

**NOTE:** The original of this document is in the Stevens Family Papers, #1210, at the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library, Ithaca, New York 14853.

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**TO:** R. S. Stevens  
**FROM:** W. R. Wagstaff

OFFICE OF  
**W. R. WAGSTAFF,**  
**ATTORNEY AT LAW.**

Paola, Kansas, Aug. 14, 1875

R. S. Stevens, Esq.

Dear Sir:-

Since my last letter, the Management of the M. K. & T. R. has changed. Whatever may be the cause it is none of my business to inquire, but I may be allowed to say, I regret your retirement. My belief is that the existence of the this road is owing mainly to your exertions. The acquiring of the right of way through the Indian Territory for your road, under the circumstances, was the most successful and brilliant that came under my notice. Had you at the time represented Boston capital instead of New York, that interest would never have controlled the main outlet from Galveston.

The interest of our people have always been identified with the Osage Division of the road. By then the credit for its construction is awarded to Manager Stevens. The Query now is, without him will the road ever be extended.

Clark & I are now trying to clear away the rubbish in view of building the Ganett (?Garrett) Branch. It is hard to start but we think we will make it move.

I hope nothing serious will result to you from late injuries received on railroad. I notice in Kansas City Times you were able to return home at Sedalia on last evening train. Believing you might be at leisure, I thought I would write.

My fee for legal services on the M. K. & T. as per special contract for the year beginning June 1, 1874, has never been paid. You would do me a special favor by calling Mr. Sears attention to this fact. He said to me at Leavenworth in June last this claim 500\$ at farthest would be paid July 1. Have never heard from him since, and have written him twice. At that time a Special Auditor at Sedalia was appointed by order of Circuit Court, to audit claims for payment. Sears said then the accounts were all made up, that he would present and swear to mine, and I might certainly depend on mine by the time stated. I did depend on it and have been disappointed.

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<sup>1</sup> FROM: Book of letters to R.S.S., July 1875 to April 1876.

I want to go to Denison in a short time, I wrote Sears I thought I was entitled to a trip Pass good for sixty days. Do you think I can get it.

This is a personal not an official letter, and in a business view, my unsettled claim is called to your attention, because the transaction occurred during your administration, and I feel that your personal influence will close it up. Mrs. Wagstaff and Flora send their kindest regards, Flora especially thanks you for the Pass. Hoping you will soon be well.

I remain as ever truly,

W. R. Wagstaff