

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Preservation Department

CONSERVATION CONDITION REPORT AND TREATMENT PROPOSAL

Date received: 6/28/2011 (by Melissa Tedone)

Date of report: 1/19/2016

Conservator: Sofia (Sonya) Barron

Call Number: MS 1

Barcode/Bib Record: -

Title: McCall Family papers

Collection: Special Collections, Manuscripts

Curator/Archivist: Laura Sullivan

Author/Creator: McCall family

Imprint/Date of creation: various

Format: flat paper

Materials: paper, iron gall ink, printing ink, other writing inks

Dimensions: various

Notes: This is a large group of manuscripts and documents which are fire-damaged and water-damaged. The items to be treated are in 9 separate folders. The folders were numbered in graphite by the conservator. These are the numbers that are specified in the conservator's condition report and treatment proposal. Any pertinent curatorial information noted on the folders is included in the parenthesis in the conservator's report and proposal.

CONDITION REPORT

Description

FOLDER 1: 1 document, "Dear Mother, Jan. 13th 1869 (?) from John A. McCall", split into 2 fragments. Heavy cream laid paper with eagle and shield watermark. Folded into thirds as to fit an envelope. Brown writing ink. Ink smear on verso.

FOLDER 2 [Business Records]: Fragment of business records/leaf from account book, "'Fred McCall, Teo (?) McCollister, Oats" signed "M.M. Mason". On recto: Red printing ink, black writing ink, graphite. On verso: purple stamping ink.

FOLDER 3 [7/17]: Civil War 32nd Iowa Infantry Requisitions for Stationary. Folded in half horizontally. Black printing ink, brown writing ink, graphite and red writing ink notations on verso. White wove paper. "Abstract of Stationary" list is written in brown ink on blue machine-made, lined paper. Blue and red printed ink ledger lines. Inscription in red writing ink. This is a folio that had been folded in thirds.

FOLDER 4 [Mary A.B. McCall correspondence]: 9 manuscripts. First two are stapled together. Both laid and wove papers present; watermarks and papermaker's marks present on some. Black and brown writing inks. Green and red wax seal residue on one manuscript.

FOLDER 5: 3 manuscripts

Doc. 1) "I was held in the Court...", brown writing ink on white wove paper, folded in thirds.

Doc. 2) "Mr. Fred McCall Nov. 7th", brown writing ink on cream tablet paper lined in green, folded in thirds.

Doc. 3) to "Mr. Fred McCall, Dec. 27, 1904" signed "Martin Andersen", graphite on dark cream tablet paper lined in blue, folded in thirds.

FOLDER 6: 3 documents.

Doc.1) "Office of T.A. Wilcox" brown printing ink, blue typewriter ink (black ink faded/discolored to blue), black writing ink; cream machine-made paper.

Doc. 2) "Dear sister, April 24, 1866" signed "Rene Whipple", Dark brown writing ink on cream green-lined machine-made paper.

Doc. 3) "Marion Iowa, Jan. 16" signed "Uncle Quincy", Brown writing ink on folded folio of green-lined white wove paper

FOLDER 7: "p. 2 I have ordered sent to Mrs. McCall's address", Brown writing ink, green-lined white wove paper.

FOLDER 8: "Are these tidings", Manuscript in brown ink on dark cream wove paper. Writing on recto only.

FOLDER 9 [from 6/2]: 3 documents.

Doc. 1) "State of Iowa Health Department. Order for Vaccination". Black printing ink on cream medium weight machine-made paper. Notation at the top edge in graphite. The folio had been folded into thirds, now unfolded.

Doc. 2) "Lease for Farm Property. Indenture". Machine-made medium weight cream paper; red and blue printed ink lines, black printing ink for text, black/brown writing ink. Vertical format, had been folded into 4ths with 3 horizontal folds to make a brochure. Printed and handwritten information on the verso is visible when the document is folded up.

Doc. 3) "Lease Agreement". Machine-made medium weight cream paper. Black printing ink, brown writing ink. Vertical format, folded into fourths with 3 horizontal folds. On the verso: an inscription in brown writing ink near top edge. Lines written horizontally along the long side of the paper (landscape orientation as opposed to portrait like the rest of the document).

Condition

FOLDER 1: Heavy soiling and evidence of fire damage - losses, curling, soot stains along recto left edge. Small losses and tears at recto top and right edges.

FOLDER 2: Tears and losses along edges and fold line. Red printing ink is faded and haloing. Purple ink is faint and blurry. Surface soiling and stains on recto edges and verso overall, especially at fold line.

FOLDER 3: Four of the documents cannot be opened because they are adhered together due to what appears to be water damage, as evidenced by tidelines on verso. On those documents that do open, the fold creases are sharp and do not open easily.

FOLDER 4: One manuscript page has a significant tear which appears to have resulted from an attempt to open it while it was adhered together. Minor tears and losses on other manuscripts. Tidelines present on about half the manuscripts.

FOLDER 5:

Manuscript 1) charred along recto left edge; heavy soiling across top third obscures text; soiled and stained edges.

Manuscript 2) light surface soiling; tape is yellowed with adhesive creep from all edges, causing manuscripts 2 and 3 to adhere together.

Manuscript 3) adhesive residue transfer from manuscript 2), tape is slightly yellowed; surface soiling on verso top fold.

FOLDER 6:

Doc. 1) surface dirt, soot, tidelines; large V-shaped loss cut from top edge. 2 fragments of yellowed pressure sensitive tape with carrier partially detached and adhesive failing. Adhesive creep from all edges.

Doc. 2) partial tear along the center horizontal fold line; surface dirt, soot, stains on verso with bleed-through on recto.

Doc. 3) Surface dirt, tidelines.

FOLDER 7: Appears to have ink off-set from another page; significant tears along two vertical fold lines; stains of brown ink and dirt on verso with bleed-through to recto.

FOLDER 8: The manuscript is split into 2 fragments along a fold line. There are significant tears, losses and creases along all edges, obscuring the text. Tear and loss in the first line of text on the left side.

Extensive soiling, discoloration, staining and soot from fire damage. Iron gall ink strike-through.

FOLDER 9:

Doc. 1) Evidence of fire damage along top horizontal fold; small charred losses within the burnt area. On the interior of the folio there is a strip of pressure sensitive tape along the fold. The carrier and adhesive are yellowed, with creep along all edges of carrier. Tidelines and stains on verso at the top of page.

Doc. 2) Recto: soot and evidence of fire damage along left and bottom edges. Small loss at mid-point of the middle fold. Brittleness and discoloration along all folds. Verso: tidelines and stains, soot and fire damage along the folds and edges.

Doc. 3) Recto: a jagged rip near the bottom left corner, with a skinned loss in top layer of paper. Bottom corners are folded in. A loss, charring and brittle m ness along the middle fold. Tidelines, soot and stains along all edges, extending into the body of the document. Verso: strip of pressure-sensitive tape along middle fold. Adhesive appears tacky with minor creep.

TREATMENT PROPOSAL

For this collection of documents, the proposed treatment actions are as follows:

1. Surface clean all documents, where necessary, with soot sponges.
2. Humidify and flatten creases, where necessary.
3. Remove fragments of pressure-sensitive tape. Reduce adhesive residue, as possible.
4. a) In areas where iron gall ink is not present: mend tears and fill losses with tissue and wheat starch paste
b) In areas where tears and losses extend into areas with iron gall ink notations: mend tears and fill losses using pre-coated solvent-activated tissue.
5. For the documents, which cannot be opened because they are folded and adhered together: humidify adhered areas until adhesive is softened. Separate layers with Teflon spatula, as possible.

6. Documents that remain too fragile to handle after conservation repairs are completed should be placed into Mylar L-sleeves for protection.

Estimated hours: 80

Photos on file: BT

Curatorial Approval Signature: _____

Date signed: _____

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CONSERVATION TREATMENT REPORT

Date received: 6/28/2011 (by Melissa Tedone)

Date of report: 3/30/2016

Conservator: Sofia (Sonya) Barron

Call Number: MS 1

Barcode/Bib Record: -

Title: McCall Family papers

Collection: Special Collections, Manuscripts

Curator/Archivist: Laura Sullivan

Author/Creator: McCall family

Imprint/Date of creation: various

Format: flat paper

Materials: paper, iron gall ink, printing ink, other writing inks

Dimensions: various

TREATMENT REPORT

1. All documents were surface cleaned with soot sponges, with occasional use of a kneaded eraser.
2. Creases were humidified locally with a small cotton swab that was lightly moistened with ethanol, then creases were flattened with a Teflon folder.
3. Fragments of pressure-sensitive tape were removed with the aid of a heated spatula. Adhesive residue was reduced with the aid of a vinyl Mars eraser, the heated spatula, a crepe eraser and a light application of ethanol using a cotton swab.
4. a) In areas where iron gall ink was not present: tears were mended with 5g or 9g tengucho Japanese tissue and wheat starch paste.

b) In areas where tears and losses extended into areas with iron gall ink notations: tears were mended with pre-coated solvent-activated tissue. 3.5g and 5g tengucho tissue was pre-coated with a 2% solution of Klucel G in deionized water, dried and then reactivated with acetone in the fume hood.

c) Losses were filled with medium weight Japanese tissue or with two layers of 9g tengucho tissue, using wheat starch paste.
5. Of the four documents in FOLDER 3 that were adhered together, all documents were opened using a Teflon delaminating tool without humidification.

6. One of the documents in FOLDER 4 could not be delaminated and had to be washed in order to open it. The document in FOLDER 8 was washed due to the severe discoloration of the paper support and its fragility. For both documents the following treatment actions were taken:

-The ink tested positive for Fe (II+) confirming that it was iron gall ink. PEL testing papers were used.

-The ink was not observed under magnification to be soluble in water or ethanol.

-The two documents were pre-wetted with a spray application of ethanol and washed supported on a screen in pH 8.5 water, alkalized with calcium hydroxide.

-The documents were pre-dried with a spray application of ethanol, then sized with a 0.25% solution of photographic grade gelatin in warm deionized water.

-The documents were air-dried for 20 minutes on a drying screen and then pressed dry between thick blotters and Hollytex under weights.

7. Remoistenable tissue was used for the two documents that were washed. 3.5g and 5g tengucho tissue was pre-coated with a 50/50 mixture containing 4% aqueous solution of methyl cellulose and diluted wheat starch paste. The tissue was dried and then reactivated with deionized water by brushing it out on a wooden board.

8. No documents were judged too fragile to handle after conservation repairs were completed. Mylar L-sleeves were NOT used for additional support. Some of the more vulnerable repaired documents were placed into Permalife folders for extra protection within their primary folder.

Materials used:

PEL iron gall ink test papers (Preservation Equipment, Ltd)

Ethanol, acetone, calcium hydroxide (Fisher Scientific)

Machine-made tengucho 3.5g, 5g, 9g; Chochin 18g (Hiromi)

80# Permalife paper (University Products)

Klucel G, A 4M methyl cellulose (Bookmakers)

Zen Shofu wheat starch paste, photographic grade gelatin (Talas)

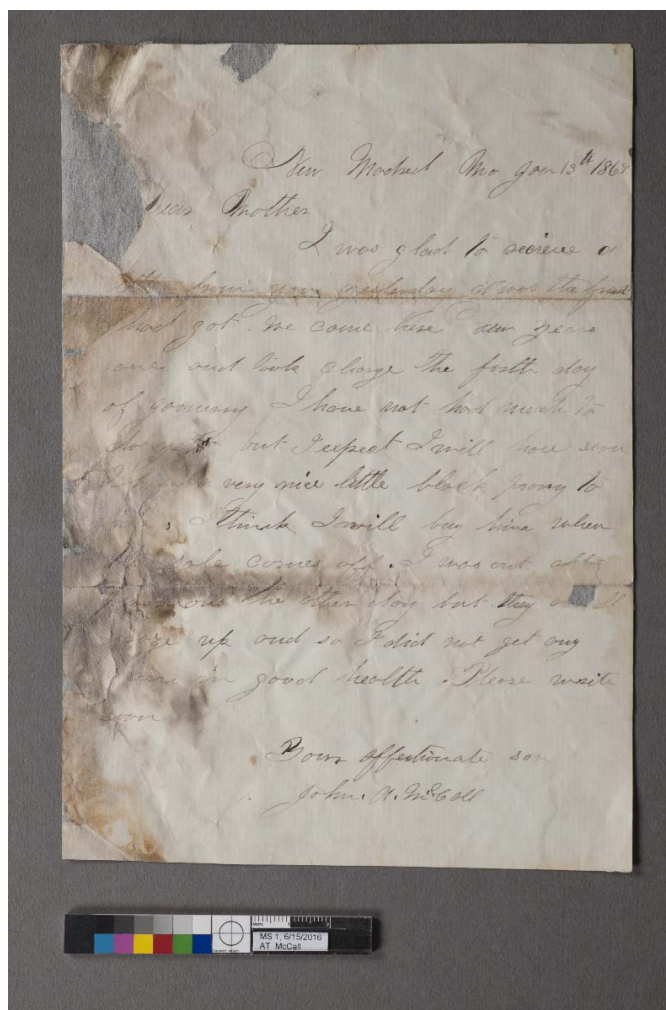
Hours spent: 60

Photos on file: BT, AT

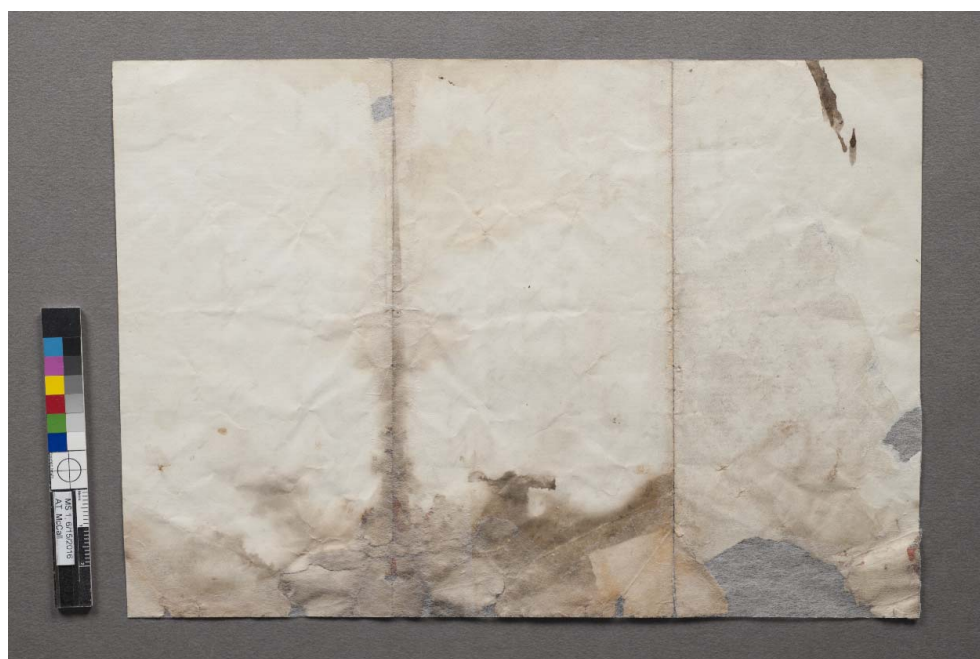
Curatorial Approval Signature: _____

Date signed: _____

Document 1, After Treatment

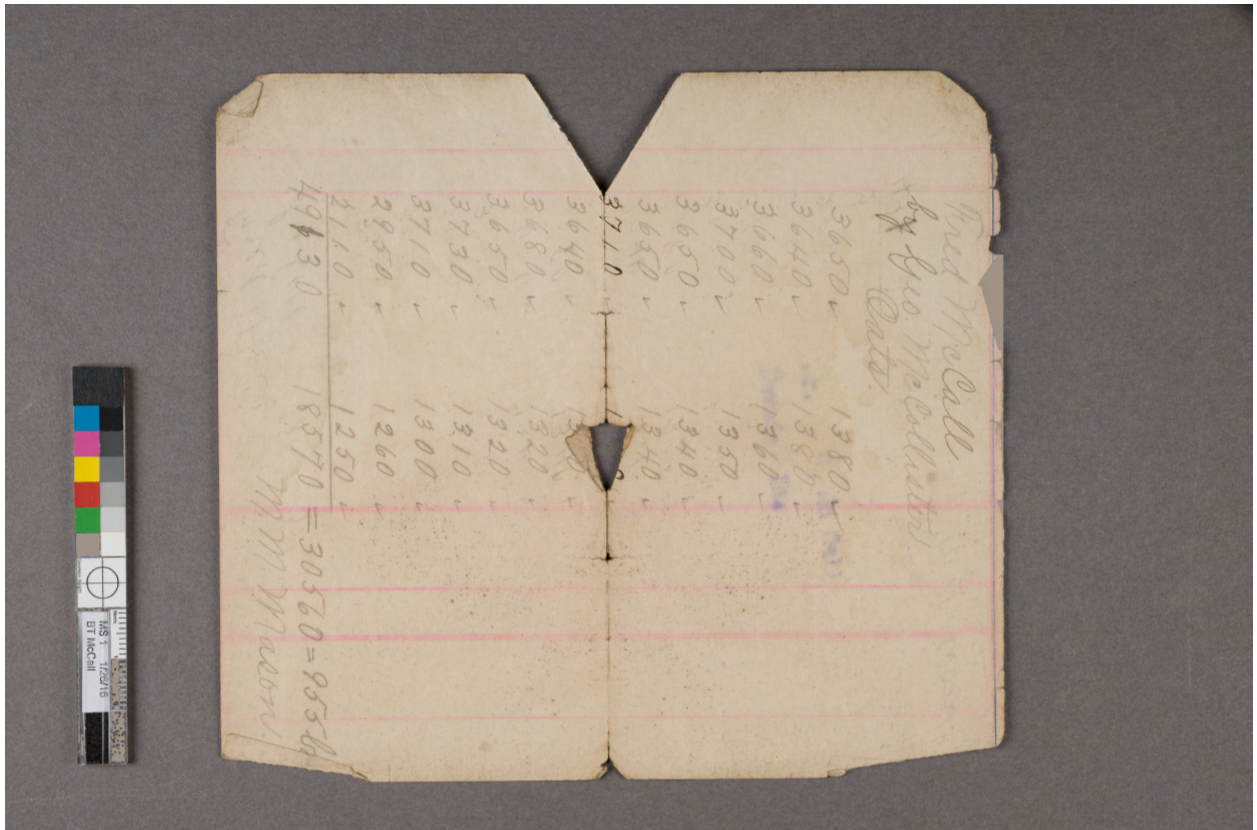


Recto

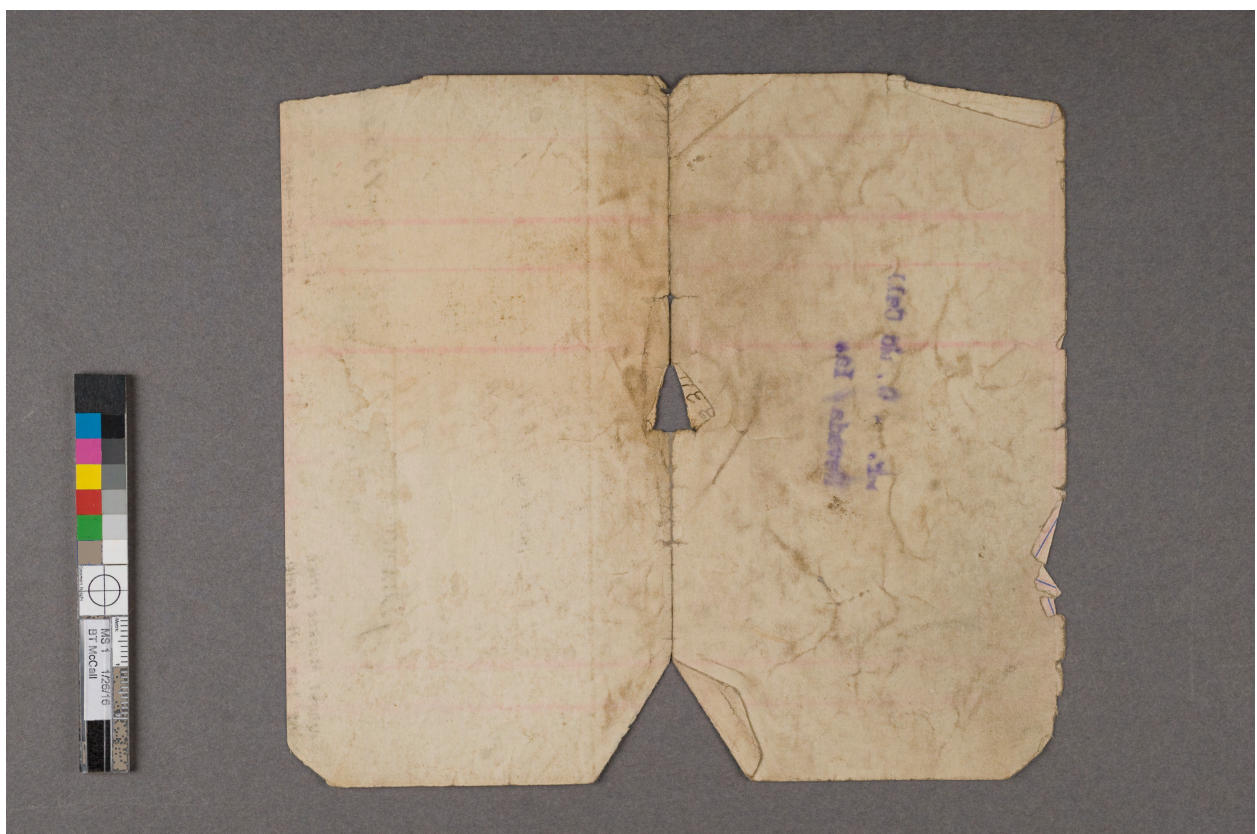


Verso

Document 2, Before Treatment

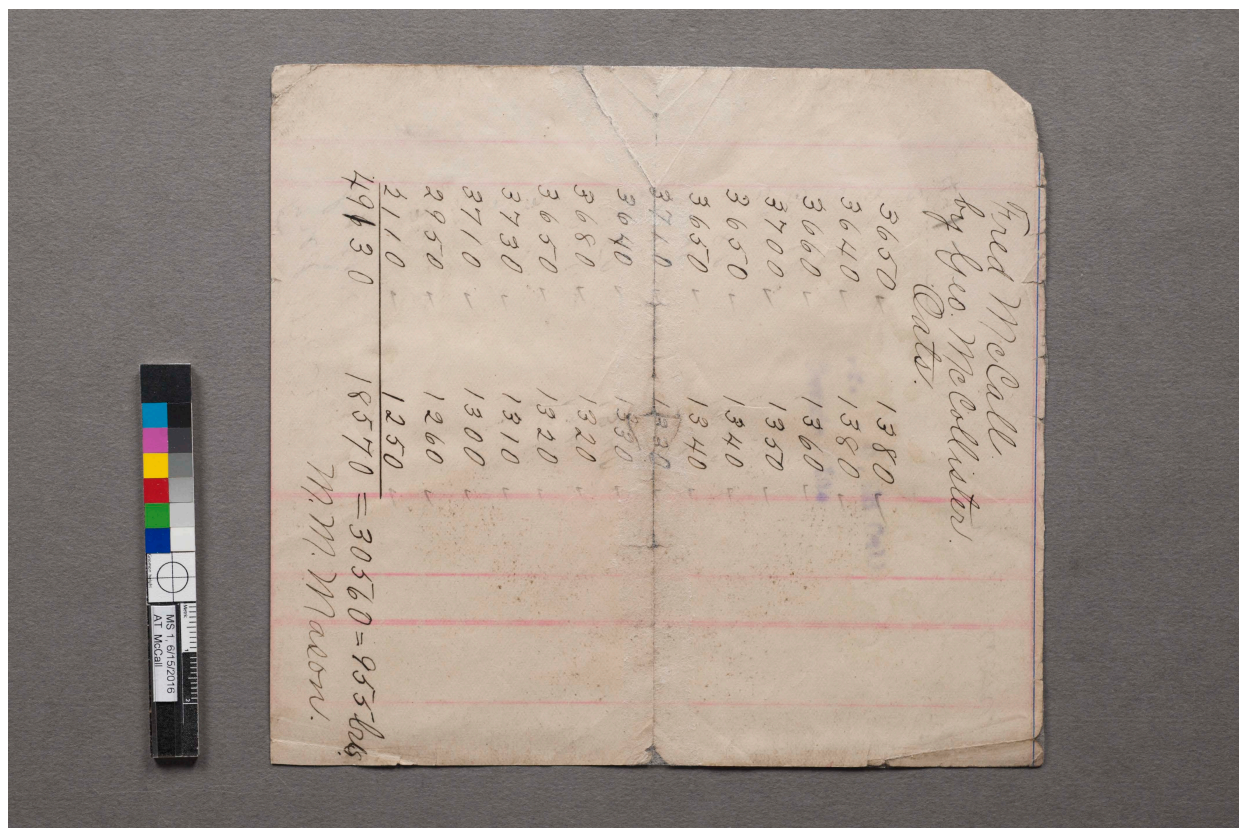


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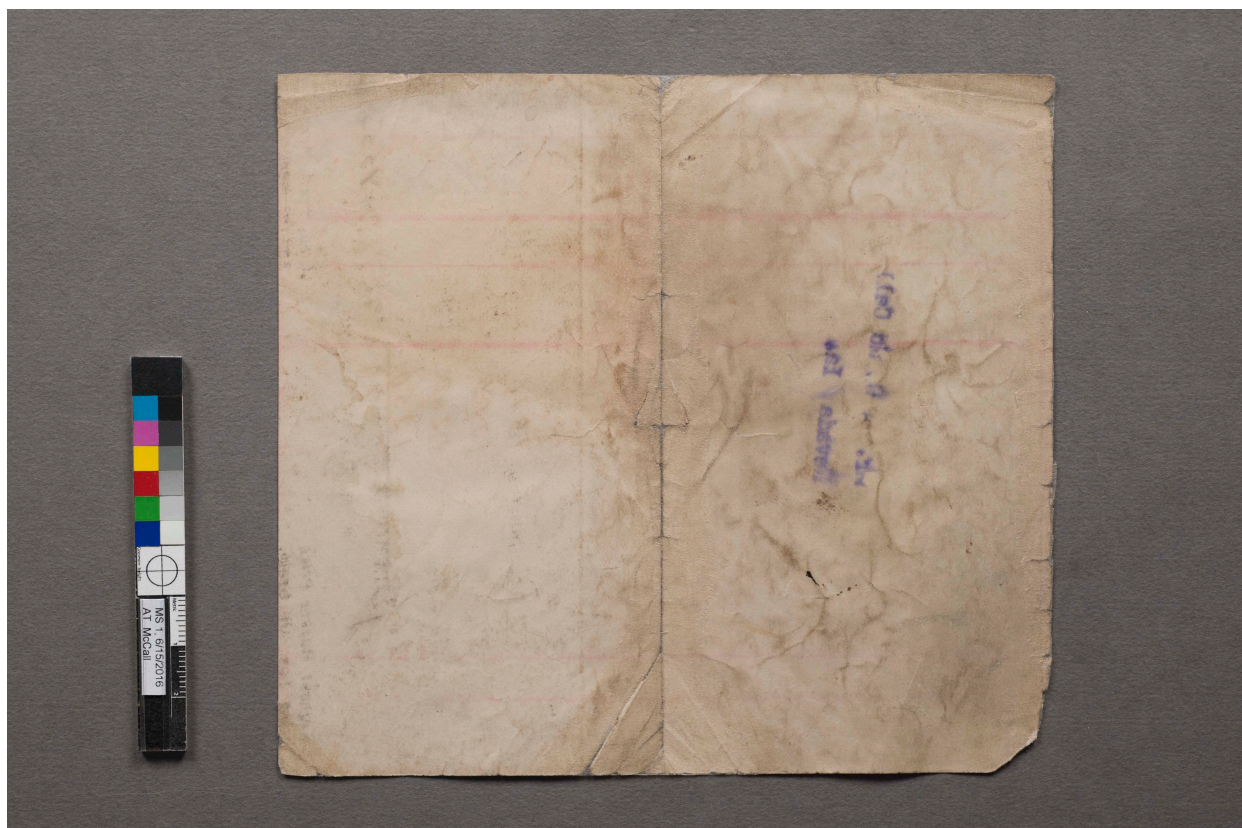


Verso

Document 2, After Treatment

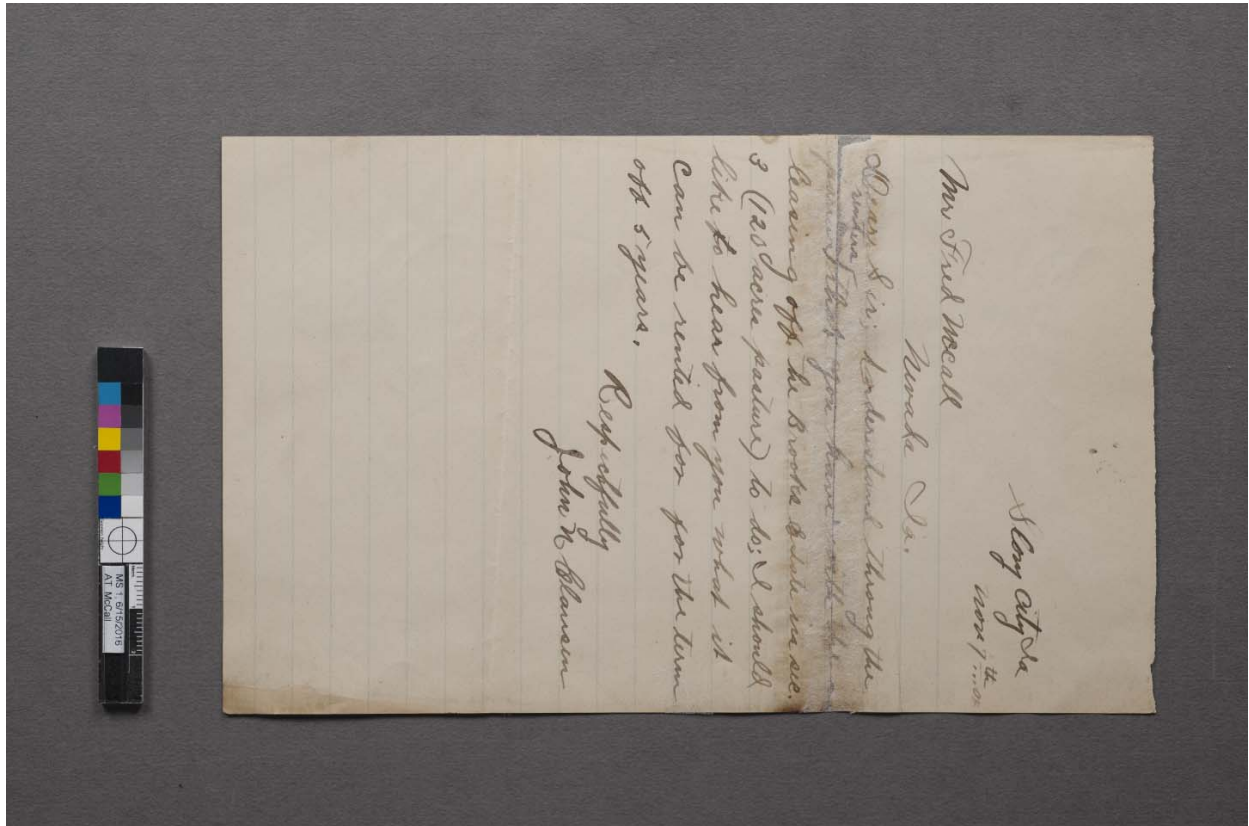


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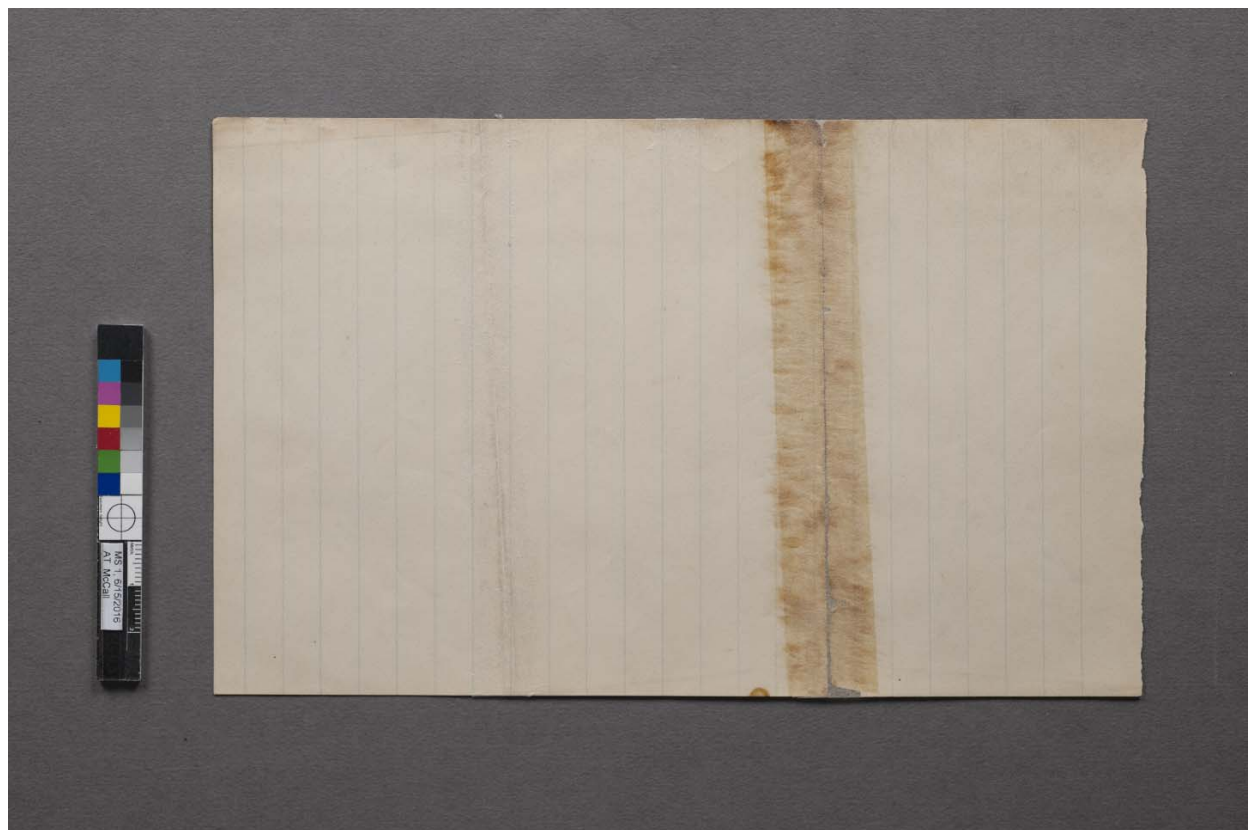


Verso

Document 7, After Treatment

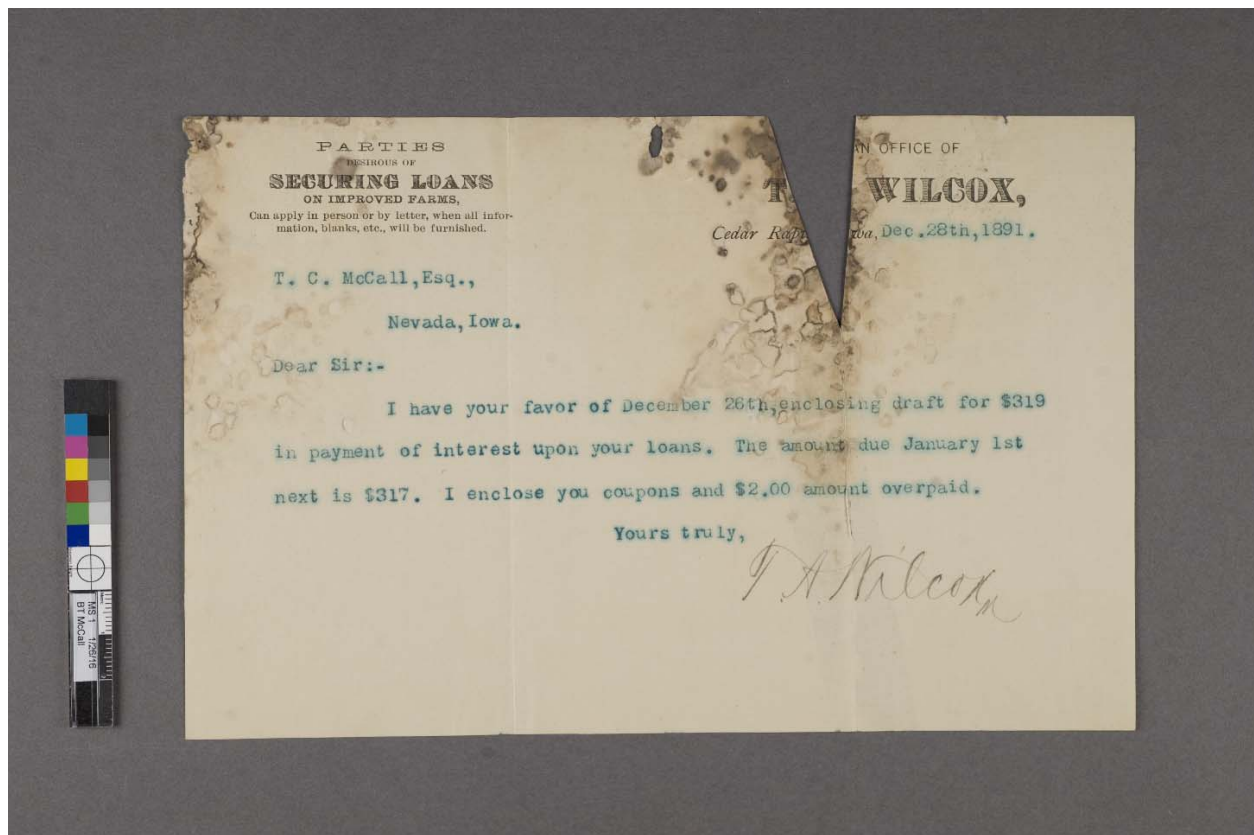


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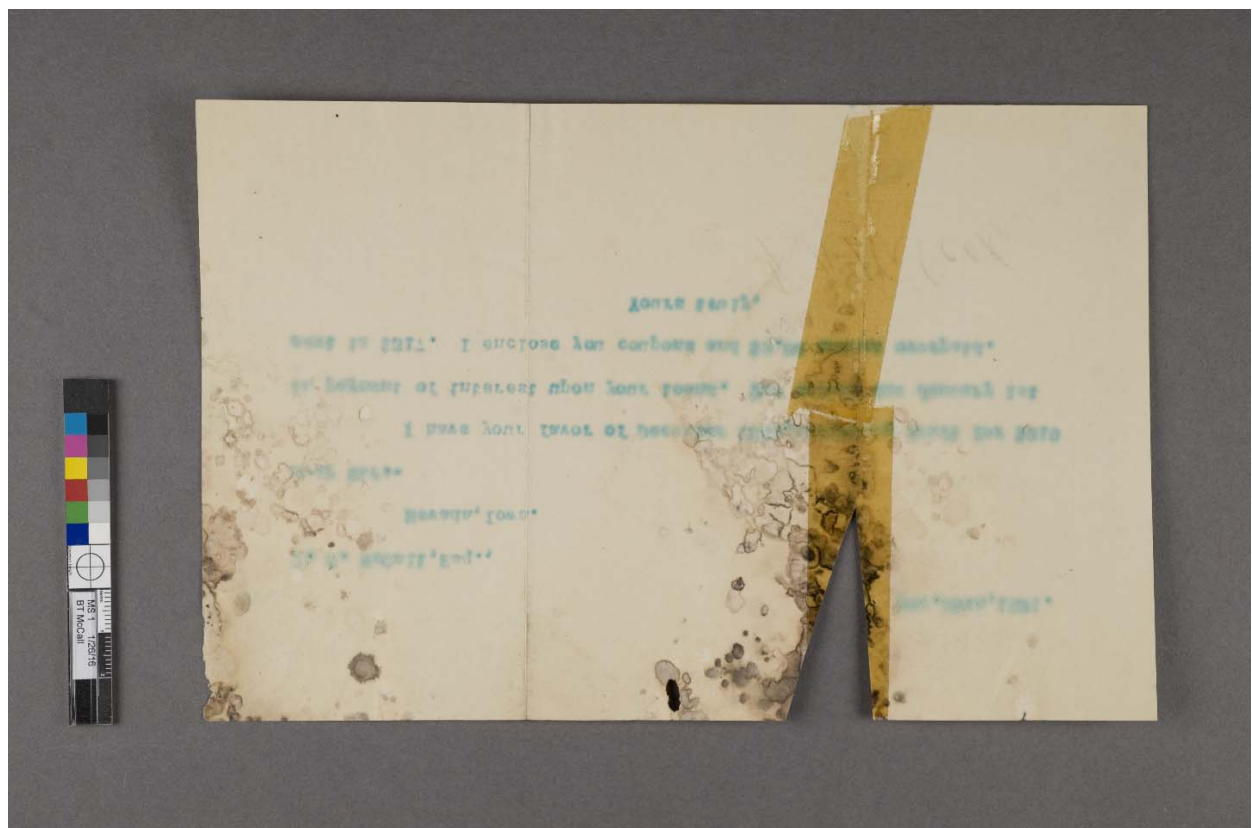


Verso

Document 8, Before Treatment

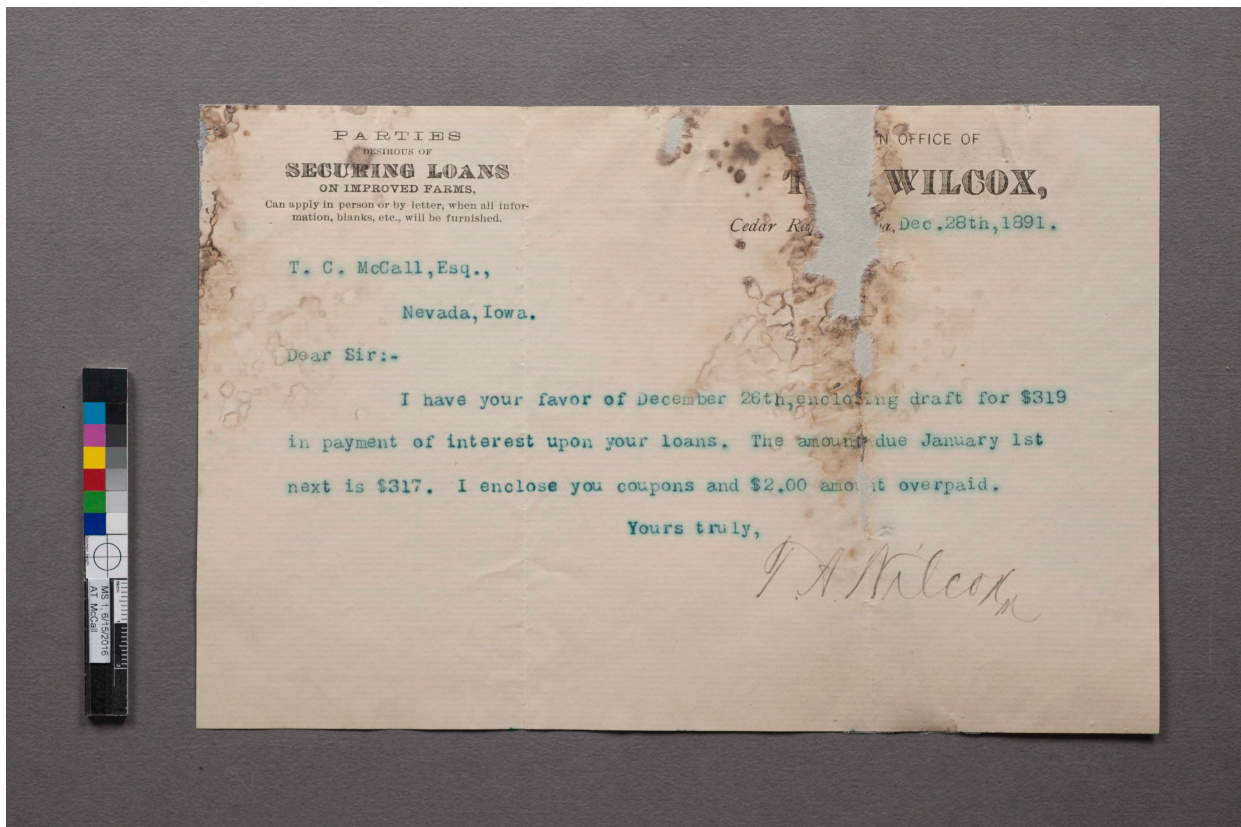


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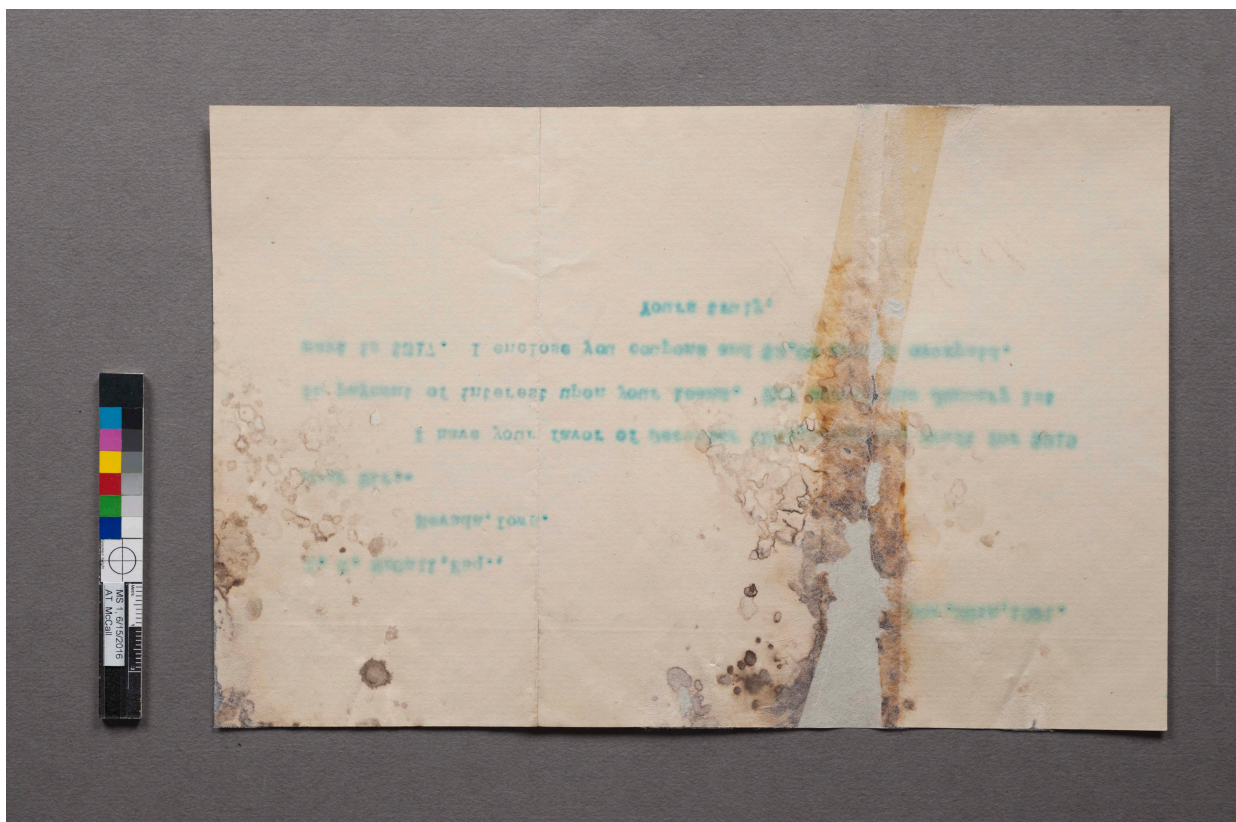


Verso

Document 8, After Treatment

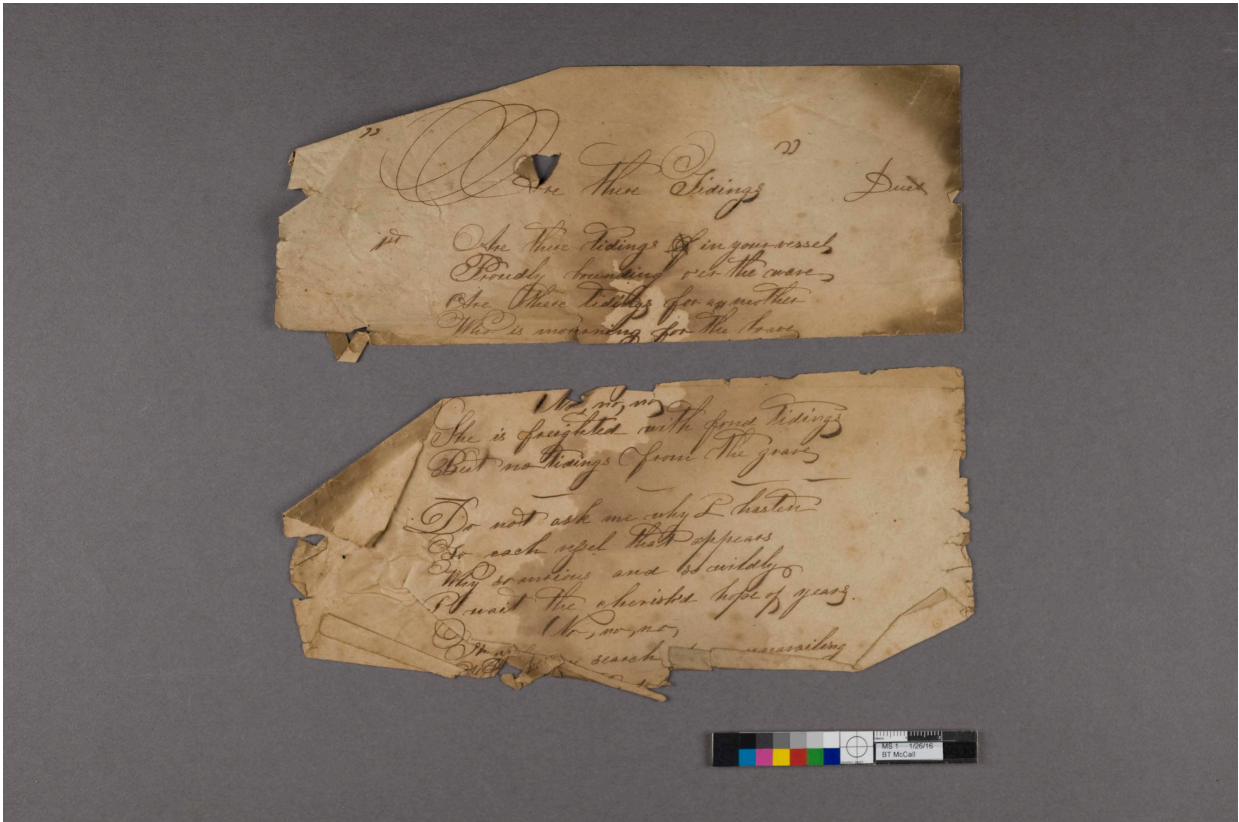


Recto



Verso

Document 10, Before Treatment

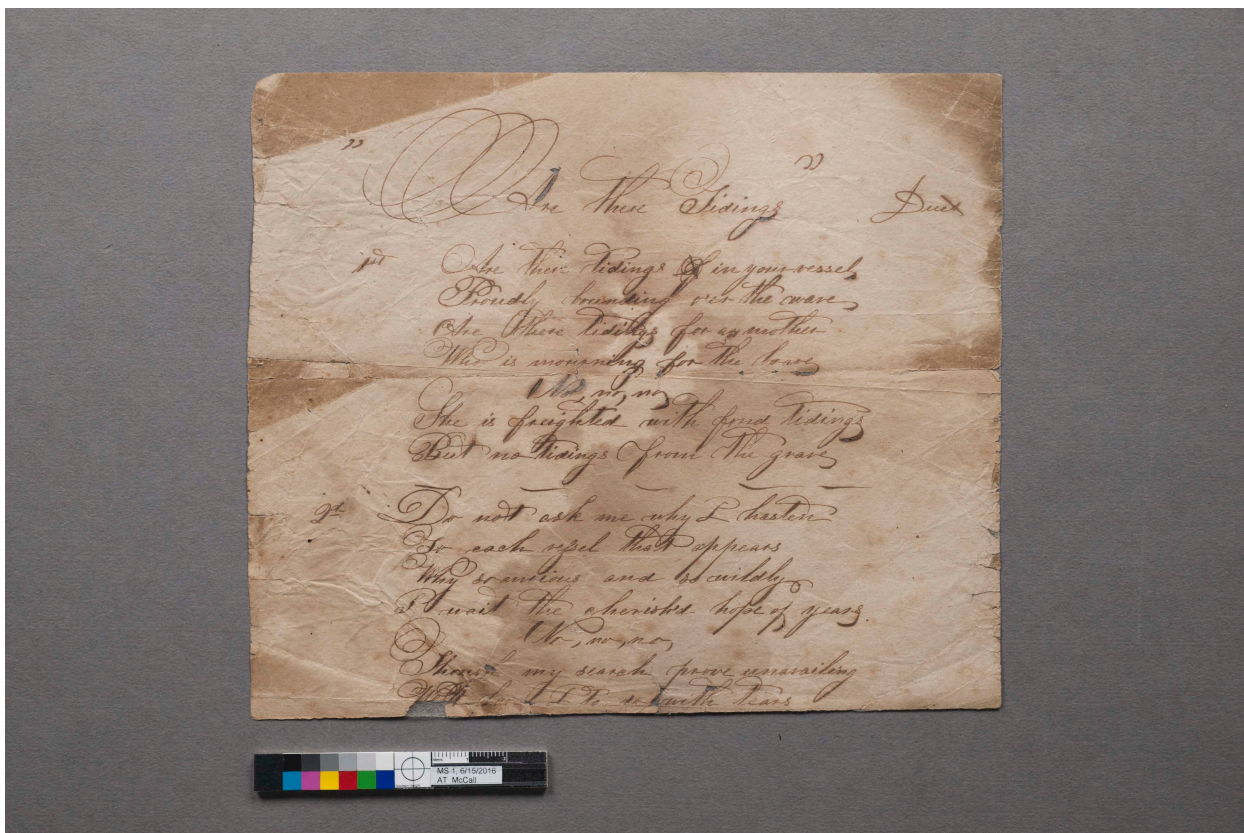


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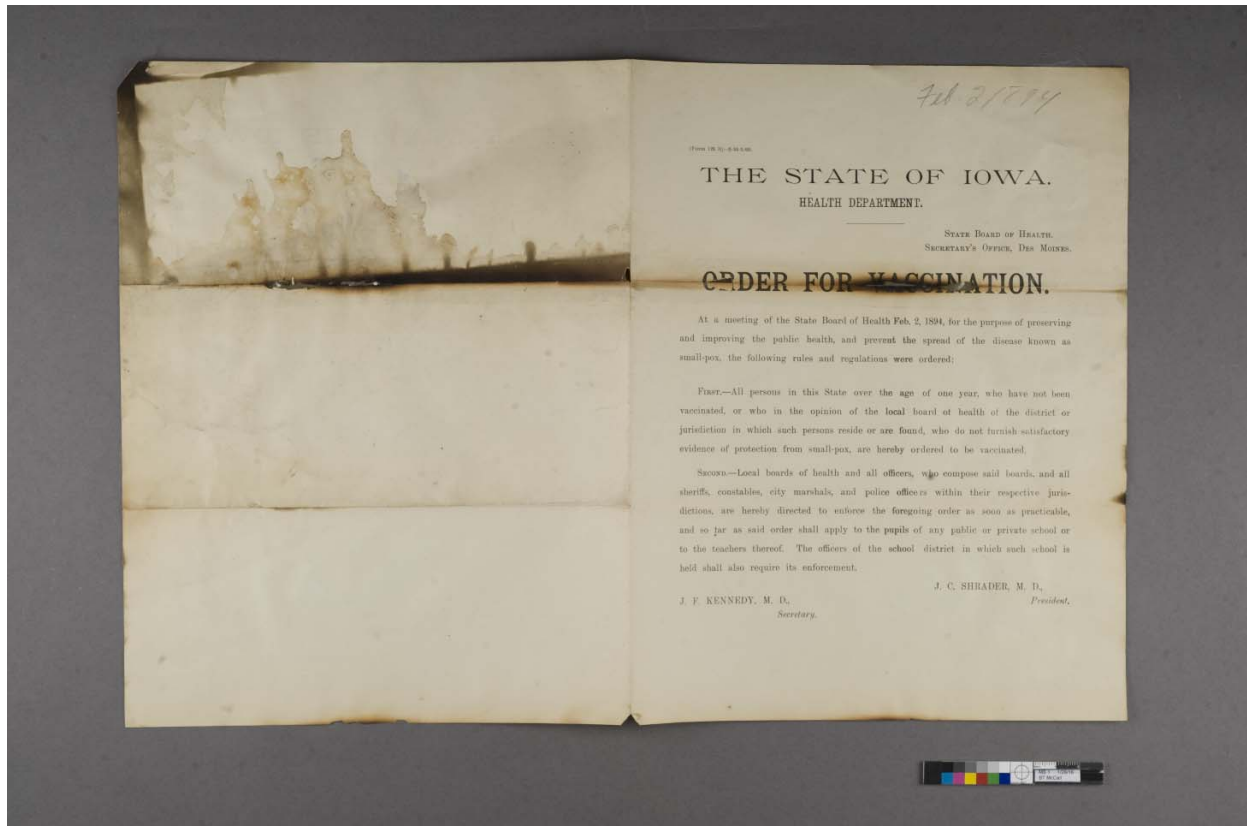
Verso

Document 10, After Treatment

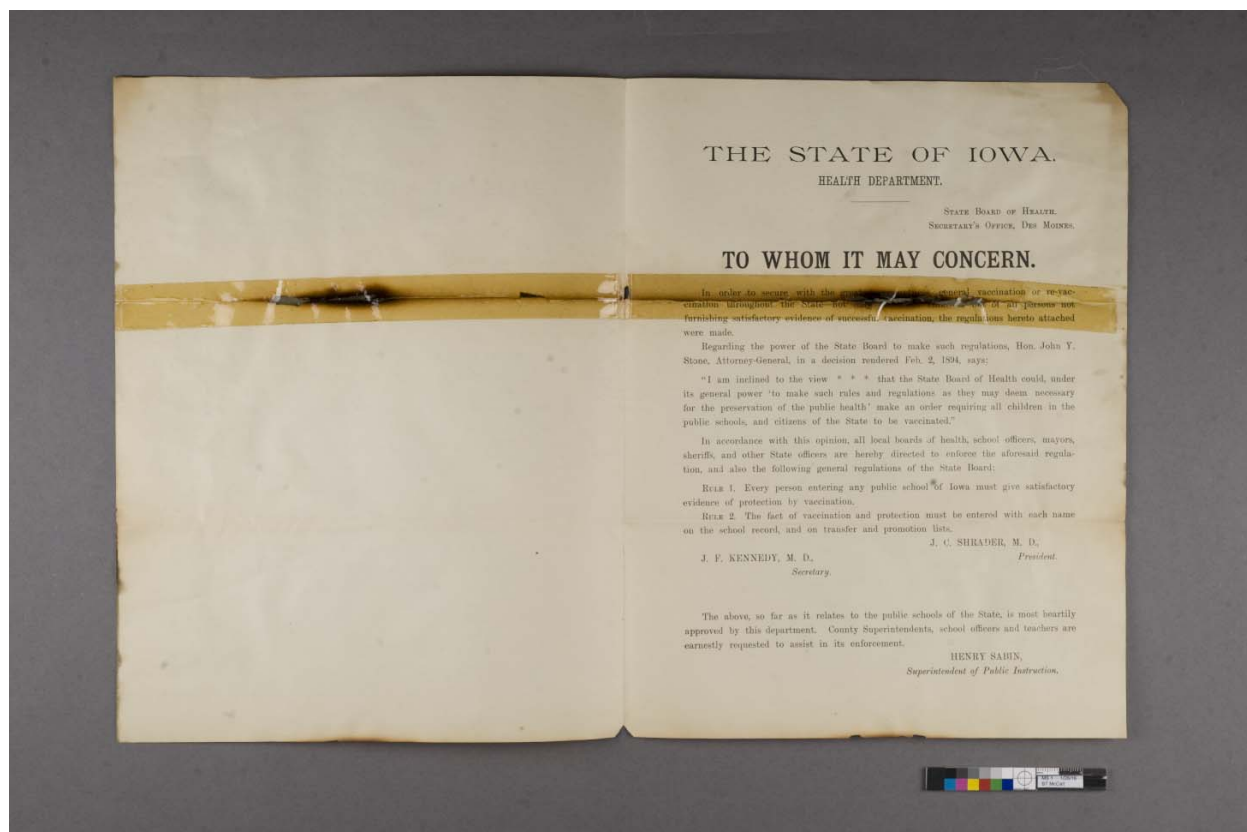


Recto

Document 11, Before Treatment

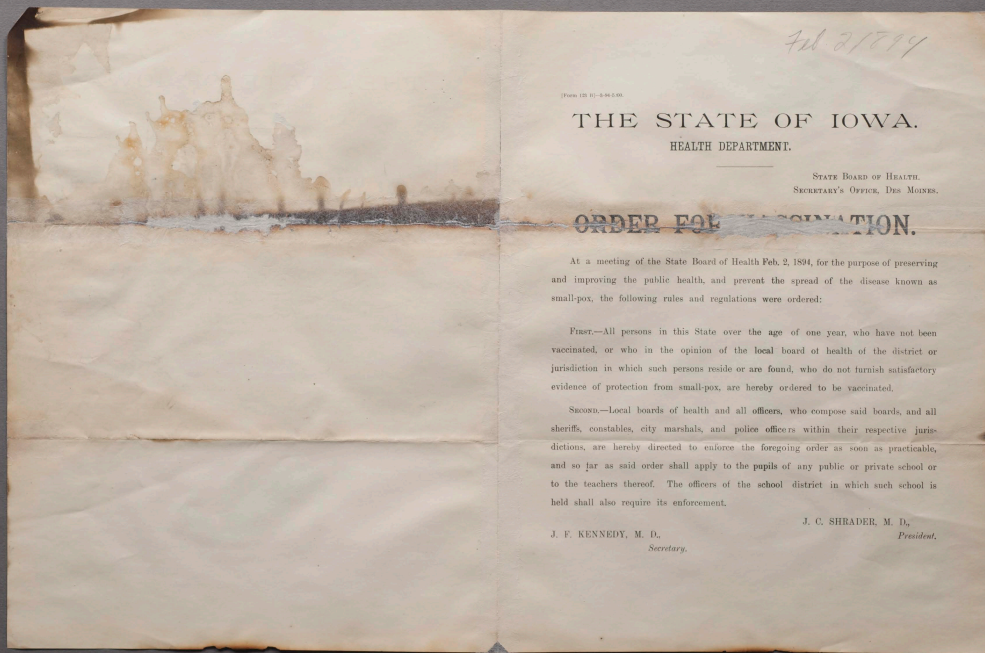


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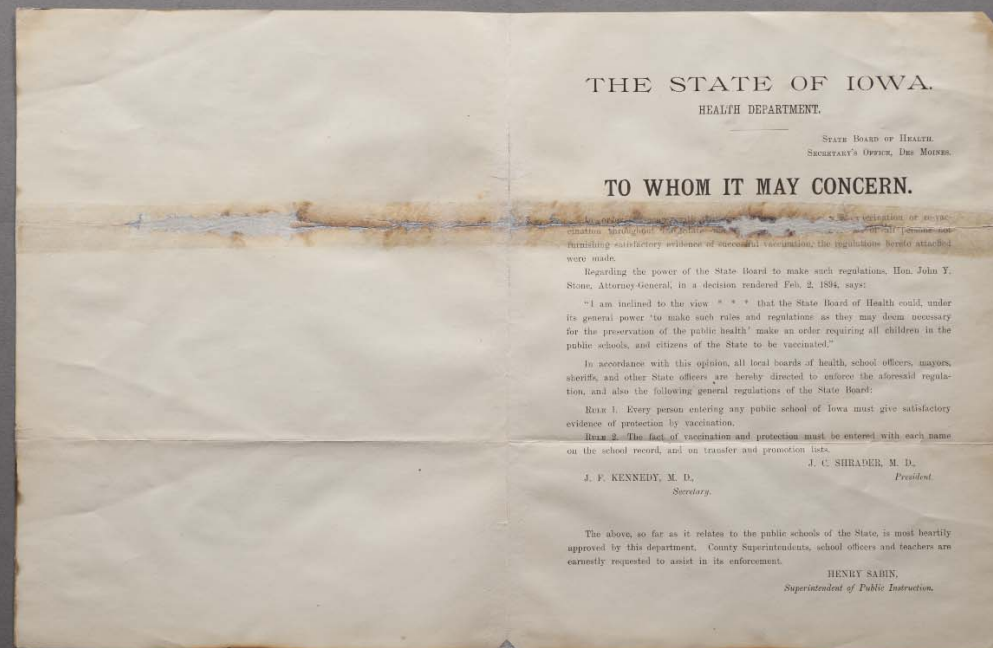


Verso

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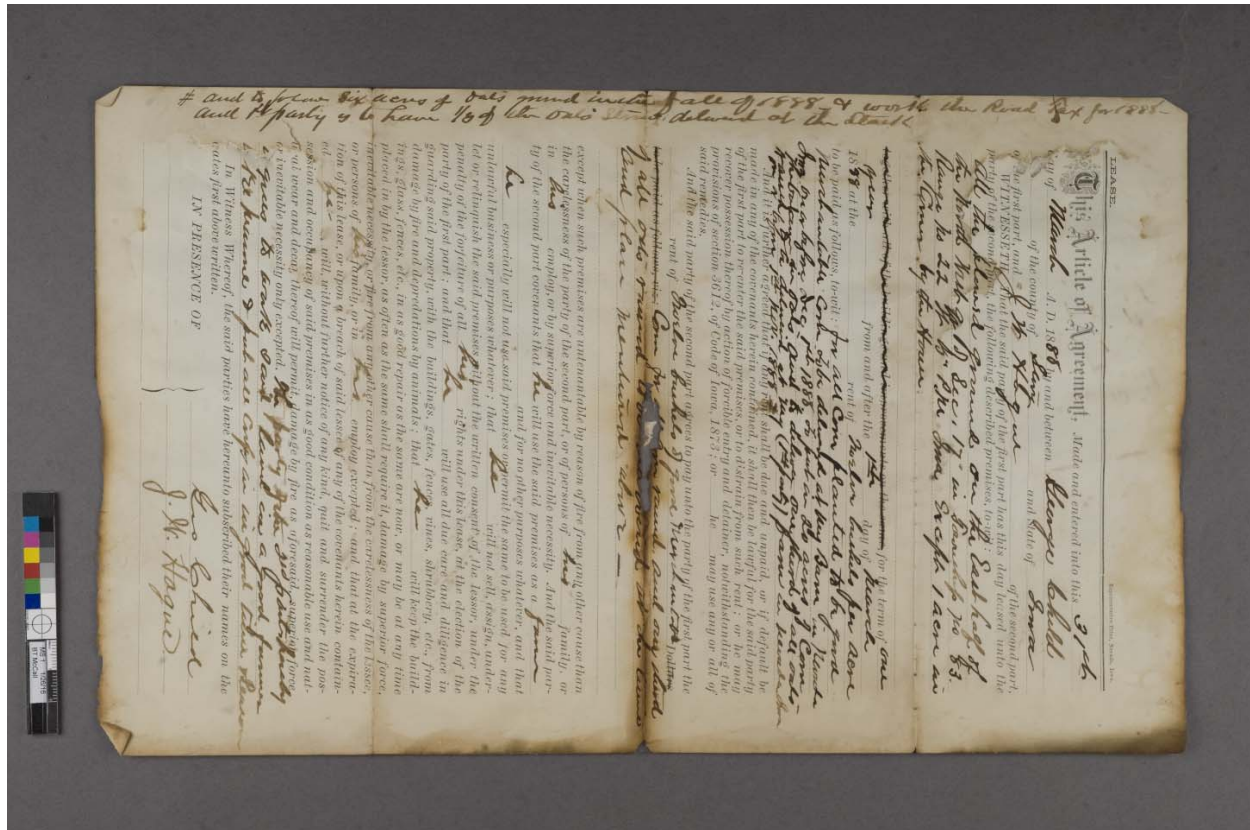


Recto



Verso

Document 12, Before Treatment

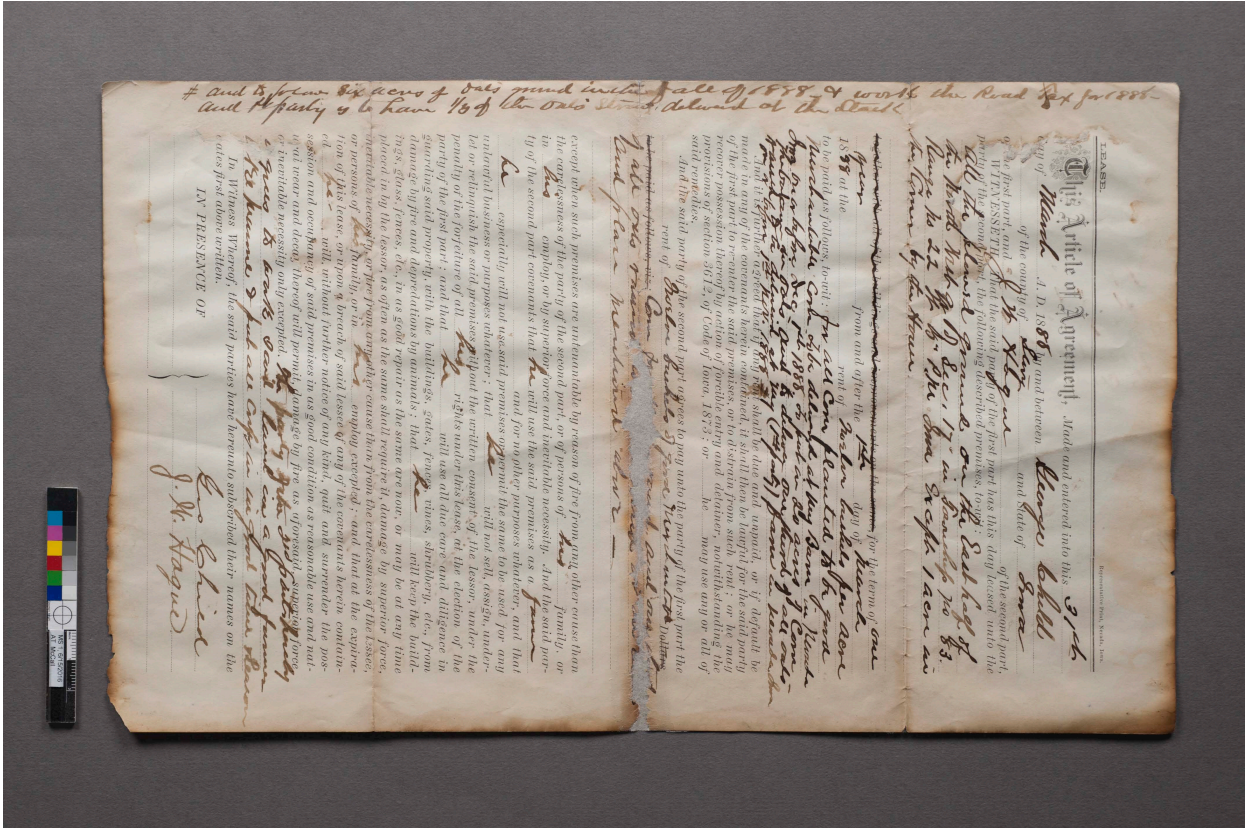


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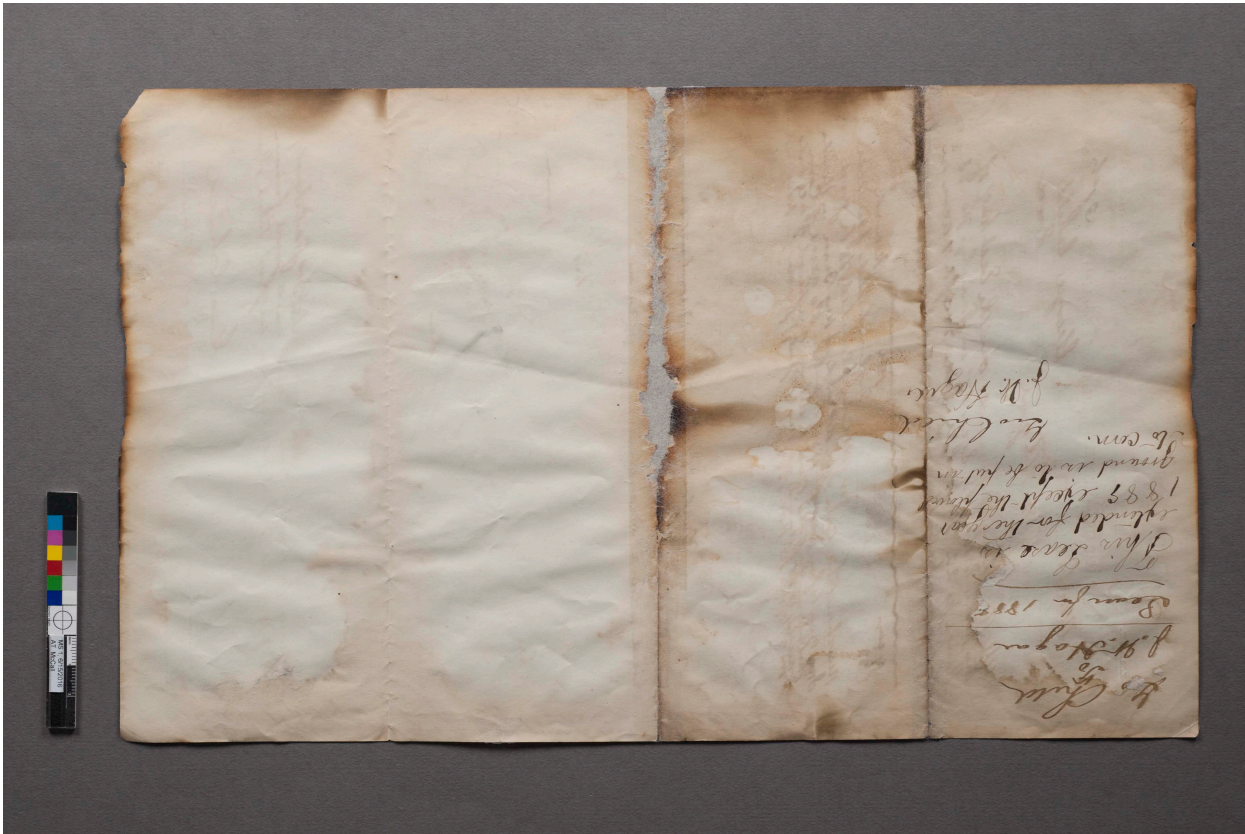


Verso

Document 12, After Treatment



Recto



Verso