This is a letter of 20 February 1890 from W. E. Smith, Judge of Probate Court at Pineville in McDonald County, Missouri, to W. S. Sherley of Martinsville, Indiana. The letter deals with the affairs of Sarah Stockwell, deceased.

Apparently Judge Smith had been engaged by Sherley to ascertain the facts concerning a possible debt owed by W. H. Crider to the late Sarah Stockwell. Judge Smith named some possible witnesses and the circumstances of Stockwell’s death after paralysis. Judge Smith advised Sherley that “if you wish to take depositions in this matter you had better send a commission to take them to me here as there is no person up in that neighborhood to take depositions and do it right,” and that Sherley should “retain our Prosecuting atty Mr. H. C. Pepper to look after this matter.”