

# 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 I.T. Augt 3<sup>rd</sup> 1843

His Excellency Gov Reynolds

Dear Sir, Herewith I send you a copy of an affidavit that is now in my office although there is nothing definite in it yet you may rely upon it that if those Mormons do not give you trouble on your Western & Northern lines this Fall it will be because they cannot get enough of Indians to fall in with their diabolical schemes. They have numbers of emissaries among the Indians at this time who represent to the Indians that they are Englishmen. They are also scattering English medals among the Indians & represent to them that Smith holds a commission under the British government. This may all look like a hoax to you but the time will come when it will not be felt as a hoax. Hitchcock the deponent has long been acquainted with Pottawattomies, speaks their language as fluently as he does the English language. He is well known here and has been known, always as a man of undoubted veracity I myself know that those Chiefs (as they call themselves) were there at the time he mentions in his affidavit & I also know that they returned at the time that says they told him they would & that they brought their own interpreter with them [this] last time. The following is a true copy of the Affidavit, many of the expressions are awkward but he says it is a literal translation of their conversation so far as it goes

Territory of Iowa)

Lee County ) ss—Personally appeared before the undersigned Justice of the Peace for Lee County, Iowa Territory E. Hitchcock who being duly sworn according to Law, deposeth & sayth

“That about the first of April last, three Pottawattomie Chiefs, the oldest was Waugh-bz-he-she, the next oldest Apa-guch-a-bn & the youngest Na-am-west came to Montrose and enquired of the deponent for the British Captain that talks with the Great Spirit a Mormon took them across the River to Nauvoo about 10 oClock A.M. & about 2 oClock P.M. Jos Smith (the Prophet so called) sent a Request

request for the deponent to come to Nauvoo which the deponent complied with. when the deponent arrived at Smith's, said Chiefs were before Smith's house surrounded by about one hundred Mormons. After the lapse of some minutes, Smith ordered the deponent & Chiefs to appear before him in his room. This was before

the deponent began the interpretations. The house of Smith was then closed and no one allowed to enter the room but Hiram Smith Joe's Brother & three other Mormons. The Chiefs requested the deponent to tell the British Capt (Joe Smith) that many of his men were among them on Kansas River and had told them that that great white streak seen in the West two & a half moons past, signified the great white prophet (Brittish Capt Joe Smith) that talked with the Great Spirit and that he ^ Smith would tell them how to settle all of the abuses of the Whites and how to get redress for their wrongs. The Chiefs then said that ten tribes had already smoked the pipes of Peace & were then ready to receive & obey his (Smith's) orders. The Chiefs also requested Smith to send some of his [big] men home with them. They then showed Smith two Brittish medals to prove to him that they were true friends as they said. All the reply that Smith made to them through the deponent was my hands are tied by holding a Commission under the United State's but he said to them that he wished the ten tribes to stick closely together.

Hiram Smith told the deponent to say to them that they should not send any one with them but if brother Dunham was willing to go with them he might go. The next morning about sunrise the Chiefs came back to Montrose, when this deponent asked them when they would return to Nauvoo, they replied when corn comes knee high. The Chiefs earnestly requested this deponent to keep their talk a secret & further the deponent saith not.

Signed Emanuel Hitchcock

Sworn to & subscribed before me on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July 1843

Signed J. A. Clark J. P.

The above is a true copy of the affidavit & with my knowledge of

those fanatics together with the fact of the return of those Chiefs at the time specified and other circumstances. Its fully clear that there will be an attempt made on the frontier of Missouri this very Fall. I have read a letter from Capt Allen of Fort Rackoon, some 250 miles up the Desmoines [sic] River He states that there had been one or two hundred Pottawatto= mies incamped in that vicinity & that the Sac & Fox Indians had furnished them with some 80 or 100 horses, he says in his letter that he does not apprehend any difficulty, but at the same time he will be on the alert, always in readiness and keep his eye closely on any whites that may be passing. It is not my wish to create any unnecessary alarm but I do think that the inhabitants on the border of the State should know what facts there are in the case, That the Mormons have a fixed hatred against Missouri you are well aware. One of the principal articles of their creed is the destruction of Missouri. No Mormon ever prayed yet I expect without calling for the vengeance of Heaven on Missourians. Well I claim to be a Missourian and glory in the name & I hope the Mormons will make their

intended invasion, then the extermination of them would take place beyond a doubt, I said I was a Missourian, I am not by birth but by adoption, I have resided in the State for several years & intend being there shortly again, as soon at least as I finish closing my business which will be in two or three months

I now am offering to pay the reward for Smith that you offered provided he is delivered to me in Clark Co Mo five miles from this place. There is nothing on earth would give me more pleasure than to make my appearance at Jefferson City with Joe in tow However I have no hopes of success as he keeps a body guard near him all the while I send you a paper to day containing Hiram Smith's Testimony As given before the Municipal Court of Nauvoo, at Smith's last exparte examination

Very Respectfully

Your Obdt Servt

[L. B.] Fleak

Fleak

1843. Augt

Mormons

Keokuk I.T.)

Augt 4 ) Free. L.B. Fleak P.M.

His Excellency Gov Reynolds

Jefferson City

River Mail)

MO