

Smith [over]

Hubbard Ohio

~~10~~



21 March 1839

For Tom M. D. 03
Ma 23rd

225

Wm. Spalding

Wm. D. 03

Person of Wm.

74

Handwritten mark or signature at the bottom left corner.

I beg leave to present to your excellency a petition, praying
your assistance in a matter of vital importance to me & to
my friends. I have received by letter from the widow, &
others the following facts respecting the murder of a
brother in your state, by the name of Warren Smith. He was
a woman the only one of the convicts who set out for the
West Mr. last summer because ^{he} believed it (as he said)
to be his duty to go. This was a misfortune to be pitied
not a crime to be punished. When he was on board

So as the families had arrived to within a short distance
of the end of their welcome journey, they were informed that
the roads were strictly guarded, & to proceed farther would
be disastrous, they consequently, ^{helter} at short clerk & encamp-
ed in the edge of a prairie, where they were attacked on
the 6th Nov. by an armed force of 2 or 300. The women &
children fled to the woods, the men, & boys to a log black
smith shop, the ruffians instantly surrounded the latter
& in a few minutes massacred about 20. After the
roar of death had ceased, & the inhuman banditti
retired, the women crept silently from their hiding

places & selected each her own husband from among the
mingled, & mangled slain, ripped the warm flowing life
blood from their war clubs, snatched a hasty kiss &
buried their lifeless man in a deep narrow tomb
together (viz a well) & fled again to the thick air-bling
shade of the gloomy forests to escape a kill, or a
worse fate, & now wander friendless & pitiless without
money, or means in a strange land, a land of enemies
They perished my brother, & a little son of his of
about 10 years, who begged hard for life, but was shot

through the head in cold blood after the excitement
of battle was over, If there is philanthropy in Mo^{on}
let it be exercised in relieving the sufferings of
these widows & orphans, if there is power in the laws
or energy in the executives of Mo^{on} let them be put in
requisition to bring to condign punishment the perpetra-
tors of this barbarous deed, This is my petition!
will it be heard? will the Governor of Missouri
see that the laws of his state are executed, & the suffer-
ings of innocent widows & orphans assuaged.

I have not sought to procure the signatures of any
but chose to present my petition singly in the
name of the ³ sufferers, I appeal to your humanity as a man, & to
your authority as Gov^r of Mo^{on}, hoping that it
will not be in vain, It is said & believed by many
that Gov^r proclamation authorized the extermination
of the mormons, I can hardly believe this possible,
I think it would go to legalize murder & robbery, & be
incompatible with your constitutional powers,
In your ever address W. M. Smith & William
Smith & Co. or Ohio.

I have the honor to subscribe myself
your obedient, humble servant
His Excellency
Wm. W. Biggs

W. M. Smith

W. M. Smith, March 21. 1839.