

Copy

Salt Lake City.  
Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> 1845

John C. Hall,

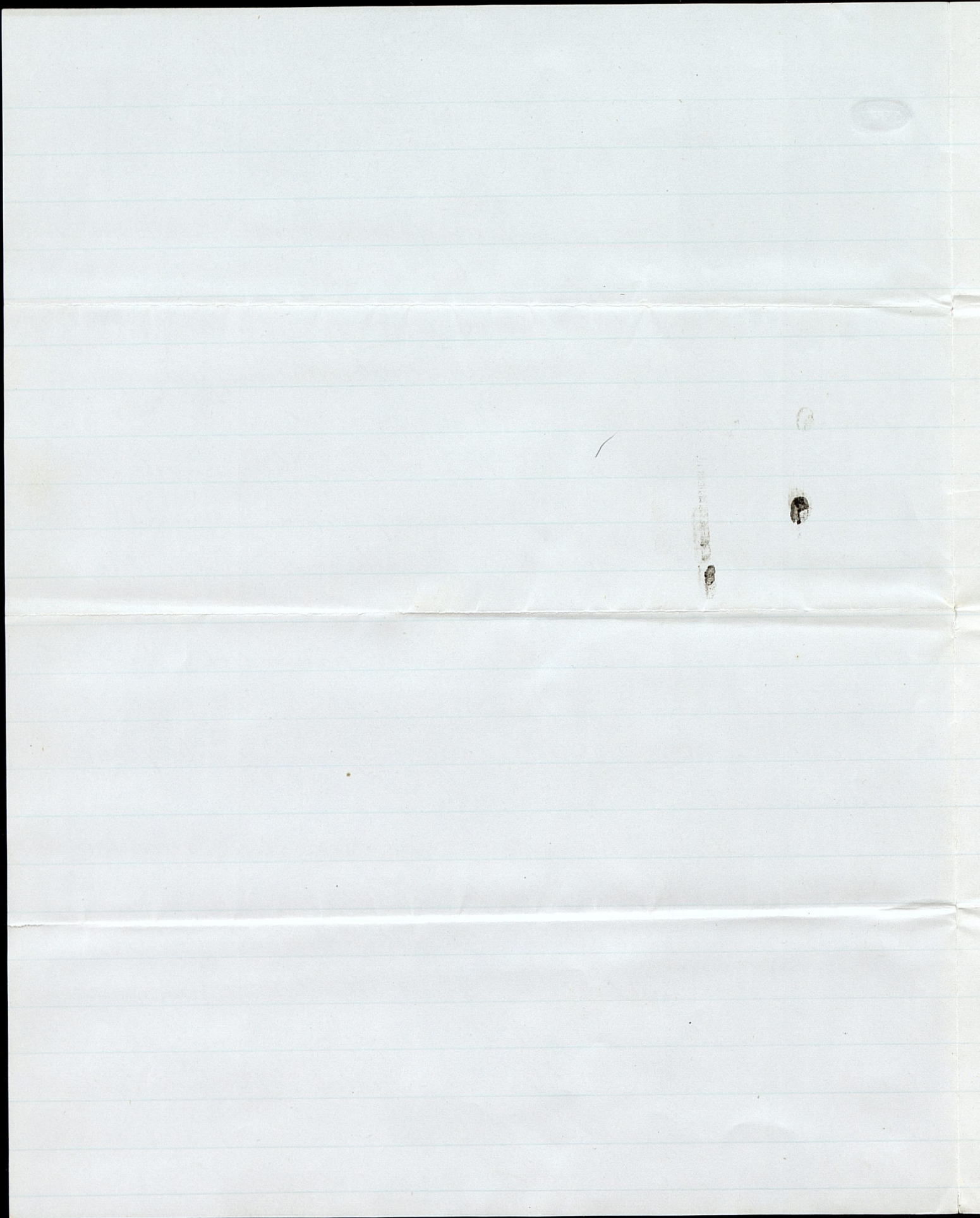
Dear Brother, Yours of the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. enquiring about the location of the ten tribes & has been received.

There are at least about 300,000 square miles, encircling the north pole, which navigators have not explored. These regions may be habitable - 50 persons to a square mile would not be a high average. This would make a population of fifteen millions.

The Prophet Joseph once in my hearing, advanced his opinion that the ten tribes were separated from the earth; or a portion of the earth was by a miracle, broken off, and that the ten tribes were taken away with it, and that in the latter days it would be restored to the earth or be let down in the Polar regions. Whether the Prophet founded his opinions upon revelation, or whether it was a matter of mere speculation with him, I am unable to say.

The Walden, Mungo Park, and Lyles stories never had any existence, only in the brains of the writers.

It has been clearly demonstrated mathematically that a globular shell can have no internal attraction in any direction; or in other words, the attraction in every way is equally balanced; hence a person or any other object, situated within such hollow sphere and not in contact with the internal surface never could fall to or reach the surface. Such a condition of things would



be utterly incompatible with mortal existence. The density of the earth is between 5 and 6 times that of water, and as the surface density is much less than the average density, it follows that the interior density, or the density as you approach the center must be much greater ~~as you approach the surface~~ than that of the surface.

In answer to your inquiries about the Priesthood I merely state that on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1831, the nature and character of the Melchisedek Priesthood were more fully revealed or made manifest, although the office and authority had previously been given.

As to the limits of intermarriages among relations in this dispensation, I know of no modern revelation defining the limits, only as may be decided from time to time by the living oracles.

Orson Pratt Sen.

13<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1875 -  
Custom House in this  
New York Pa.