing to be the guests of the State, at the Home, thru the courtesies of Commandant S. S. Martin and his estimable wife, very courteous and likeable even tho they are misfits.

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

H. J. A. 2.

Comrade J. H. Harrison

He said his resignation had been ^{best now} and was in the hands of the Governor, that financially it was a losing as well as a very trying service. He assured me that there should be no complaints out there, as the people there had the best of treatment, the best that money could buy especially mentioning coffee, bacon, meats, clothing, etc. Much better than many of them had previously had. Doubtless, and to some extent, this last conclusion is true, but it seems unkind to refer to our unfortunate and poor comrades in that way. At the Home I heard frequent reference ~~of the past~~ to these unfortunates, by the Matron more than the Commandant, who said many or most of these people had been failures and that they formally had not had as good a home. I fail to see any justification in such frequent allusion to these painful facts even if such was generally urged as a reason for denying them such favors as they sought. How reasonable these requests were is not known to me.

It being our mission to gather every day ^{facts.} some of the committee failed to secure meals at the halls in accordance with plans and instructions of the Matron. Thereby I am forced to conclude that the cooks have much room for improvement in their art. Further, if economy in employing such help is the cause let the State strain itself enough to employ cooks who can make food articles, even of very ordinary quality into palatable, digestible and inviting dishes. Especially so for people of such advanced age that keen appetites have given away to mere life sustaining eating. Let any epicurean like yourself slip in, ^{then} as I did, and let me know if you would care to so continue.

May I here allude to a general conclusion that I reached regarding the best grade of some of the food articles. If first grade prices are paid for coffee, bacon, meats, etc. some middlemen are getting a big rakeoff. Second or third grade is as high as I could rate them. A high grade of clothing, if a fact, is far less essential to the inmates than the quality of food.

You are already advised of the very bad condition of the homes and the neglect in remedying such matters, placing as much as possible of such expenses on the inmates, ^{while} no assurance exists that they may remain, where they have spent their money on repairs, to enjoy their efforts. One comrade who has been there sixteen years has had ^{of the home} one attention to his home. He and others in his part, first north of the river grove, called my attention to what I had already observed; a fine growth of weeds on quite a strip of excellent plowed ground. This ground was refused to them to plant to something. *They could cultivate rather than to have unhealthy weeds.*

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H. J. A. 3.

As a farmer during my younger years I confess I would be quite safe in saying the Home had no farmer and the neglected fences, sheds and buildings would further sustain this conclusion. I was creditably informed that thru such neglect some sixty or more good sized shoats perished in a snow storm last winter. Hogs had been killed for use which were unfit for slaughter. The milk entirely insufficient in quantity was carelessly obtained and cared for in unsanitary vessels so that it was offensive and unfit for use. Some families buying milk from outside dairies for months.

Last spring when the undertakers were trying to secure an advance from \$50.00 to \$75.00, the latter being their charges for pauper services, comrade Harrison sought to have them furnish a cheaper casket than now used for soldiers and paupers. This they refused to consider. The management, I had been told, paid the extra \$12.50 finally agreed upon, but it seems a fact that the management as far as possible tries to collect this from the deceased's relatives.

My dear Governor I must not further trespass on your time and patience as I find I have not half completed this rehash of my very carefully prepared report. I will close by expressing a hope that these deserving people may have as speedy relief as possible from present conditions. If I had the say you have I certainly would stop all moves for the building of the other new hospital, at least until other greater needs had received proper attention.

With high regards I am yours very truly,

J. W. Priddy

*Topeka Kan.
Care of Carrier 33*

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 19

IN THE MATTER OF INVESTIGATION of complaints filed with
the Governor, concerning the treatment of dead
bodies at the State Soldiers Home at Ft. Dodge:

On the 10th and 11th days of June, 1919, investigation was made by the Attorney-General's office by request of the Governor, with regard to the treatment of bodies of deceased soldiers at the Ft. Dodge Soldiers Home, complained of in writing by members of the Home.

Ten depositions were taken at the Home, all members of the Home except one, which depositions are herewith submitted.

Synopsis of the Testimony.

1. Sarah J. Jackson, widow of Ira Jackson, deceased, a member of the Home. She paid all her husband's funeral expenses \$205.00, April, 1918. In October, 1919, S. S. Martin, the Commandant, stated to her there were \$50.00 due the undertaker. She refused payment, and nothing more was said about it.

2. W. E. Sivers, His wife died at the Home, was buried in Soldiers Cemetery. In November, 1918, S. S. Martin, the Commandant said to him that he owed \$20.00 balance due on his wife's funeral, and if he would pay \$10.00 a receipt would be given him for \$20.00. He never paid Martin any money and the subject has not been mentioned since. Martin claimed the Home had received but \$30.00 from Leavenworth County, leaving \$20.00 due (as letter attached to deposition from Meyers.)

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3. E. Collett was a pall-bearer at funeral of I. H. Watkins, who died at the Home April 11th, 1919. He signed complaint delivered to the Department Commander. The body was not washed or dressed, a sheet was spread over the body. When body was removed from the morgue, water and blood oozed from the body and soiled the hands, arms and clothes of the pall bearers. The body was not embalmed or put in a coffin at the Home. It was placed on a stretcher and taken in a hearse to DodgeCity.

4. Mrs. Catherine Watkins (widow). I. H. Watkins died at Home April 11th, 1919, of brights disease and dropsy. The body was swollen. The body was immediately taken to morgue from hospital where he died. The body had a suit of clothes on. She saw the body as it was carried to the hearse Sunday p. m. April 13th. A sheet covered the body. The body on stretcher was placed in hearse without being fastened down to prevent body from rolling about, when conveyed to DodgeCity. The undertaker gave her no opportunity of seeing the body at any time. It was buried at Lakin, Kansas. Casket was not opened. She learned from old soldiers the body had no clothes on it. She supposes it was her husband's body that was buried at Lakin.

5. W. H. Culter. The Body of Watkins had nothing around it but a sheet. Was present at funeral. No coffin. During the funeral services, which were held at morgue door, the door was locked, and body was carried out after the funeral services.

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6. G. W. Wolford. Watkins came home from Syracuse, Kansas. His complaint is that the body was hauled out of the home "just like you would haul a hog out." He was a pall bearer. Undertaker Herrin of Dodge City took charge of the body. There was no clothing on the body. No coffin was furnished at the Home.

7. D. R. Caton. He was a pall bearer. The body was not clothed; had a sheet over it. People at the Home complained about the manner the body was neglected. The undertaker told him he received \$50.00 from Watkins' son and after paying funeral expenses and embalming \$20.00, paid the widow \$17.50.

There are two undertakers at Dodge City who take turn about in taking charge of the dead at the Home.

8. J. T. McKee. He was a pall bearer at Watkins funeral. He saw water on the floor of morgue from the board on which the body was laid. The body was wrapped in a sheet. No coffin was brought to the Home to receive the body. Forty or fifty people were present at the funeral. No one entered the morgue until after the ceremony, the pall bearers went in and carried the body out.

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9. S. H. Herrin, undertaker, called as a witness at his own request) He and Helpieu Brothers, at Dodge City, take turn about, conducting funerals at the Home. He has no written contract. The contract is only to furnish caskets for so much, and when embalming is wanted the fee is \$20.00, to be paid by relatives of deceased. Receive \$62.50 for caskets. The price was \$50.00; for three months past \$62.50. Mr. Martin instructed him that Mrs. Watkins would pay him \$12.50 on coffin. Not required to deliver coffin at Home. He did not come to the Home to see or treat the body. He sent a "helper". The helper is not a licensed embalmer.

Conclusions from the Evidence.

Coffins or caskets are not furnished at the Home.

The present charge for casket is \$62.50. Relatives are to pay \$12.50.

If embalming is required the charge is \$20.00, to be paid by relatives.

No written contract is made with undertakers.

The Home has no resident undertaker.

The body of Watkins was not embalmed at the Home and was taken away unclothed, except a loose sheet was used as a covering.

The body of Watkins was not properly cared for, and proper respect and consideration for the widow was not shown.

If a deceased soldier is buried in a coffin or casket, the relatives must pay \$12.50 for the same, as the state allows \$50.00 for funeral expenses, to be paid by the county of which the deceased was a resident.

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Other Facts Gathered Concerning State Soldiers Home. *****

The general appearance of most of the frame buildings is decay. Painting is badly needed.

2. The bunk-houses and dining rooms were built without sufficient windows. An electric light plant is not operated during the day-light hours; lamps should be furnished for use on cloudy, dark days.

3. The sidewalks are generally in good repair, being cement. The yards around the cottages are well cared for by the soldiers who occupy the cottages, but the grounds around the bunk-houses are neglected.

4. The only substantial houses are those of stone, built by the government when the place was used as a Post.

5. The milk supply is insufficient. A soldier and wife receive something over a pint, less than one quart per day. There is considerable complaint in this respect.

6. The Home management do not have or keep on hand any coffins or caskets. The average death rate per year is over 80. If coffins and caskets were furnished by the state, expenses could be saved, as the undertakers charge \$62.50 for a casket and relatives of deceased pay \$12.50.

7. No provision is made for embalming dead bodies. If embalming is necessary it must be paid for by relatives.

8. When a cottage room needs papering or painting, the soldier or widow occupying the cottage must pay for the labor; the management furnished the material.

9. Complaint is made by soldiers that most of the cottage roofs leak, and plastering falls from the ceilings. There has been much neglect by the management in not keeping roofs of cottages in repair.

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10. The Home now has twenty-two milk cows. Should have fifty to make a proper supply.

11. In February, 1919, a man representing the state sanitary commission, condemned thirteen cows, which were taken to Dodge City and shipped away. These thirteen cows were considered the best in the herd, valued at from \$250.00 to \$300.00 each. This matter should be carefully investigated.

12. The highway from the Home to Dodge City, over five miles, all river bottom road, in stormy weather is almost impassable. The Home commissioners have no authority to improve the road, and the land owners along the line do not seek to improve the road only by dragging.

13. There exists a dissatisfaction among the members of the Home, the full extent of which was not investigated, against the administration and managers.

14. S. S. Martin, the Commandant, requested that he be permitted to have witnesses examined, and owing to want of time, but one witness called by him was examined, Mr. S. H. Herrin, the undertaker.

15. The report of Board of Managers made to the Governor July 1st, 1918, shows an unexpended balance on hand of \$16,862.99 and the members of the Home do not understand how it is with a surplus fund on hand they must pay individually for repair of the cottages they occupy. The president explained that this unexpended fund was used for the purchase of coal.

16. A committee of three members of the G. A. R. of Kansas, appointed by Commander Col. W. W. Smith, to visit the Home, investigate and make report, were present at the taking of depositions, and will no doubt make a separate report.

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17. The Investigation made by the Attorney-General's office with the assistance of the Committee from G. A. R. Post was directed to the conduct of neglect and treatment of bodies of deceased soldiers, but in taking the evidence other matters pertaining to the management of the Home were insisted to be given by witnesses.

This 18th day of June, 1919.

Whitfield Freeman,
Assistant Attorney-General.

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Fort Dodge Kans July 29th 19
W. H. Freeman Topeka Kans
Dear Sir
after waiting & watching for so long
to hear from the Report of that
investigating committee of which
you were at the head, who were
at Fort Dodge to investigate
the conditions at the State
Soldiers Home at Fort Dodge
we are very anxious to know what
has been done at this writing there
is at any time danger of a volcanic
eruption in which there there is
danger of the spilling of human
blood which could be averted
by the action of the govt. the
Board of Managers or the commandant
is attempting to put one Mr Hill out
of this Home who is a member of
Seinealon Post in Topeka who
has the backing of that Post