United States versus Edward Chapman for murder

Section 1, Pages 1 - 30

These legal documents relate to the 1856 case of the United States vs. Edward Chapman for the murder of George Wilson. Chapman was accused of striking Wilson on the head with a club near Lawrence, Kansas Territory on July 24, 1856. Witnesses reported the pair had an argument about money prior to the attack. Chapman was indicted during the October 1856 term of the First District Court in Lecompton. On May 5, 1857, U. S. Marshal E. S. Dennis reported Chapman had left the country.

Date: 1856 - 1857

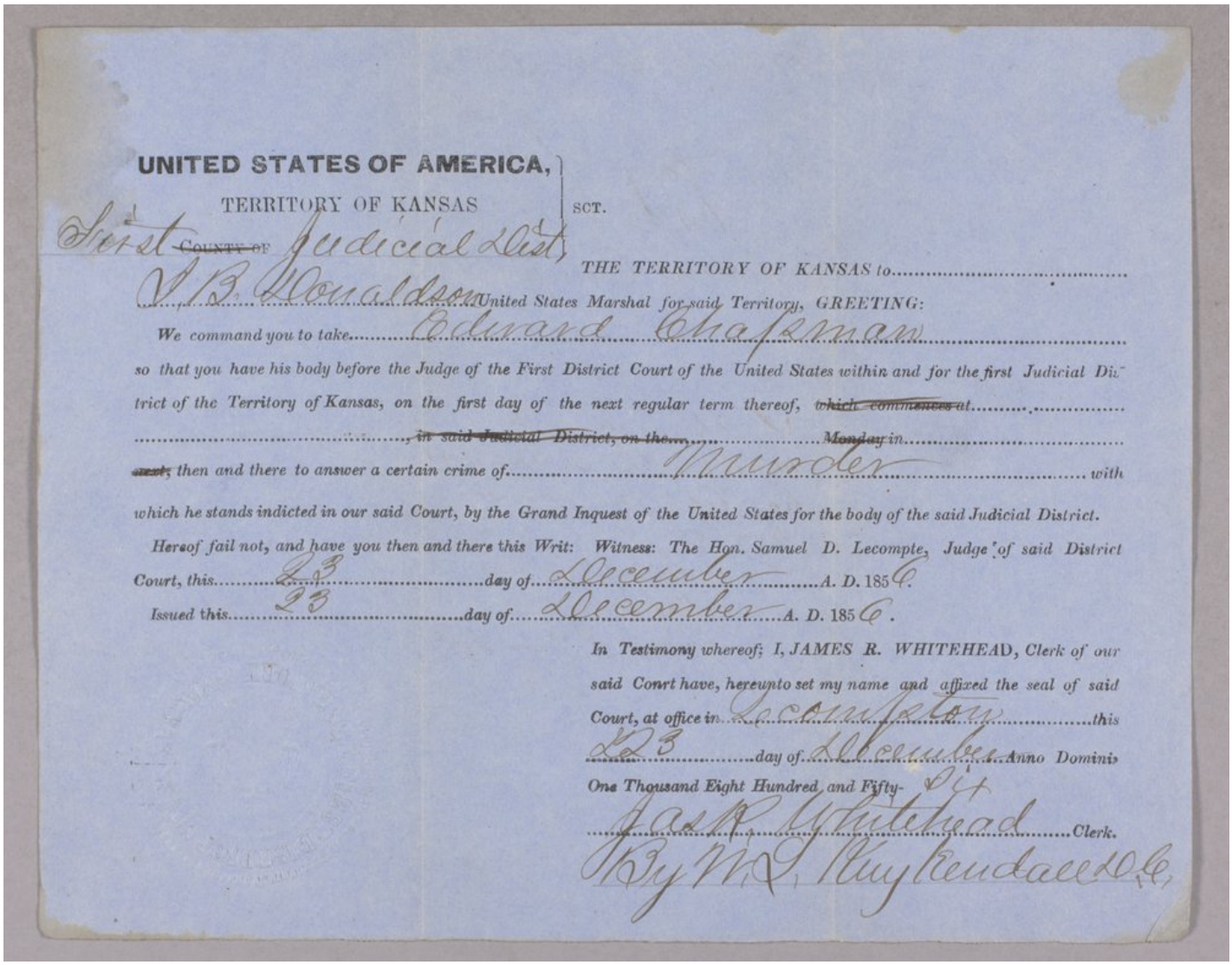
Callnumber: Kansas Territory Criminal Case Files, Box 6, Folder 16

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 444862

Item Identifier: 444862

www.kansasmemory.org/item/444862

United States versus Edward Chapman for murder



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

TERRITORY OF KANSAS | SCT.

~~COUNTY OF~~ First Judicial Dist,

THE TERRITORY OF KANSAS to.....

U. S. Marshal for said Territory, GREETING:

We command you to take Edward Chapman

so that you have his body before the Judge of the First District Court of the United States within and for the first Judicial District of the Territory of Kansas, on the first day of the next regular term thereof, ~~which commences at~~ ....., ~~in said Judicial District, on the~~ ..... Monday in ..... ~~next~~; then and there to answer a certain crime of Murder with which he stands indicted in our said Court, by the Grand Inquest of the United States for the body of the said Judicial District.

Hereof fail not, and have you then and there this Writ: Witness: The Hon. Samuel D. Lecompte, Judge of said District Court, this 23 day of December A. D. 1856.

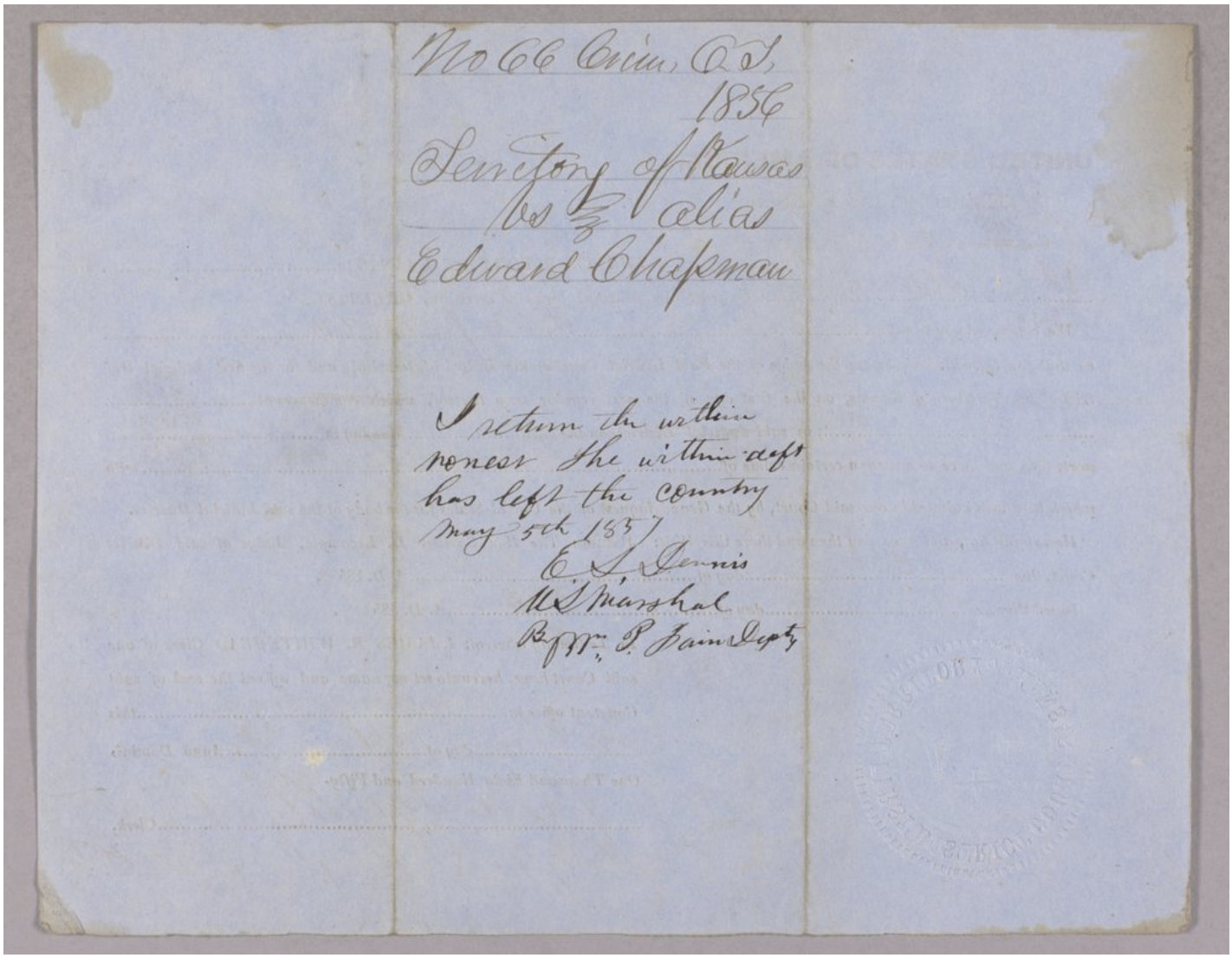
Issued this 23 day of December A. D. 1856.

In Testimony whereof; I, JAMES R. WHITEHEAD, Clerk of our said Court have, hereunto set my name and affixed the seal of said Court, at office in Lecompton this 23 day of December Anno Domini One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-Six

Jas R Whitehead Clerk.

By W. L. Kay Deputy Clerk.

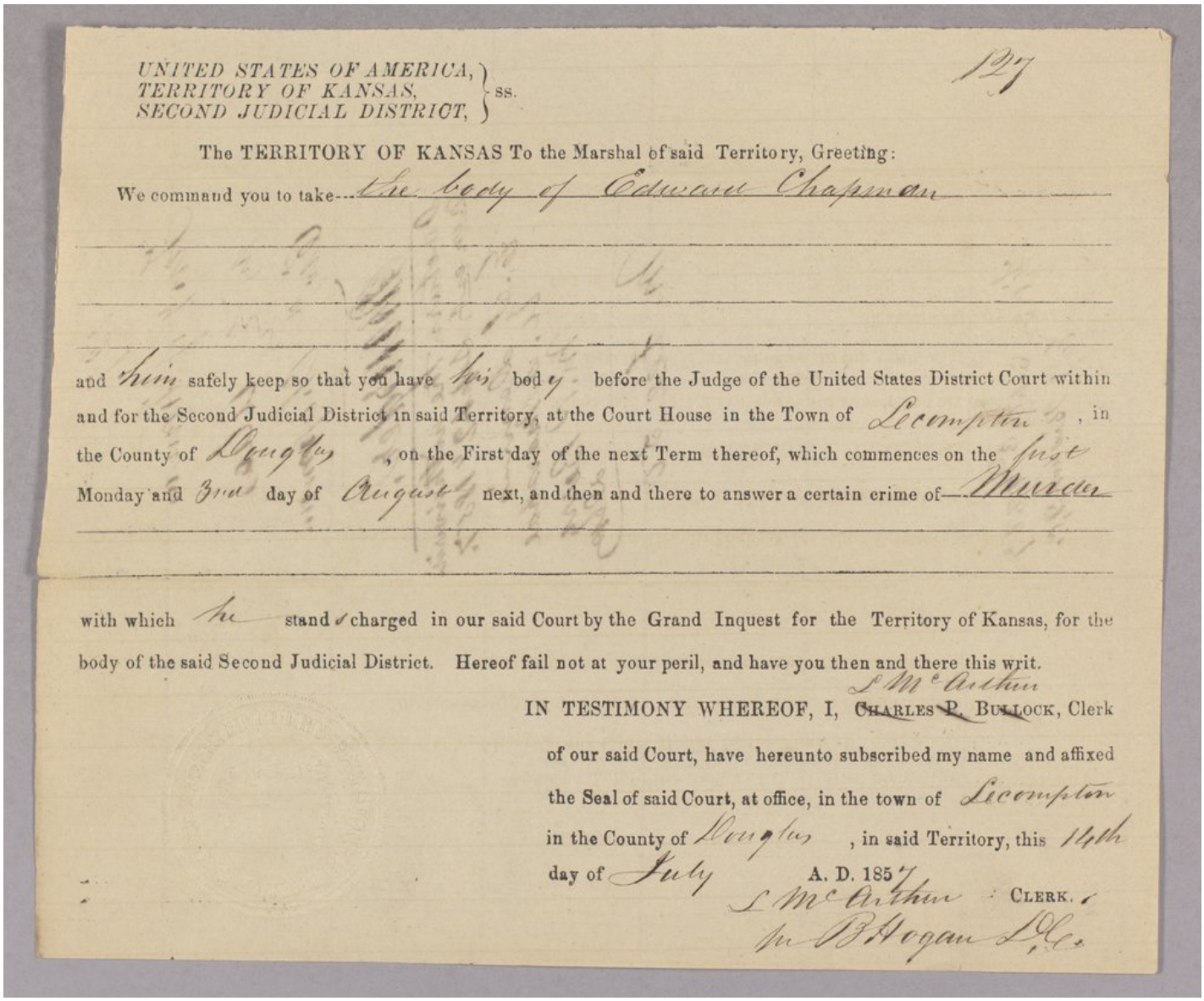
United States versus Edward Chapman for murder



No 66 Crim. D. T.
1856
Territory of Kansas
vs
Edward Chapman alias

I return the within
process The within deft
has left the country
May 5th 1857
E. A. Dennis
U.S. Marshal
By W. P. Fain Dept

United States versus Edward Chapman for murder



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
TERRITORY OF KANSAS,
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT, } ss.

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The TERRITORY OF KANSAS To the Marshal of said Territory, Greeting:

We command you to take--- the body of Edward Chapman

and him safely keep so that you have his body before the Judge of the United States District Court within and for the Second Judicial District in said Territory, at the Court House in the Town of Lecompton, in the County of Douglas, on the First day of the next Term thereof, which commences on the first Monday and 3rd day of August next, and then and there to answer a certain crime of---Murder

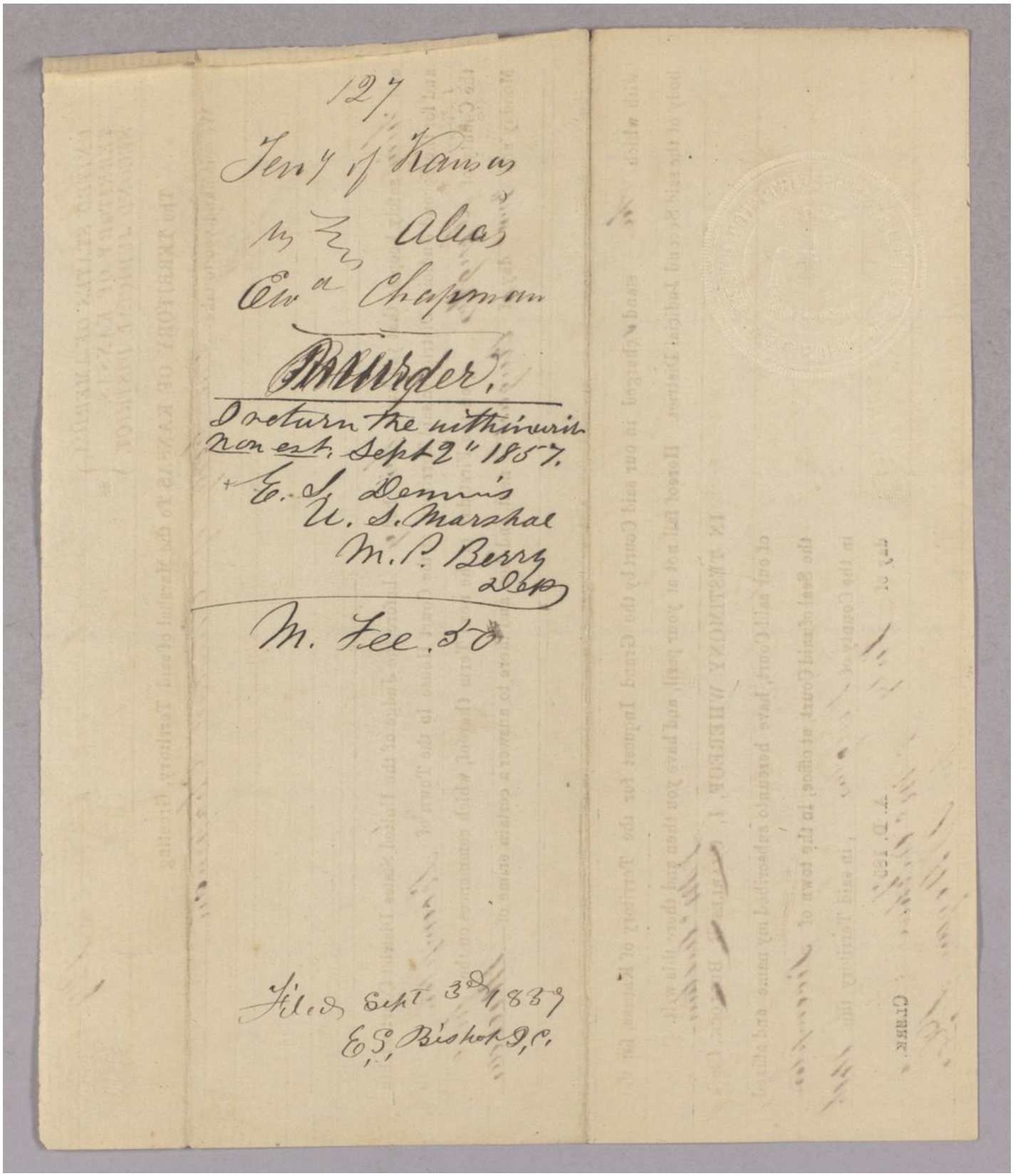
with which he stand charged in our said Court by the Grand Inquest for the Territory of Kansas, for the body of the said Second Judicial District. Hereof fail not at your peril, and have you then and there this writ.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, CHARLES P. BULLOCK, Clerk of our said Court, have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the Seal of said Court, at office, in the town of Lecompton in the County of Douglas, in said Territory, this 14th day of July A. D. 1857

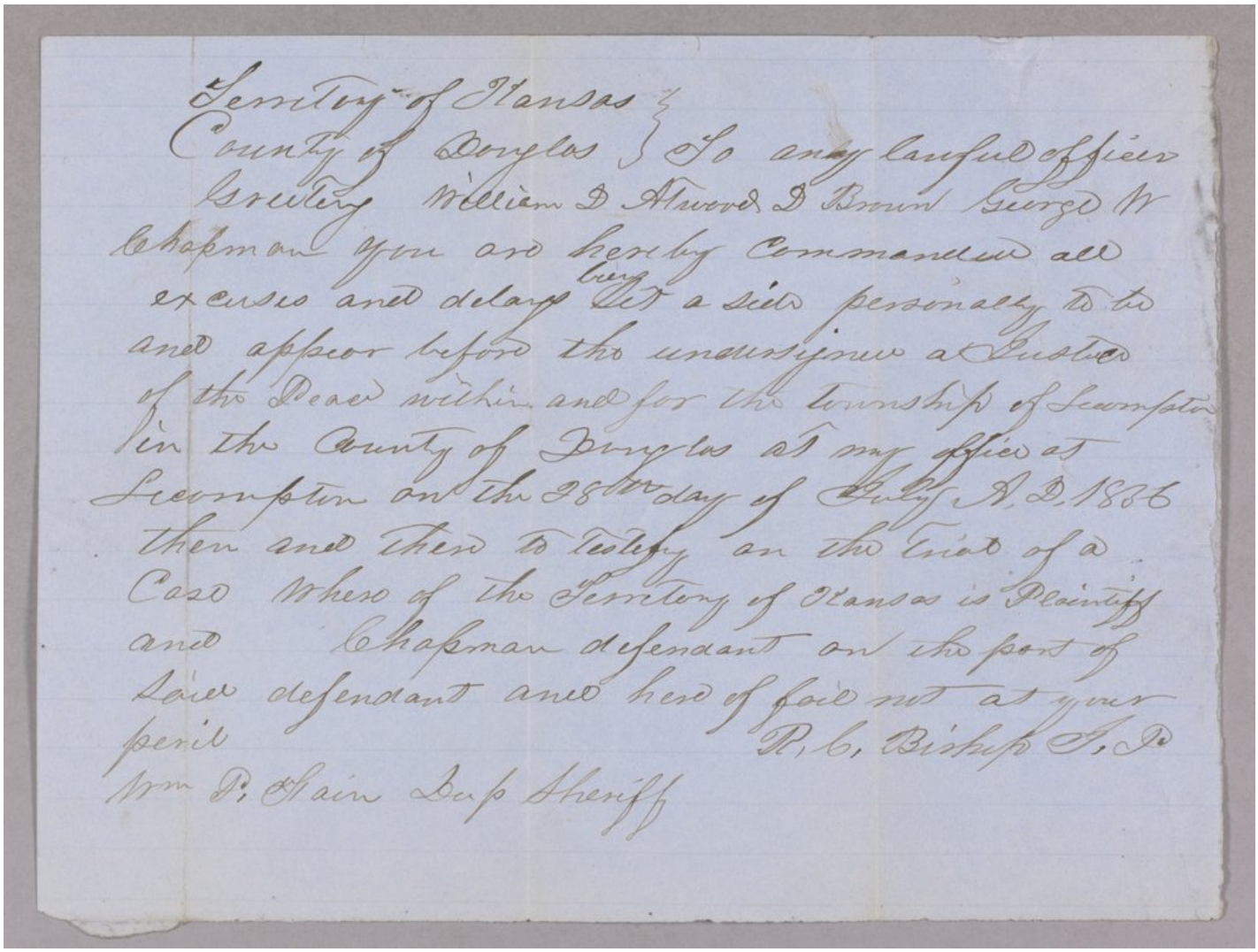
L McArthur CLERK.

by B Hogan D.C.

United States versus Edward Chapman for murder


127
Ter'y of Kansas
vs
Edw'd Chapman
Murder.
I return the within writ
non est. Sept 2nd 1857.
E. J. Dennis
U. S. Marshal
M. P. Berry
Dep
M. Fee .50
Filed Sept 3d 1857
E. S. Bishop, C.

United States versus Edward Chapman for murder

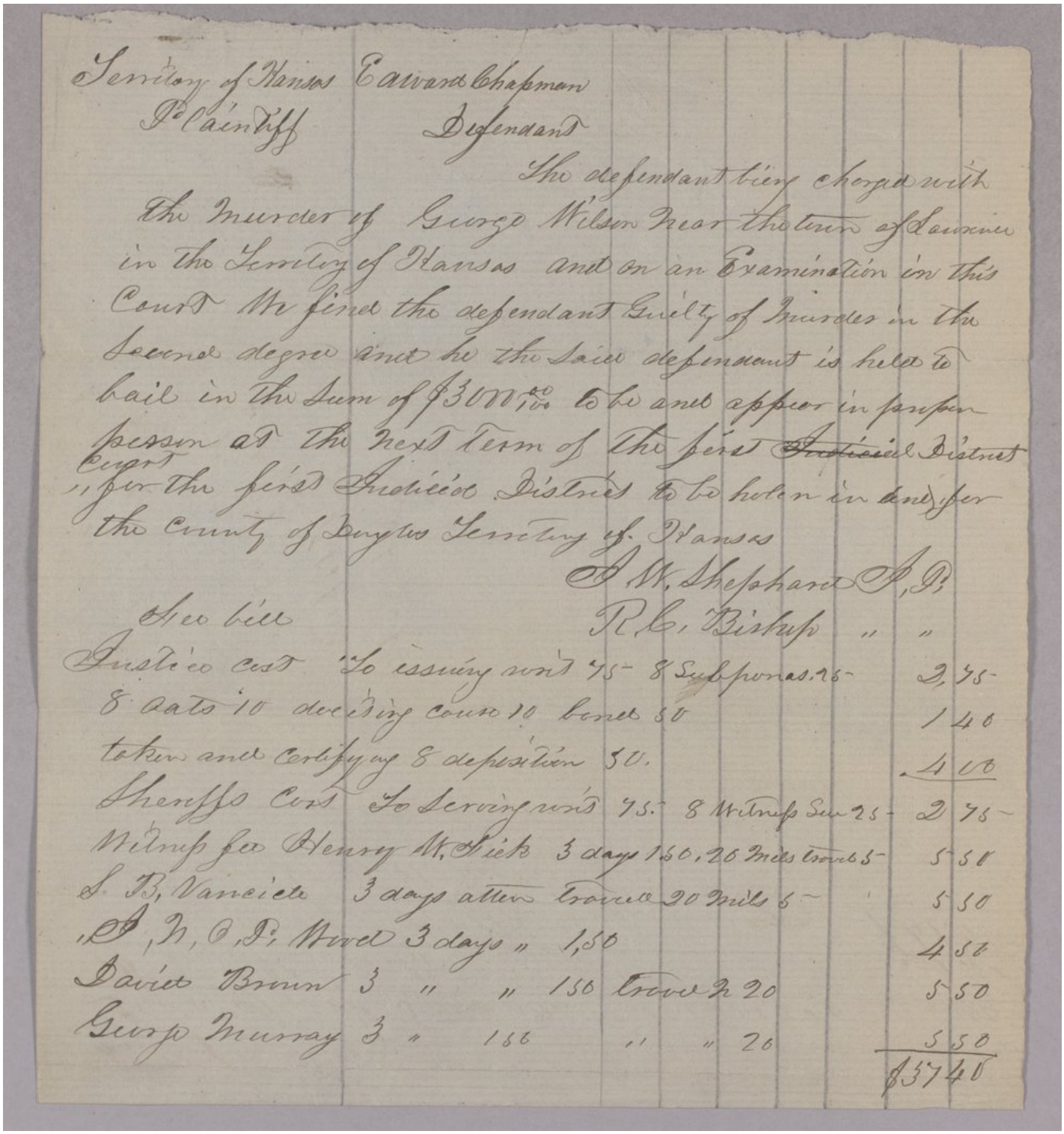


Territory of Kansas }
County of Douglas } So any Lawful Officer
Greeting William D Atwood & Brunt George W
Chapman you are hereby Commanded all
excuses and delays laid aside personally to be
and appear before the undersigned at Justice
of the Peace within and for the township of Lecompton
in the County of Douglas at my office at
Lecompton on the 28th day of July A. D. 1856
then and there to testify on the Trial of a
Case where of the Territory of Kansas is Plaintiff
and Chapman defendant on the part of
said defendant and here of fail not at your
peril
R. C. Bishop J. P.
Wm P. Hain Dep Sheriff

United States versus Edward Chapman for murder



United States versus Edward Chapman for murder



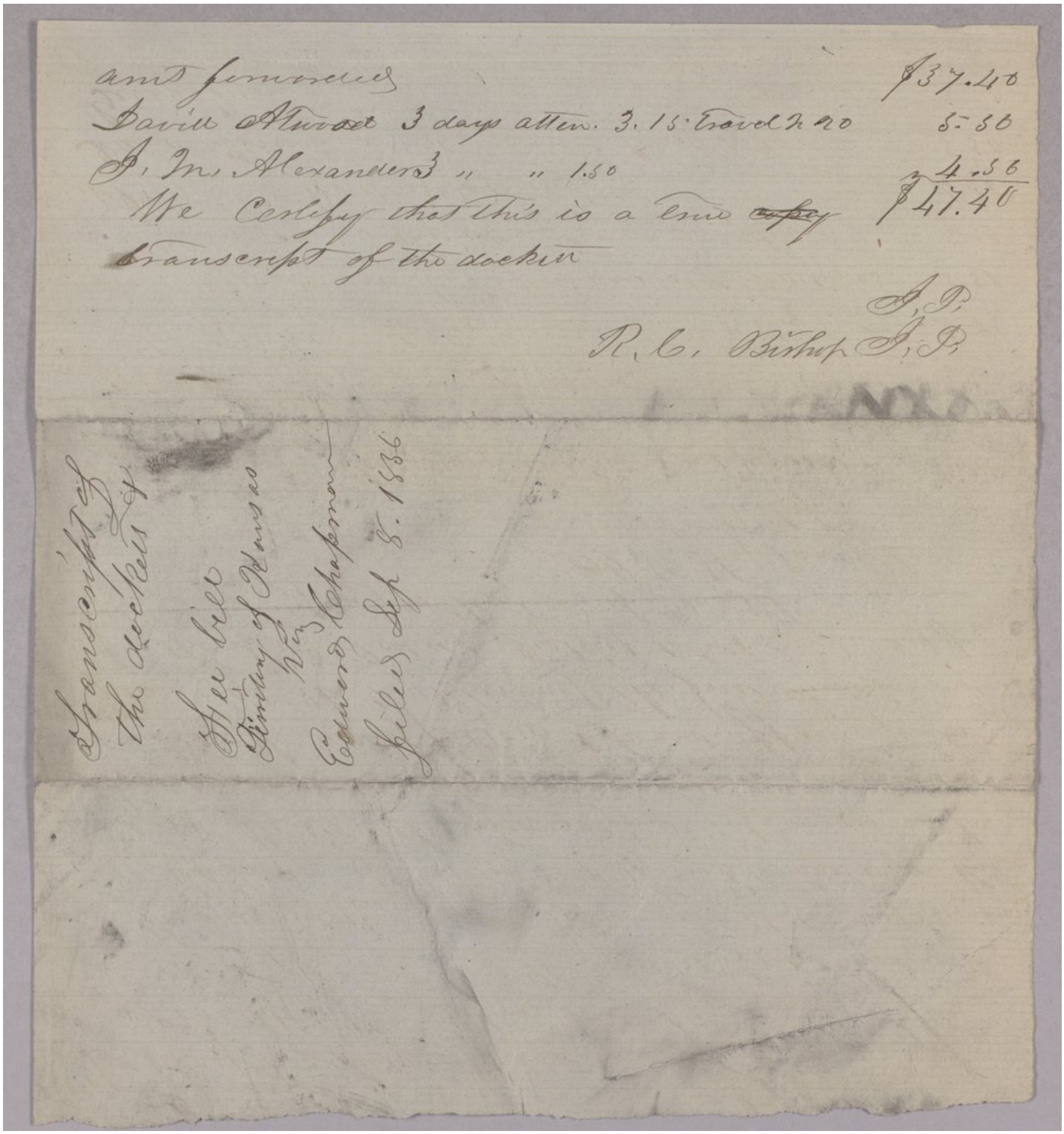
Territory of Kansas Edward Chapman
Plaintiff Defendant

The defendant being charged with the Murder of George Wilson near the town of Lawrence in the Territory of Kansas and on an Examination in this Court We find the defendant Guilty of Murder in the Second degree and he the said defendant is held to bail in the Sum of $3000/100 to be and appear in proper person at the Next Term of the first ~~Judicial~~ District Court for the first Judicial Distrect to be holden in and for the County of Douglas Territory of Kansas

S. N. Shephard J.P.
R. G. Bishop " "

Fee bill

Justice cost To issuing writ 75- 8 Subpoenas 2.00-		2 75-
8 oats 10 each 10 bonds 50		1 40
taken and certifying 8 depositions 50.		4 00
Sheriffs Cost To Serving writ 75- 8 Witnesses 2.00-		2 75-
Witness fee Henry M. Tick 3 days 1.50. 20 Miles travel 50-		5 50
L. B. Vancleve 3 days attendance 20 Miles 50-		5 50
A. D. Wood 3 days " 1.50		4 50
David Brown 3 " " 1.50 travel 20		5 50
George Murray 3 " 1.50 " " 20		5 50
		$37.40



and fourneys $37.40
David Atwood 3 days attn. 3.15. Travel 2.20 5.35
S. M. Alexander 3 " " 1.50 4.50
$47.40

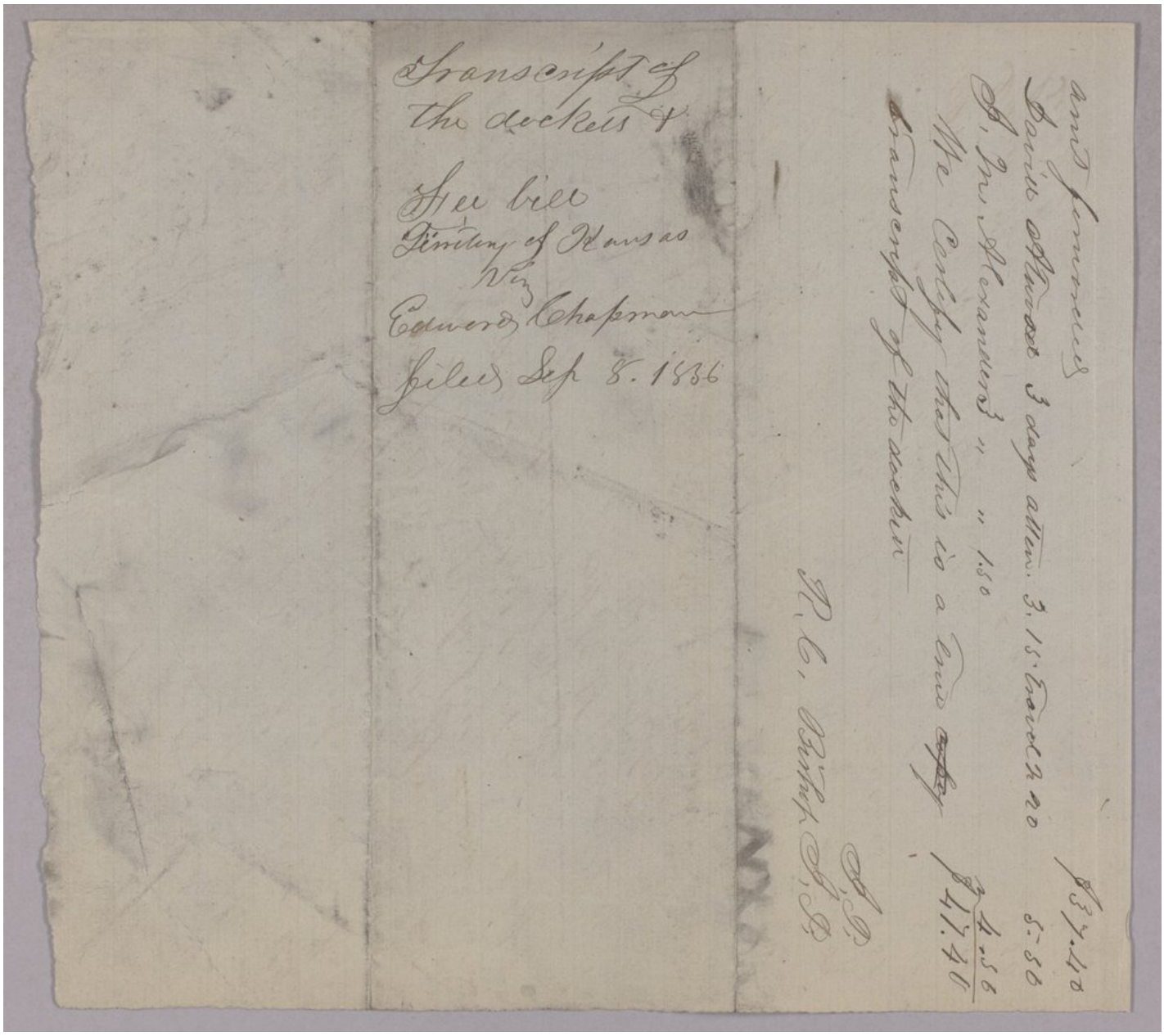
We Certify that this is a true ~~copy~~ transcript of the docket

S. P.
R. C. Bishop S. P.

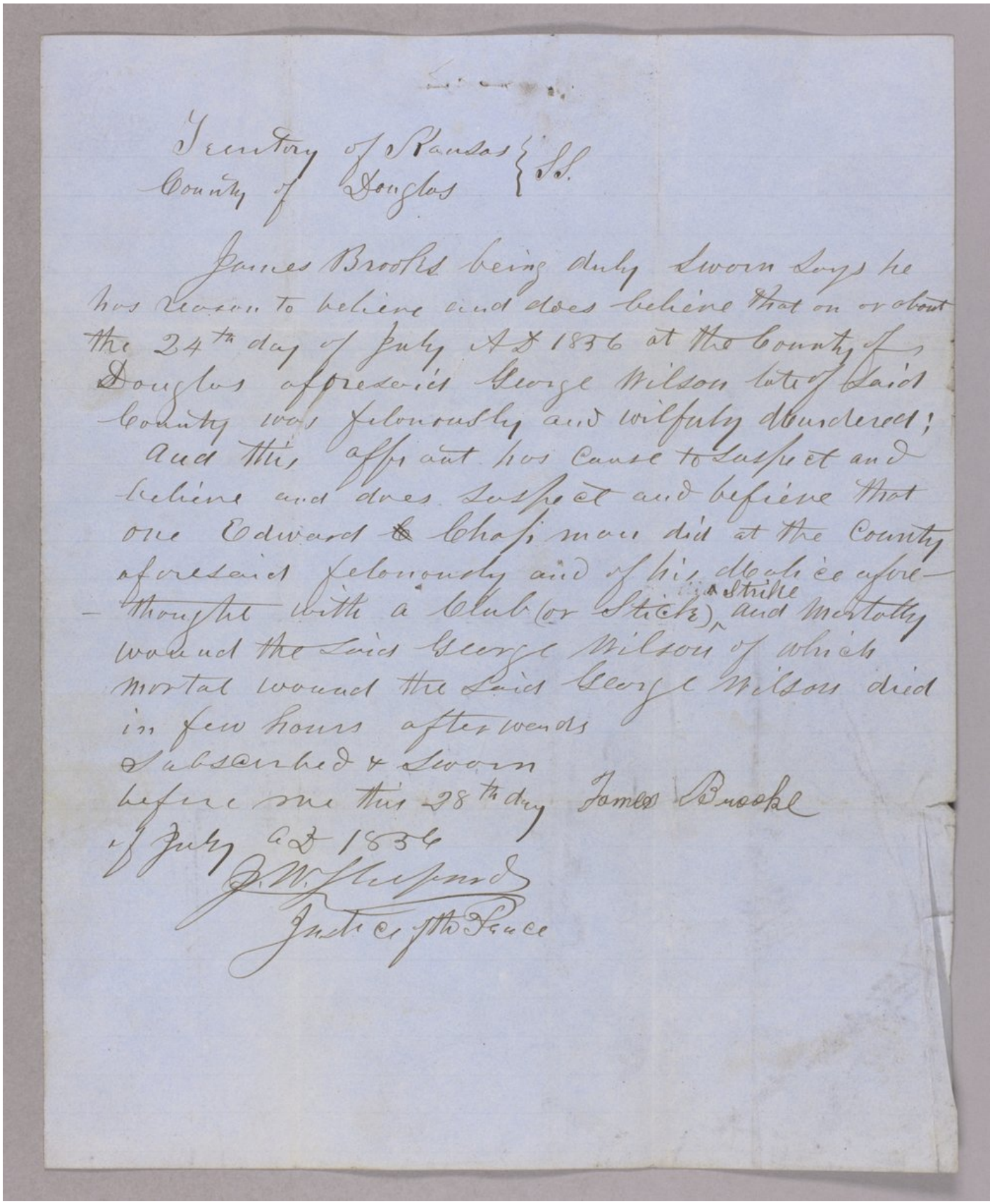
Transcript of the docket

The Wife
Kinsley of Edwards
Vs
Edward Chapman
Filed Sept 8. 1886

United States versus Edward Chapman for murder



United States versus Edward Chapman for murder



Territory of Kansas } ss.
County of Douglas

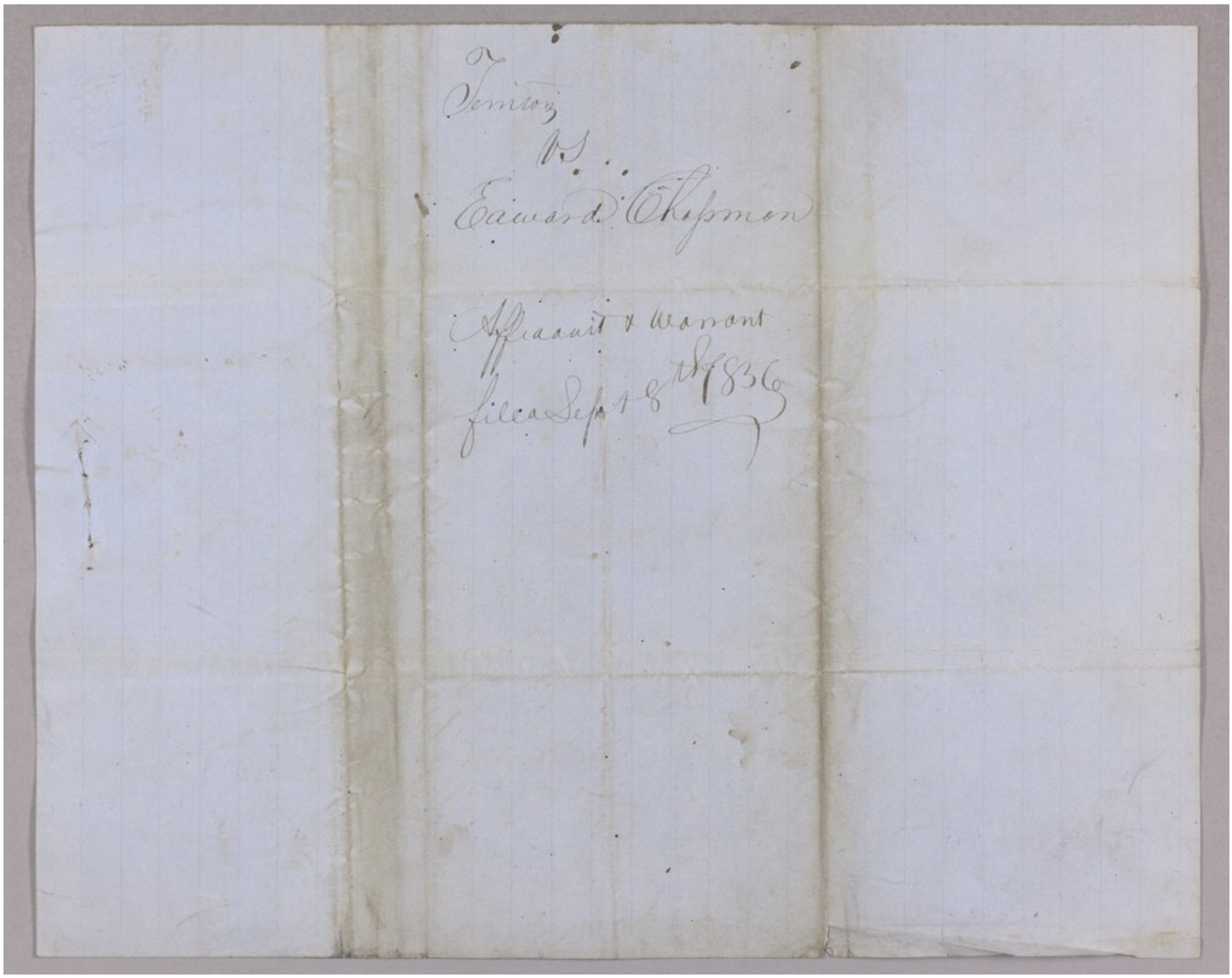
James Brooks being duly sworn says he has reason to believe and does believe that on or about the 24th day of July A.D. 1856 at the County of Douglas aforesaid George Wilson late of said County was feloniously and wilfully murdered; And this affiant has cause to suspect and believe and does suspect and believe that one Edward ~~&~~ Chapman did at the County aforesaid feloniously and of his malice aforethought with a Club (or Stick) ~~Strike~~ and mortally wound the said George Wilson of which mortal wound the said George Wilson died in few hours after wards

James Brooks

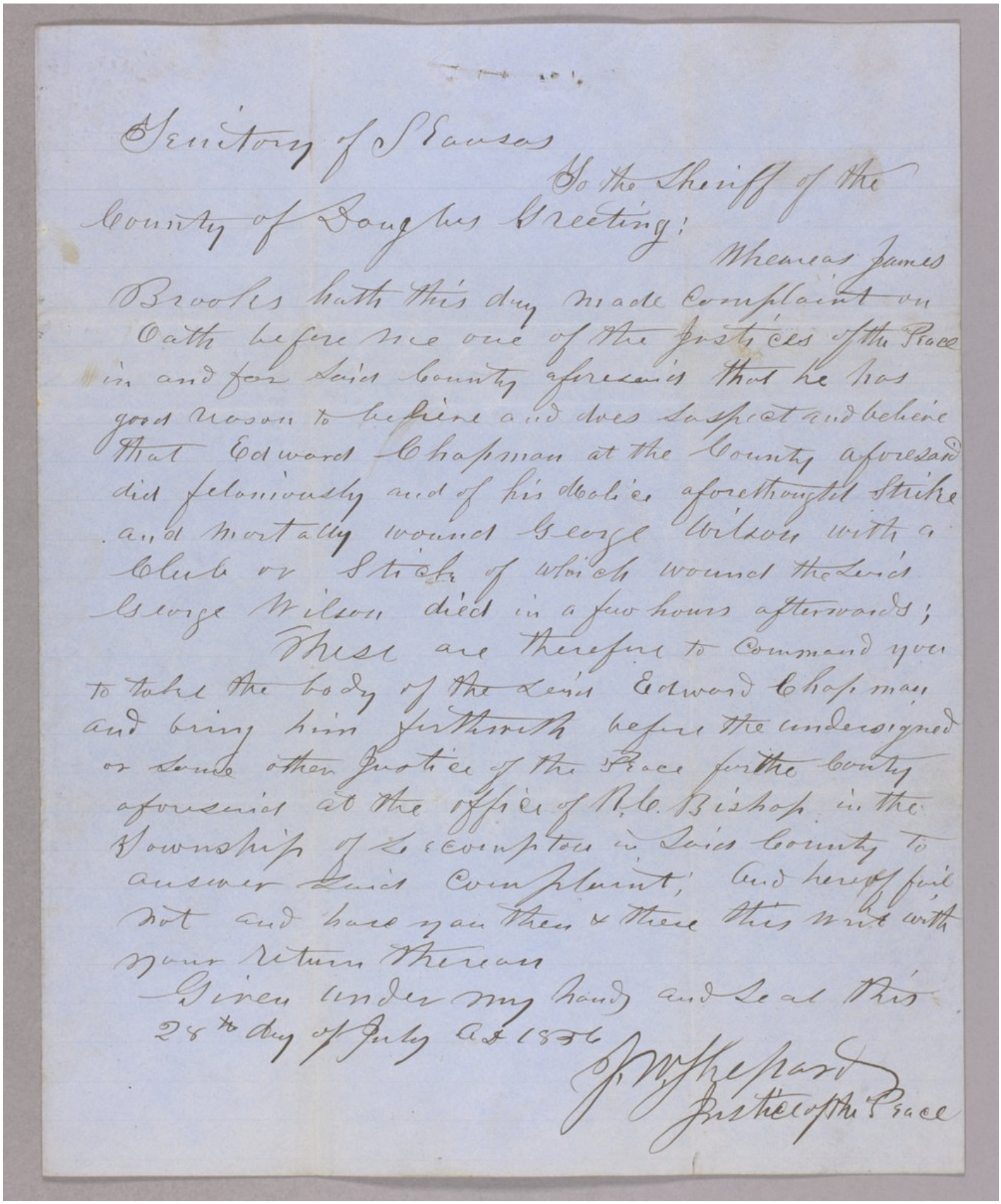
Subscribed & Sworn before me this 28th day of July A.D. 1856

J. W. Hutchinson
Justice of the Peace

United States versus Edward Chapman for murder



United States versus Edward Chapman for murder



Territory of Kansas

To the Sheriff of the County of Douglas Greeting:

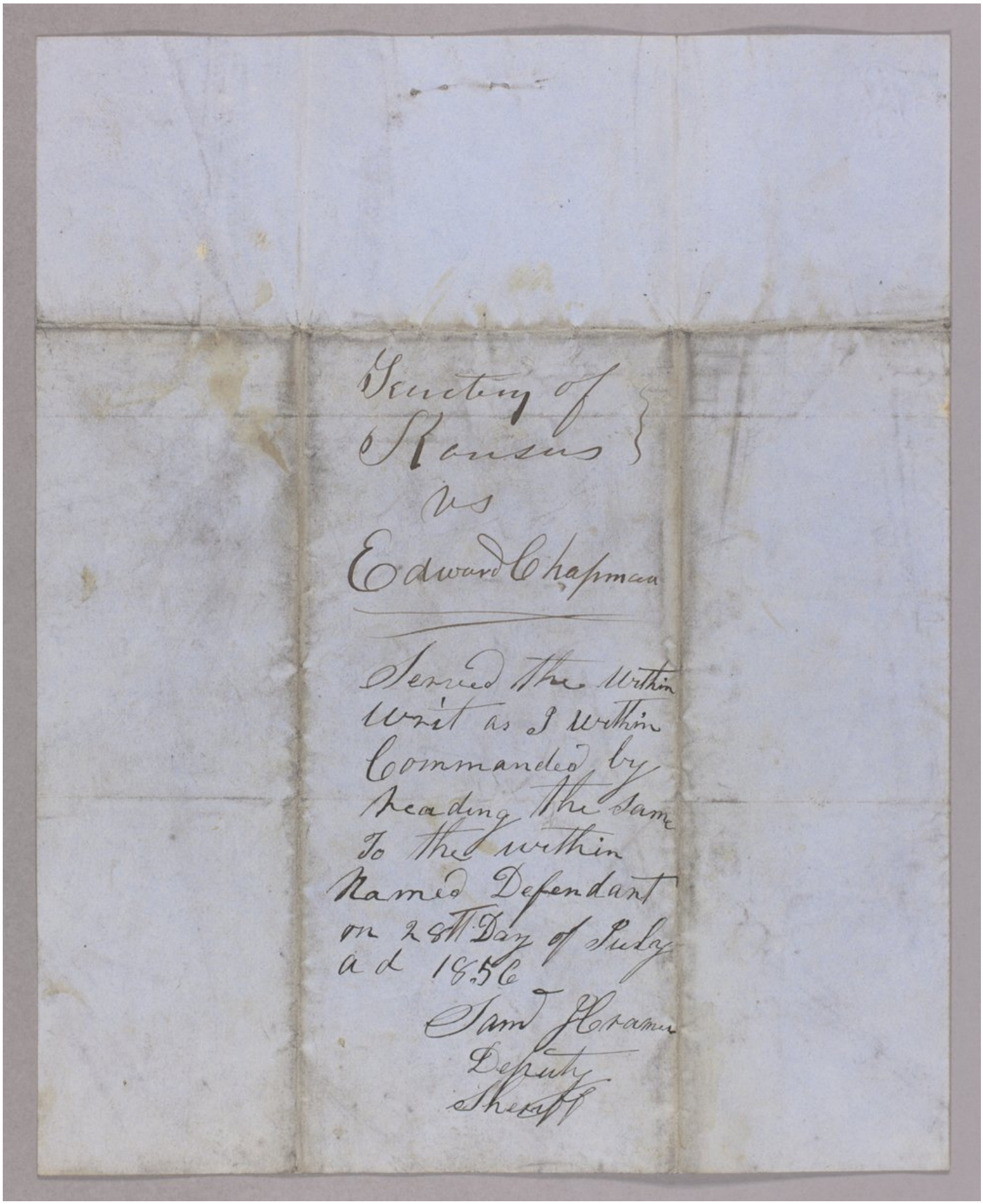
Whereas James Brookes hath this day made Complaint on Oath before me one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said County aforesaid that he has good reason to believe and does suspect and believe that Edward Chapman at the County aforesaid did feloniously and of his Malice aforethought Strike and mortally wound George Wilson with a Club or Stick of which wound the said George Wilson died in a few hours afterwards;

These are therefore to Command you to take the body of the said Edward Chapman and bring him forthwith before the undersigned or some other Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid at the office of R. C. Bishop in the Township of Lecompton in said County to answer said Complaint, and hereof fail not and have you then & there this writ with your return thereon

Given under my hand and Seal this 28th day of July A.D. 1855

J. W. Shepard
Justice of the Peace

United States versus Edward Chapman for murder



Territory of
Kansas
vs
Edward Chapman

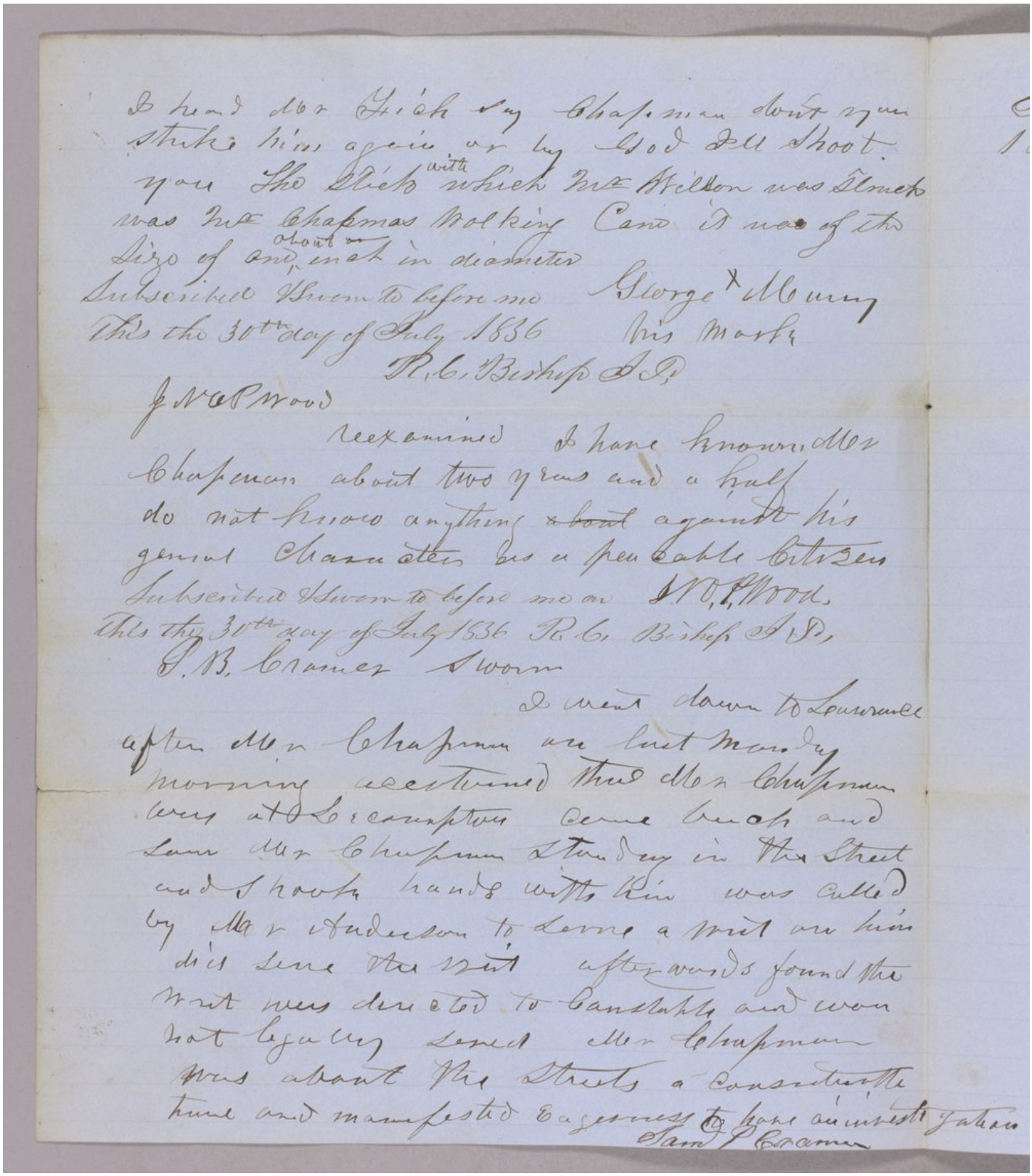
Served the Within
Writ as I Within
Commanded by
Reading the Same
To the within
Named Defendant
on 28th Day of July
a d 1856

Sam'l Cramer
Deputy
Sheriff

Witnesses for the defence

Geo. Chapman sworn says

I am a step son of Mr Chapman, Mr C. went up to the stage and shook hands with Mr Wilson asked him one side said he wanted to talk with him then stepped out & went with them, Mr Chapman asked Wilson why he refused to pay him that dollar Mr Wilson says go away from here or I will shoot you and drew a Pistol half way out of his pocket then Mr Chapman stept back and got his cane down and went up to Mr Wilson and told him he wanted his dollar, Mr Wilson said keep away from me or I'll shoot you and kept saying it until he got round the Coach when he got round the Coach he drew up the Pistol and cocked it at Mr Chapman and pointed it at him Mr Chapman then Mr Chapman struck Mr Wilson with a Cane Mr Chapman then went off home, never heard Mr C make any threats that he was going to kill Mr Wilson, did not see him drop the Club but once that was the time he struck.



I heard Mr Fitch say Chapman don't you strike him again or by God I'll shoot you The stick with which Mr Wilson was struck was Mr Chapmas walking Cane it was of the size of and about an inch in diameter

George X Murry
his Mark

Subscribed Sworn to before me this the 30th day of July 1856
R. C. Bishop J. P.

J. W. Wood

reexamined I have known Mr Chapman about two years and a half do not know anything ~~about~~ against his general character he is a peaceable Citizen

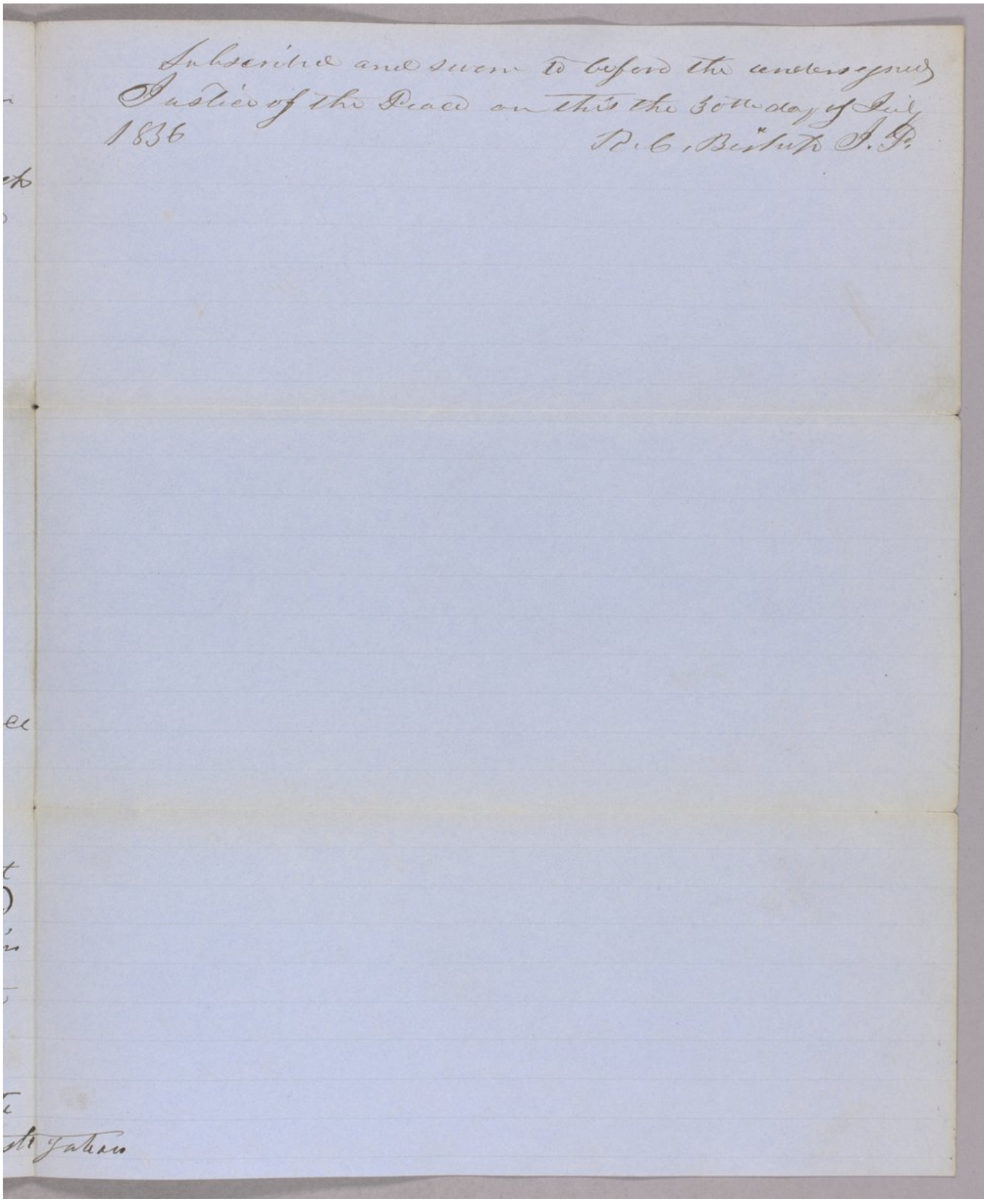
Subscribed & Sworn to before me on this the 30th day of July 1856
J. W. Wood.
R. C. Bishop J. P.

S. B. Cramer Sworn

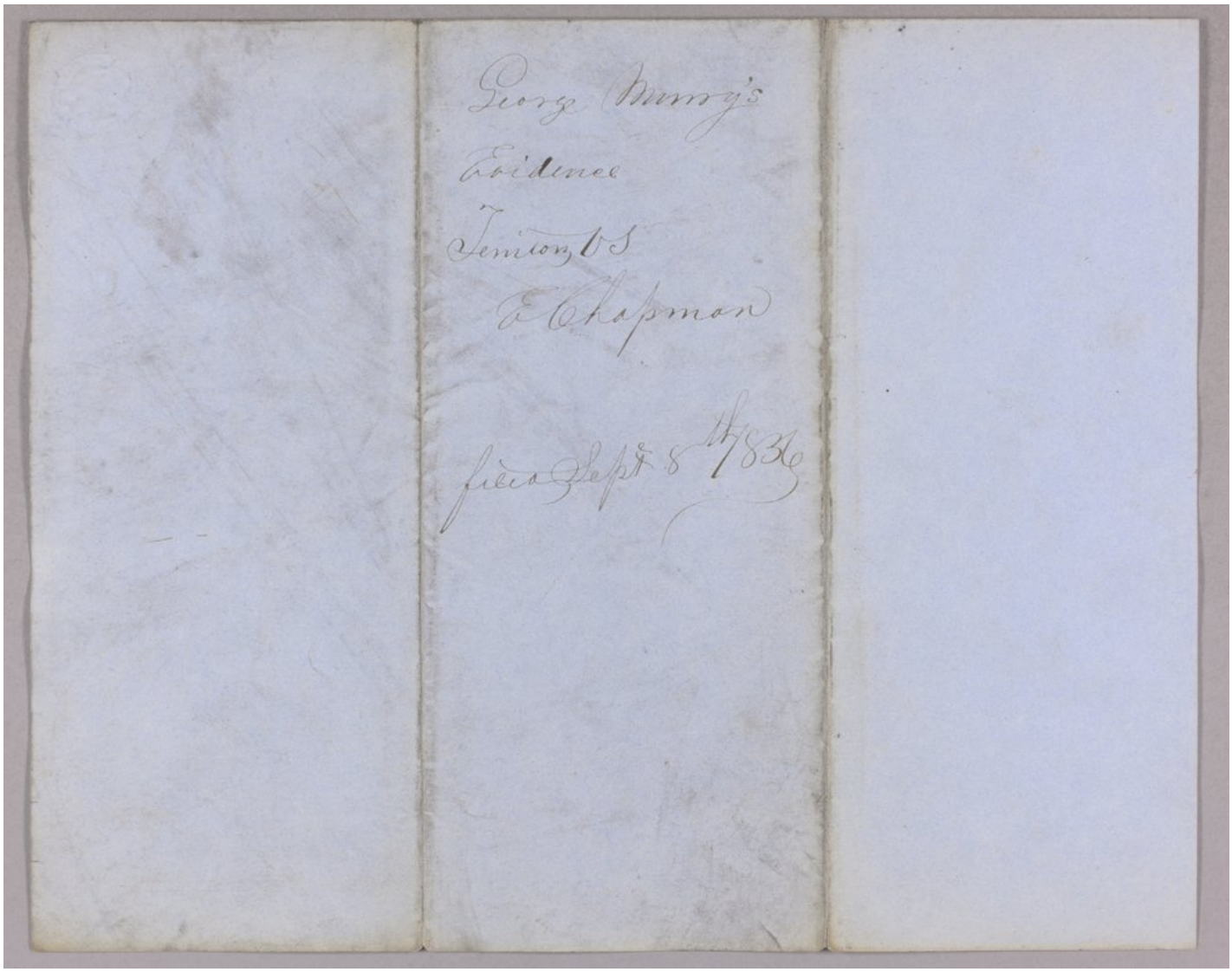
I went down to Lawrence after Mr Chapman on last Monday morning ascertained that Mr Chapman was at Lecompton came back and saw Mr Chapman standing in the Street and shook hands with him was called by Mr Anderson to serve a writ on him did serve the writ afterwards found the writ was directed to Constable and was not legally served Mr Chapman was about the Streets a considerable time and manifested Eagerness to have an interview Taken

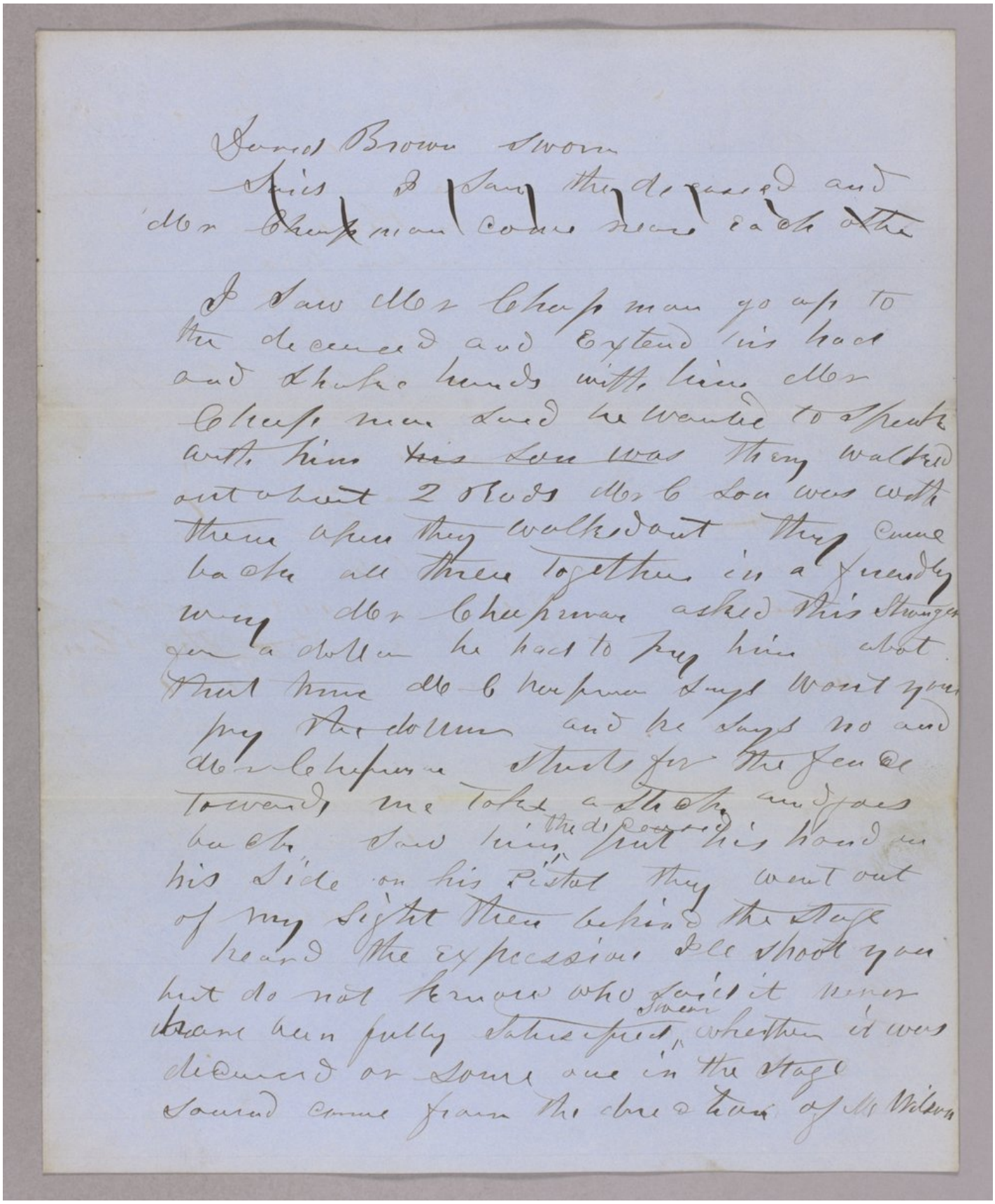
Sam'l B Cramer

United States versus Edward Chapman for murder


Subscribed and sworn to before the undersigned
Justice of the Peace on this the 30th day of Jul
1856
D. C. Burbank J. P.

United States versus Edward Chapman for murder


George Bunny's
Evidence
Jemison US
E Chapman
filed Sept 8 1838



Jerrod Brown sworn

Saw the deceased and Mr Chapman come near each other

I saw Mr Chapman go up to the deceased and Extend his hand and shake hands with him Mr Chapman said he wanted to speak with him his Son was then walked out about 2 rods Mr C Son was with them when they walked out they came back all three together in a friendly way Mr Chapman asked this Stranger for a dollar he had to pay him what. That time Mr C Chapman says Wont you pay the dollar and he says no and Mr Chapman starts for the fence towards me takes a step and goes back and says "put his hand on his side on his Pistol they went out of my sight then behind the stage heard the expression I'll shoot you but do not know who said it never have been fully Satisfied whether it was deceased or some one in the stage sound came from the direction of Mr Wilson

I heard a shot and saw a man's hat fall and saw the man stagger and the stage driver took hold of the man and helped him on the stage and blood running down on his vest then Chapman started about that time for home did not see Mr Chapman have the club on the near side of coach the stick was a large size for a walking cane but they use large ones there the dogs are bad there and they have to use large canes to defend themselves from dogs

saw Stage driver put a pistol on the top of the stage the blood was on the left side of the head

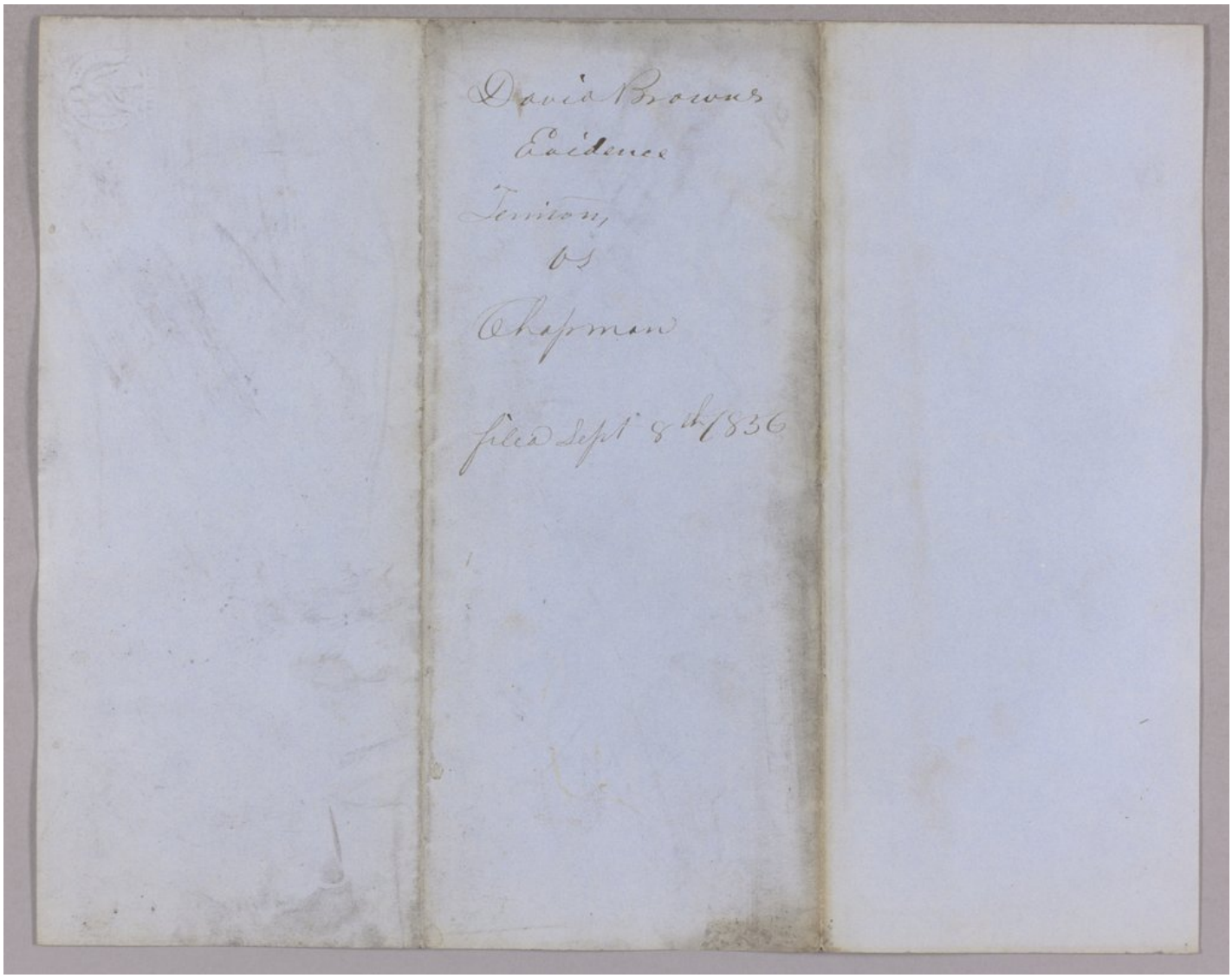
Examination with regard to Character

Have known Mr Chapman about one and a half years and do not know anything against him as a peaceable citizen

David Brown

Subscribed & Sworn to before the undersigned Justice of the Peace on this the 30th day of July 1886 R.C. Bishop J.P.

United States versus Edward Chapman for murder



P. B. Ransom sworn

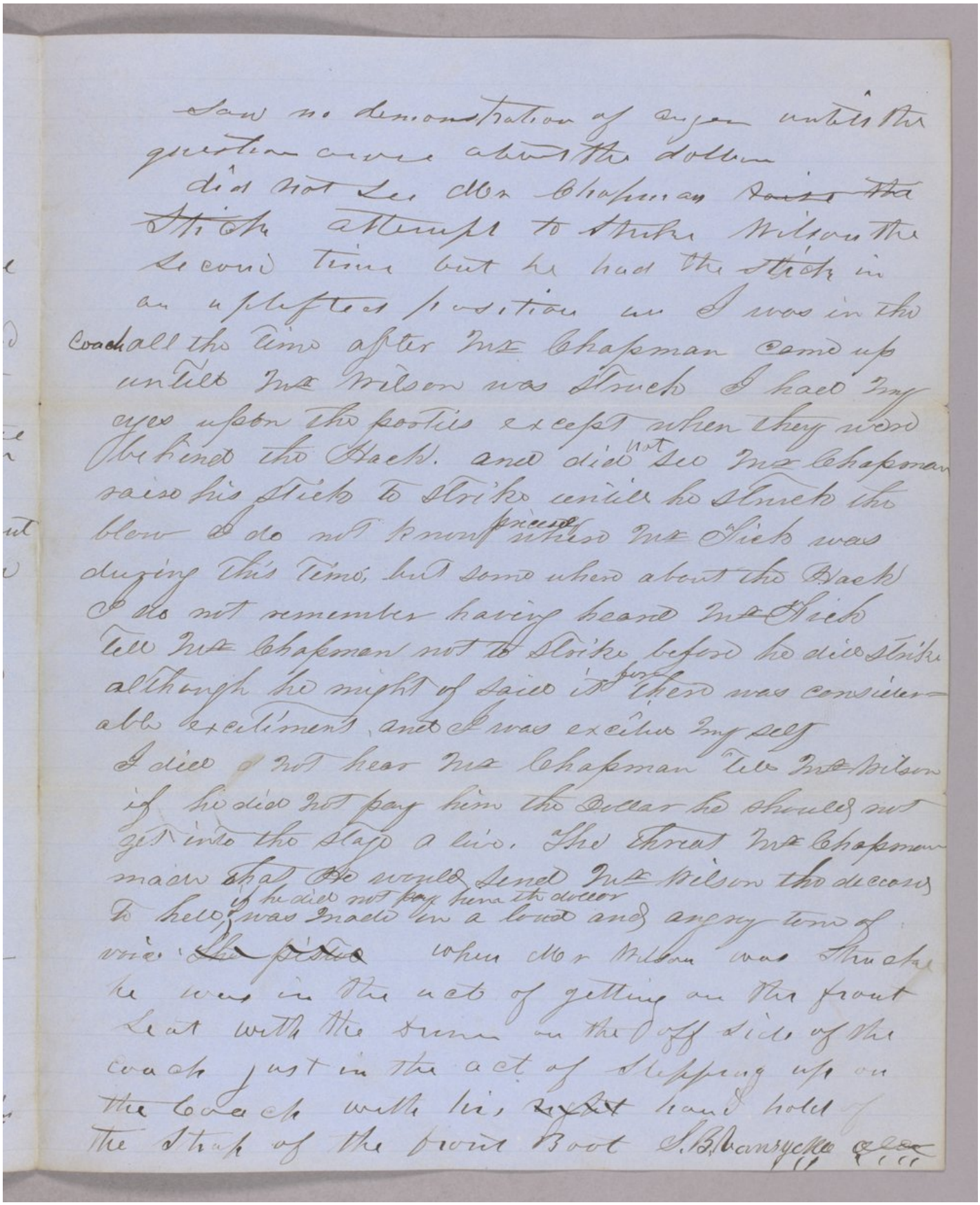
I started from Lecompton to Lawrence in the morning in the stage Mr Chapman stepped up to the stage and bid me good morning we shook hands together made some few remarks the Lady (with Mr Wilson) got into the stage Mr Wilson was in the act of getting into the stage when Mr Chapman stepped up to him and told him he wanted to speak to him and they both stepped one side together I do not know what they said they both returned to the stage again and when Mr Wilson was in the act of getting in Mr Chapman stepped to him to pay a dollar he owed him. Wilson says he would not. Chapman repeated it again & told him to pay that dollar says you had better pay that dollar or I will make you do it or I'll send you to hell in a minute if you don't pay it they both walked round on the off side of the coach then Mr Chapman repeating pay me that dollar Mr Wilson stepped to get in and Mr Chapman struck him with a club I jumped out of the coach to his assistance I told Mr Chapman to stop he had I thought killed the man

Mr Chapman stopped immediately and said no more or done no more

I picked up Mr Wilson's Coat told my driver to help him up on the seat he done so I told him then to drive off Just as he drew up the lines I saw a Pistol in Mr Wilson's right hand attempting to cock it I told him not to shoot he would shoot the Horses Mr Chapman was in the direction of the horses at the time told my driver to take the Pistol from him he did so I went with Mr Wilson to Westport he commenced dying in about an hour after leaving left Lawrence Cant say how long he lived after he got to Westport but I saw him dead his dead Body the next morning after, Examined the wound in his head it was on the left side of his head is positive with regard to the side of the head the Scull was broken

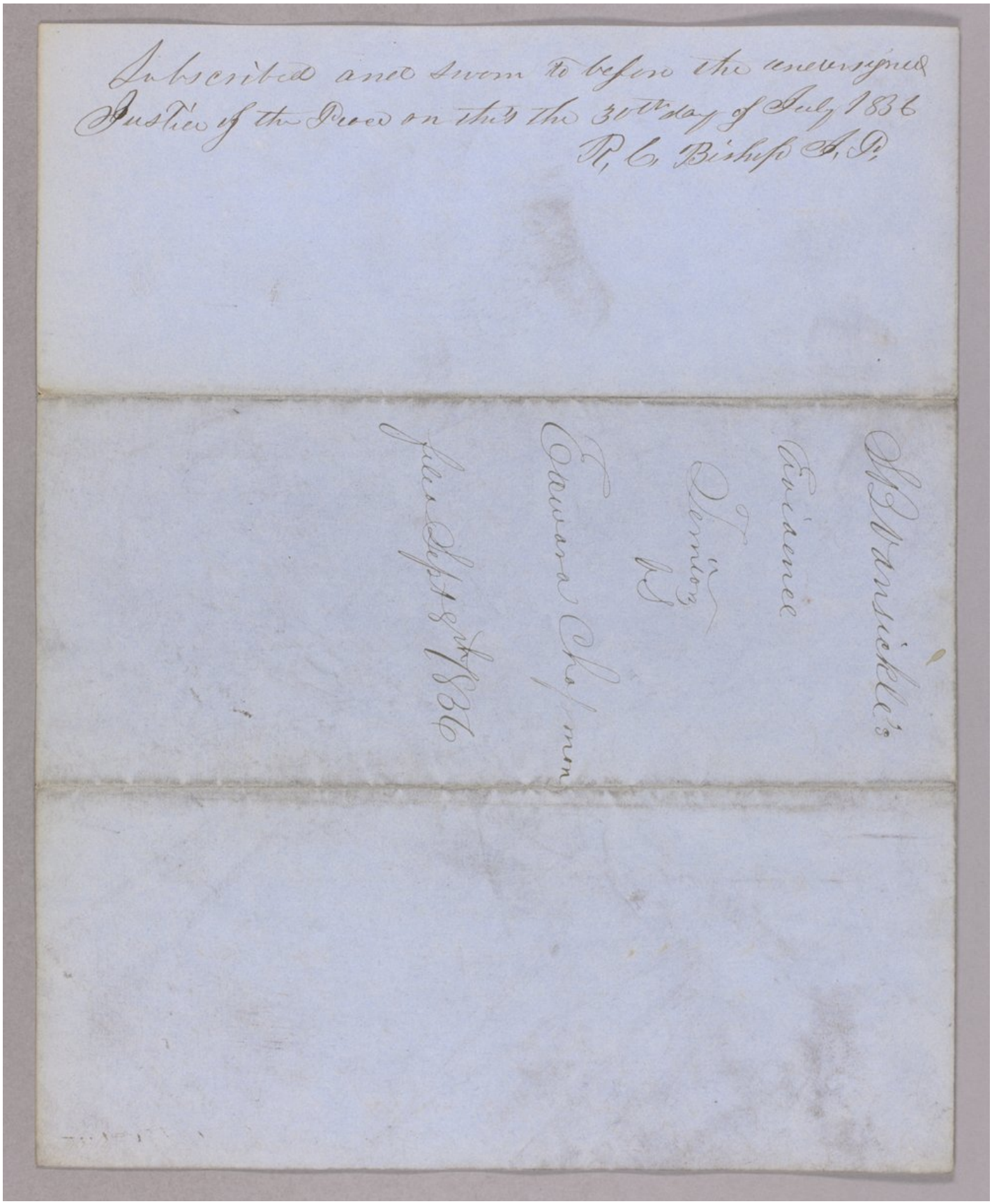
I did not see the Pistol presented at Mr Chapman never heard Mr Chapman make any threats previous to this time Mr Chapman appeared to be in good humor when he spoke to me in the Store

and I saw no signs of any ill feeling when Mr Chapman and Mr Wilson stepped one side together Chapman spoke mildly to him To Mr Wilson when he first asked him one side to speak



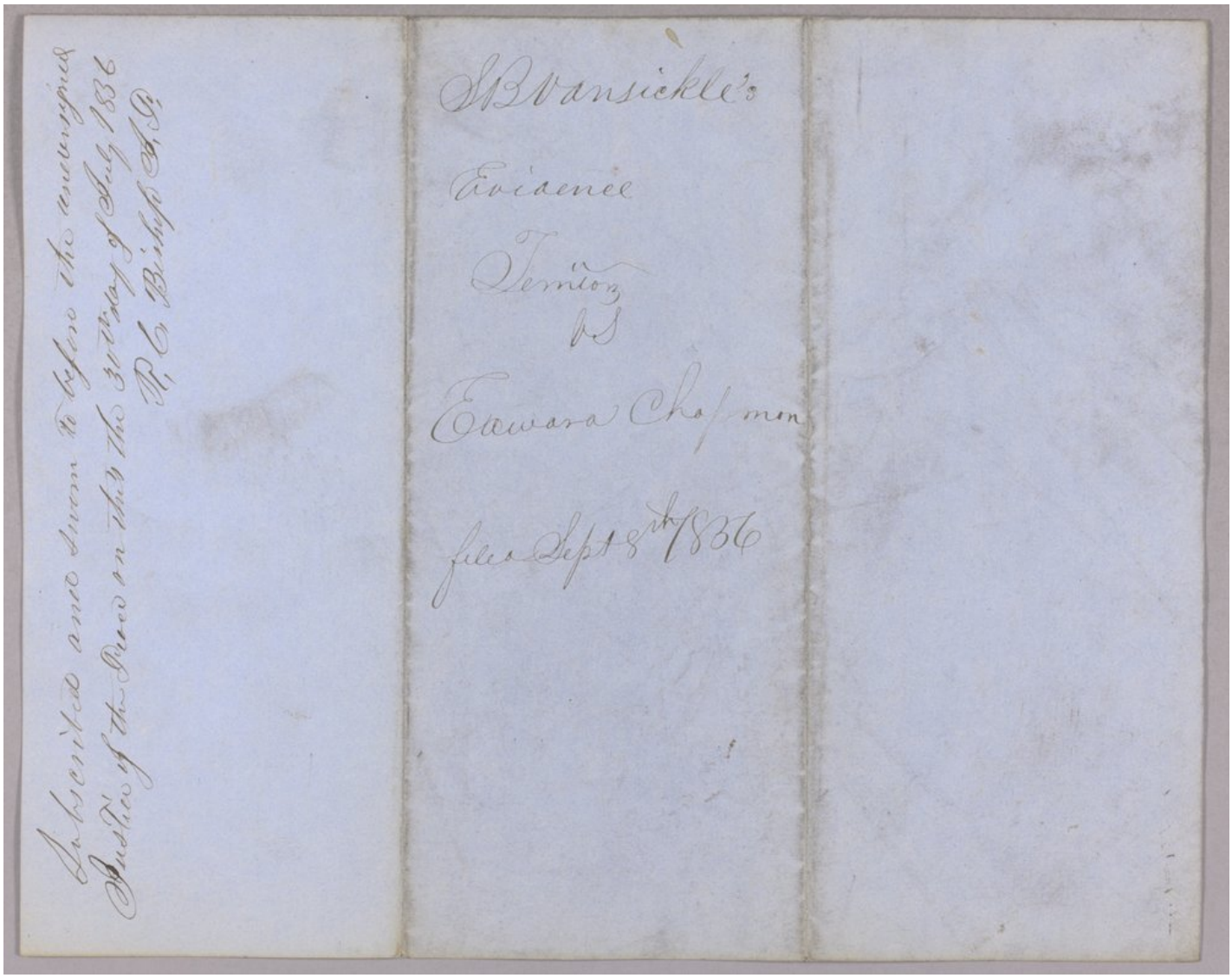
saw no demonstration of anger until the question came about the dollar
did not see Mr Chapman ~~[illegible]~~ strike attempt to strike Wilson the second time but he had the stick in an uplifted position as I was in the coach all the time after Mr Chapman came up until Mr Wilson was struck I had my eyes upon the parties except when they were behind the Hack. and did not see Mr Chapman raise his stick to strike until he struck the blow I do not know ~~[illegible]~~ where Mr Sick was during this time, but some where about the Hack I do not remember having heard Mr Sick tell Mr Chapman not to strike before he did strike although he might of said it but there was considerable excitement and I was excited myself
I did not hear Mr Chapman tell Mr Wilson if he did not pay him the dollar he should not get into the stage a line. The threat Mr Chapman made that he would send Mr Wilson the direction to hell, if he did not pay him the dollar was made in a loud and angry tone of voice ~~[illegible]~~ when Mr Wilson was struck he was in the act of getting on the front seat with the driver on the off side of the coach just in the act of stepping up on the coach with his ~~[illegible]~~ hand hold of the strap of the front Boot S. B. Barneyclo

United States versus Edward Chapman for murder

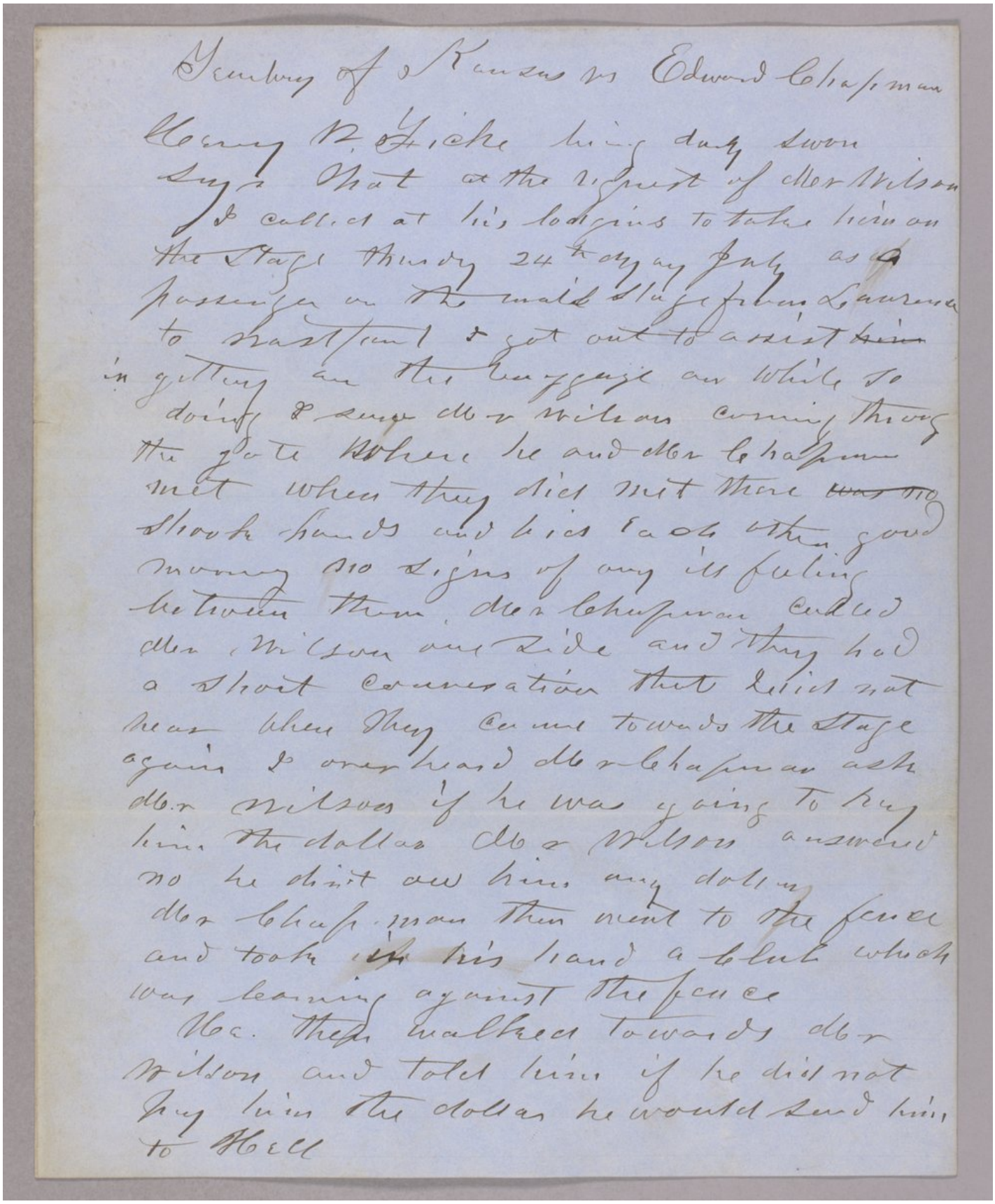

Subscribed and sworn to before the undersigned Justice of the Peace on this the 30th day of July 1836
P. C. Bishop J. P.

M Blanchette's
Evidence
for
Territory
vs
Edward Chapman
Files Sept 8th 1836

United States versus Edward Chapman for murder



United States versus Edward Chapman for murder



Testimony of Kansas vs Edward Chapman

Henry B. Hicks being duly sworn says That at the request of Mr Wilson I called at his lodgings to take him on the Stage Thursday 24th day of July as a passenger on the mail Stage from Lawrence to Kansas City & got out to assist him in getting on the baggage car while so doing I saw Mr Wilson coming through the gate where he and Mr Chapman met when they did not there was no shook hands and kiss each other good morning no signs of any ill feeling between them. Mr Chapman called Mr Wilson one side and they had a short conversation that I did not hear when they came towards the Stage again I overheard Mr Chapman ask Mr Wilson if he was going to pay him the dollar Mr Wilson answered no he did not owe him any dollar Mr Chapman then went to the fence and took in his hand a club which was leaning against the fence Mr. Chapman then walked towards Mr Wilson and told him if he did not pay him the dollar he would send him to Hell

Mr Chapman was holding the Club in both Hands and I told him not to Strike he then put the club down to the ground and I told Mr Wilson to get in his seat Mr Wilson retreated and Mr Chapman followed him up telling him to buy him the dollar When they got on the other side of the Coach Mr Chapman struck Mr Wilson with the Club and he fell having the Club in both hands the blow hit on the right side of the head I went to help the man up and I saw him take his hand out of his pocket and he had a Pistol in it a revolver I helped him to his seat and took him to the tavern while I was helping him up I heard some one Hallooing not to Strike him again I looked up and saw him with the Club raised again but he did not strike I told him not to Strike again Mr Jones came in front of Mr Chapman while I was looking up and to prevent any further Striking did not Could not say I did not see Mr Jones lay his hands on Mr Chapman he had his hand raised in an upright position then I saw Mr Chapman go towards his house immediately

I heard expressions immediately after the blow by Mr Chapman but did not understand what they were Mr Chapman has a peculiar voice and it is very hard to understand what he says when I can usually understand Mr Chapman but was not paying particular attention to what he was saying at that time. The blow was a severe one and knocked Mr Wilson down on the sidewalk and when I assisted him up he was bleeding freely at the nose seemed to be dizzy and not in his right senses all the way to the station

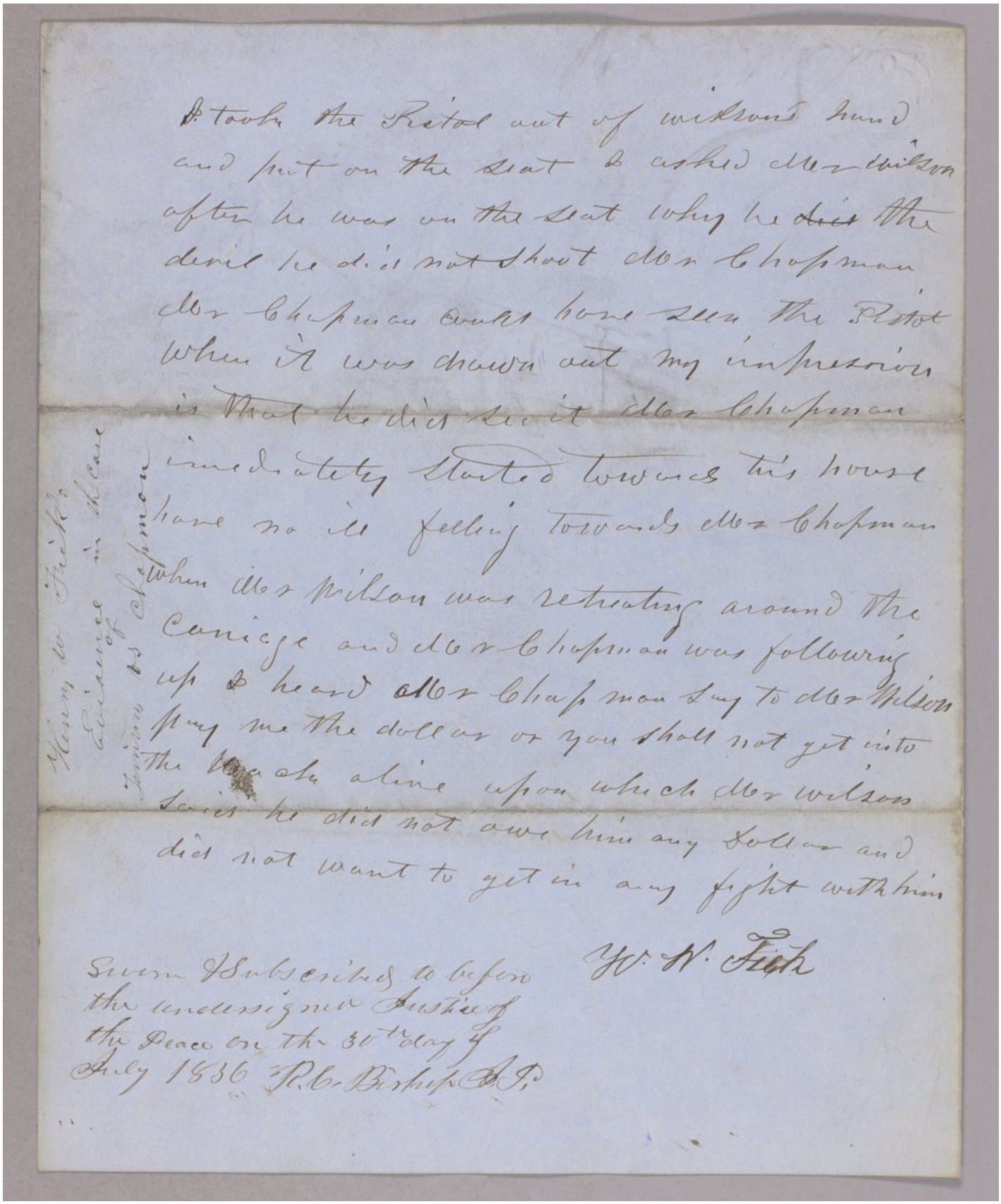
Cross Examined

The stick was larger than a common walking stick about the same length one end larger than the other or whittled down at one end

Just how far did Mr Wilson retreat was from one fore wheel round the hack to the other forward wheel

Saw no other arms about Mr Chapman but the stick

do not know of Mr Wilson threatening Mr Chapman did not see Mr Wilson point any Pistol to Mr Chapman



Henry W. Fitch's Evidence in the case of Edward Chapman

& took the Pistol out of Wilsons hand and put on the seat & asked Mr Wilson after he was on the seat why he did the deed he did not shoot Mr Chapman Mr Chapman could have seen the Pistol when it was drawn out my impression is that he did see it Mr Chapman immediately started towards this house have no ill feeling towards Mr Chapman

When Mr Wilson was retreating around the carriage and Mr Chapman was following up & heard Mr Chapman say to Mr Wilson pay me the dollar or you shall not get into the house also heard Mr Wilson say he did not owe him any dollar and did not want to get in any fight with him

W. H. Fitch

Sworn & Subscribed to before the undersigned Justice of the Peace on the 30th day of July 1856 P. C. Bishop J.P.

United States versus Edward Chapman for murder

Territory of Kansas
vs
Edward Chapman

William D Atwood after being duly sworn

I was in Lawrence on thursday the 24th of this month when a difficulty occured between Mr Chapman and Mr Wilson I was in the back at the time of the difficulty The Stage drove up in front of Mr Jenkins Mr Wilsons Daughter got into the Stage I was setting on the box of the Stage & with Mr Hicks the driver when the Hack drove up in front of Mr Jenkins Mr Hicks got out to put in the trunk, or baggage giving Mr the reins When Hicks got out Mr Chapman his Son Virgo Murry Mr Brown Mr Wilson and his daughter were standing together the Lady got into the Hack Mr Chapman had a Stick under his left arm at the same time had his knife whittling the end of it as Mr Wilson walked off on the off side of the Horses and was commencing around to get into the Hack Mr Chapman said I want you to pay me that dollar before you get into the Stage following up said Wilson Wilson Replied Chapman I do not want you to follow me up in that kind of a Stick just when Wilson had his hand on the rail of the Hack to get in Mr Chapman Struck Mr Wilson with a Stick about 3 feet long about 1 1/2 inches in diameter