

## Augustus Wattles to George W. Brown

Augustus Wattles writes to Mr. [?] Brown requesting reimbursement for some \$700 he had lost in the cause. Although Wattles had not expected to recoup his losses, and in fact had planned "to give all these items gratis to the free state cause," he has heard "a committee" had funds for that purpose, and he was ill and in need of money. His claim included a couple horses, a mule, and room and board for various free state people he had taken in when they were in need of shelter.

Creator: Wattles, Augustus, 1807-1876

Date: October 15, 1856

Callnumber: James Blood Coll. # 281 Box 1 Folder 1

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Wattles, Augustus

Oct. 15, 1856

Mr. Brown,

Dear Sir,

When I was in town last Mr Hutchinson told me there were funds raised and in the hands of a committee for the purpose of repaying losses similar to mine, which free state men had met with.

As you are the only man that I feel sufficiently acquainted with, to apply to will you take the trouble to see whether I can get anything. I have lost about \$700. I did not expect to receive one dollar of it back again, and should not now ask for it, but I am sick & have run out & need it now as much as then did to whom I gave it. My first horse was a pair of horses worth \$300. When the disturbances first commenced last fall, one of my horses was lost & rode further & faster than he ever was before, & tied out in the prairie over night in the rain took sick & died very soon. I had a man waiting for me whom I hired to go to Lawrence & stay through the war, I let him have the other horse



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to ride. He said he rode it into a hole  
or ravine when the horse fell & injured  
itself so that it died.

I then let Mr. Lowry & Warren & others  
have a mule to ride while organizing  
the state during the winter. It was very  
hard riding, very cold weather &  
very difficult to get food & shelter for  
the mule. And if ~~he~~ had not been a mule  
~~she~~ would have died from hardship. As it was  
the mule got sick & has not got over it  
yet. I lost her milk during the spring, and  
to say nothing of her services, I lost by her  
sickness I think \$50. - I gave for the mule  
in Dec. \$170. I kept several free state  
men who were flock, & some refugees &  
some emigrants, from one to ten at a time  
without compensation. Mr. Henshell who went  
up west & north for men to defend Lawrence  
in Nov. was taken sick immediately on his  
return & stayed with me from that time  
till the middle of April about twenty weeks.  
He was poor, sold some of his clothing & other  
things, got money enough to go home and returned  
to Maine. His board was worth \$50, & during some  
of the time he worked a little, say \$10, worth.  
Our house has not been free from sick  
persons since. Some times as many as four or five  
at a time. I have kept no account



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For the last six months I should estimate  
our visitors at an average of six per week  
26 weeks  $\times$  2 $\frac{1}{2}$  per week would make \$390.  
Some of them have paid a little, say in the whole, \$40.  
So many people using our quilts & blankets  
lying on the floor & in the tents has used  
them nearly all up. So we are minus this  
item. A new tent which is valued at  
\$20, & which I procured at Ft. Riley last fall  
went into the service by request of Col. Lane  
& has not been returned. It is worth \$15.00  
One of my best oxen which I paid \$100. for  
yesterday last spring was killed in Lawrence  
about the last of August. The ox was worth \$15.00  
I expected to give all these items  
gratis, to the free state cause, and  
anything else that I had to secure  
its triumph. But just now I am out  
of health, out of funds, out of clothes & have  
no means of going on, and procuring  
what I need for myself and the  
family. I do not present it as a bill  
demanding payment, But if the  
committee see proper to allow me any  
thing it will be thankfully received.

Yours truly

Kansas  
Oct 15, 1856

Augustus Wattles