

A. Curtis to William Hutchinson

Curtis reports on the conflict between the Kansas Central Committee and W. F. M. Arny, general agent for the National Kansas Committee, over the distribution of supplies. Curtis claims that Arny issued supplies to individuals who were engaged in speculative ventures and who were not in need of relief. Curtis attaches an itemized list of the supplies that he believes were inappropriately issued by Arny.

Creator: Curtis, A.

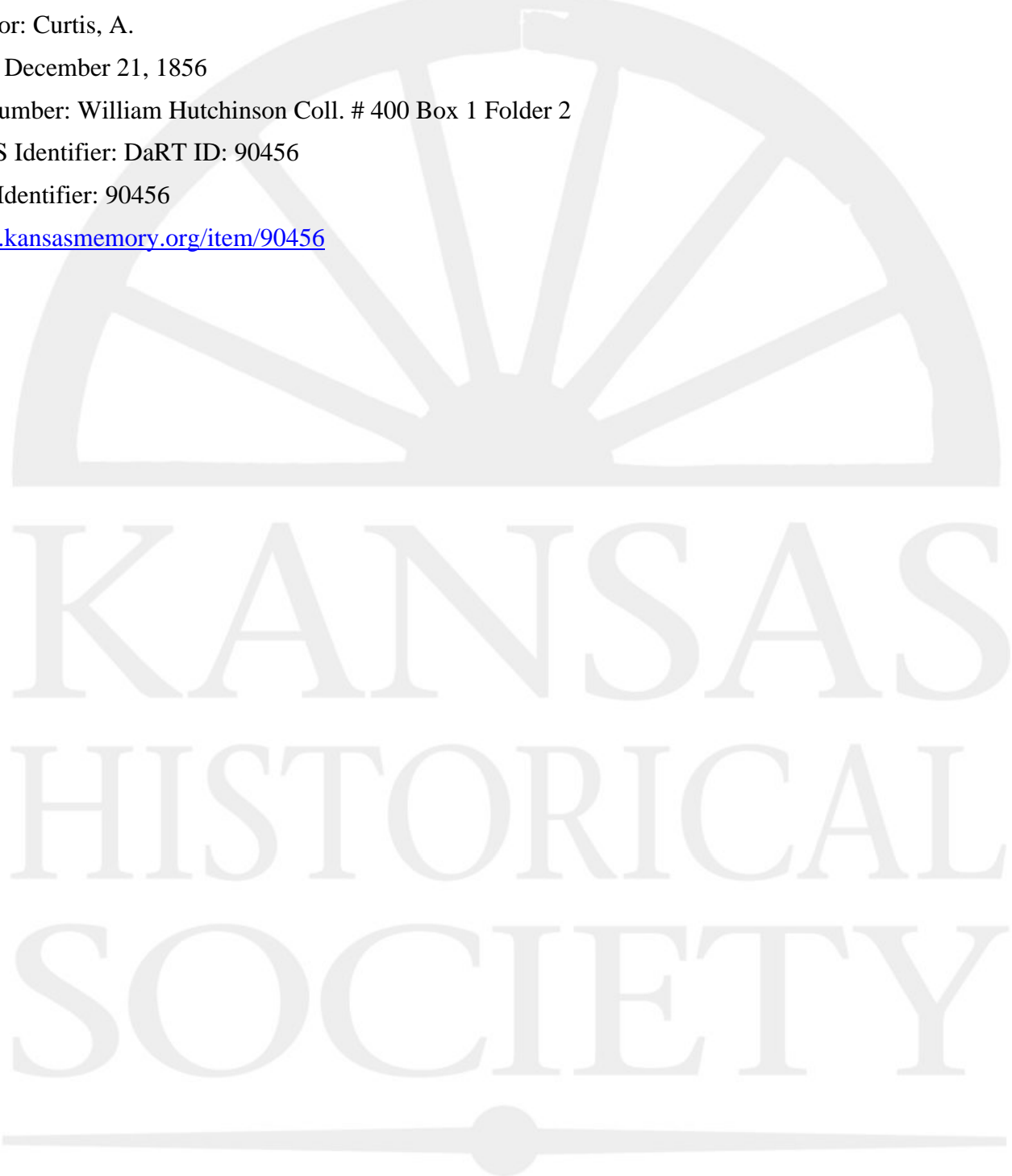
Date: December 21, 1856

Callnumber: William Hutchinson Coll. # 400 Box 1 Folder 2

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A. Curtis to William Hutchinson

Curtis, A.

KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
25449

Lawrence Kansas Dec 21/84

Wm Hutchinson Esq
W. Randolph, Va.

Dear Sir

When you left Lawrence I agreed to write to you & keep you posted in regard to Armys Movements but I have had so much to attend too that I have neglected this matter

after you left I got along with Army for a few days without any serious difficulty till he continued to regard the store as his property & treated me as a subordinate. On the 8th inst he brought in Harveys Co & cloathed them up with every thing they wanted taking about one half of the goods in the store to supply them he also established new agents to disburse the goods at Washington & other points disregarding our organization & took everything into his own hands

he would not give any rec^{pts} for goods disbursed on his orders nor let the applicants rec^{pts} for the goods on our books. Dr Root arrived in town on the 11th & when he saw the course taken by Army he sent Army a note requesting him



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To send in the vouchers for the goods recd
 Arney replied that he came here to get
 vouchers and not to give them, the next
 morning Arney came into the store and asked
 for a billow slip I asked him if he had
 an order he replied no I told him that
 we should not let any more goods go without
 an order from a regular appointment agent
 the long gathering storm then broke
 Dr Reed & myself told him that his
 case was run & that we should stand
 upon rights & if they wish to cooperate
 with us they must treat us like men
 & Arney then forbade Pollock to deliver
 any more flour to us he then went to
 Leavenworth & took possession of all the boxes
 & packages forwarded by the National Committee
 has rented the Stone Store north of main
 Kansas Harness Shop & intends to open this
 week Pollock has not paid any attention
 to his orders in regard to the flour
 our bookkeeping is all disturbed & we have
 not got anything but flour on hand
 Arney has paid Pollock \$2000 to buy Pollock
 Hyatt bought about \$1500 at our sale of Horses
 minus \$6 for which they have also paid
 the cash but directed in the receipt for
 the money that it should be expended for
 flour the chain is now broken & we

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shall not expect anything more at their
 hands. Beloe will do as the Central
 Committee direct how this money shall
 be expended & he takes himself responsible
 to us for the \$8000 he recd at Chicago.
 Hyatt has taken Harveys Co of skins
 and gone onto the head matters of
 Pottawatomia Creek & established a Town
 to be called Hyattsville the Party are a
 stealing from each other every hour in
 the day. Hyatt & Arney have given them
 three months rations & full suit of clothes
 (from our store) all the teams bought
 at the Auction amounting to \$1500 besides
 axes saws & in fact everything they would
 require if they were industrious honest
 men with the promise of a good mill
 as soon as navigation opens, this Co
 has cast today not much short of \$8000
 the accompanying Bill you can rely on their
 receiving all the articles specified.
 this is the manner they are relieving the
 suffers of Kansas. It will be our business
 to show up these things to our friends
 in the East & Dr West suggests that you
 send a copy of the accompanying Bill to
 the N.Y. Times. Beloe has recd a
 Letter from Dr Cabot of Boston stating
 that they should not send anything through



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The National Committee must should send
direct to us Army has not failed
to improve every opportunity to bring the
Central Committee in disrepute I will
give you one of the long day tricks he played
about one week after you left Army came
into the store in great haste & presented a
bill to me that had been audited & asked
for a full explanation of it I could not
explain it at once he then charged us with
doing business in such a ~~slow~~ manner that
it could not be straightened out that he had
spent a week examining our vouchers
& he had not got through yet & he was
not surprised that Mr Hutchinson had
hurried off to shrink the responsibility of
the whole matter

The store was full at the
time & I reminded the gentleman of his
saying that he could take a copy of all
our papers in one day & this is but
one of his damnable tricks no more at
this time please write on the rect^d of this
work for the Central Committee & do not
try to cover up the sins of Army & Co
Yours Truly A. Curtis

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List of articles given to Harveys Co

165	Comforts at \$3.00 each	\$495.00
70	pair of Boots or shoes 2.50	175.00
150	" Socks .40	60.00
150	" Shirts 1.25	187.50
70	" Mittens or gloves .50	35.00
35	" Pants 2.50	87.50
25	" Coats 4.00	100.00
12	Enamel coats 3.50	42.00
30	" Mests 1.00	30.00
10	" Coaps .75	7.50
3	Barnells Caractors 12.00	36.00
70	Sacks Flour 4.50	315.00
70	" Drawers 1.25	87.50
	Extra clothing for families	30.00
	Horses Mules Harness & Wagons	1500.00
		\$3488.00
		\$3188.00

The Bill of Groceries Camp Equipage
 totals \$4 I have not got but in
 my opinion the whole Bill will not
 fall much short of five thousand dollars
 Yours Truly
 A. Curtis

Robinson Prentiss Morrow Coal Claridge
 J. A. Hunt & all that class men are with us
 & will render us all the assistance in their power