

# Kansas Memory



## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

### Section 12, Pages 331 - 360

This file includes subject correspondence from constituents including topics about dependents, work, and prisoners, which is part of a bigger collection of Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence.

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# Kansas Memory



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## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

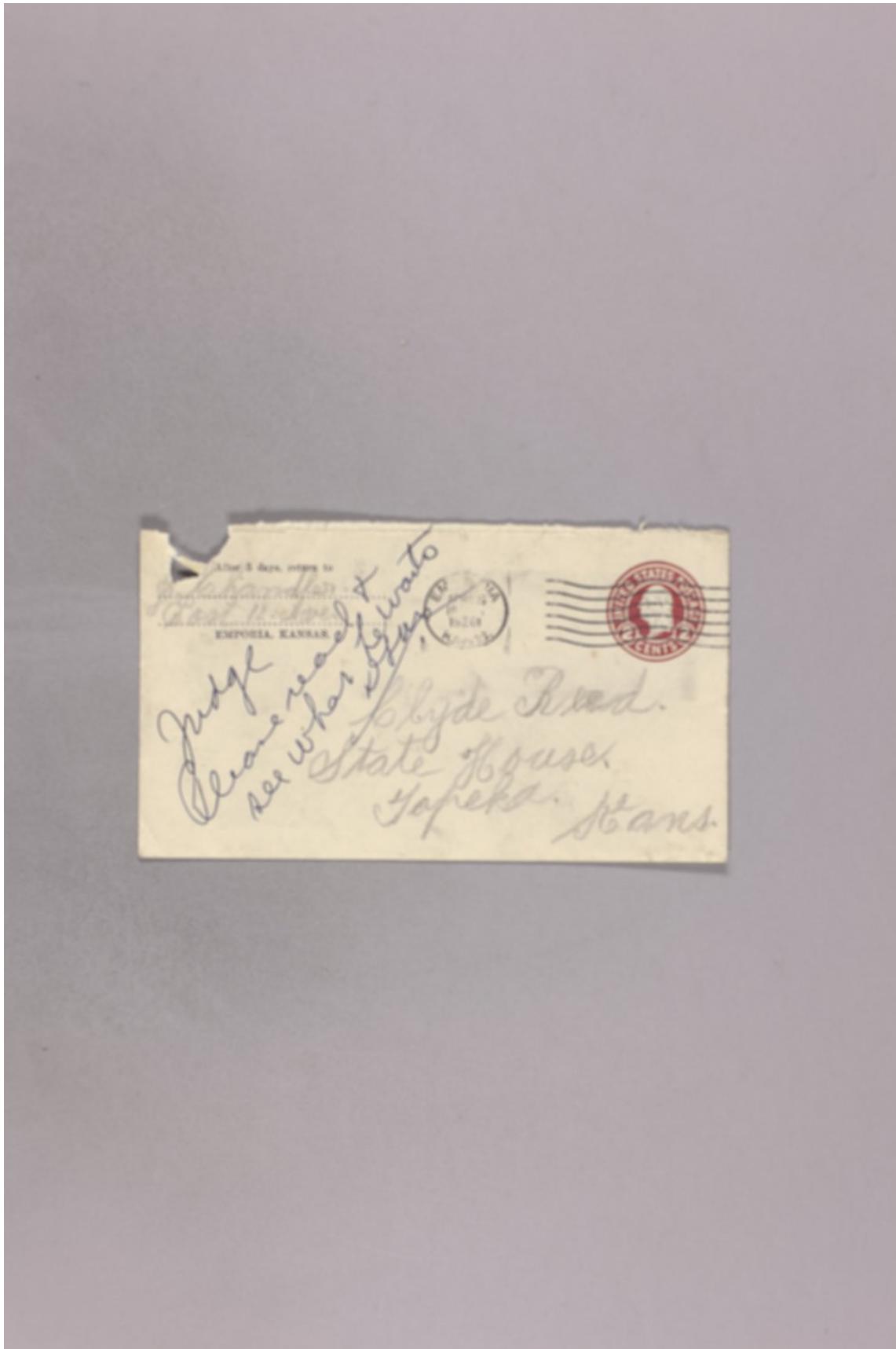
and it never will be cheasry  
I always waiting for the oil  
Believe you bring to help some  
an in this settlement. And  
I dont believe in lying to get  
some one in trouble. And  
my offisicit is true. So I  
am asking you to please  
look after this chance.  
Please ans and tell me  
what you are doing to do  
flees ans soon.  
From Bertrude Bertrand  
a subscriber Kans  
Gen Del -

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence



# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

✓ Joseph Phandler.  
Emporia Kans. 4. 99. 1881.  
Dear Governor Clyde Reed.  
I wrote to you twice  
asking you to find out  
what the name & type  
name of the regiment  
that Mr. Bengerson  
served in during the war.  
but I never got a  
word from you.  
but the judge folks  
answered telling  
me that I needn't  
be asking you for  
parole also for typhus  
for you had nothing  
to do with giving  
parole to my son.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

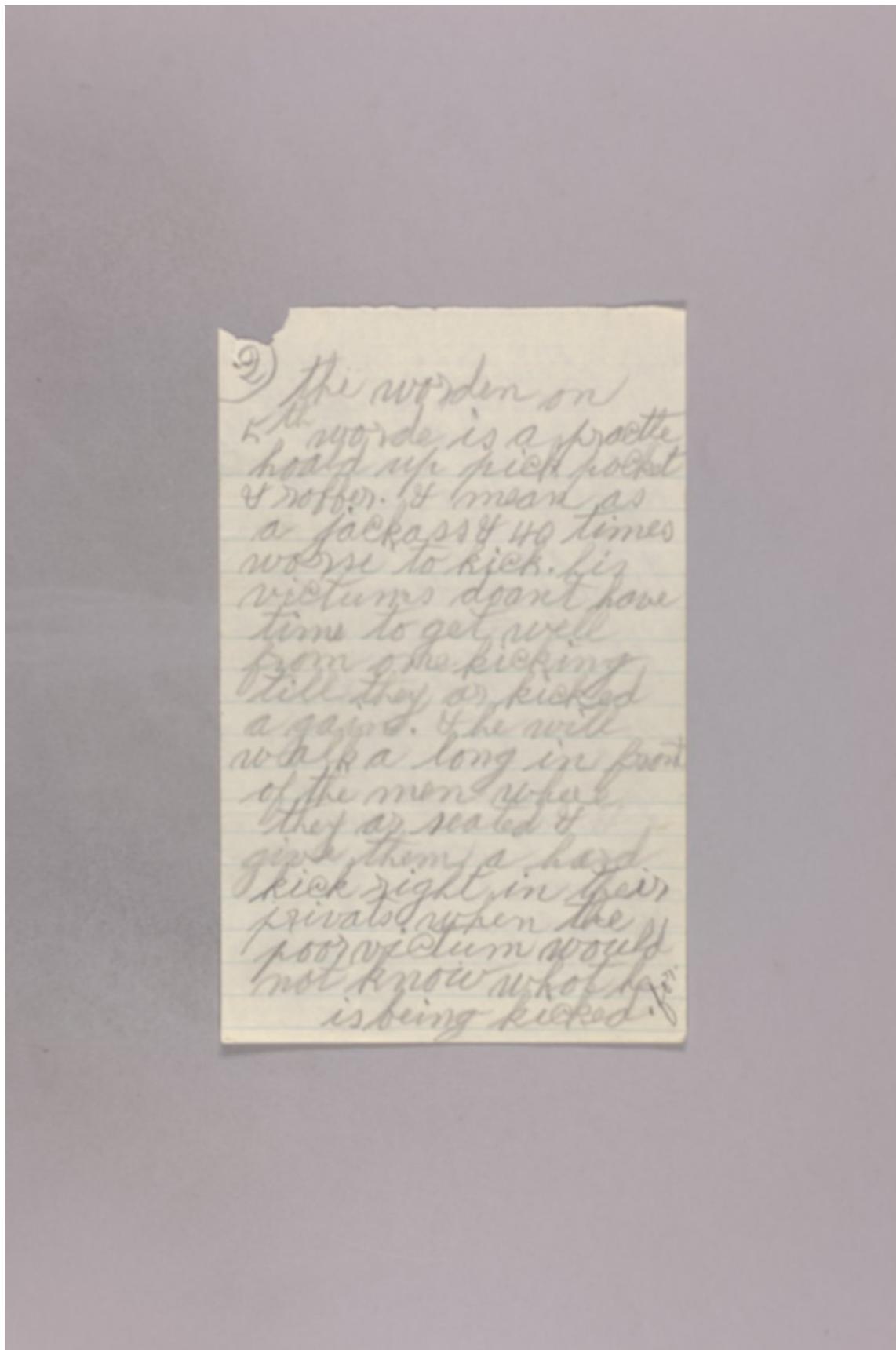
when I never has  
named such a thing  
to you. but I was  
informed when  
Davies was Governor  
of Kansas. he released  
7 prisoners from the  
penitentiary. & got  
\$500. for his services  
& told I should you  
promised the people  
of Kans if they elected  
you for Governor of  
Ks. you would  
inforce the laws of  
Ks. if you had to  
call the militia up  
out. to inforce the  
laws. now let us  
now what you are  
doing.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence



# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

he often comes along  
with a small glass  
of clear fluid & will  
stop at a posy  
victim & say to  
him you drink this  
& the poor half wit is  
forced to drink the  
rank life depriving  
fluid. a few  
minutes later he  
finds a water to  
lead the victim  
to a room & lock  
him in & the victim  
soon becomes unconscious  
& remains in that  
fix about 10 hours.  
without a drop of  
water nor a morsel  
to eat.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

I that worder aint  
fit to have the coir  
of hogs, let a loan  
to have the coir of  
people. he is too coarse  
& its a shame  
for human beings to  
be treated so rediculous.  
right here in Kans.  
of by any some Dr.  
what hot fluid is  
that helldegavell  
drenches his victims  
with. its perfectly  
clear & is so strong  
it can be smelt  
for rods around.  
& a victim goes  
like he was dead  
in a few minutes, & lost

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

Clyde I thought you were going to enforce the laws of Kans, & now do you believe that Kans is in great need of a governr that will put down slavery. for Kans is a Slave State. I think Paury works nea 900 slaves there inside of the Statehouse. & those 900 slaves wins for Paury \$1900. a year. & he gets their wrings. & the whole 900 men doent get one cent. how is that & you Governor.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

(4) circumstances showed beyond a doubt that Peavy was real anxious to have me put to death before I got a way from there he started to dread my reporting on him & I believe if Peavy was to live to be 100 years old, he would not near live long enough to work out the crimes that he is guilty of. in 1928 there was a criminal case entered a joint fine

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

now Glyde I ask you  
to have them slaves  
payed enough money  
for take them home.  
Release them with  
good cloths to wear  
I hom. & some money  
besides the price of  
their tickets.  
Sperry has threatened  
having me taken back  
to stop any letter writing  
& to flog my life if it  
ain't wood. His & th  
wooden wants the  
plasure of flogging  
my life. I think he  
uses strick knine for  
such work. & under  
Seedy orders.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

③ I believe all of  
my letters are barred,  
at the prison wards.  
I can't get any word  
from any of my  
friends there. I expect  
to know what our  
general post master  
has to say about  
such work as that.  
I also about slavery,  
about slavery. I shall  
inform Hoover & Burles.  
I will write a while  
on you. I see what you  
will do towards freeing  
the slaves. & towards  
criminal punishment  
of the innocent inmates.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

Perry ordered his 5th  
warden to watch &  
get all the medison  
that come here for  
me. & not allow me  
to get any part of it.  
his object was to end  
my life if the warden  
should get me sick.  
but he failed. & both  
we disappointed.  
it aint to late for  
me to enter suit  
against them for  
stealing medison.  
he stole & robbed me  
of medison 4 difrent  
times. & after my  
return they sent me  
2 parcels of medison

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

(6561 mm) (b7d, b7e, pp 77-78)  
one of the stolen  
packages was an express  
package that they could  
not get short of an  
set of fraud & robbery  
& lying. which is a  
common gain for Berry.  
Berry never tells the  
truth only when he  
cant make a lie out  
I believe that his grand  
father was superintendent  
of the Libby prison  
in Georgia the years  
of 1863, 4, 5 & 6. he had  
prisoners to send home  
for provisition for  
the starving prisoners  
& cloths to. & when when

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

Their supplies came first.  
Grandfather opened the  
baggage of bodies & gave  
all the clothing & food  
to his prison guards.  
& set his prisoners stone.  
I believe that where  
Beary turned his  
way of doing. for he  
is the same class  
of a man as the boss  
of the Libby prisoners.  
Beary had his first  
woman to fasten me  
up in a little room  
& starved me for 5 days  
the first evening.  
2 young men paddled  
me & supplied with  
yellow fluid that I

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

I believe was deadly poison & they had enough poison in there to kill 6 men in 30 minutes. it was no doubt yellow color of water. & struck knife. I think Barry had prepared it for the young men to induce me to drink it. they claimed it was milk but I never had seen milk look as yellow as that mixture was. when they were out I took a look at the poison & stetched my tongue to

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

to the mixture to see  
what it tasted like.  
There wasn't any taste  
of milk about it, but  
water & something or maybe  
a few minutes later  
I found I was getting  
sick. soon after the  
one that delivered the  
poison came in &  
asked me what I had  
drank my milk. I had  
eaten all he had fitted  
for me to eat for my  
evening meal. & that  
was enough to feed a  
cat. I said I did not  
want to drink that  
stu. he picked up the  
cup & handed it to me.  
I urged at me to drink it.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

I sprung on Forded & urged him to drink the milk I kept trying I doant want to drink that ornery stuff. Then in rushed another young man. I took up the cup of poison & began urging him to drink the milk & I refused regardless of his urging & having on as though his life depended on me to drink that deadly stuff. I told them that there had been something put in it to make me sick. They both denied it well I started it & it made me sick.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

I am sick right now.  
They then left me in  
a livery but that same  
poise he was told to look  
in more time. hoping  
I would find a brick it.  
I dinner red it left a  
way & then milk was served  
but was so bad to only  
to last it. Then they fed me  
me water. I refused to  
drink water. I was afraid  
of strickness.  
I am ought to be a term  
of 5 years in the state  
prison for slavery.  
To one per for bradle  
treatment of his victim  
I hope to get a chance  
to help. I convict him.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

4) Clyde I want to give you a little more idea of the cruelty of that mean 5<sup>th</sup> warden. he treated me with such meanness that would be cruel to use a hog as mean. yet I got boy will considerately how other got jerked & gamed. there was a dwarf on 5<sup>th</sup> ward a young man. now what did he do? he had a habit of dropping to his knees. & then spring right up on his feet a girl he wanted to enjoy such excesses. I finly one day he

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

tried his smartness as  
we were leaving the dining  
table. he was near 5 feet  
from me toward the wall.  
when down he dropped.  
& there was an old man  
next behind him. & the  
old man took a tumble  
beat formest right over  
the young man. & both  
went plumping onto the  
floor in a pile together.  
the 5<sup>th</sup> wooden was near.  
& rushed up & grabbed  
the young man & threw  
him over his left shoulder  
with his neck across his  
shoulder face up & one  
arm across the neck &  
jerked him there as though  
(this was the wooden)

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

D he was trying to pull his head off at the shoulder. The cruel wretch rapidly jerked the breathless young boy the head & though he didn't expect to quit jerking at the head & all of the water suspended to his head & neck across the shoulder of the believed murderer. I passed on the young man for dead & set my self forth to be a witness on a first degree murder place. & considered the life of the young man

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

well spent for the sake  
of getting rid of the  
man killer named  
him the victim's face  
& neck turned purple so  
though he had been dead  
2 or 3 days when the doctor  
dropped the purple body  
to the floor & went to  
kicking the body with  
heavy kicks & fast to  
the kicks seemed to  
return life. the mouth  
was full of white foam  
at that time I followed  
after the crowd. & didn't  
see how the resurrection  
proceeded. but when  
I next saw the resurrected  
man his complexion was  
still dark brown for 28

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence



# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

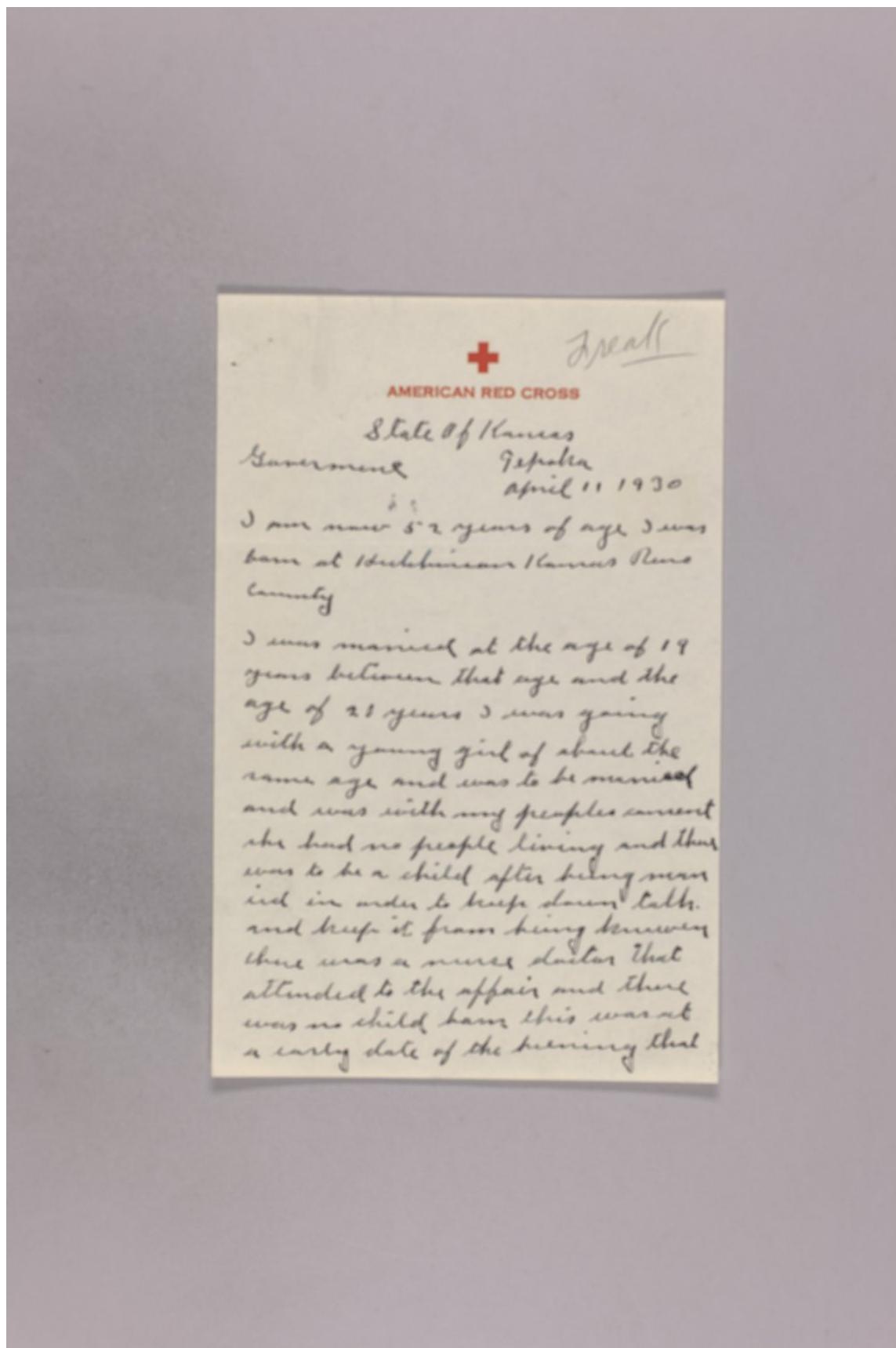


# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

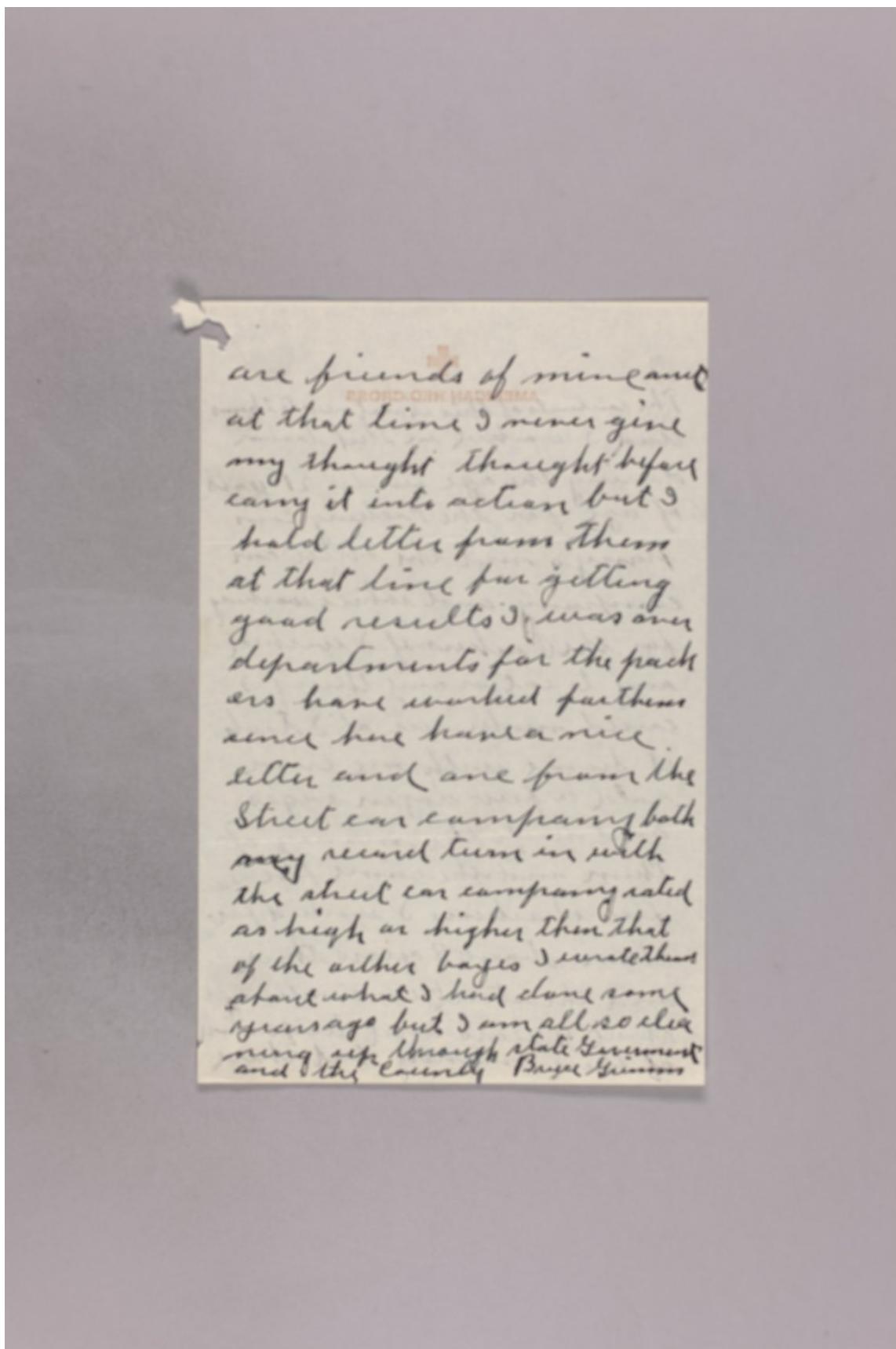


# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

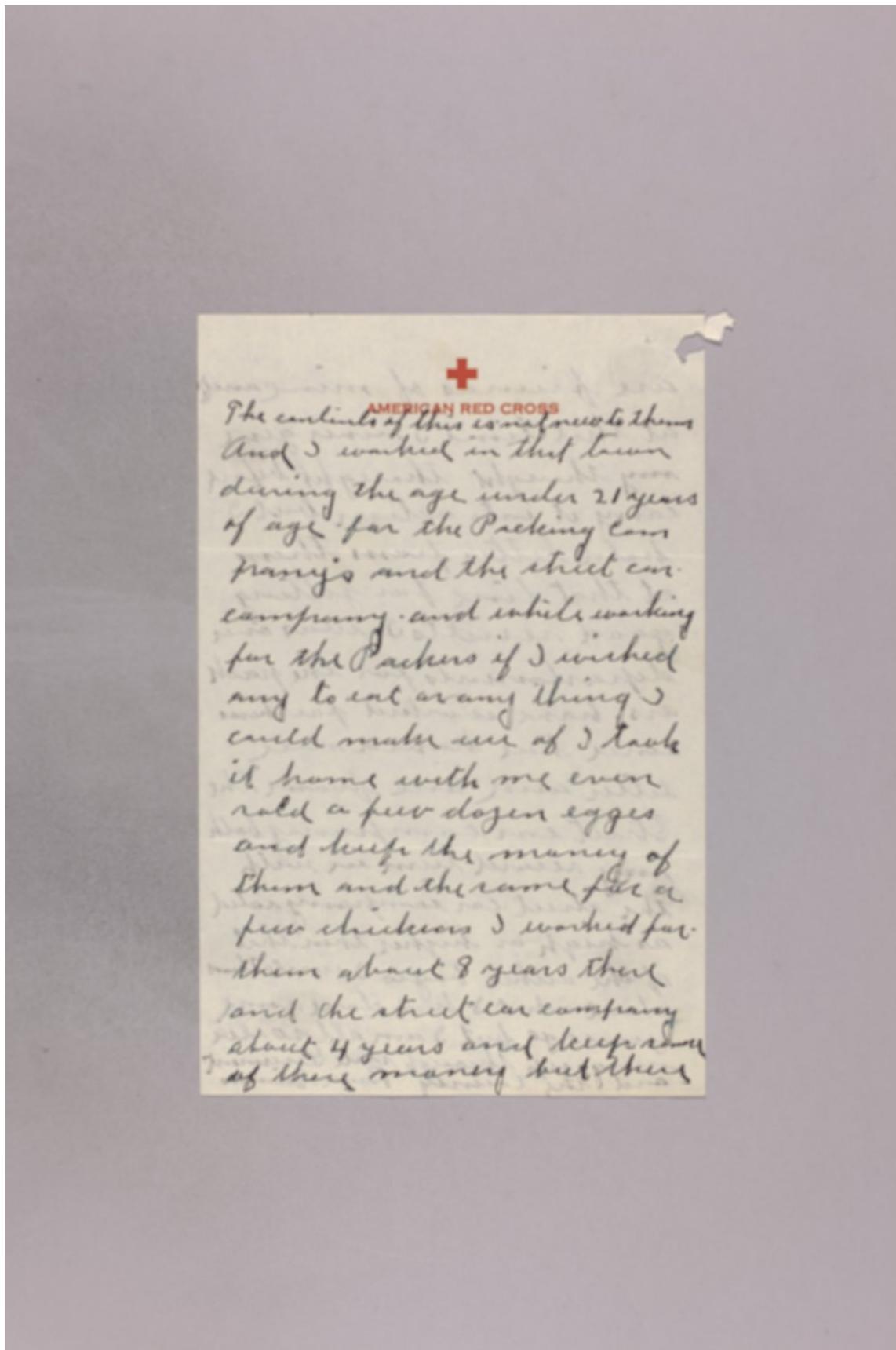


# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

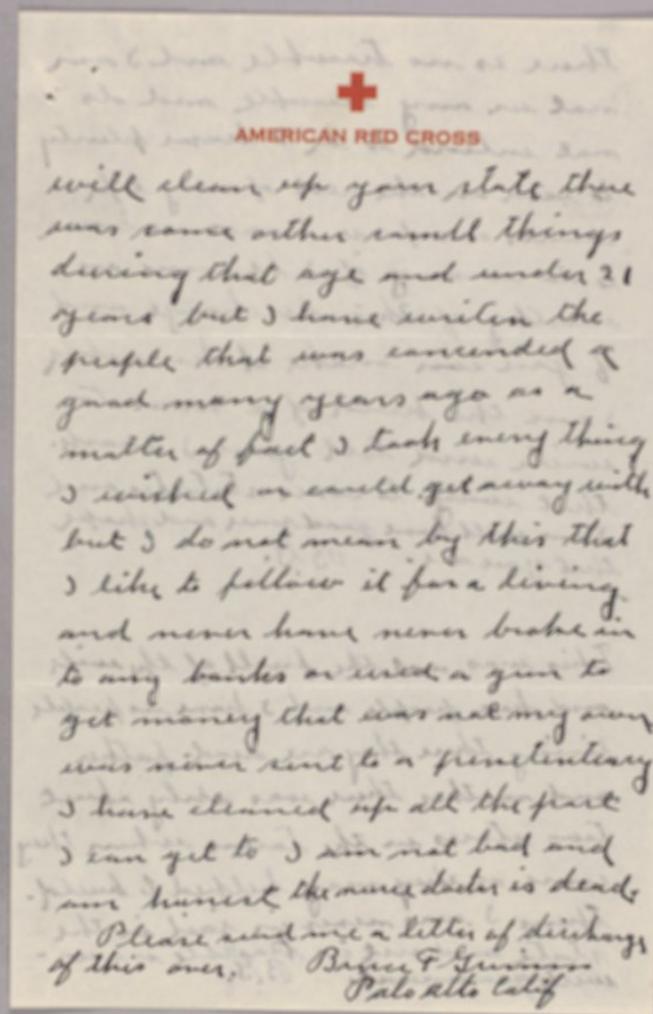


# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence



# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

There is no trouble and I am  
not in any trouble and do  
not intend to be. I have plenty  
to live on the rest of my life  
unless one finds reason to come  
to do wrong if I be found an  
accuser of this discharge and  
if you can make it honorable  
I am the kind of a man to  
write and tell your thoughts.  
that way. to cover statutes and  
I am well known good name and hope  
that you are. B.G.

This was not the fault of the wife  
and her people and I have no people  
living there they are dead. father  
and mother there was about  
two slaves in the house when they  
came or they may helped to build.  
there I was never in jail in the  
state and not in trouble or even  
with government. B.G.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, constituent correspondence

*Some men take desperate chances because they have nothing to lose.—Danbury News.*

### THE UNITED STATES PROTECTIVE LEAGUE DIVISION HEADQUARTERS

Decorah, Iowa, March 17, 1930

*J. M. G.*

Dear Friend:

From 1903 to 1908 Montana experienced a Reign of Terror in the form of Dynamite Outrages seldom equalled; railway bridges were blown up and other property was destroyed. The Governor offered a liberal reward for information that would lead to the arrest and conviction of the guilty parties. The writer gave information that would have led to the arrest and conviction of at least three, and possibly four of these Vandals, but no definite action was taken in the matter, and when he insisted on having a settlement, he was pronounced "insane" and promptly sent to the State Insane Asylum, placed in the bull-pen among the most violent and dangerous patients in the institution and held a prisoner there 18 years.

After which, owing to a change of administration and the good offices of Governor Dixon, he was released on parole October 25, 1922, and given an honorable discharge a year later.

When this matter was brought to the attention of the present Governor with a request for a speedy settlement, His Excellency, evidently in a fit of rage, sent a Pinkerton "detective," or one claiming that distinction, to threaten and intimidate the writer's brother whose health is none too good.

Is there no way to compel stubborn state officials who have become so hidebound that they cannot listen to reason, to do their duty as they have sworn to do? Should a Governor who is thus remiss in his duty, be permitted to remain in office when others have been impeached for lesser offenses?

Kindly give this matter the wide publicity it deserves, and thus help to right this terrible wrong.

Sincerely yours,

James Gordon.

P. S. Notwithstanding the fact that His Excellency would have me think him my sworn enemy, I have not lost faith in him, for I know that as a class, the Norwegians are pretty good people.