

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.]

KeoKuK Iowa Tty July 12th 1842

His Excellency Gov Reynolds

Sir

Some months ago I took the liberty of troubling you with a note, and I now again take the same liberty on the same subject Genl Bennet, late a Mormon leader, now a dissenter goes to you as he tells me for the purpose of giving information touching the attempted assassination of Ex Gov Boggs It is not doubted here in the least but that the information which he intends to convey to you is literally correct, i.e. that he knows who the person is that shot Boggs and that he /Bennet/ can prove Smiths agency in the matter sufficiently clear to satisfy any person of his participation in the matter, Bennet accuses a fellow by the name of Rockwood or Rockwell & from some circumstances, I suspected him the very day the news reached & I wrote the Post Master of Independence Missouri for a description of the person who was seen lurking around there about the time the affair took place. It is certain that immediately proceeding the news reaching here of the attempted assassination Smith stated that he had it revealed to him of God himself that Boggs would not die in his bed If he had not had some knowledge of the contemplated murder, what grounds would he have had for such remarks- None of us are willing to admit that he holds communion with the Deity, without admitting it we are compelled to believe him to be by proxy the authority of that most foul deed. Ever since he was compelled to leave your State he has denounced the Citizens with heaviest imprecations could Treason be made our words, in the United States, he has certainly been guilty of treason toward Missouri but such is not the case

Nearly his whole conversation & thoughts are taken up by planning the destruction of Missouri and unless checked depend upon it he will some day and that before long give your State more trouble than you are aware of or once think of. If his society was composed men of moral honesty you would know how to meet them, but a majority of them are renegades. Now, Sir do not think this idle speculation for if you do you will be deceived, grossly deceived

I know that the Mormons can never seriously affect Missouri but they will one day give her a great deal of trouble A person unacquainted with them knows nothing of the reverential awe with which they receive and obey Smith's mandates or from

the mouths of a majority of them is constantly heard imprecations against & plans for the destruction of your State.

Smith's word is law & his prophecies, revelation among them and could you attend one of their military parades (and you could not miss one any day in the year (Sundays excepted) for their city is constantly a military encampment) you would be satisfied that my remarks are not groundless.

Now sir, it is in your power to break up this horde of villainy and murder by removing it's head or leader, Is not Smith a refuge from your State? And does not justice to her citizens require you to demand from Illinois his immediate surrender? Rest assured your call would be recd with loudest cheer from this quarter & from the adjoining Counties on the opposite side of the Mississippi

You can form no idea of the accession that is daily being made to their members by the arrival of Foreigners & other pressonez from different parts of the United States all filled with hatred to Missouri There are some good meaning persons among them I have no doubt, but in large majority of them are villains of the darkest dyes and an as enthusiastic as they are worthless

I expect to be a citizen of Missouri shortly & would

be glad to see the vile traducers of your State & the black assasin of one of her ex Governors brought to Justice.

You will pardon me for intruding myself on you a second time, I take a warmer interest in this matter than I should do, perhaps-

I am well known in St Louis & should you think proper to make any enquiries respecting my standing I will refer you to Mr O.D. Filley Mess Wm Clafflin & Co Messrs Crow Tevis & McCreevy, Messers Smith Brothers & Co & A. G. Lentzes & Co all merchants of fine standing in the city- I wish the above to be considered as confidential

I am very Respectfully
Your obdt servant
L.B.. Fleak P.M.
at KeoKuK I. T.

L B. Fleak
about the Mormons

L B 1842

His Excellency Gov Reynolds
Jefferson City
Mo

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Montrose May 14th 1842

To His Excely
Govaner Reynolds

Sir

we have just recd via
St Louis information that Ex Gov Boggs
of your State was murdered in his own house
on the 9th inst & that suspicion was excite
-d that the awful deed had been committed
by a follower of the wretched imposter Joe
Smith.

If it is true that Gov Boggs
has been murdered & that it is not satisfa-
-clarily Known who Committed the murder,
then I should not Entertain a doubt that
it was done by some of Joe's Minions at
his instigation. He has sworn Vengeance pub-
-lickly against Gov Boggs ever Since he
Settled in this neighborhood. A friend of Mine
was present to day when the news was
made Known to Joe- he exclaimed in