

Petition from Leavenworth Women

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To his Excellency[.]

The Governor of Kansas Territory[.]

The undersigned Ladies, until Sept 1st (Inst.) residents of Leavenworth City, would respectfully represent, that they came to this territory with their husbands, fathers, or brothers, prepared to endure the privations and inconveniences of pioneer life cheerfully, and fill as became them, the highly responsible position of wives, sisters, or daughters of men who were to assist in forming the character of a future state; and that they came from law-abiding sections of the country, with the fullest faith in the competency of the civil power to protect their rights and redress their wrongs.

Nevertheless, the undersigned have been driven from their homes by a band of armed men, some at night, and some at noon-day, and such was the rudeness and violence of the expulsion that in many cases the fugitives were obliged to abandon all the property they possessed on Earth and thanked the Providence for the life a hasty flight had saved[.]

Our husbands and friends in some instances have been taken as prisoners and forcibly driven on board of steamboats and sent out of the country, leaving us un[cared?] for and unprotected in the midst of a scene of general robbery, and too frequently of murder; and we would especially refer to the notice of your Excellency the fact that the Mayor and other municipal officers of the City of Leavenworth, were not only cognisant of all this, but that they were privy to & participators in the acts of forcible expulsion & extradition referred to above.

Our homes have been occupied by the horde that dispossessed us, and the means of subsistence which our industry had acquired has been carried away or destroyed. Residences have been used for barracks. Churches have been converted in[to] Commissary depots, and stores & warehouses plundered. But the city authorities did not interfere[.] Hence we must and do doubt both the ability & inclination of the acting Mayor of Leavenworth City to render protection to any citizens who may not be of the same sentiment as that advocated by himself

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and the bands of whose violence we have had to complain: therefore we must and do rely solely upon your excellency to adopt such measures as will secure our present and permanent security[.]

Respectfully[.]

Anna Weibling

Sarah Evans

Abigail Lewis

Elizabeth Evans

Elisabeth Crock

D[.]A[.] Strong  
Mary A[.] Clark  
M[.]H[.] Smith  
Anne R. Marshall  
Zulima Evans  
Margaret Draper  
Mary Marshall  
[MS. illegible]  
Marietta S. Barber  
Mrs. R.C. Swift