

Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 3.7

Thomas Reynolds, 1840-1844

[Full-text transcription of: Letter from L. B. Fleak, Iowa to Governor Reynolds, Jefferson City, Mo.]

Fleak P.M.
Free; L. B. Fleak P.M.
at Keokuk Iowa Ty
His Excellency Thos Reynolds
Jefferson City
Mo

Steam Packet "Amaranth"

1842

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Keokuk I.T. Oct 5th 1842

His Excellency Thomas Reynolds

Sir

Your reward for Smith & Rockwell is making a great stir among the "brethren" at the "City of Nauvoo" Smith, it is said has fortified himself in some sort of a den ["and R" is crossed out] this I do not vouch for, & Rockwell has left the Country. I am informed that the Gov of Illinois has added \$400 more to your reward and I at this time know of no less than three persons that are on the alert determined to arrest him if possible There will be some Judas among themselves I think I am in hopes to have it in my power to announce to you the capture of Smith by a week from this evening. Yesterday was a day that was set for about 50 of them to come down to our Town to select lots, but by an order from the Prophet they all remained at home. This ^ information I have from one of the Mormons & I have no doubt but it is correct—The intention of the three persons above alluded to, is to seize Smith some night in his own house perhaps, gag him, & carry him on board a small boat and bring him down to my house & keep him securely in a room in the 3rd story until the arrival of one of our regular St. Louis Packets, one of which leaves here every night in the week except Monday night. I am the agent for all of those Packets & when once on board there will be no further difficulty. If the enterprize succeeds I am entitled to one fourth of the Reward which I will take pleasure in bestowing on the State of Missouri. One of those three is now in Nauvoo and has been there for 2 days since which time I have heard nothing from him, but, ^ I have no doubt but that he is making all the discoveries that can be made, without creating suspicion. They are all careful, resolute

fellows & will do nothing without the utmost caution, & if they

should accidentally be detected it will take the half of Nauvoo
to arrest them, for all is planned either for victory or defeat

Thus, I have given you the outlines of the plan & it is needless to say
to you that it is in confidence. In the course of two months
our Town will be overrun with those cutthroats as one of the
principal owners in the Town has sold his interest to them

I shall leave here with my effects in the month of March
for Missouri or sooner if I can get my business shaped so
that I can leave without too great a loss. I am selling
goods here & think of locating in some County seat in the South
western part of Missouri should I find a location to suit
me. I have now on hands about 70 head of cattle that
I shall send off this Fall to Van Buren County

Very Respectfully

Your obdt servant

L B Fleak