

15. March 1917.

Mr. Frank Haywood Hodder,  
University of Kansas,  
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Sir;

While looking over the papers of my late Father, Judge Robert A. Douglas, I came across a letter from you to him dated 14 March 1900, and also a pamphlet by you entitled Stephen A. Douglas and also a pamphlet by you entitled The Genesis of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. I was much interested in all of these, and particularly in your avowed intention of writing a life of Stephen A. Douglas and your views on the Pacific Railroad question in its relation to the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

I notice that you follow, in large measure, Prof. Johnson's interpretation of Stephen A. Douglas. And in this connection I would refer you to an interesting discussion between W. A. Richardson and Professor Johnson beginning in the 17th October 1908 issue of the Quincy (Ills) Optic. Mr. Richardson his last contribution with the following advice: "If he (the historian) takes his pen in hand to write a life of Stephen A. Douglas, he must avoid sitting it in an old abolition inkstand, for there is gall enough left there still to blacken the name and fame of the author of the repeal of the Missouri Compromise." Judging from your historical method outlined in your 1899 pamphlet, you will be in sympathy with his position.

In connection with your analysis of the Kansas-Nebraska Act from a Railroad viewpoint you would perhaps be interested in reading a paper by James W. Sheahan, Esq., read before the Chicago University,

Bryan Hall, July 3, 1861, wherein is advanced (at page 204) this railroad theory as one of the factors inducing the enactment of this Bill. This paper was published by the Fergus Printing Company, Chicago, 1861, together with a paper on Abraham Lincoln by the Hon. Isaac H. Arnold. This paper among other things brings out the fact that Stephen A. Douglas was the founder of the University of Chicago. It is true the management of that institution has been changed, but it has always professed an unbroken continuity, and retained the earliest graduates on its roll, despite the fact that the latter heading of the University's stationery proclaims it to have been founded by John D. Rockefeller.

It has indeed been unfortunate for the reputation of Stephen A. Douglas, that from among the million or more who voted for him not one has undertaken a history of his life. All of his recent biographers, while not perhaps intentionally unfair, have yet belonged to the opposite party and have been unable to sympathize with or approve his theories and actions. If the life of Roosevelt, Bryan or Wilson should be written today opponent partisans, I fear all three would be published as knaves, fools and liars. However, a change seems to be coming over even the abolitionist writers. I had the pleasure of attending a centennial celebration in Brandon Vermont, which, as you know, is a Republican stronghold and a memorial volume was made of the proceedings. I have two or three copies of these volumes, and take pleasure in sending you one by this mail, thinking that perhaps you might be interested in its perusal.

Very truly yours,



HISTORY AND POLITICAL  
SCIENCE

FRANK HEYWOOD HODDER  
DAVID LESLIE PATTERSON  
CLARENCE A. DYKSTRA  
CLARENCE C. CRAWFORD  
WILLIAM WATSON DAVIS  
BLAINE FREE MOORE  
FRANK EDGAR MELVIN

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS  
LAWRENCE

March 24, 1917.

Mr. Martin F. Douglas Esq.  
Greensboro, N.C.

My dear Mr. Douglas:

I am greatly indebted to you for your letter of the 16th inst. and for your kindness in sending me a copy of the Brandon memorial volume, which I have enjoyed going thru and in which I get a glimpse of yourself in the picture of the unveiling of the monument. Both the monument and the memorial volume are in excellent taste and form a fitting tribute to a great man. I suppose you do know that there is a bronze tablet in the entrance to Mandell Hall in the University of Chicago which recognizes Mr. Douglas as the founder of the first University. The present University has, however, made so much of Mr. Rockefeller's benefactions that Mr. Douglas's original foundation of the institution has been obscured.

I have been interested in the life of Stephen A. Douglas for a great many years. I think that the time will come when he will be recognized as the strong man in American history during the decade from 1850 to 1860. I originally offered to furnish a volume upon his life for the series of American Statesmen but Mr. Morse declined the offer on the ground that he did not intend to include in the series any man whose life had proved a failure. Some years after that I learned that Mr. Johnson had a life of Douglas in preparation and I

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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CHICAGO, ILL.

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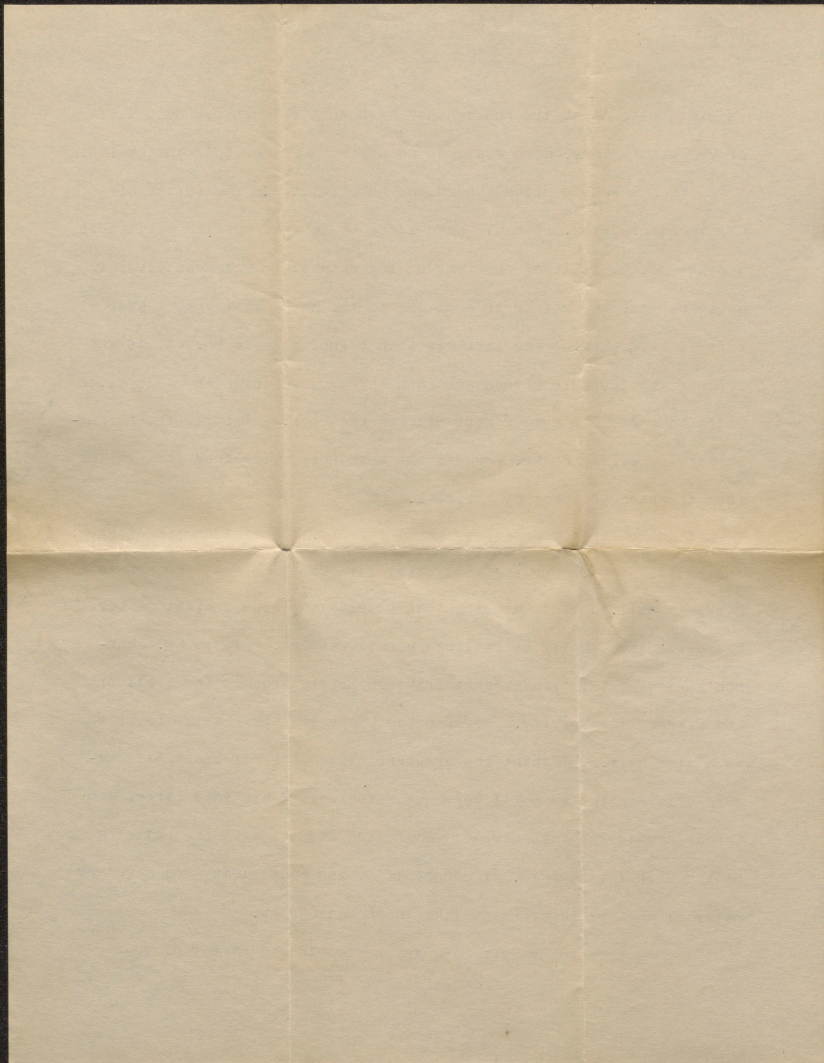
1900



determined to await its publication because I felt that, should it prove satisfactory, there would be no need of another book in the field. I was then asked to write the volume on Douglas in the series of Crisis biographies. I would have liked to do that but the publishers imposed a time limit of one year during which it was impossible for me to promise the volume in addition to the heavy work that I have here as a teacher. The task was then turned over to Mr. Willis who produced a miserable screed and took three years in which to do it, in which time I could myself have written the book. I still intend publishing something on Mr. Douglas but have not yet decided the precise form in which to throw my material.

I do not at all consider that I take Mr. Johnson's point of view. The crisis of Mr. Douglas's political life was of course the Kansas Nebraska bill. It is my view that Douglas's course in that matter was determined wholly by railroad considerations. It is Mr. Johnson's view that railroad considerations merely crossed the trail on the slavery controversy. Between the two views there seems to me to be a wide gulf. I think the argument based upon circumstantial evidence is conclusive but I very much wish that I had some direct and tangible evidence that directly connected Douglas with the building of the Rock Island road. I wonder if by any possibility you have any material that would throw any light upon this point.

As you seem to be very much interested in the career of your





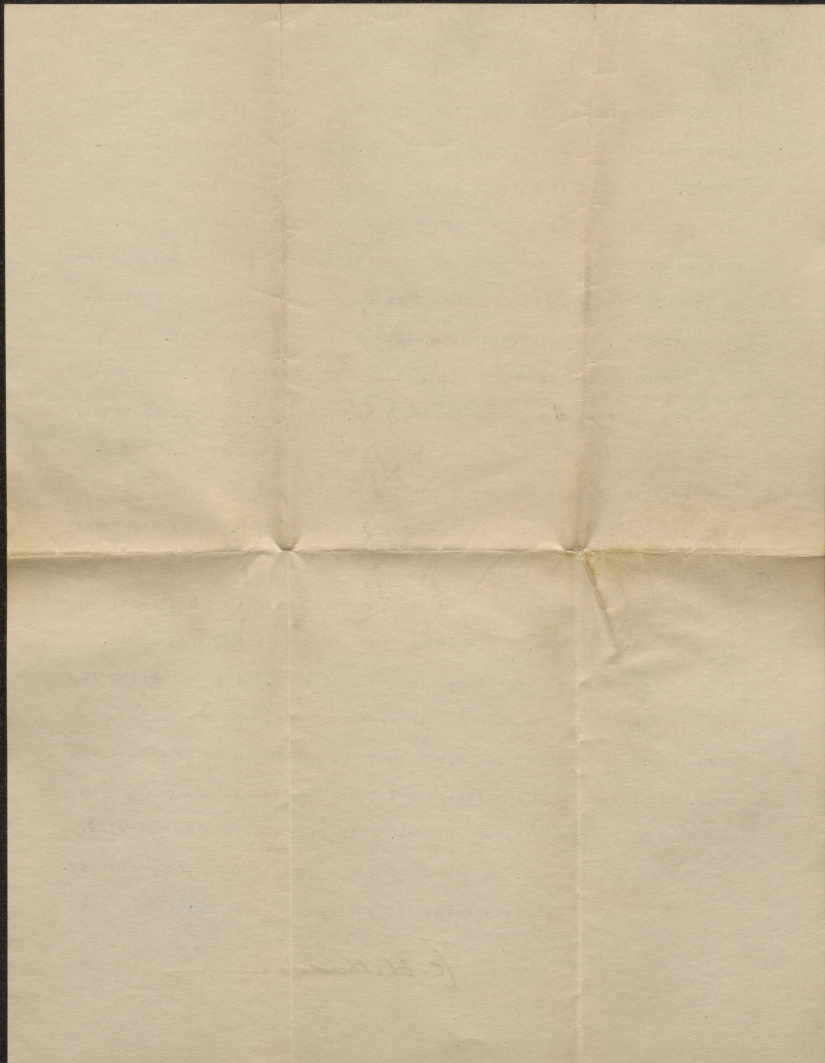
illustrious grandfather you will perhaps pardon me if I ask a few questions ? It is always said that Mr. Douglas's papers were destroyed. I wonder if this is a fact or merely a tradition. Do you know anything of the circumstances of their supposed destruction. I am hoping that they may be still somewhere extant and may someday come to light. The only papers that I have are copies of the correspondence with Mr. Lamphier, which Mr. Patton allowed me to make.

Second, do you have any light on the settlement of Mr. Douglas's estate. It passed into the hands of Mr. Daniel P. Rhodes, the father of the historian, and that seems to have been the end of it. If papers relating to the settlement of the estate could be brought to light, it might reveal the character and extent of Mr. Douglas's financial interests.

The only material that you mention with which I am not familiar are the letters of Wm. A. Richardson published in the Quincy Optic. I do not see any way that I can get hold of them. I am wondering if the clippings that you have are in such form that you could let me have them. If they are loose, you could send them to me by registered mail. If pasted into a scrap-book I would be glad if you could send it to be by express charges collect. If you can see your way clear to letting me see them, you may depend upon my retruning them promptly.

Very cordially yours,

*F. H. Hodder*





UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LAWRENCE

HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Return after Five Days

LAWRENCE.

MAR 26-17

1—PM

KANS.



Mr Martin G. Douglas Esq  
Greensboro  
North Carolina





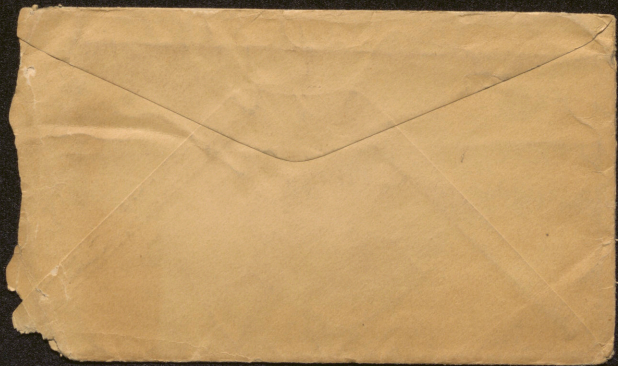
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY



Martin L. Douglas Esq  
Greensboro  
North Carolina



HISTORY AND POLITICAL  
SCIENCE

FRANK HEYWOOD HODDER  
DAVID LESLIE PATTERSON  
CLARENCE A. DYKSTRA  
CLARENCE C. CRAWFORD  
WILLIAM WATSON DAVIS  
BLAINE FREE MOORE  
FRANK EDGAR MELVIN

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LAWRENCE

April 10, 1917.

Mr. Martin F. Douglas Esq.  
Greensboro, N.C.

My dear Mr. Douglas:

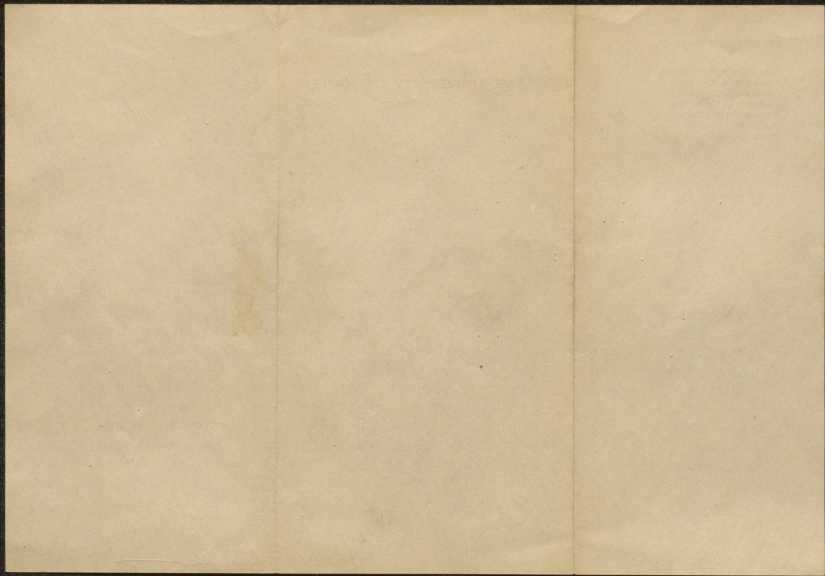
I am wondering if you may not have overlooked my request, imbedded in my rather long letter, for a short time loan of the newspaper copies of W.A. Richardson's letters printed in the Quincy "Optic". I rather thought that if it was impracticable let me have them for a few days that you would have written me to that effect. I know by experience how easy it is to let things go that it requires but a few minutes to do but the few minutes never seem to come.

I suggested in my letter before that if the clippings were detached, you might send them by registered mail and if pasted into a scrap-book, you might send the book to me by express charges collect.

Yours very truly,

*F. H. Hodder*





THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS  
LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

December 8, 1921.

Hon. Martin F. Douglas,  
Greensboro, N.C.

My dear Mr. Douglas:

I thank you for the memorandum concerning the settlement of the estate of Stephen A. Douglas and the copy of the letter from Daniel P. Rhodes. Its arrival is opportune. I am going to give an informal address at the dinner of the Mississippi Valley Historical Society during the holidays in St. Louis. I have taken as my subject: Propaganda as a Source of History. My principal illustration will be the way in which the life of Douglas has been made up from the attributes of the abolitionists and I welcome all additional data. I think that you may rest assured that in the end substantial justice will be done. The reign of Rhodes is about over. The younger generation of history teachers are rejecting him. I think that you are in error in assuming that Daniel P. Rhodes played fair with the Douglas estate despite his friendliness in 1859. I suppose you have Inglehardt's History of the Douglas Estate, published in 1869. It is extremely scarce but I suppose that you would have a copy. It was a great many years before I ran across one. That book charges that Daniel Rhodes defrauded the estate.

I hoped that the Howland book might be of some good but it is the worst rot yet. The Nation sent it to me for review but they refused to let me have as much as a column for it and I refused to cut it to a paragraph. I have, however, rather regretted having done so. I think I wrote you once that I was asked to write the life of Doug-

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS  
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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

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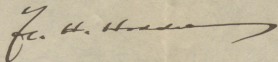


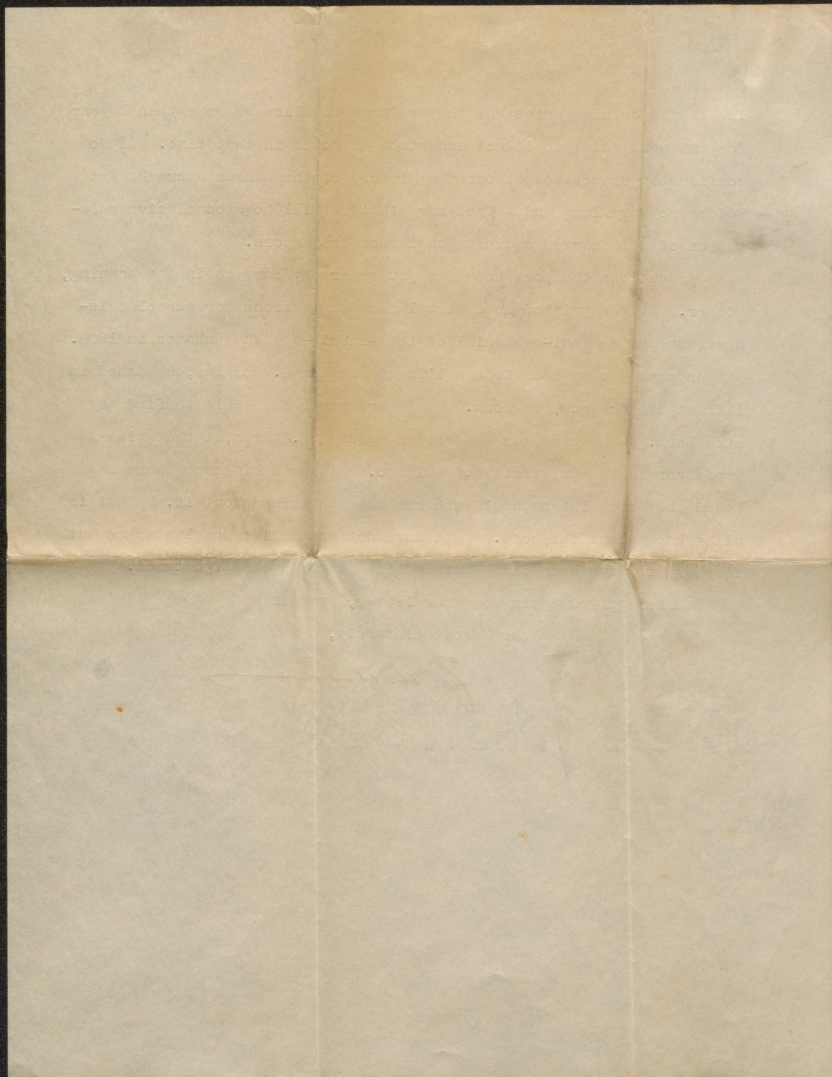
las in the Crisis series but they refused to allow me more than a year for the work and I could not undertake to do it in that time. I do confidently expect to get out the History of the Kansas Nebraska Act before so very long and I feel sure that it will be a conclusive refutation of all charges against Douglas on that score.

I suppose the poem to which you refer is: bury me in the morning, mother. It was printed in a circular of suggestions for school celebrations of the semi-centennial of the Lincoln-Douglas debates in 1908. It purported to be taken from a life of Stephen A. Douglas, published in 1861 at 37 Park Row, New York. I have never been able to find any such book. The circular was gotten up by E.E. Sparks, at that time a professor in the University of Chicago. I asked him once where he found that book but he could not remember anything about it. That is all I know about the poem. It does not sound like Douglas to me but it seems to have been first printed in a Douglas campaign tract.

Thanking you again for your letter, I remain

Yours most sincerely,





THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

May 21, 1922.

Martin F. Douglas Esq.  
Greensboro, N.C.

My dear Mr. Douglas:

You will recall that you wrote me last December of having found the settlement of the estate of your distinguished grand father that was made with James Ford Rhodes about 1875. I put the facts into an address that I delivered during the holidays at the dinner of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association at St Louis. As only members were present at the dinner and no reporters, the statement did not get into the newspapers. The address will be published in the June number of the Mississippi Valley Historical Review. When it is received, I shall take pleasure in sending you a copy. The issue of the Review is likely to be delayed so that it is possible that I may not get it until after my return from my summer vacation. I take it for granted that you have carefully preserved the important documents so that, if Mr. Rhodes undertakes any reply, we will have the "goods" on him.

You referred in your letter to the fact that certain verses beginning "Bury me in the morning" had been attributed to Stephen A. Douglas. Those verses are so unlike anything that he ever wrote or did that I never believed that he was the author of them. They were first attributed to him in a Life of Douglas published at 37 Park Row, New York in 1861. I have never been able to locate a copy of this publication so that I do not know what sort of thing ~~that~~ <sup>it</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup>. I thought that it might solve the problem if I could ascertain who did write the verses and I accordingly put an inquiry into the New York Times Review some



THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LIBRARY

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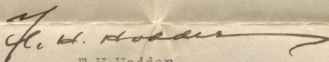
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months ago. The only result was a single reply after some weeks attributing the lines to Douglas and citing that same Heart Throbs to which you refer.

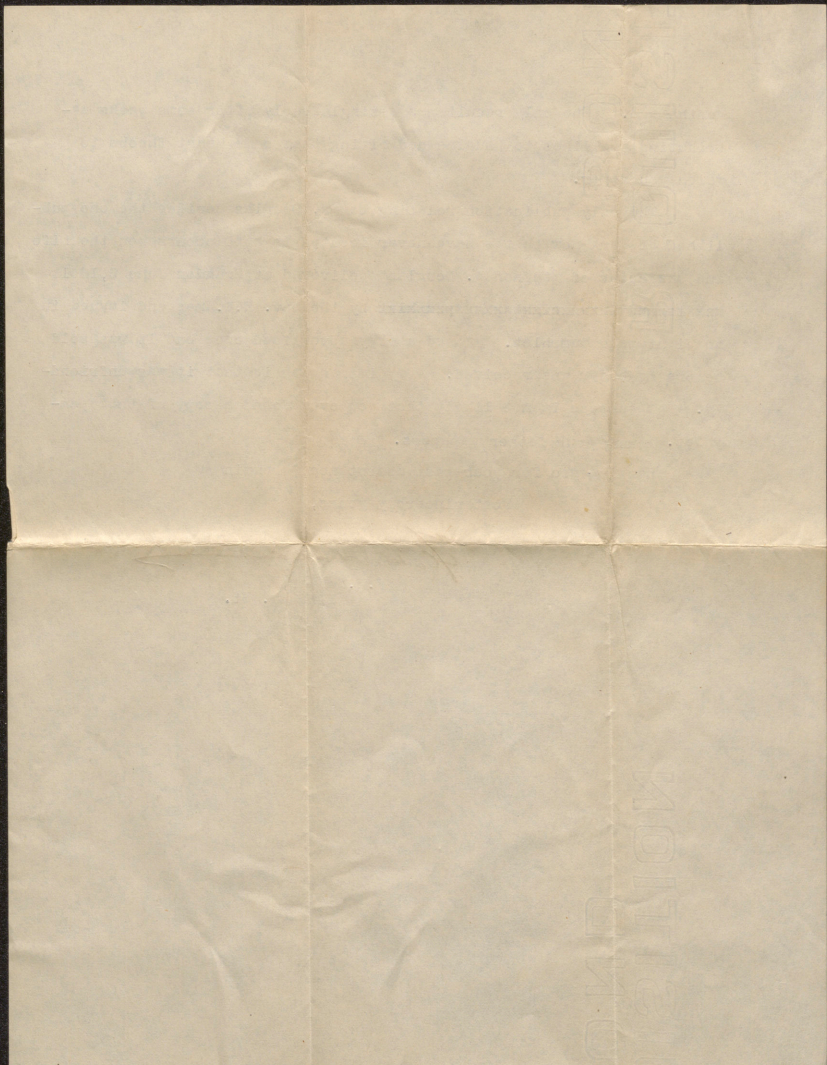
The only publication relating to Mr. Douglas besides the one published at Park Row that I have never located is a "Discourse on the Life and Character of Stephen A. Douglas" delivered at Brandon June 9, 1861 ~~xx~~ by the Rev. B.D. Ames and issued in an eight page pamphlet. I saw a copy advertized once but it was sold before my order was received. My impression is that it was unfriendly. I suppose it not likely that you ever found a copy of that pamphlet. among your father's papers.

Thanking you for your past assistance, I remain

Most sincerely yours,



F.H. Hodder,  
1115 La. St.





9 Oct. 1912.

Mr. F.H. Hodder,  
University of Kansas,  
Lawrence, Kans.

Dear Mr. Hodder,

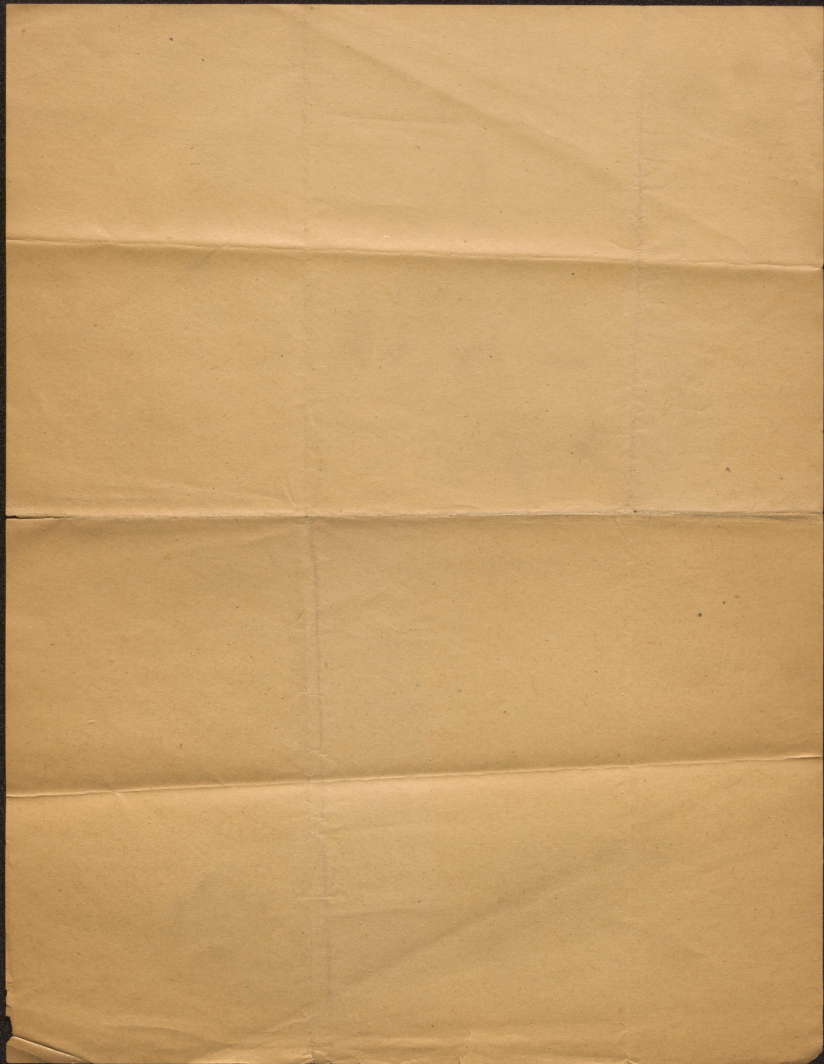
In answer to your letter of the 3rd instant, I enclose under separate cover six copies of the memorandum between J.F. Rhodes and the Douglas heirs. The copies are only fair, and if you desire to try your hand at a reproduction I will be glad to send you the original. I received a copy of your speech on this subject last summer, but as you stated in your letter of transmittal that you were beginning your vacation, I delayed thanking you until your return for the fall session.

While going over some old papers looking for the above memorandum, I came across two papers relating to the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad which might interest you. Under separate cover I enclose a printed letter entitled "a letter from the Hon. S.A. Douglas to A. Whitney, Esq., N.Y." dated Quincy, Ills, 15 Oct. 1845. And also a letter from Henry O'Reilly of New York to S.A. Douglas in regard to a telegraph line across the continent. There are two exhibits attached to this letter. Please return these papers to me under registered mail.

I am very much interested in the communication of Mr. Hart and would appreciate your informing me of the course of the debate, if any.

Sincerely yours,

Martin F. Douglas.





THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

October 3, 1922.

Mr. Martin F. Douglas,  
Greensboro, N.C.

My dear Mr. Douglas:

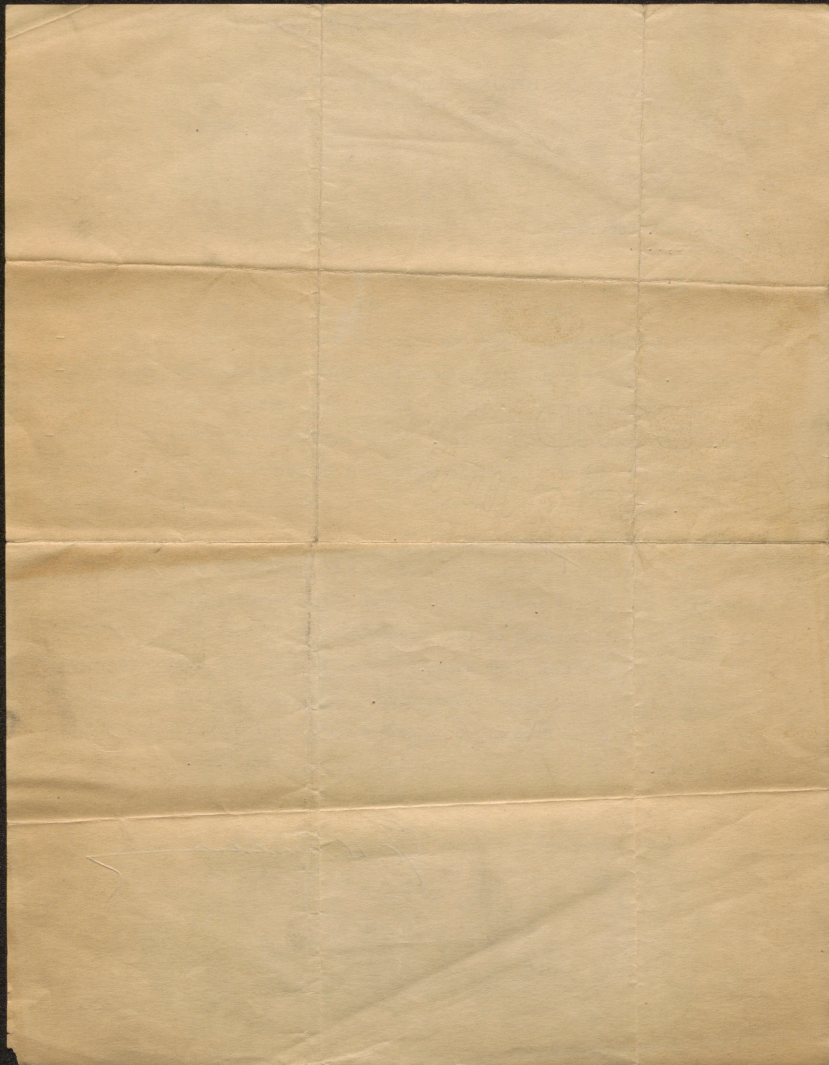
Sometime in July I sent you copy of the speech in which I inserted the statement about the relation James Ford Rhodes to the Douglas estate. I wrote you at the same time that I expected that the statement would be challenged and that it would be necessary to be ready with the proof. The expected has happened. The challenge come from Albert Bushnell Hart who comes to the rescue on account of the absence of Mr. Rhodes in Europe. Hart wants to know where are the documents and I have replied by citing the memorandum in your hands.

If it were not too much trouble I would be glad if you would send me a verbatim copy of the memorandum. What I would really like is to get a full size photostatic copy of the document but I do not suppose you would want to let it go out of your hands. I could then send copies to a lot of people and it would be rather impressive. If you felt like it you could get a photographer in Greensboro to make a negative from which I could get some prints. Just as good as photostad but would cost more.

Yours very truly,

*J. H. Dodder*





THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

October 13, 1922.

My dear Mr. Douglas:

I hasten to acknowledge receipt of the documents that you sent me in order that you may have no anxiety about their having reached me safely and to thank you for them.

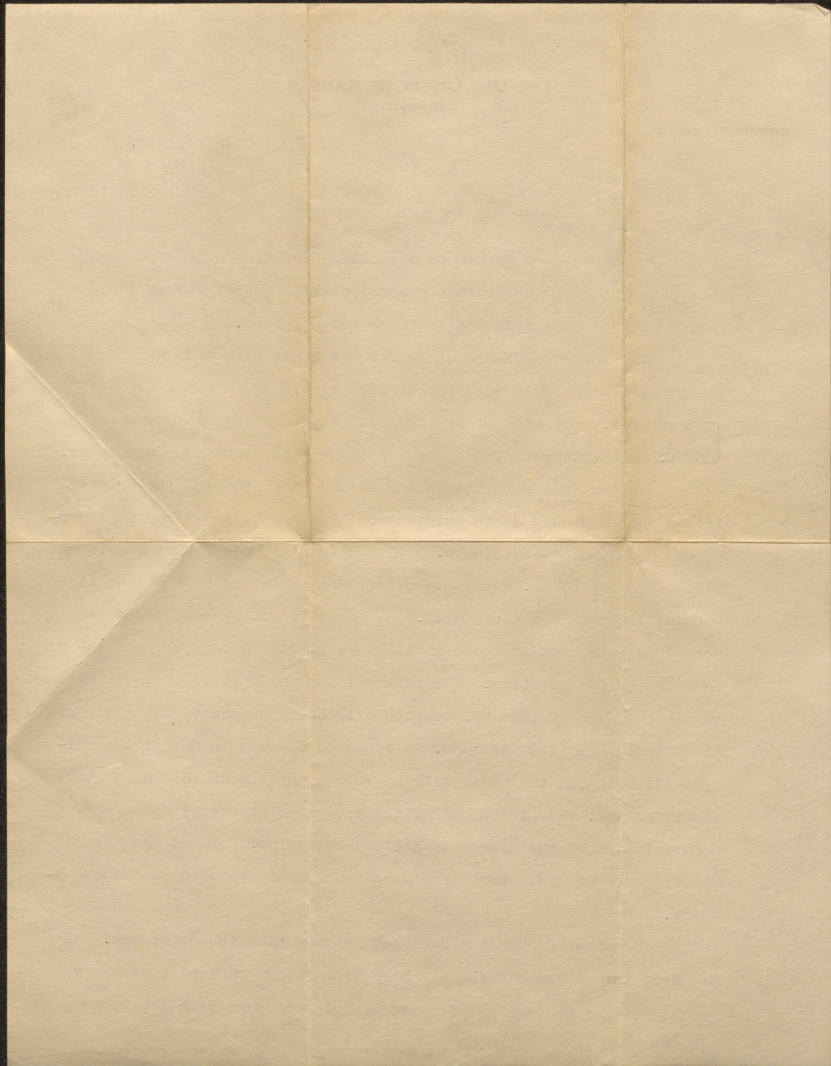
The photographs are as good as we could have made here and I think quite as good as such photographs ever. I am extremely glad to have them. Hart's letter will not be printed for nearly three months. I will send you a copy of it when I return your documents.

So far as I know there is only one other copy of the printed letter that you send me in existence. Some years ago I saw it advertised in a New York catalogue. I immediately wrote for it but it had been picked up by Mr. Henry R. Wagner who was in New York at the time but now lives in Berkeley, Calif. I wrote to Mr. Wagner and he was good enough to lend it to me and allow me to make a copy, which I intend to publish sometime. I regard it as the most important link in the chain of proof that Mr. Douglas originally projected the whole ~~xxx~~ plan for the Pacific Railroad. There is no copy in any of the Chicago libraries, in the State library in Springfield or in the Washington libraries: the Library of Congress, of the Interstate Commerce Commission or of the Bureau of Railway Economics. These are the places where it would most likely be found, if it were to be found anywhere.

The other document I have not yet had time to go through. I may keep the papers a week as I have some things on hand that are very pressing. If you had use for extra copies of my speech I will be glad to send them to you.

Sincerely  
F. H. Johnson







THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

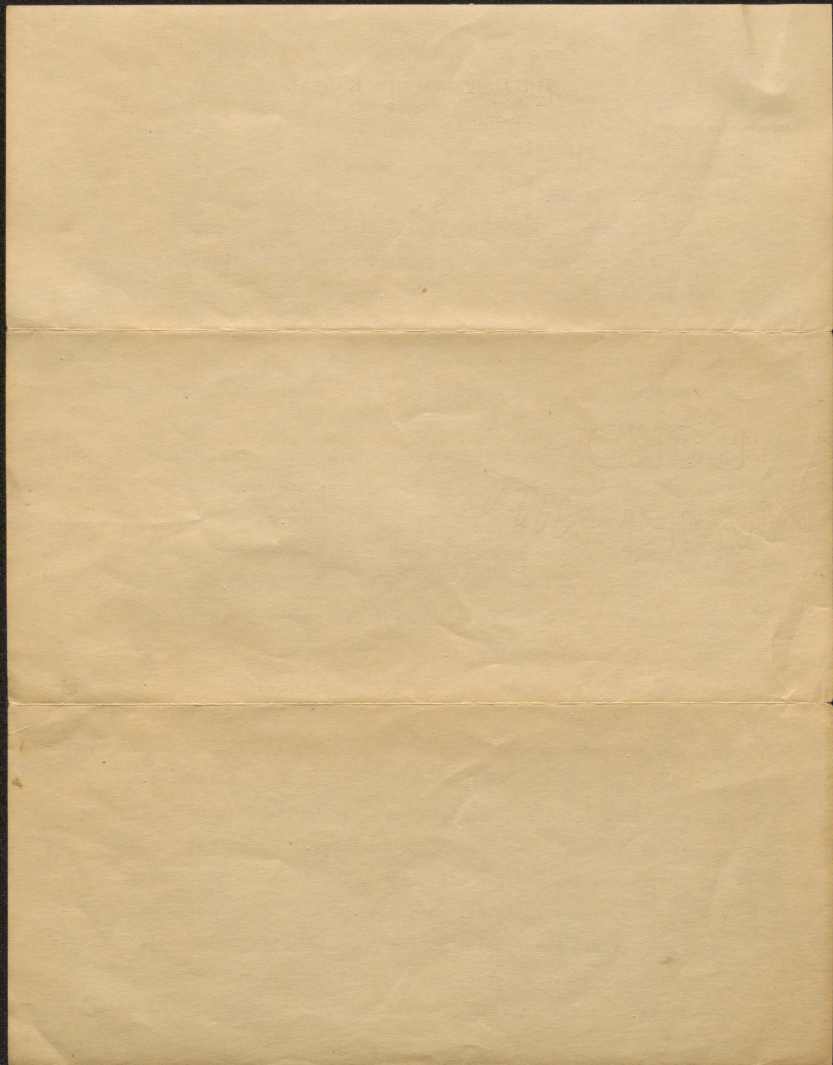
October 29, 1922.

My dear Mr. Douglas:

I have not been very well which is the reason that I have been so long in returning your papers. They are all enclosed and I thank you for having let me see them.

I enclose a copy of the note that A.B. Hart sent to the Mississippi Valley Historical Review, which will appear in the December issue. I contented myself with a brief rejoinder stating that the papers were in your hands and summarizing the memorandum for settlement of the suit. Now, however, he has come back with a letter from Rhodes stating that he has no knowledge of the suit or settlement. I now intend to print the memorandum in full if it can be done. The number is already in type and I am not sure that so much of a change can be made in proof.

I do not know what to make of Rhodes's denial. I cannot think that he would lie about it and on the other hand it seems impossible that he can have forgotten it. I am puzzled by the handwriting of the memorandum and would be glad to know what you make of it. Perhaps you can judge better with the original before you than I can from the photograph. Besides you are more accustomed to scrutinizing handwriting than I am and your opinion would be worth more than mine. It looks to me as if the memorandum were all in one hand including the signature of Rhodes and Wilson, the attorney. Altho the signature of Rhodes looks somewhat like his handwriting, I am inclined to think that the whole document is in Wilson's hand. I cannot understand ~~xxxxxx~~ why <sup>1</sup>Wilson should have signed Rhodes's name unless it be that this document is a copy of an agreement that had been entered into and filed somewhere. It has also occurred to me that this memorandum *was*





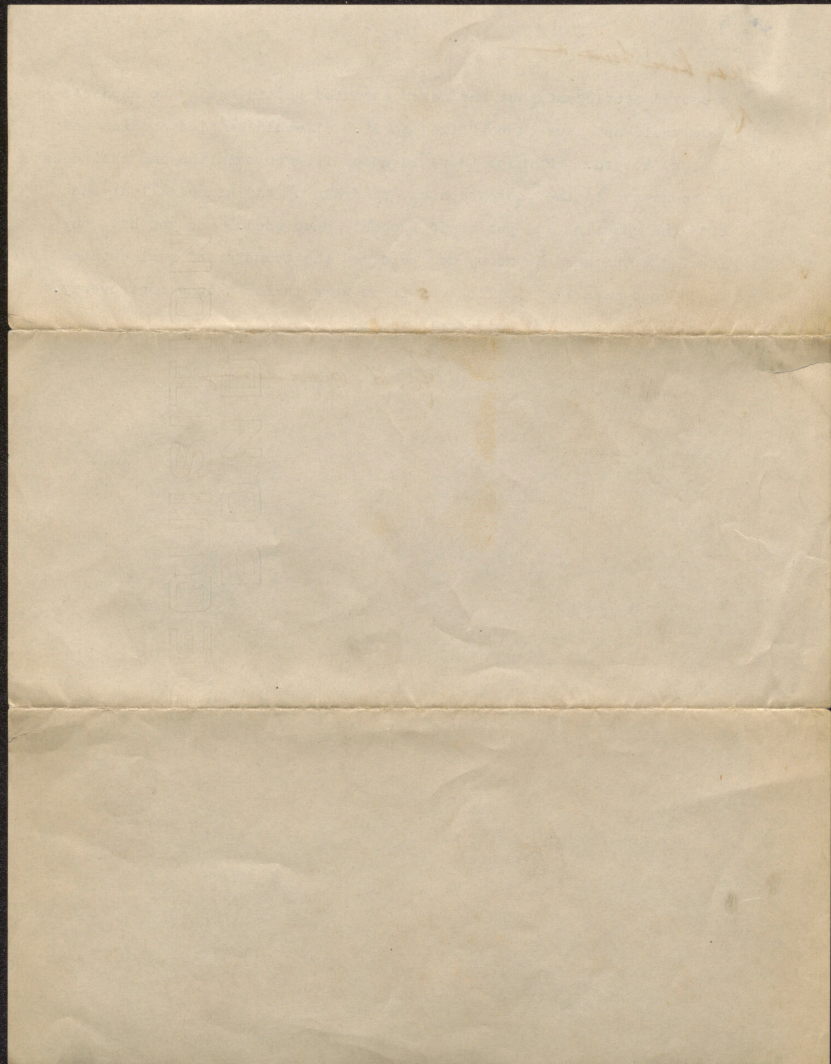
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1 proposed settlement that was never executed but in that case Rhodes's name would not have been affixed to it. I would be glad to know how appears to you. Perhaps there is some difference in the ink that does not come out in the photograph but if drawn up and signed all at one time the same ink and pen would probably have used. Do you have any knowledge whether the money was paid and the transfer of real estate in Chicago made? It looks as if we were in for a long controversy.

Most sincerely yours,

*H. D. Dodder*





6 November 1932.

Mr. E.E.Hodder,  
University of Kansas,  
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Hodder,

In answer to your letter of October 25th, I will say that I too am mystified at the present attitude of Mr. Rhodes. His plan of solo contumacy, however, shifts the burden of proof upon me. I am not familiar with the signatures of any of the parties to the Memorandum of Agreement, so cannot assert in whose hand the writing is. It appears to me that the Rhodes signature is in lighter ink, and the letters distinctly loosed from the rest of the document. Of course Rhodes handwriting will be different in 1926 and what is it in 1932. The writing on the back is in my father's hand.

I was born in 1886, so I have no personal knowledge of the transactions. My father told me that he bottled the suit against Rhodes, and my mother, who is still living, but whose memory is bad, tells me that that suit was originally started against L.E.Rhodes; and she remembers distinctly that a few hours before my father was to take a train to Chicago to try the suit he received a telegram that L.E. Rhodes had died, and put off the trip. She says that the suit was discontinued, but she does not remember what the terms of settlement were. This is about the extent of my knowledge concerning the suit. However, if Rhodes' lapse of memory continues, and you deem it advisable, I will be glad to have an investigation made in Chicago and go there myself if necessary. I am confident that we can gather enough evidence to blow Rhodes out of the water.



Mr. Hodder ??

It may perhaps seem strange to you that there should be so little definite information in our family concerning an event of this personal importance. But my father raised me with the idea that my face should be turned toward the future, and it was not until I went to College that I realized that my grandfather was a figure of national importance. A number of southern families have gone to seed through an almost Chinese ancestor worship, and my father steered in an opposite direction to avoid this result in his own family. My mother tells me that her life seemed to be one long continued wait after another, and she doesn't like to think about it. There was the Rhodes wait that was compromised, the Chicago University wait that was lost; and the Cotton Claim wait wherein my father and his brother recovered fifty thousand dollars from the Government for cotton of Mrs. Stephen A. Douglas used by the Government in the Civil War. In addition to these there were numerous smaller waits involved in the settlement of my father's mother's estate here in North Carolina. The Confederate Congress passed a bill forfeiting the Douglas property on account of their being alien enemies; so my father's property was regarded as "in esse naturee" by many of the neighbors.

I herewith enclose the original of the Rhodes Agreement; also two signatures of Rhodes which appear to me to be the same as on the Agreement. Please keep them safely and return them when you are through with them. I also enclose a clipping from our local paper about another matter. If you have two extra copies of the "Eviler" containing your article, I would be glad to give them to the history professors of our State College.

Sincerely yours,  
Martin F. Douglas.



THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

November 10, 1922.

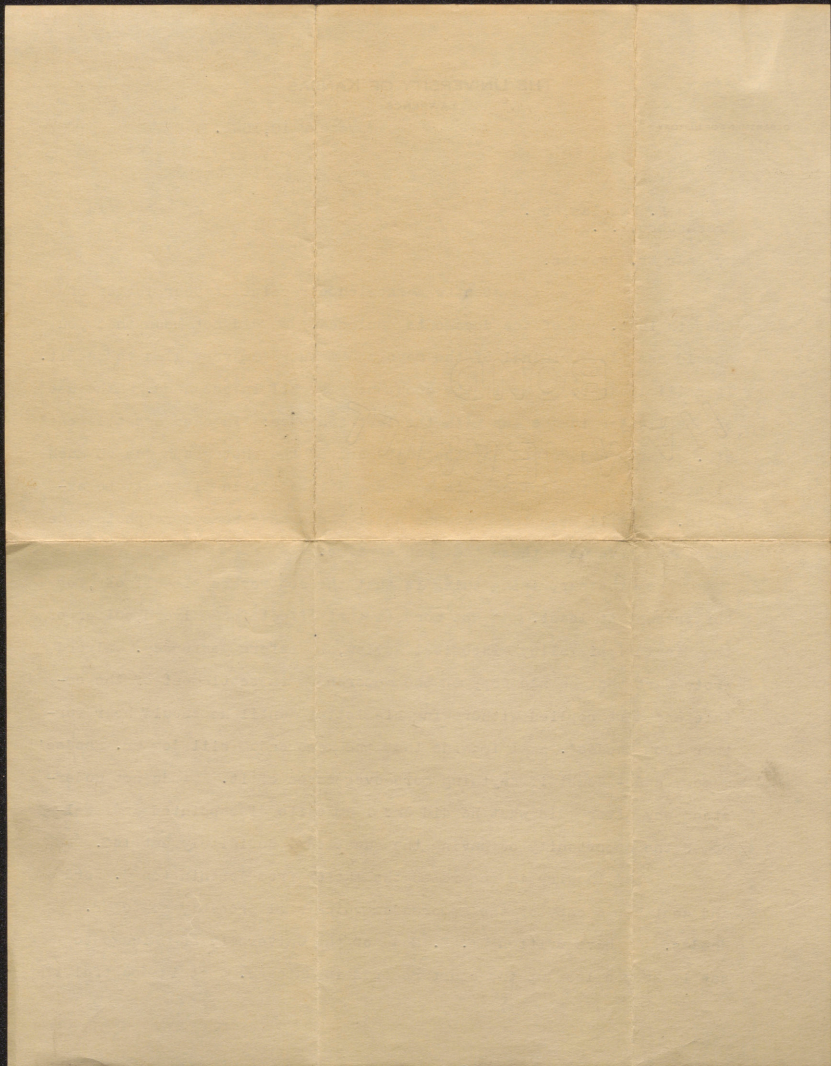
Martin F. Douglas, Esq.  
Greensboro, N.C.

My dear Mr. Douglas:

I hasten to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 6th inst. and of the documents enclosed. I did not mean that you should send the original of the memorandum but I am very glad to see it. It still looks to me as if the document were all in one hand. The use of the lighter ink begins with the last sentence: "In case a settlement" etc. I now understand why the last part of the photograph was so much fainter. How the ink came to be changed is a little difficult to explain. I will keep the document until I can have some more photostats made as I have used those that you sent me.

Now the surprising thing is that the controversy is all off, for the present at least. I got word to that effect from Alvord, editor of the Mississippi Valley Historical Review, day before yesterday. Alvord wrote Hart that he had copy of the memorandum in settlement of the estate and Hart replied withdrawing his letter "until he should hear further from Rhodes". I imagine that the memorandum will jog Mr. Rhodes' memory and I doubt if anything more ever comes of it. I do not understand why Alvord did what he did and I am quite dissatisfied as I welcomed the opportunity of having the question definitely settled.

I had inquiry in regard to the matter from Worthington C. Ford and sent him a copy of the memorandum which will probably go to Mr. Rhodes. I have written Wm. E. Dodd of the University of Chicago to see if he can look up the court records in Chicago. It is doubtful if





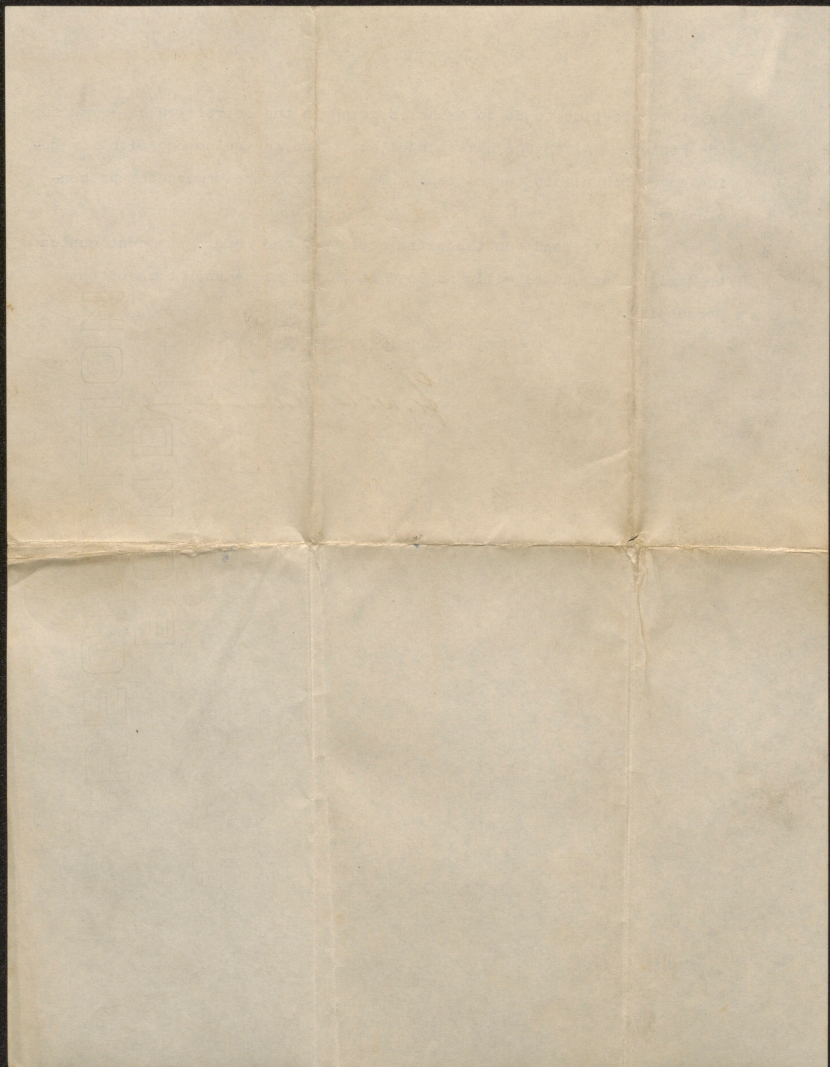
he will have time to do so as he is going to the University of Texas for the winter. As things have turned out there may be no occasion for going any further into the matter. Dodd regards the memorandum as conclusive.

Glad to send you the extra copies of the paper. I sent copies to Hamilton at Chapel Hill and Boyd at Durham as I know both of them personally.

Very sincerely yours,

*J. W. Dodson*





UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LAWRENCE

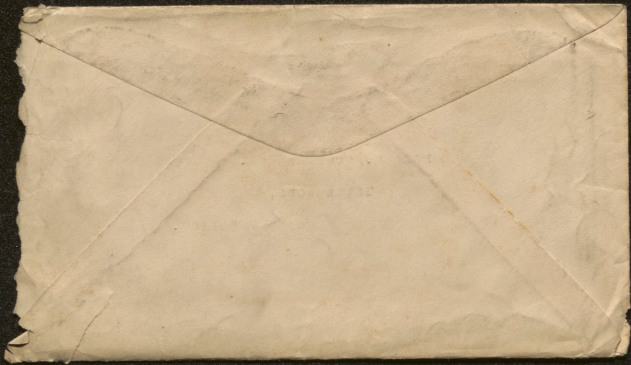
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY



Martin F. Douglas Esq.

Greensboro,

North Carolina.





22 Nov. 1922.

Mr. F.H.Hodder,  
Lawrence, Kansas,

Dear Mr. Hodder,

Your letter received, also the copies of your ~~present~~ speech for which I thank you. I agree with you that the tactics of Mr. Hart are somewhat puzzling. He seems to have usurped the prerogatives of the French king who "marched right up the hill, and marched right down again." Whether he should be permitted to "get away" with this kind of an attack, I leave entirely to your discretion. I don't suppose it would be much of a contribution to History either way, whether we proved or failed to prove that the younger Rhodes was forced to disgorge part of the Douglas estate which the elder Rhodes swallowed.

Following your letter apprising me of the fact that Mr. Rhodes denied any knowledge of any suit or compromise, I made a search among some old boxes where were stored my Father's papers. The papers were in a very disordered condition. However, I found some papers which might throw some light on the matter. I enclose a copy of the inventory of the estate. The figures in black seem to be the executor's valuation, and the figures in red the valuation of a Chicago firm. I enclose a copy of answer in case of Harris vs. Douglas, which sets forth some aspects of the controversy, and which shows that Stephen A. Douglas was indebted to his two sons in the sum of about three hundred thousand dollars for money received from their mother for which they held his notes. I enclose power of attorney from my Father to John P. Wilson of Chicago. This paper mentions the suits in the Courts of Illinois between E.M. and S.A. Douglas, jr and Rhodes, executor. You will notice this paper seems to be the original, and not a copy. I also enclose paper

Mr. Hodder #2

endorsed Williams vs. Rhodes; and Douglas vs. Rhodes. This merely discloses evidence that there were a number of suits to recover the property which Rhodes had permitted to be sold under mortgage, and alleging that Rhodes and Dobbins were in a conspiracy to get the property. I enclose memorandum of proof in same case. I enclose abstract of title which on page 40 sets forth the petition of the executor to sell the real estate. You will observe that it states that the petition of the executor alleged that the deficiency of personal property to pay debts amounted to only \$4,025.64. If any reasonable person would turn from that statement and inspect the inventory and see the amount of property sold to pay four thousand dollars, he would need no further proof of fraud or insanity.

However, as I said, these matters are not of much historical importance, and it is not a source of any pride to me to proclaim to the public that my family has been cheated by relatives. So I would suggest, that if Rhodes and Hart wish to retract their denial of your statement, it might be well to let them withdraw in peace.

I enclose letter from C. Beckwith to my father relating to compromise with Inglehart. I infer from this that some compromise was made with Inglehart similar to the one with F.F. Rhodes. I wonder if he is the man who wrote the book on the Douglas Estate?

Please examine these documents and return them, together with the other papers previously sent you, at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Martin F. Douglas.



THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

December 1, 1922.

Mr. Martin F. Douglas,  
Greensboro, N.C.

My dear Mr. Douglas:

I want to thank you for sending the documents relating to the Douglas Estate some days ago. I have felt at liberty to postpone writing since the post office returned a receipt card which I knew would relieve you of any anxiety as to their safety. I have not had a chance to go through them until this morning and I have just checked up the seven pieces listed in your letter. I am putting them one side for more careful examination during my holiday vacation. I will return them and the other documents I have at the end of the first week in January. I do not want to return them in the neighborhood of Christmas or New Year's as the mails are so heavily loaded at that time that might be some danger of loss. I may not be able to go thru them carefully until the 16th and I do not want to risk returning them as near Christmas as that.

The Iglehart mentioned is undoubtedly the author of the book. He was a real estate man who had a contract with Mrs. Adele Douglas to sell the Chicago property for half the proceeds which Rhodes bluffed him out of. I am not sure that the transaction did not ruin him financially as he had invested a good deal in promoting the sale. There is a story that someone connected with the estate committed suicide at the base of the monument and it may have been Iglehart.

I am sorry that things have taken the turn they have. If Alvord had not notified Hart that he had the memorandum, then we would have published it and the main point would have been settled for all time. I



HAMMERMILL  
BOND

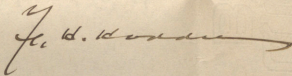
AMERICAN  
BOND

do not know why Alvord did this unless it be that he felt under obligation to submit my reply to ~~Hart~~ as he had submitted Hart's letter to me. I cannot see that the obligation existed but he may have felt differently about it. It is almost impossible to get a letter out of him so I do not know from him why he did it. I do not now think that anything more will come of it. I think that the memorandum will revive Mr. Rhodes's memory and the matter will be dropped. The only objection to this is that at some future time some one may raise the issue and make the claim that no proof of the statement was furnished. It will not be necessary to decide what to do until we see what happens.

I am returning the clipping in regard to the dedication of the tablet to Governor Martin as you may want to file it.

Thanking you again for all your trouble, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. D. Hanson", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.





THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

December 9, 1922.

My dear Mr. Douglas:

The very day that I wrote you last, as it happened, the reostad man called and said he was going to run off the some work. I therefore took the "Memorandum of settlement" down and had him run off some additional copies. There is therefore no point in my retaining it any longer and am therefore returning it herewith. ~~as~~ I thought that you would feel more comfortable to know that it was back in your possession and I knew that I would be mor comfortable to know that it was there Christmas is not yet near enough to fear congestion in the mails and, as I expect to get to town today, I can get it registered. Again I want to thank you for having let me have it. There is always something that you can get from an original document that you do not from the copy, no matter how good it may be. My notion is that in writing the last sentence of the memorandum the wrtier picked up a pen that flowed less freely that the one he had been using. You will notice that the writing of the first part of the document shows through and the last sentence does not.

Very sincerely yours,

*J. H. Hodder*

Martin F. Douglas Esq.  
Greensboro, N.C.

*These letters also enclosed*

HAMMILL



THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS  
LAWRENCE

April 5, 1923.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

My dear Mr. Douglas:

I am greatly disturbed by my not having written you about the documents. The doctor has been working on my eyes all the year and I have been almost totally unable to use them. I have given my lectures but could not put any strain on my eyes. I have had cataracts in both. I had the lens removed from the left one three years ago and this year he has been working on the right one by a gradual process. I went into the hospital for the final operation two weeks ago and just returned when your letter came. I expect very soon to be able to use them again and just as soon as I do will look over the papers and return them.

I know nothing about the Washington property but assume that it went to Douglas's widow. Rhodes evidently took care of the Cutts family as J. Madison Cutts dedicated his book to Daniel F. Rhodes the "faithful executor". I understand that the house burned with all your grandfather's papers. There has not been a word from Hart or Rhodes or anybody else. Suppose Rhodes to be still in Europe but do not know.

Did not know of the Masters' book but looked it up this afternoon. Do not expect to like it as I do not approve of that sort of thing but if it contributes in any degree toward restoring Douglas to his rightful place in history, I shall be glad. There is a defense of Douglas in the last number of the Proceedings of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association by W.O. Lynch, professor in Indiana University at Bloomington. I do not think that his reference to me is quite fair but there are some good things in the article.



THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ANN ARBOR, MICH.

1900

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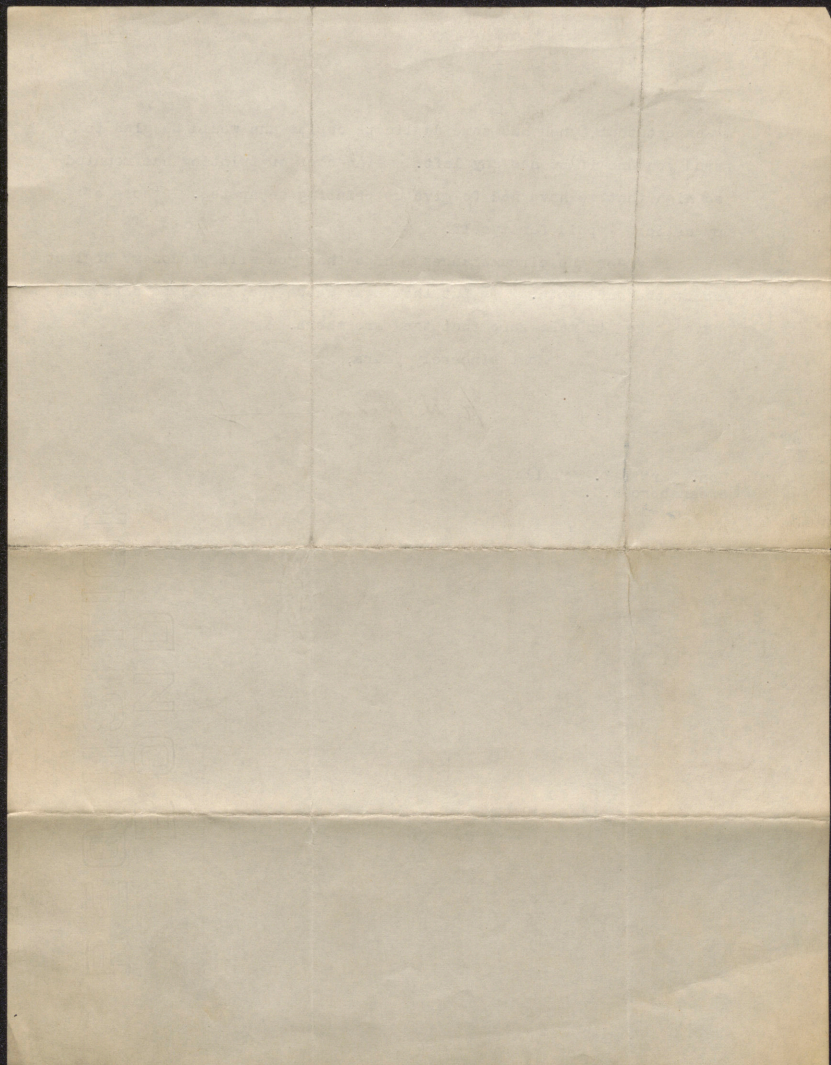
I expect that Lynch has some duplicate copies and would be glad to send you one if he has any left. The cost of printing has mounted so high that we have had to give up printing separates. Those of my article I paid for myself.

Under the circumstances, I hope that you will pardon my neglect about the documents. I put them away where they would be safe and have looked to make sure that they are there.

Most sincerely yours,

*J. H. Hodges*

Hon. Martin F. Douglas  
Greensboro, N.C.





ATTORNEY AT LAW  
GREENSBORO, N. C.



*Very important  
Not to lose*

Dr. F. H. Hodder,  
~~Department of History,~~  
~~University of Kansas,~~  
~~Lawrence, Kansas.~~

*Camp Holton  
Naples, Maine*



Lawrence, Kansas  
1115 Louisiana  
10 January, 1936

Mr. Martin F. Douglas  
Greensboro, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Douglas:

You may and you may not have heard of Mr. Hodder's death. He had been suffering for a week from what seemed to be a bronchial cough but on Sunday, the twenty-second, made reservation for the trip to Chattanooga, to attend the Holiday meeting there of the American Historical Association. On Tuesday he became seriously ill, his heart was affected, he was taken to a hospital Christmas morning and died early Friday morning, the twenty-seventh. His body was taken to Kansas City that afternoon for cremation, a memorial service for him was held at the University Sunday afternoon, the twenty-ninth, and if the tributes to him then are printed, as I understand they are to be, I shall send you a copy. His death came as a great shock to his family and his friends.

A few days ago I opened the case he had carried to the University the last day of teaching before the Christmas recess. In it I found a letter from you, with this clipping enclosed, in the envelope a portion of which I am enclosing, that you may see how his note upon it helped me to recognise its importance before I read the letter. I am returning the clipping to you at once, that you may not be anxious about it. And if he had in his possession any Douglas material belonging to you or of interest to you, you must know that I shall be more than glad to send it to you if I can locate it.

With kindest remembrances to Mrs. Douglas and pleasant recollections of our visit to your home in June of 1929,

I am, believe me, very sincerely

*Florence M. Hodder*



