

Petition of Sundry Citizens of Pottawatomie Creek

[page 1]

To His Excellency, J.W. Geary, Governor of Kansas Territory.

The undersigned, citizens of Kansas Territory, residing within the vicinity of Pottawottomie, Sugar and Middle Creeks and the Osage River, wishing to represent to your Excellency the condition of affairs in the part of the Territory take this opportunity to present the following facts in relation to the deplorable state of affairs existing in our midst, hoping that your Excellency will take some prompt and decided action to relieve the citizens of this part of the Territory from their oppressions.

For the last four months we have been repeatedly over-run by armed bodies of men, organized in their neighboring state of Missouri and guided by a few desperate men in our midst, claiming to act under Territorial authority in sacking, and burning houses and in robbing and plundering and menacing the lives of our citizens and conveying some as captives into the state of Missouri.

On or about the 26th of August one of these marauding parties collected principally from the states of Arkansas and Missouri, headed by J.E. Brown, Sheriff of Linn County and captain of a company of Kansas Militia and John Waitman, Commissioner for Anderson County, made a descent upon Pottawottomie Creek, burning the houses of B.L. [Corkman?] and Samuel Kilburn and plundering those of David Watt[,] E.G. Blunt and Mr. Sheety--the former of arms only and the latter of arms, money and land warrants

[page 2]

and threatening all who might be obnoxious to their political opinions with robbery and death upon their refusal to vacate the country.

This reign of terror, exercised over the timid and peacefully disposed citizens, has in many instances induced their removal from the Territory, only to be robbed of all they possess when they reach the State Line.

Again, on or about the 30th a party numbering 400 mounted men, organized in Jackson County, MO, invaded our vicinity and after a desperate resistance succeeded in plundering and burning the Town of Osawottomie and committing other depredations to[o] numerous to particularize--carrying off as captive the son of O.C. Brown, a lad of 12 years of age and Bainbridge Fuller from a sick bed. Others are missing and are supposed to be held by them.

Your memorialists would further represent, that the roads are now in a state of blockade and organized bodies are known to infest the Peoria and Miami Reserves threatening to return and complete their work of devastation and murder.

Your memorialists would not recommend the course to be pursued to remedy this state of things but hope your Excellency will take such prompt action in the matter as shall relieve them from their distresses.

[page 3]

Territory of Kansas

Douglas County

In person came before me, the undersigned associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Territory of Kansas Rufus Gillpatrick who being sworn says that the facts stated within are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

R. Gilpatrick

Subscribed before me this

19th September A D 1856

S.G. Cato
Associate Justice &c

[page 4]
David Mendenhall
John [L. ?] Grant
Lewis Bingaman
Wakeman Partridge
John Blunt
W.Y. Ayers
William [Laling?]
Samuel W. Kilbourn
Simeon B. Morse
Jared Baldwin
Thomas A. Hill
F.L. Magar
A. [Casele?]
Solomon Blanden
D.S. Watt
Samuel Hoover
Robert W. Sturgeon
Joshua Griffith
M.S. Morris
Richard Mendenhall
John B[.] Everett
Geo[.] Rising
Henry H[.] Williams
Joshua Baker
[MS. illegible]
John Corcoran
J.W. Winkley
A. Simons
Saml. Morck
R. Gillpatrick